

REPORT ON THE PROJECT OF COOPERATION IN EEA GRANTS

Name:	Vojtěch Šťastný
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After long preparations, meetings and many emails, our exchange program had finally begun. The information we had about the people who will spend the next 14 days with us included their name and several hobbies. It is therefore understandable that we felt very nervous as we waited for Icelandic students at Jihlava Bus Station. Nervousness began to partially decline when we saw their happy faces. The journey home followed and the acquaintance began.

On the first day, Monday, there was an official welcome of Icelandic students and teachers to our school and the Czech Republic. At the same time, we started getting to know Icelandic students and in the afternoon we showed them Jihlava. Dominik Máca, one of the Czech students participating in the project, took us on a tour of the church and played the organ.

The next day, Tuesday, we went on an excursion to the Ledvice thermal power plant. This was interesting for the Icelanders, but they did not look at the power plant very favorably because they are used to clean energy, which thermal power plant isn't.

On Wednesday, we started working on the first project at the Polenská workplace, and this day was also dedicated to the electric cars that our project also included.

On Thursday we went on the longest trip of our stay to Ostrava to the former steel plant in Dolní Vítkovice. After the tour, we visited the local museum of science and technology, which everyone enjoyed.

Friday was similar to Wednesday, we were just at the Legionářů workplace and had lectures on renewable and sustainable energy.

On Saturday, there was a full-day trip to Prague with a guide who took us through the most famous sights of Prague and mentioned a lot of interesting things. At noon we went to a restaurant for lunch and then we partied around Prague, so we were able to go where we wanted to.

Sunday's program took place in Lipnice and its surroundings. Adam Smejkal, one of the Czech students who lives nearby, took us through Lipnice Castle. He also mentioned Jaroslav Hašek, a writer and author of the well-known character Švejk, who died in Lipnice, and we went to see his grave.

We started the second week of our stay with an excursion to the Dukovany nuclear power plant, where we learned a lot of information about nuclear energy, but the tour itself seemed rather boring to me, because we only looked at the information center. Then we went to the Dalešice pumped storage power plant, which we ended with lunch in a restaurant near the Dalešice brewery.

The next day, the chairwoman of the Office for Nuclear Safety, Ph.D. Dana Drábová visited our school with a lecture on energy and the future of sustainable energy.

Unfortunately, our program in the Czech Republic ended prematurely here, due to the deteriorating covid situation, so we said goodbye to our Icelandic friends for some time.

After a long wait, April 2022 finally came and we flew to Iceland. The atmosphere was great, because we already knew well who we were actually flying to and during our stay in the Czech Republic we built a pretty strong friendship, so we were just looking forward to it. On the day of arrival, which was Sunday, Icelandic students warmly welcomed us and took us home where we met their families.

On Monday, we went to their school for the first time where the Icelandic students showed us around. We were most interested in their makerspace. Then we had lunch at school canteen.

On Tuesday we went on an excursion to the geothermal power plant and we had pizza in the restaurant for lunch. After lunch we went on a hike to the natural hot springs.

Wednesday was interesting thanks to the visit of the Icelandic Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, to whom mainly Icelandic students had a lot of interesting questions.

Thursday was filled with lectures from various people. A professor from the University of Reykjavík talked about sustainable energy, and we also heard something about wind turbines. In the afternoon we went to the National Museum of Iceland, where we learned a lot about the history of Iceland. This day we also had probably the warmest weather, 12 ° C.

On Friday, we participated in a special event for high school graduates, called „dimmision“. The students being divided into smaller groups and each group wearing a certain costume. Everyone gets a to-do list and their goal is to run through the streets of Reykjavik and complete as many tasks as possible and take pictures. The team that completes the tasks wins. This was a lot of fun.

The next day, Saturday, we probably had the longest trip. We went to the Westman Islands. We drove to the port, where we sailed to the islands with fully electric boat. We had a guided tour of the islands and the whole trip was focused on the volcanoes and volcanic activity of Iceland. We were also in a museum focused on volcanoes.

We had a day off on Sunday because it was Labor Day. We used this day to visit the pool and cinema together. We really enjoyed the whole day.

On the first day of the second week we went to see the geothermally active area Krýsuvík and for lunch we went to a restaurant in Grindavík. We also saw the tectonic plates and other interesting natural phenomena. We ended the day with a visit to the famous Blue Lagoon, which was a truly wonderful experience.

A lecture was prepared on Tuesday by a lady from Landvernd, the Icelandic Environmental Association, and three Icelandic students presented their project on how much emissions arise from the use of social networks. At noon we went to the school canteen for lunch and started another project.

On Wednesday, we had a journey through the most famous wonders of Iceland, known as the "golden circle". We saw waterfalls and geysers and enjoyed the beautiful and untouched nature of Iceland. We had lunch in a farm restaurant and after lunch we went to the Fontana thermal pool in Laugarvatn.

We visited the famous Icelandic church Hallgrímskirkja on Thursday and after the tour we went to the interactive exhibition Iceland in Perlan. After lunch, we arranged a guided tour in one of the largest genetic laboratories in the world which analyzes and researches the human genome, deCODE, where the father of one of the Icelandic students works. In the evening we went to a school ball, which was organized mostly by Hálfván, Icelandic student I lived with.

On Friday we organized the Icelandic-Czech Day, where we used competitions and various activities to compare these two different cultures and then we had student debate about whether the construction of data centers in Iceland should continue. I was in a group that was against and I was one of three presenters.

And on the last day of our stay, on Saturday, we went to an attraction called "Fly Over Iceland" which was an interactive flight over Iceland in a simulator and it was a very outstanding experience. In the afternoon we just spent the last moments with our Icelandic friends, we visited the pool and we took a ride around the area where I lived.

In the morning we said goodbye and set out on our way back home. However, we stayed in touch on several social networks. I really enjoyed the whole project and I think it was very beneficial for me, I learned a lot about energy, especially the clean one, about electric cars, which are very common in Iceland, but also about culture. The project was also a huge language benefit for me, I had the opportunity to practice English very well.

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