

**Iceland  
Liechtenstein  
Norway grants**



**Ministerstvo financí  
České republiky**

## REPORT ON THE PROJECT OF COOPERATION IN EEA GRANTS

**Name:** Filip Vrbecký

**Project:** Comparison of energy potential of Iceland and the Czech Republic

**Date:** 1/ 8/ 2021 – 31/ 8/ 2022

**Schools:** Technical College Reykjavík a Technical College Jihlava

**Place:** Iceland and the Czech Republic

A total of 12 students and 5 pedagogical staff of the Secondary School of Industry, Technology and Automobile in Jihlava participated in an exchange Czech-Icelandic study program called Comparison of the Energy Potential of the Czech Republic and Iceland. The first part of the project was hosted by the Jihlava school in November 2021, while in May 2022 the Czech participants traveled to Iceland. There, the main part of the program took place at the partner school Taekniskólinn Háteigsvegur in Reykjavík.

On behalf of SŠPTA Jihlava, project leader and coordinator Radka Hamrová and pedagogical staff Petra Kašpárková, Radek Havel, Olga Buršíková and Vojtěch Povolný and twelve students Dominik Máca, Stanislav Barták, Kryštof Olšovský, David Rychnovský, Ondřej Kopecký, Adam Smejkal, Jiří Spilka, Vojtech Stastny, Filip Vrbecky, Patrik Malec, Rostislav Vrzak and Adam Weingartner

On behalf of the Icelandic side, a total of 8 teaching staff and thirteen students took part in the exchange. After visiting the Czech Republic, one of them withdrew from the project and was replaced by an alternate.

I will describe the following program from my own point of view as one of the participants.

On Sunday, November 7, 2021, the Icelanders arrived in the Czech Republic and we picked them up in Jihlava at the bus station around eleven o'clock in the evening.

The school program started at 10:00 on Monday, so we and the Icelanders had a good rest. A presentation on energy comparisons in the Czech Republic and Iceland was prepared for us at the school, and the school principal and the project coordinator had prepared a welcome speech. After lunch we had speed dating. After the official program, we took the Icelanders to the city to see the churches of St. James and St. Ignatius. In both churches, Dominik Máca played the organ and everyone liked it.

The next day we had a long trip to Ledvice in northern Bohemia for an excursion to the coal-fired power plant. There we watched a short 3D movie and then split into two groups. One group went to the lookout tower, from where you could see not only the entire area of the power plant but also the surrounding area, as the weather was beautiful. The second group, meanwhile, was waiting at the information center, where one of the plant's long-term workers described his work, the operation of the plant, and answered questions. Subsequently, the two groups exchanged, and then we only had a late lunch in a nearby town and a two-and-a-half-hour drive home.

The main topic of Wednesday was electromobility. One of the teachers from Žďár nad Sázavou, who, as a big fan of electromobility, arrived at the Polenská workplace with his electric car and present this topic. We had the task to write project 1 on this topic of elektromobility. After lunch we had agreed - this time an official - tour of the Church of St. James and Dominik Máca played the organ again.

Thursday's program was dominated by a trip to Ostrava, specifically to the protected technical monument Dolní Vítkovice. We saw the ironworks and climbed the Bolt Tower. After lunch, we enjoyed the fun in the Small and Big World of Technology.

On Friday, we watched the presentation of the ČEZ company, worked out project 2 and toured Jihlava City Hall and the underground.

A trip to Prague was planned for Saturday. There we introduced the Icelanders to the city's biggest tourist attractions, including Charles Bridge, the National Theater and other sights and beauties of Prague.

We ended the first week of the Icelandic delegation's visit with a tour of Lipnice nad Sázavou. The town in the northwestern part of the Vysočina region is the birthplace of Jaroslav Hašek, the author of the well-known novel The Fates of the Good Soldier Švejk. We toured the castle and went on a walking tour of the sculptures carved in the surrounding rocks, which are the eye, mouth, nose and ear.

On Monday, a tour of the Dukovany nuclear power plant took place, where we agreed that we would also see the interior and not only the information center. Unfortunately, due to anti-covid restrictions, the power plant was closed to visitors, so we only went through the information center. We moved from Dukovany to the Dalešice hydroelectric power plant, where we didn't see much except the education film. Lunch was in the Dalešice brewery, where the well-known film Postřižiny was also shot.

On Tuesday, there was a presentation and discussion with the chairwoman of the State Office for Nuclear Safety, Mrs. Ing. Dana Drábová, and we were assigned project 3 on this topic.

On Thursday, due to the Covid the Icelanders were forced to fly home a few days earlier, and the visit ended earlier. During the farewell at the bus station in Jihlava, guests from the Island in northern Europe handed us small gifts.

Five months later, the project continued with a visit by Czech students to Iceland. The program was then as follows:

On Sunday, April 24, 2022, we took a bus to Munich Airport at about 4 am, from where we had a direct flight to Reykjavík. We landed there at about four o'clock local time, and after a half-hour drive from the airport, the host families picked us up at the local school.

On Monday, a program was prepared for us at school, when we created our own T-shirt print in groups and tried out a simulator on which we could drive an excavator and other similar machines. In the afternoon, Icelandic students took us by car to the next town, where we took a tour of another of the many buildings this school counts and saw what the oldest house in Iceland looks like.

Tuesday was followed by an excursion to the Hellisheidarvirkjun geothermal power plant and a subsequent walk to the hot springs, where those interested could take a bath.

On Wednesday morning, a presentation on Carbfix and a presentation by ON, which is an island CEZ, were waiting for us. We prepared project 2 on this topic, and in the afternoon the island minister of the environment came to discuss with us.

On Thursday at school, we watched a presentation about wind turbines, how it works and what the pros and cons have. In the afternoon, our hosts took us to the National Museum, where we saw various excavations, archeological monuments and learned more about Iceland and its history. Because the official program ended relatively early, my friends and I went to one of the nearby swimming pools to try out hot pools with a temperature of 40-42 degrees Celsius. We were all pleasantly surprised by the fact that admission to young people under the age of eighteen was free at this swimming pool.

On Friday, the Icelandic school organized an event called Dimmission, which is something like the last ring in the Czech Republic. Students in masks and costumes walk around the city

and perform tasks from the list, such as advising a passer-by on a trip, building a human pyramid or drinking a can of fizzy drink with a bat. The class that meets the most and best wins. We attended too. And because this activity was for a short time and there was nothing more in the program from the school, our Icelanders took us to a - completely unique in the world - phalological museum.

On Saturday, during a day trip to the Westman Islands, we saw a museum of lava and volcanic activity during the eruption of the local Eldfell volcano, which buried the whole island here 50 years ago. Volunteers led by me were able to climb the mentioned volcano and they had an incredible view of the main island of Iceland, the entire Westman archipelago but also the wide ocean.

We were given a day off on Sunday and used the day for rest and recreation in the pool as on Thursday.

On Monday, May 2, another day trip awaited us, this time we went to admire the area called Reykjanes Peninsula. Here we took a closer look at only a few months old lava, the coast, the bridge between the continents, or two tectonic plates, and at the end we enjoyed swimming and relaxing in the world-famous Blue Lagoon.

On Tuesday, we had the task to do project 4 on the topic of data centers and internet pollution.

On Wednesday we enjoyed the Golden Circle scenic route, during which we saw the volcanic landscape of Iceland, waterfalls, geysers and even managed to swim in the Geothermal Baths in the town of Laugarvart.

Thursday's entire program took place in Reykjavik. Here we visited the largest church in Iceland located next to the school. Dominik played for us, alongside one of the five best organists in the world, on the most famous organ in Iceland. From the church tower and a height of 73 meters above the ground, we had the whole of Reykjavík in the palm of our hand. When we moved to the nearby Perlan Planetarium, we had the opportunity to see the aurora borealis in all its beauty during the projection, and we also learned how that light phenomenon actually arises. After lunch, we looked under the hood of one of the best genetic laboratories in the world - deCODE - which actively assisted in the research of COVID-19.

A debate on the issue of data centers was prepared for Friday, which we addressed on Tuesday.

On Saturday we had a booked screening called Fly over, when we experienced a sightseeing flight over Iceland and its landscape in a 5D cinema. At school, they took part in an escape game in which we defused a bomb. They enjoyed the local pizza and a Czech and Icelandic day took place in our country, and various gifts and souvenirs were handed over.

On Sunday, an early departure to the airport and the way home from Munich was waiting for us.

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