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REPORT ON THE PROJECT OF COOPERATION IN EEA GRANTS

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Place: Iceland and the Czech Republic

Iceland

1 Day of Arrive (Sunday)

On Sunday morning, we met in the early hours of the morning at the Jihlava bus station, from where we took a minibus to Munich to the airport. We continued by plane to Keflavík, which is the largest airport in Iceland, where Icelandic teachers were already waiting for us. After the welcome, we took a picture together and continued by minibus to meet our Icelandic friends. Upon arrival, I was immediately impressed by the landscape, which is completely different from our forests, fields, towns and villages. Within a radius of 20 kilometers where we were driving, there was nothing but the airport, a few houses and a landscape marked by volcanic activity - a plain without trees and seemingly without life. After meeting with our Icelandic students, we tiredly go home. Upon arrival, I checked in and got to know the whole family, and a wonderful dinner was waiting for me.

2 School and cinema (Monday)

When I first saw an Icelandic school, I was excited and wanted to see what learning elsewhere might be like. And from the first sight of the class, I realised that this is a whole different world. It was obvious from the classroom facilities that they think about the students learning something, but also about having fun and being comfortable. After lunch, we went to see the technology of classroom, which I was looking forward to quite a bit. I was so excited! Something like this really interested me a lot because there was everything I could wish for, for example they had a Voice studio with all sorts of equipment. They also had Greenscreen, 3D printers, Laser cutter for wood and many more toys I would like to have at home. After a while, we started doing our first work together, which I enjoyed a lot because it was purely creative work. We were making stickers for t-shirts, we could make up anything we wanted and that's why we chose the Czech and Icelandic symbol on the sides and some funny message on the front. The t-shirts will remain a memory of the whole stay. We then went to another workplace where they teach more practical things and we also got to see advanced CNC machines, electrical and many other workshops, but most of all I was impressed by their facilities and approach to teaching, because if the students are willing to do something in their free time, the teachers are very friendly and helpful. We left with great enthusiasm to visit the oldest house in Iceland, but there was nothing interesting. Certainly the way they used to build here, they used mainly stones that were lying all over the roads and around ... Luckily we arranged to have dinner and then go to the cinema to see one of the strangest films I've ever seen. The funniest part was the part where the two rocks approach each other and because they didn't speak, so there were only subtitles and we Czechs couldn't understand anything, but the Icelanders almost choked with laughter :D

3 Day of excursion – powerplant visit, pizza and swimming in natural hot spring (Tuesday)

I was really looking forward to this day because we went to see a geothermal power plant, learned about what and how it works, and also that they had invented a way to pump CO₂ into rocks deep underground. I must also not forget the strong smell of the hot water, which smells like rotten eggs because it is full of minerals and especially sulphur. Then we went to a small town for lunch, where we had pizza and went for a swim at a natural spring, which was about 45 minutes walk away. It was quite a long walk, but well worth it. There was nothing but a larger stream at the end, but the water was warm at about 37°C and the air was 8°C, all 100% natural. The most interesting idea was that when we got out of the water, we jumped into the snow and then back in. The most surprising thing was that Mrs. Hamrová went with us, which I really didn't expect. After that we warmed up in the 30 cm deep stream for a while, we changed cloats and went back to the car and drove home.

4 Something about iceland and energy, carbfix technology and prime minister of Natural resources (Wednesday)

This day was very interesting because we learned more about Iceland and also about CARBIFIX technology, which may have a future, but I personally don't believe in it that much. After lunch, the Minister for the Environment of Iceland came in and we had prepared some juicy questions for him, which he was surprised about.

5 Day of excursion - Sustainable energy options project and Nation museum visit

The first thing we learnt was how carbfix technology works and we also met a professor who teaches at the University of Reykjavik who explained to us how electricity sources work in Iceland. We were also joined by a lady from a local company who introduced us to the field of smart street lighting, using modern technology. After launch we worked on a project on this topic, which turned out to be more challenging than we expected. When we had finished the project.

6 Day of excursion dimissio (lást ring), (Friday)

This day was so special because the students of the school had a "dimisiion" or last bell like in Czech and we joined them. This last bell consisted of giving us assignments that we had to complete and then upload to our Instagram account. It was quite interesting because we were competing against each other with other students from other classes. As an example one of the tasks was to pose in a pedestrian crossing without shoes, it was fun, we really enjoyed it. Another task was, for example, to dress up in a costume and take a picture. Not to forget that in the evening we were invited to the birthday party of Icelandic classmate Solvi 18, which we all enjoyed.

7 Day of excursion in the Westman Islands (Saturday)

On this day we went to see the Westman Islands, which were about one and a half hours away from Reykjavik. The interesting thing was that we didn't go by bus, but we

travelled with Icelandic students in cars. Because these islands are not part of Iceland, we took an all-electric ferry for part of the trip. We had lunch on the island and also an unpleasant smell of fish, because not far from the harbour they were processing the fish they caught. After lunch we went with our guide to see the sites of the original dwellings, which were covered in lava because a volcano erupted here about 30 years ago. After this walk, we visited the museum where we learned many interesting facts about the eruption of the volcano. We came back again by ferry and car.

8 Day OFF (Sunday)

This day was a national holiday-Labor Day. We had no duties or schedule. I spent the whole day in the friendly atmosphere of my host family, chatting, relaxing and having a big dinner together with relatives.

9 The Blue Lagoon and volcano (Monday)

On this day we went to see the currently inactive volcano, which was active a few months ago. We went on to a very attractive place in Iceland for all tourists, the Blue Lagoon. It is a man-made large natural swimming pool with thermal healing water, which I really enjoyed. There is an institute of dermatology next door and the tickets included a face mask for everyone to bathe with. Too bad we weren't there longer! Then on this day we went to see the tectonic plate fault and also to the viewpoint by the sea. It was very interesting.

10 Debate and Icelandic Environment association (Tuesday)

A lady from the environmental association came to this debate and we got her views and discussed about environmental pollution both in Iceland and worldwide and also about the use of the internet. We were given the task to do a project about the debate and issues related to data storage in Iceland (server rooms).

11 Fontána Geothermal Baths and Launch in Farm restaurant (Wednesday)

On this day, we all went together by bus to see geysers, which are streams of hot geothermal water that gush out of the ground several meters high at certain intervals. It was a breathtaking sight! Afterwards we ate beef burgers at a restaurant that was right on the farm, which was very interesting. There were cows stabled next to the restaurant and grazing all around. After lunch, we went to the thermal springs where we bathed and had a great time together. There was a lake next to the springs that was about 5 degrees, so we walked back and forth from the sauna-thermal water to the lake, which was not suitable for everyone.

12 Downtown in Reykjavík and deCode genetic tour (Thursday)

Right after breakfast we went to a church near the school where one of our students could play the organ. After listening and touring the church, we went to the deCODE labs where we learned about the basics and principles of the lab as well as some of the technology.

13 Debate about nature and Swimming (Friday)

I wasn't looking forward to this day because we were supposed to debate SUSTAINABLE ENERGY. I was one of the chosen ones for the debate, but in the end everything turned out great. After the debate, we agreed to go to a swimming pool, of which there are many everywhere and they are filled with geothermal water. On the way we stopped at the President's residence.

14 Flyover Iceland, Czech Day and Swimming (Saturday)

On this day we went on the attraction "Journey around Iceland", which consisted of a 5D simulator. Finally, we went back to the school, where a rich treat was waiting for us. At the end of the Czech day we changed into radiation suits and took a group photo. In the evening we went for a swim in the nearby swimming pool.

15 Leaving the guys):

The last day was the saddest of all, because we had to say goodbye to everyone we had made friendship. I personally hope to see them again and will try to keep in touch with them. I already know that my host will probably visit me during his trip to Europe in the summer and the host family is invited to join us too! Although my parents are not fluent in English, I will be their "translator" again, and that is quite a job!

Czech Republic

1 Day of Arrive (Sunday)

Upon arrival at the bus station it was a bit chaotic as we didn't know any of the Icelanders. We gradually greeted everyone and divided up the Icelandic students and went home. On the way we talked and got to know each other. When I got home I introduced him to the whole family, but it was late at night so we went to bed.

2 Speed dating (Monday)

The first day we went to school, actually we took the bus, because I live 13km from Jihlava and unlike the Icelandic students I don't own a car yet. After a short introduction to everyone at the school, there was a presentation on the energy potential of the Czech Republic.

3 Ledvice – coal power station (Tuesday)

When we arrived in Ledvice, we first had lunch and then went on a tour of the coal-powered plant, where we divided into two groups of Czech speakers and English speakers. One group went to the observation deck and the other played with the interactive elements in the background downstairs and then we switched. At the end we watched a movie as time went by with the power station and a few of our friends were slowly falling asleep :D. After that we had a trip back to Jihlava together, which was more fun than the power station.

4 School project about elektromobility (Wednesday)

When we arrived at the school, we were welcomed by a teacher from another school who explained the advantages and disadvantages of the electric car and then introduced us to the project, which consisted of finding the pros and cons of electric cars and their overall possibility of implementation in the Czech Republic. In the afternoon we visited St. Ignatius Church where we listened to the organ and also went to the lookout point where we had a beautiful view of Jihlava.

5 Area of Dolní Vítkovice – old furnace and world of technology (Thursday)

After waking up early, we took a bus to Ostrava to visit the lower Vítkovice area. Upon arrival we had a tour of the blast furnaces, where we learned how they worked and Ostrava was one of the largest exporters of iron at the time. When we climbed to the top of the blast furnace, we were in for a surprise, because here lies the Bolt Tower, where there is a very beautiful view of the whole of Ostrava and, if the weather is nice, the Beskydy Mountains. For me it was already the seventh tour. After that we went for lunch and then to the small technology centre, which I liked probably the most because there were many gadgets and interactive objects. There is a restaurant and lots of venues for concerts and social events throughout the complex. Late in the afternoon we had a long drive home, even though it was dark, we enjoyed the bus ride together! We had fun, we sang, it was fun!

6 School project, underground of Jihlava and ČEZ energy strategy (Friday)

After arriving at the school, we listened to the CEZ carbon-free strategy and then developed a project on this topic, which we then presented. After the presented project and lunch we went to see the city hall and then to the underground of Jihlava, where unfortunately I couldn't be because my Icelandic friend left early for Prague.

7 Prague trip – Charles bridge and Astronomical Clock (Saturday)

On arrival in Prague, we met our guide. With him we toured the most beautiful historical monuments of Prague-the Powder Gate, Charles Bridge, Wenceslas Square, Old Town Square with the Astronomical Clock... In the afternoon we had a break up, and since the Icelanders wanted to have a proper Czech beer. After that we went to look around some shops and then back to the square and home by bus.

8 Old ruins of Lipnice and forest walk (Sunday)

This day we went to Lipnice near Jihlava to visit the ruins of the castle. After the tour we went for a walk in the forest where we could see several body parts carved into the rock. Then we went to a late lunch and home.

9 Visit in Dukovany (Monday)

I was really looking forward to this day because we were going to the Dukovany Nuclear Power Plant. Unfortunately, because of the coronavirus measures, we could only visit the public centre where they explained how it works and we also watched a short film. Then we visited the Dalešice hydroelectric power station, which is a water reservoir for the nuclear power plant + enables the production of electricity. We had a late lunch at the famous Dalešice Brewery where we really enjoyed the food.

10 Nuclear lady and school project

On this day, a small competition was prepared for the Icelandic students in the form of a treasure hunt around the school, thanks to which they visited many specially focused classrooms such as robotics, sound studio, photo studio... After this competition, Mrs. Dana Drábová "nuclear lady" told us more about nuclear and green energy. Then we were working on a project on this topic, but unfortunately due to the increasing coronavirus measures and also diseases on the Icelandic side, the Icelandic teachers decided to leave the Czech Republic as soon as possible. For us it was incomprehensible at first, but then we agreed that it would be better.

11 Early departure

Unfortunately, there was a sudden decision and a quick departure of the Icelandic group to Prague, where they spent the night and flew back to Iceland the next day. Too bad we didn't have more time, there was no time to see the city I live in properly and show a lot of things. I'm very sorry that we didn't get to see the Dlouhé stráně pumped storage plant in the Jeseníky Mountains. Where there is a beautiful view of the Jeseníky Mountains and then a 15 km long scooter ride that would have been unforgettable!

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