

## **Comenius project " Your Europe - Democratic shaping and sharing " participants attending Latvia, Kaunata**

This September for Kaunata Secondary School students, their parents and teachers will be remembered, as in the framework of Comenius project " Your Europe - democratic shaping and sharing " guests from 7 countries : Germany, Romania , Italy, Bulgaria , Estonia, Greece and Hungary visited Latvia.

Before that there was a hard preparatory process of the project meeting , which actively involved both teachers and students and their parents . The result was a meeting program that started on September 23 with a tour of Riga ,when 18 foreign students and 20 teachers were interestingly watching Art Nouveau architecture in Riga, admired green parks, squares ,as well as visited the Old City .



Afterwards there was a long way by bus to Kaunata, where foreign students were greeted by the host families , where they lived for 5 days.

On September 24, project participants learned about the school, visited classrooms , members of students' self-government told about the school 's history. The school had a dress specially for this event. While walking or driving along the school you could see in the school lawn lay out the flags of nations , 11 and 12th grade students had created informative posters about each country . Both students and teachers could take part in the workshop " Friendship Tree " : the tree was created from

different colored ribbons , each of which depicts the flag colors of every partner country. Friendship tree idea: each country has its roots, growing up they mix ( we cooperate with each other ) , on the top of the tree there are flowers and fruits - results of our project collaboration . All the participants made flowers or fruits from plastic , which were later fastened to the poster .



Visitors were greeted by students , their parents and teachers in the concert in Kaunata Parish Hall. All were impressed by dancers and singers high professional level and beautiful national costumes .In the concert were presented all generations:Kaunata folk dance groups , folk group " Rāžnaviņa ," Kaunata popular folk group. After the concert, our guests learned to dance Latvian folk dances and engaged in funny folk games .



In the afternoon, the teachers went around Kaunata village, but students with Kaunatas school student government attended the event , where students got acquainted with the other schools parliaments. Students from Estonia, Germany, Bulgaria, Italy and Latvia presented videos, presentations of this work. In the evenings, the students went to the school gym to play volleyball. Every night more and more students were involved in playing volleyball and various board games.

On September 25, all of us went on a tour around Latgale(the eastern part of Latvia): we climbed up Mākonkalns(Volkenberg) ,



visited Andrupene rural farm





then the route led to Aglona where we visited King's Mountain



and Aglona Catholic church .



We had lunch in Aglona Bread Museum ,



where the museum's hostess Vija told us about the importance of bread in Latgalian life, with bread -related beliefs , offered Latgale national dishes , which tasted well .

On September 26, we visited the local town-Rezekne. Mara Monument, we went on a guided tour around the Embassy of Latgale " Gors" and the creative service center " Zeimuls ."







After lunch, the students went to the supermarket Rimi feeding ducks , filling in time while waiting for the bus.

In the evening, in the guest house " Ezerkrasti " there was a farewell party, where teachers and students could evaluate the meeting, made new friends , danced , talked , took photographs .



Five days had passed very quickly , but the time was full of emotions, impressions and new revelations. The project has widened our minds.

On behalf of members of Kaunata Secondary School students parliament:

Daiga, Aļona, Lauma.