

# Our Impressions of Poland

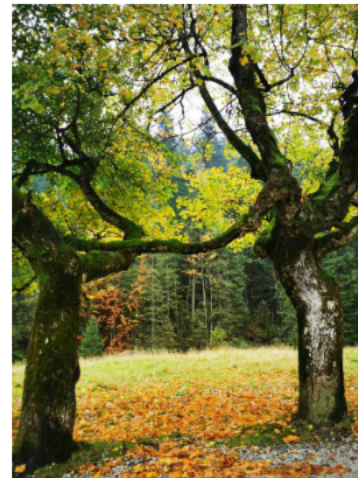
## Iwonicz 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October 2019



Our trip to Poland has left us with many memorable and impressive memories that will last us a lifetime. We were anxious to begin our programme and visit all the wonderful places the Polish team had promised. We were greeted by our lovely coordinators who made sure that our visit was going to be a success. The students were greeted by their families who were extremely hospitable and loving,

We began our adventure in Krosno the Glass City, with its remarkable glass artisans and the extraordinary interactive museum in the

Glass Heritage Centre. A demonstration from experienced glass blowers to impressive handmade glass objects, figurines, plates and cups. We were given the opportunity to show our own artistic capabilities by designing our own glass plates and taking them home with us. We were given a tour and also visited the city's glass collection located in the old cellars beneath the town square.



Our next stop was at the chocolate factory Pijalnia Czekolady M.Pelczar Chocolatier. It was a perfect place for any chocolate or non-chocolate lover. Students and teachers had the privilege to create their own chocolate masterpieces adding various ingredients and taking their delicious souvenirs home with them. For those who were interested in drinking chocolate the heavenly hot chocolate could not be ignored. The various products like white, black or regular chocolate tasted amazing. They also had ice cream, coffee, chocolate products and other sweets too in an endearing chocolate cafe.

For the teachers, the Polish team Kasia, Bozena, Anna and Dominica had arranged a gastronomical symposium at a delightful traditional restaurant in Jas Wedrowniczek where we tasted many traditional Polish dishes. From

beetroot soup, to meat rolls, dumplings, pancakes and delicious cakes and sweets. Personally, I did not think that we would be able to eat for the rest of the week. Here we were also greeted by the Headmaster and Headmistress of the school.

Students had the chance to visit the Nowy Styl factory in Warzyce which specializes in chairs and office furniture. The tour around the plant informed us on all the aspects involved in manufacturing, assembling and finishing chairs. The different stations included hard manual labour, complicated machinery and innovative technologies which were used to produce the final products. The students and teachers got an insight on what life in a factory is all about.

The highlight of the week was our visit to the Tatra Mountains, beginning in the west Tatras and ending up in the high Tatras. We started out in the west Tatras walking in the wonderful pathways with the beautiful maple trees changing colour by our side and the mighty spruce trees along the mountain tops. The scenery was so impressive that we forgot about the many kilometres of walking and our sore legs. Even more remarkable was the guest house we stayed the night with its warm and cosy atmosphere and comfort food. We could not leave out the sausages on the bonfire and the excitement of grilling and eating them under the moonlight. The visit to the high Tatras was most breath-taking with the high elevation levels and the extraordinary views and warm, grilled, tasty cheese balls. The mountain slope became a spot for many selfies and group photos to cherish. Tucked amongst the spruces was a quaint and humble chapel that is often visited by various mountaineers and local residents. The wonderful wilderness and fresh mountain air were very much needed.

On the last day of our programme we visited the school and received a very warm greeting from the Head Master and Head Mistress as well as our coordinators Kasia and Bozena who were truly magnificent and made sure all our needs were met. We had a lovely closing ceremony and a traditional lunch in the cafeteria with all the students. The school is surrounded by lush green gardens and trees which is something that is very calming. Our trip had come to an end and we realized that we had to go back home again. Our students were upset to be leaving their hosts and the warmth of their families. The Polish team made sure to leave an imprint in our hearts just like the glass imprint we have from Krosno ,.. we will always remember our stay.

With many thanks, Maria Eftychiou Cyprus Team

### **Student Impressions**

Taking part in Erasmus+ was a great choice. While staying in a hosting family, we had the chance to taste Poland's beauty. My first impression was the

environment. We were surrounded by it, it was so beautiful, green, clean and quiet. Second thing, were the people that hosted us and in general, they were so nice and caring, even though English was not their mother language, they tried their best to communicate and make us feel like home. Also the houses were very unique, each one had their own unique design and it was so weirdly satisfying. During this trip I met so many people from different countries and cultures and we had so much fun, but unfortunately time flies by very quickly when you're having fun. For sure I am visiting Poland again, sooner or later.

Vasilia Kostadinova E class

My trip to Poland was a great experience that I will never forget it! I have wonderful memories and I met beautiful people. After our road trips to the mountains of Poland I realised how beautiful and cold Poland is, like a country and that it has an amazing natural environment. By climbing the mountains you can see many trees, rivers and green plains but also feel the real cold of winter. Likewise this trip was unforgettable because I met the best people. The family that I was staying at was the friendliest and kindest. Furthermore the girl that was hosting me was very nice and from the first moment that we met and we become friends. In addition I created beautiful friendships with the other students from many different countries. I really miss these days and I hope to see everyone again someday.

Costantina Gerasioti E class