

# Memories from the workshops of the visit of Socrates Comenius Project



## *The Wonderful World of Waters*

2005-2008

Partners School from  
Italy, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey

# Memories from the workshops of the visit of Socrates Comenius Project

23 - 28 October 2005

Brežice, Slovenia



We started the project with a presentation of the characteristics of the national water systems. Each school also prepared a presentation about their countries, so we could have learnt something about our new friends. Day was closed with a visit of castle in Brežice.

On Tuesday we presented the geographical view of water and later we heard more about connections between water and religion. After that all the students and teachers participated in the project took part in artistic work shop. They were drawing pastels, which were used as New Year cards.



But the most interesting for most of pupils was definitely the sports afternoon activities (canoeing, archery, social games).

Wednesday begun with representatives meeting and preparations for first fieldwork – measurement of Klunove Toplice and Cateske Toplice. Maja was taking a sample of water in the river Krka and teachers were evaluating results. We also visited the thermal spa Čatež and listened lecture about thermal wells.



Our region is important in producing energy, so we decided to visit Nuclear power plant and hydroelectric power station where water take important role in production electricity. Kostak showed the new ultrafiltration plant, which ensure better drinking water for town Senovo.



The final day was devoted on learning about the history and culture of Slovenia. A trip to Ljubljana was organized on Friday and we said good bye to each other and wished to see soon.

The Comenius project was a really interesting experience for us, because we have learned a lot of different and interesting things about other countries. We have met many very nice people from Europe and we have made friends. We are still in touch. We write to each other and we hope we will meet again. It was a great experience for us.





# Memories from the workshops of the visit of Socrates Comenius Project

22 - 26 May 2006  
Padua, Italy



On the first day we visited vocational school San Benedetto da Norcia. Its big garden fascinated us and production of plants was very educational. Greenhouses play a basic role in school activities. Students can follow the growth of horticultural and floricultural vegetables and plants thus practising the skills and concepts learnt in classes.

In the afternoon we visited Prato della Valle place. It is the largest square in Italy. The square today is a monumental space of extraordinary visual impact, with a green island at the center, l'Isola Memmia, surrounded by a small canal bordered by two rings of statues.



Botanical Garden of Padua impressed us by its interesting and big collection of plants from all parts of the World. It dates back to 1545 and is regarded as the most ancient university garden in the world. Beginning from its foundation, it was devoted to the growth of medicinal plants. Photo presents collection of insectivorous plants.

The second day was devoted to Italian nature. The trip to Euganei hills showed us Fonte Canola (water and washing), Fonte Regina (water and drinking, enclosed picture) and Montirone (water and health). We enjoyed in freshness of Fonte Regina.



On Thursday we took a trip to visit Museo di S. Martino (water and transport). Return to school was interesting and the most practicing part of our visit. We rode bicycle on the banks of the river Bacchiglione. The project and the relationships run by bike.

The friendship among teachers gets stronger and stronger around a table. The three years spent working on the project have been a good opportunity to make new friends and to compare different experiences. We have learned a lot of things about each other.





## Memories from the workshops of the visit of Socrates Comenius Project

23- 27 October 2006

Bielsko-Biała, Poland

During five October days in 2006 pupils of IV Secondary School Komisji Edukacji Narodowej in Bielsko-Biała had a pleasure to host young people from Latvia, Slovenia, Italy and Turkey. In such a short, but intense time pupils managed to get to know each other and visit one of the most interesting and beautiful places in Poland. Also they broadened the range of their knowledge about water as its examination was the main objective within the program.



A visit was planned in such way that foreign guests wouldn't have time to be bored and had a great time with their peers and returned to their countries with new experiences and plenty of memories.

The first point of the program was sightseeing in Bielsko and neighbourhood: Sułkowski's Castle, the town hall, old streets of the city and Mountain Żar with its hydropower station on the top, Porąbka-Żar. Afterwards participants set off to the meeting in a sewage company "Aqua", where except for watching a film showing the process of purifying water, they had an opportunity to observe this process with their own eyes while visiting the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Komorowice.

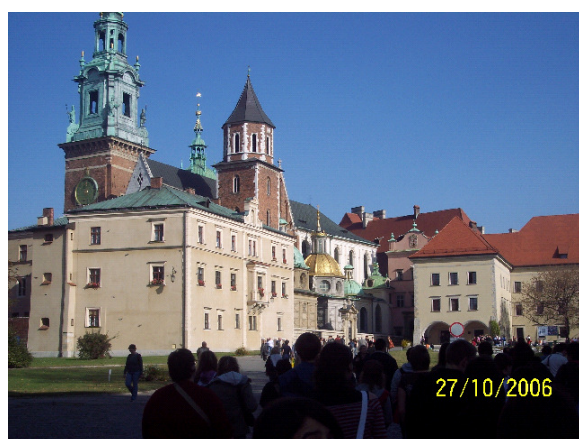
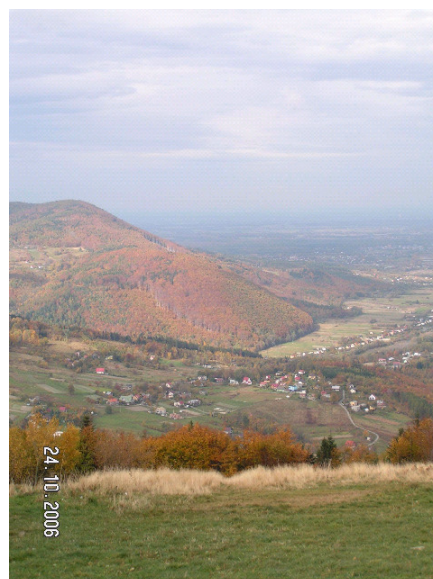
During workshops participants were getting to know and deepening interesting features of water which we come across with every day, however we are not aware of them. Making of soap bubbles, Tyndal's effect, membrane of the surface of water were ones of the many topics, which aroused common interest. Guests from Latvia presented their own research, related to stain removal with detergents, accessible in the market. Obviously, water was the leading topic, therefore everything that was observed, was directly connected with water.





The next scientific aspect was our visit at Academy of Humanistic Studies and Technology. During the visit participants examined content of public and industrial sewage and had an opportunity of getting to know modern measurement apparatus.

After intensive brain-work there was time for active pastime in the mountains. The day began with a trip by gondola to Szyndzielnia, admiring panorama of Bielsko-Biała and beautiful autumn landscape of Beskidy. Afterwards pupils together with their keepers headed for Klimczok, where they rested admiring panorama of the Tatras in the distance. Closing of the day was a disco, organised in a school buffet.



The last day was devoted to sightseeing in Cracow. The participants heard the history of the Royal Castle and learnt about the important role played in the Polish history. They also admired the Cathedral in Wawel, Sigismund's Chapel, covered with the dome with golden husks. All sights made an enormous impression on the guests. However they were delighted with the interior of Mariacki Church and the beautiful altar by Wit Stwosz to a great extent. There was a

break coming back from Cracow in order to show participants of the project the birthplace and a family house of the pope John Paul II.

After activities hosts were trying to entertain their guests, offering them different attractions such as: bowling, billiards, shopping or having an evening out in Bielsko cafés or clubs.



## Memories from the workshops of the visit of Socrates Comenius Project

15 - 21 April 2007

Usak, Turkey

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the project “Wonderful World of Waters” was organized in our city Usak in April 2007. The meeting was interesting and beneficial not only for the project activities but also for the regional attractions.



The first place that we visited, as it was related to our meeting's main objective, two waste water purification plants. The first one is Usak Municipality's Domestic Waste Water Purification Plant and the other one is Organized Industrial Zone's Waste Water Purification Plant. With the help of these visits the participants had a chance to see how waste water is purified.

The second place we visited was the Palmet Carpet factory. The aim of the factory is to produce worldwide famous Usak Carpets by using %100 natural materials.



Then we visited Pamukkale and the ancient city Hierapolis. Pamukkale is a beautiful and spectacular natural site, unique in the world with its fairylike, dazzling white, petrified lime cascades. We saw the thermal spring water laden with calcareous salt, plunging down the mountain side which has created this natural formation of stalactites, cataracts and basins. The thermal water has been used since the Roman period for its therapeutic powers.



Next we visited the Roman city of Hierapolis, which is not located not on earth or rock, but on solid limestone layers formed by limestone water that flowed for centuries over this raised level plateau. The name means "sacred city", and according to Stephanus of Byzantium the city was given this name because of the large number of temples it contained.



In the same day in the afternoon we visited the ancient city Ephesus. This city was one of the most popular cities of the ancient world and was given a special attention by many Hellenistic kings. For instance it is known that Lysimakhos built this city and gave it his wife Arsinoe's name.

We also visited the House of Mary where Mother Mary is thought to have spent her last days. Pope John XXIII declared the house as a pilgrimage site in 1961. In 1967 Pope Paul VI and in 1979 Pope John Paul II came to show the importance of the place. Also, Pope Benedict XVI visited the house in 2006.





The regional attractions was full of history. We visited two museums in Usak. The first one was the Atatürk and Ethnographical Museum. The building was used as the headquarters during the Independence War. Atatürk received the Greek Armies Commander-in-Chief Trikopis in this building and received the General's weapon and sword together with his general staff officers. After being nationalised in the middle of 1970's, the building was opened as

the Atatürk and Ethnographical Museum on 1 September 1978. In the entrance floor of the two-storey wooden house local ethnographical materials, historical Usak carpets and Esme kilims, old weapons, wearing apparel and other articles are exhibited. The first floor has been organized completely as the Atatürk Museum. Mirrors of that period, coffee tables, armchairs, the bedroom used by Atatürk, and wearing apparel of Atatürk are displayed in this floor.

The second museum was the Usak archeology museum. In the exhibition halls of the museum there are remainigs from the Old Bronze Period, the Hellenistic and Roman Periods and the Lydian treasures, called as "Karun Treasure" Besides these works, the klines of the grave rooms, volutes and grave doors are exhibited in open area.



The last stop of this wonderful meeting was the Ulubey Canyon. It is a 75 km. long canyon, composed of characteristics of geological structure at south and south west part of the city.



# Memories from the workshops of the visit of Socrates Comenius Project

3 – 8 December 2007

Latvia, Kandava



Monday started with the meeting of participants, introduction and continued with a concert, including Kandava Dance school. We went on an excursion around Kandava, saw all the beautiful places and despite the rain, we had a lot of fun. The evening passed by playing towel volleyball.

On Tuesday everybody went on a walk in aim to collect all the water samples to do the chemical analyse. The results were showed in Power Point presentation. After that we visited Art school ,that included making plastic sculptures. The leisure time passed by playing bowling and having a party in sauna!!!



It was the excursion to Jurmala that took the most time of Wednesday. Kemer national park and Jaunkemer health resort, also the Baltic sea and fairy tale house Undine was quite interesting for all of us. But we won't forget the swinging by the Baltic Sea, because even teachers remembered their childhood ☺



Thursday was a day to do some serious work-business plan presentation. Day continued with a small walk to schools sports hall. In the afternoon we all went to farm Indani, where we could eat national food and even make the bread. The day ended with a party in our school.



Friday was the day to say goodbye. In the morning we left Kandava to go on an excursion to capital city – Riga. It included open air museum, seeing the old town of Riga and even meeting Santa Claus. And by the Freedom monument we said bye to everyone, it was the end of a really interesting and amazing week.

# Memories from the workshops of the visit of Socrates Comenius Project

13 - 18 April 2008  
Brežice, Slovenia

We started our final meeting in the morning of **14. 4. 2008** with official welcome and after introducing of three year project Wonderful World of Waters and survey of drinking habits of teenagers we went with our guests from Italy, Latvia, Poland and Turkey to see cultural program devoted to story about three Slovenians rivers.



After that all schools presented their national food and drinks. Students sang national anthems and danced traditional dances. We enjoyed in plenty of delicious food and made new friendship.



*Slovenia*



*Italy*



*Turkey*



*Poland*



*Latvia*

On Tuesday, 15 April, we went to the western part of Slovenia. First we stopped in the Karst area, where we visited Škocjanske caves. They are the creation of the Reka River and under UNESCO protection. We saw a lot of interesting things there like the largest stalagmite Giant - in the Great Hall, 15 metres in height, disappearing Reka river, 223 metres depth (from the surface to the lowest point).





On Wednesday we went to visit a very special house –Tona's house where in the past olive oil was produced in a traditional way.



Then we visited the traditional salt works – SOLINE. The museum was interesting; we got an insight into the work and life of the people there. The area is protected because it is also a natural habitat for many different birds.

Our next stop was Piran, where we took a walk to Tartini's square and heard some things about him. Then we had an hour coffee break.

Our lunch was at 15.00 and after lunch we went back to the Brežice.



## Memories



### FRIENDSHIP FOREVER

The three-year working on the project has been a good opportunity to make new friends and to compare different experiences. We have learned a lot of things about each other. The circle of the friendship is now involving all of us.



*Nicola Penzo*

During the visit I hosted Gulunay – a girl from Turkey in my house. She is a very joyful person with a great sense of humour, which is contagious. She loves meeting new people and telling them about her own country and family. She prepared a traditional Turkish soup, especially for my family. She enjoyed getting to know our culture, therefore we visited different places every evening. Gulunay likes shopping and that is why we spent a lot of time in the town. She made friends with my family and as a result it was difficult to say goodbye. I think she has great memories from the visit in Poland as I was welcomed very warmly during the visit in Turkey..



*Monika Borkowska*

My guest was fifteen-year-old Egija from Latvia. We communicated with each other in and English. She had been to Poland before, so her stay in Poland wasn't a surprise for her. In the evenings we exchanged with our experiences that we had at school and outside school. Unfortunately I last touch with her after her return to Latvia as a consequence of the frequent changing of address and not steady access to the internet.

I was amazed at her knowledge of Poland and she understood some of the words in Polish. It was kind of her to say that she liked our country and she will gladly come back here.



*Paulina Maszlanka*

My guest was fifteen-year-old Vinieta Liepina. At first she was very shy, but it is quite common for people, while coming to a foreign country and meeting strange people. She speaks English very well. She is a very cheerful and kind person. We often talked about Latvia, her school and family. I was astonished to hear how much she knew about Poland. I have pleasant memories from her stay in my house.



*Natalia Mazurkiewicz*

My guest was a girl from Turkey, named Gamze. I consider her stay in my house very enjoyable. I have learnt a lot from her e.g. to cook a traditional Turkish soup which she had made right after arrival in Poland. I got on very well with her, I loved chatting with her about culture and customs of our countries.



*Karolina Lichy*

My guest was a schoolgirl from Slovenia - Tjasa Kozar. We got on well, both in Slovenia, during my stay in her house and also during her visit in Poland. I have pleasant memories of evenings spent with Tjasa and my parents, when she told us about her family, friends and customs, traditions and holidays typical for Slovenia. I wanted her to have pleasant memories from Poland as I had great memories from my stay in Slovenia. Therefore I showed her many interesting places in my city and introduced her to my friends. We are still in touch.



*Katarzyna Sysło*

Slovenia. When I look back, I see only beautiful memories. The week when the Poles, the Turks, the Italians and the Latvians visited us was an event that I was honored to be a part of. There were a lot of things we did together and they will always stay in my memories. It was never boring to us and we always had something to do. I hosted a girl from Poland who was a very pleasant and nice person. She was always patient, sometimes mysterious but she was a girl and a friend every person would like to be with. What was exactly happening? Well. As well as other countries we first introduced our own school and after that there were a lot of activities that added variety to our days. We went rowing and we also had a picnic next to the river Krka. In a few words it was amazing. We had a great time and there was a lot of laughter. That day was the time we all had the chance to get to know each other better. The days flew fast because we had such a good time. We went to Klun's spa where we did some research on water. In the afternoon we went swimming and bowling. On Saturday we had a social evening and really enjoyed ourselves without our teachers. The next day when we went to Ljubljana and did some sightseeing. Before our guests left we had been talking about all the interesting things we had been doing during their stay in Slovenia. Everything was amazing and unforgettable and I really have to thank everyone for the time we spent together.



*Ana Pincolič*



In spite of the fact that it has been half a year since I was in Italy, I still remember every and each person I met there. It was one of the best experience I have ever had in my life. I met a lot of new people, new friends and I saw a new and different country. The week I spent in Padova was extremely interesting, with a lot of sight seeing and trips. One of the most interesting things was that we, the students and the professors alike, came from different places of Europe Italy, Latvia, Poland, Turkey and Slovenia. The visit to Italy with the Comenius project was very educational.



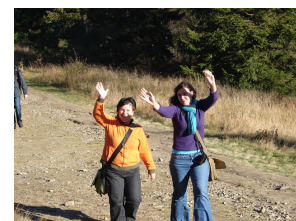
Firstly I had to communicate in English and Italian and the project enabled me to use English and Italian in everyday situations. Secondly, I saw a lot of new things. For example, how school in Padova functions how the Italians live, etc. It was very entertaining, too. We had parties, we were meeting each other, we got to know each other, we were hanging out together, we spent a whole week together. We still keep in touch. I am convinced I will never forget that trip.

It is impossible to describe the feeling in words, because when you are surrounded by other people, when you actually live in a foreign country and move in a different rhythm from day to day, you are turned upside down.

You simply have to be there. When the last day came closer to us, I could not believe that it had already been over, that we were going back to Slovenia. It all happened too fast. I remember that it was very difficult for me to say goodbye and leave such excellent people I had lived with for a whole week. I'd have rather stayed there. I hope I will have one more opportunity to take part in this or a similar project with such nice people.

*Matej Krmelj*

Poland. I smell the bag I brought home from Justyne. The special smell refreshes my memories on the week we spent in Poland. Things which happened there were like a big cloud and when I spread it out, the memories get out from there onto the surface over and over again. The warmth of the home where I was staying, Justyne, a mild soul that could calm you down over and over and the events which were alternating daily, new acquaintances, new behaviours and rituals. New turnings of pages in the book of life and a new experience. Really an amazing week.



*Ana Picoľč*

Before going to Turkey, I did not think much about that country. Now, my opinion is totally and really different. I have wonderful memories from that trip. I met a lot of new friends there and I still keep in touch with them. I know that I will never forget Turkey, and also, I know that I will go back there as soon as possible. I am really happy for being brave enough to go to the meeting alone with my professors and the headmaster (they are still great!))



*Anja Šalamon*

In the first days of the new school year, we were just talking about Comenius and we didn't think that we would go to Latvia. But then the day D came and we were on the way there. We were fascinated with Latvia and their people: their life style is totally different from ours, the people are more connected, they don't care so much for material things and have a very lively social life –people meet every evening. We were pleased because the people accepted us so warmly and that the families were nice and they gave us everything could. The Comenius project is important, because the young people are getting connected and get to know each other, their customs and culture. We are very glad that we have had a chance to work in this project and meet new people and making friends.



*Tanja Preskar and Anamarja Duhanič*

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