

On the 22 nd April students of the 3rd A language class of the Business Academy in Považská Bystrica welcomed Belgian friends who accepted their invitation to spend one week in Slovakia. They come from Beveren a town with similar extent and number of inhabitants like Považská Bystrica has. Belgians stayed at host families, where they felt very comfortable immediately after their arrival. They appreciated not only hospitality and friendship of our people, but they liked surroundings of our town, too. During the meeting with the Vice- mayor they where talking about positive impressions of Slovakia.

One of the main goals of this exchange stay was to have possibility for our students to improve in foreign language. They could learn how to cooperate with people hwo come from different backround. For these reasons the common programme was based on working out projects in foreign language. The students compared the environment of their home towns, the lifestyle of young people and importat events in history of their nations. The most successful was presentation of the traditions connected with our district.



The Slovak students admired historical centres and cathedrals in Belgium, Belgian partners admired nature in Vrátna Valley and Manínska Valley. Hiking in these areas was appreciated as the best common actions. Visiting of Bratislava, Žilina, Trenčín, Rajecká Lesná and Bojnice afforded them to know Slovakia better.

Late in the afternoon and during evenings students enjoied playing sport games and going to discos.

At the and of this successful exchange stay there was organised a reception and evaluation, where the members of the folk group Bystričan came to dance and sing.

The students and teachers of the Business Academy hope that this week was the first step to further cooperation.

Mrs. Piechová and

Mrs. Rosinová were responsible for the organisation of the exchange stay.

