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Matching list of the participants of the exchange Hengelo – Považská Bystrica

Students

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Zuzana Jantová
Tomáš Kremeník
Erika Kostelanská
Peter Legén
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Rob Teders
Luuk Rondhuis
Carolien Nijhof
Jurrien Moes
Mark Reimert
Kevin Uittenbosch

Teachers

Gerard Stok
Henry Elsjan
Lenka Slaziníková
Jaroslava Gicová





From our diary

GOODBYE, SLOVAKIA!

We left our friends and parents from the car park in front of the Hotel Manín at about 8 pm in Považská Bystrica. We travelled through the Czech Republic, Germany and then we arrived in Holland.

We had spent about 16 hours on the mini bus till we arrived at school ROC van Twente (it is the name of our exchange partners' school). We were very tired, but also very curious to see our exchange partners.

The first meeting with our exchange partners in the school staff room was very



cars and we spent the whole afternoon and evening with their families – some people spent this time only with the families, some students went out and the others were discovering the surroundings of their houses and went to a disco near Borne.

Everything was very exciting for us because Holland is so different from Slovakia – lifestyle, towns, people, schools, food, ...

The first day was very exciting, but we were very happy when we could take a shower and then went to bed.

funny because we saw a lot of new faces and we didn't know the families we were going to stay with for a week.

At first, the Dutch teacher Gerard Stok welcomed us and introduced our partners to us.

Then our exchange partners took us home by

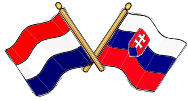


Monday

The first trip in Holland was the trip to the newspaper Tubantia in Enschede. It is a daily paper which is read by a lot of people from the town and its surroundings.

We saw a process of making and printing the newspaper. After the excursion we went walking in the centre of Enschede.





TUESDAY

On Tuesday we visited RTV Oost and its radio station in Hengelo. This trip was very exciting for us because we discovered many things about the producing of television programmes and radio broadcasting. We saw a television studio and we spent a few minutes in a radio studio being on a live broadcast. The presenters were very kind and funny, so we had a lot of fun.

Our schoolmate Filip tried to be a presenter and he read the news in Dutch.



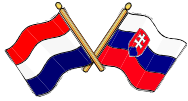
THE FILIP'S TV SHOW



THE MAP OF HENGELO AND SURROUNDINGS



Hengelo is a municipality and a town in the eastern Netherlands, in the province of Overijssel. The population is 81, 000 inhabitants. A lot of students from ROC van Twente do not live in Hengelo. So a lot of our students lived in the families in Borne, Enschede, Oldenzaal, Losser, Delden or Almelo. We were travelling to school by buses, trains or by bikes.



WEDNESDAY

The best trip. We waited only for this moment. We went to Amsterdam.

SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Amsterdam is the capital of the Netherlands. Its name is derived from "Amstel dam", pointing to the city's origin: a dam on the river Amstel.

The city is known for its historic port, its red light district (de Wallen), its liberal coffeeshops, and its many canals which have led to Amsterdam being called the "Venice of the North".

The city, founded in the late 12th century as a small fishing village, has grown to become the largest city in the Netherlands with a population of 743,104 inhabitants, containing at least 172 nationalities.

Amsterdam and its surrounding metropolitan area have a population of 1 million to about 1.5 million people, depending on definition, and is part of the Randstad conurbation, which has a population of 6,659,300.



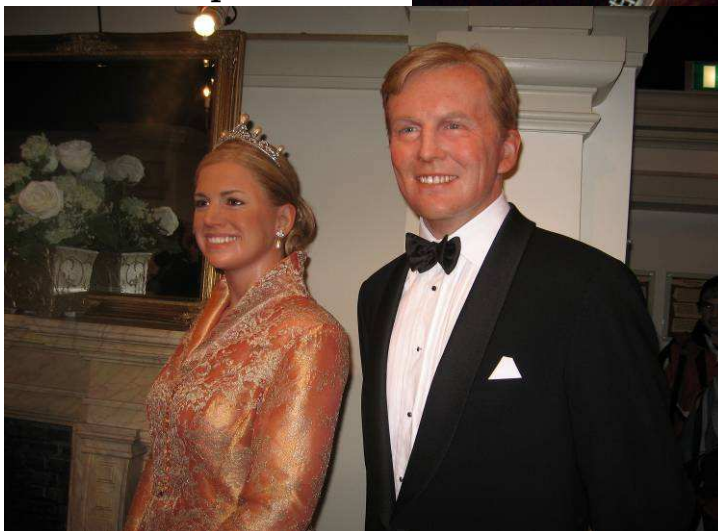


We visited a lot of exciting places in Amsterdam. We had lunch in Magna Plaza. We were in the Museum of Madame Tussaud –

there are wax statues of famous people. We were very afraid of one part of this museum because we did not know which person is the statue and which one is alive. Each statue looks like a real



person. We were walking along famous Red Light District, had a beautiful sightseeing of Amsterdam and bought some souvenirs in shops.





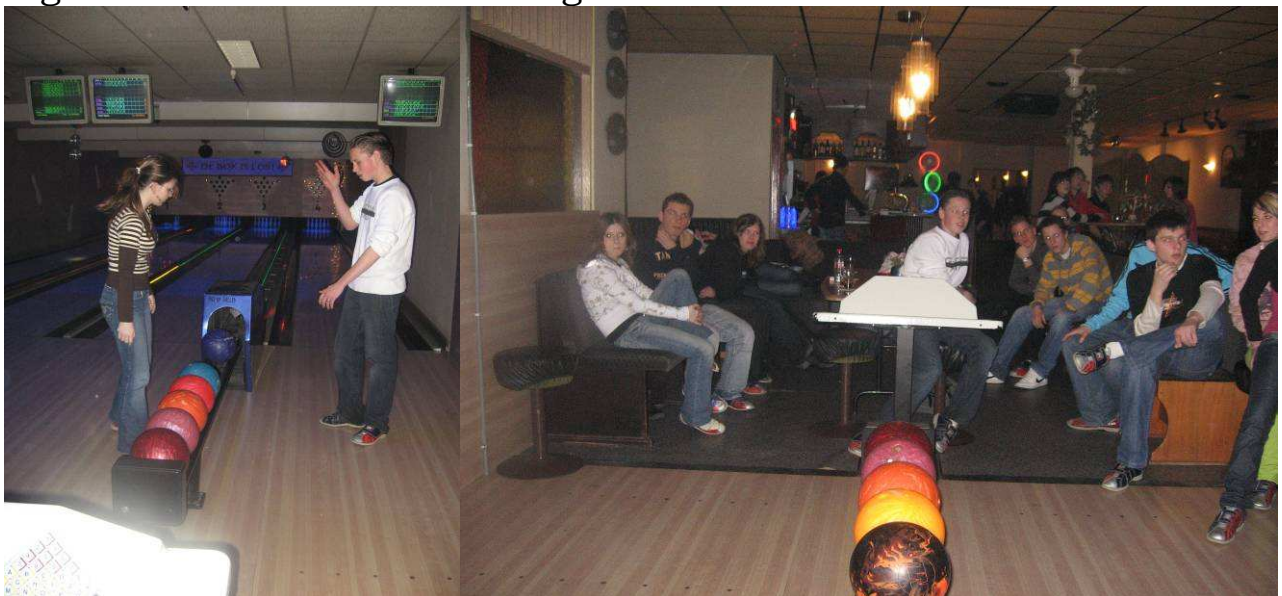
THURSDAY

Our last trip. We had a sightseeing tour round the town of Hengelo. We saw the Town Hall in Hengelo. Then we went to the town's historical museum and our guide told us a lot of exciting things about the history of this town. There was also an exhibition of Hengelo Beer.

Later on we visited a fire station and saw a new building of ROC van Twente school. We had to say the weather was not very good so we were all happy the walk was over.



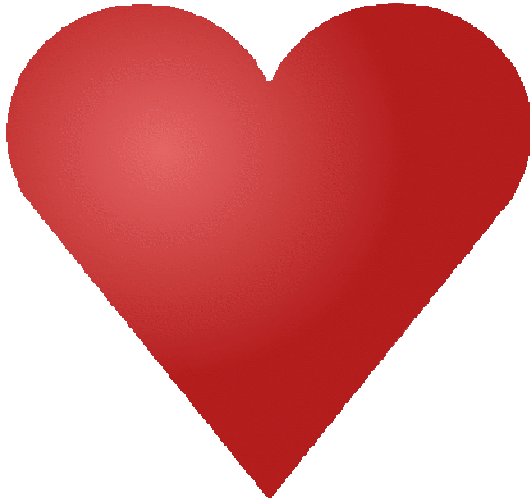
After this sightseeing tour we had time only for fun. We went to Yip's Bowlingcentrum in Hengelo and all of us played bowling or snooker and then we had a very delicious dinner. We had about three hours for shopping as the shops are open till 9 pm on Thursdays, so we spent a lot of time in shops and then we met at Café 't Pleintje. We spent this night together and it was the best night for all of us in Holland.





FRIDAY

On Friday we came to school at 11.30. It suited us very much as we were very tired because of the last night party.



At first we went to the school canteen where we had lunch together.

Then we went to the classroom where we had an evaluation of the exchange trip and our Slovak teacher thanked the Dutch teachers and students for everything they did for us.

After saying goodbye to each other we took a photo of us in front of the minibus, put our luggage into the trolley, got on the bus and at 2 pm set off for Slovakia.

This exchange trip was very great for us because we had some new experiences, improved our English, met a lot of nice people, discovered new country and new places and had a lot of fun. I think that every student of our group can say:

IK HOU VAN HOLLAND!

And now we are waiting for you and we hope that we have prepared exciting programme for you when you come to Slovakia.

We have to say THANK YOU for everything because this week was the best one of our school year and we hope that we will be friends forever.



A week in Hengelo briefly

This school year the students of Business Academy Považská Bystrica already for the fourth time had a chance to take part in an exchange trip with Dutch school Roc van Twente in the town of Hengelo. Mostly the students of the classes with extended numbers of lessons of foreign languages, mainly English, take part in such exchange trips and this year it was the same.

So on Saturday 1st March 2008, 13 students of English from 2. A and 3 students from 3. A and C, altogether 16 students and 2 teachers, were schlepping by minibus to Hengelo for 16 hours. In Hengelo Dutch teacher Gerard Stok was waiting for us and also the Dutch students and their parents. Some of the Slovak students had already known the people they were going to spend the next days with at least according to their photos and CVs that had already been sent to them. The others knew only the name of their exchange partner and so full of expectations and maybe a little of fear in the school staff room they had been waiting till Mr. G. Stok read the name of their exchange partner.

Each of the Slovak student was staying with their host family so had to manage on their own and use the English knowledge or if not, help with some gestures or in any other ways. The advantage of staying with families was that everybody got to know not only the other members of the host family and the Dutch way of life, but also improved their communication in a foreign language and learnt how to behave in different social situations. Also, the students learnt that friendly coexistence of different nations is not so easy and it is necessary to get to know each other and learn to make compromises.

During five days of our exchange trip in Holland our Dutch hosts prepared us an interesting programme. On Monday morning we spent some time at school where we introduced and tried to get to know each other. We were shown round their school and then we spent the afternoon in a close town of Enschede. Here is based the regional newspaper Tubantia that we visited. We saw how everyday news is gathered and then the newspaper is printed. We also walked in the centre of this big university city. On Tuesday we were in a local TV and radio called RTV Oost based in Hengelo and had an opportunity to have a look in the studios where programmes are made and latest news is read. One of us, Filip Méheš, was a presenter for a minute and read the news in Dutch and our Dutch guide said and we all had to admit that he did this role in an excellent way. We were also in a live radio programme so lots of people knew about the visit of the Slovak students in Hengelo.



We were all looking forward most to Wednesday as on this day we had a visit to the capital city Amsterdam on the programme. Here we saw the most interesting sights in the city centre (yes, also famous quarter Red Light District). Everybody liked especially Madam Tussaud's Museum of wax figures. Every girl wanted to take picture of herself and J. Depp, J. Timberlake or R. Williams and every boy could see Beyonce or Spice Girls closely. These are only some of the famous people, the wax figures of which are shown in this museum. After this tour we had a lot of time to do the shopping and everybody spent their savings mostly on clothes and presents for family and friends.

Thursday was devoted to knowing the city of Hengelo. In the morning we climbed about 200 steps to the top of the tower of city hall from which we had a nice view of the town. The weather was not very good so we could not see the nearby cities of Enschede and Almelo. After the lunch in a fastfood restaurant we visited Historical Museum Hengelo where we except other exhibits saw the exhibition of history of making beer (so favourite drink in Holland), and got to know something about the Hengelo's history. After a short excursion in Firestation Hengelo and a long walk around rainy Hengelo we got to Yip's bowling centre where we competed who was the best at playing bowling. As some of us played this game for the first time, better at bowling were the Dutch students. The best of us was Ivan Pavlík. Then together dinner followed and after it a goodbye party in Café Pleintje.

The saddest day was Friday because we had to say goodbye to our Dutch friends who we started to love after several days spent together. At 2 pm with tears in our eyes we set off for home. We are pleased that the Dutch students and friends are visiting Považská Bystrica the first week in April and we will be able to show them how we live here in Slovakia, what school, nature, historical sights we have, the way we live and have a fun. And once when we want to travel abroad, we know that somewhere in Holland our friends, who we can visit, live. And also vice versa, anytime we are pleased to welcome them in our country. No doubt good friendship can overcome any distance.

Týždeň v Hengele v skratke

V tomto školskom roku sa študenti Obchodnej akadémie Považská Bystrica už po štvrtýkrát mali možnosť zúčastniť výmenného pobytu s holandskou školou ROC van Twente v meste Hengelo. Väčšinou sa týchto výmenných pobytov zúčastňujú študenti tried s rozšíreným vyučovaním cudzích jazykov, hlavne angličtiny, a nebolo tomu ináč ani tento rok.



A tak sa v sobotu 1. marca 2008 do Holandska 16 hodín trmácalo v autobuse 13 angličtinárov z 2. A a traja tretiaci z 3. A a C, teda spolu 16 študentov a 2 profesorky. V Hengele nás čakal holandský učiteľ Gerard Stok aj so svojimi študentmi a ich rodičmi. Niektorí z našich študentov mali tú výhodu, že vedeli ku komu idú aspoň podľa fotografií a životopisov, ktoré im poslali Holanďania. Iní vedeli iba meno svojho partnera, a tak plní očakávania a možno aj trochu strachu čakali v nedeľu na poludnie v zborovni školy, kým G. Stok prečíta meno ich exchange partnera.

Každý študent býval vo svojej hostiteľskej rodine, takže si musel poradiť sám a vystačiť si so svojimi vedomosťami angličtiny, poprípade si pomáhať rukami-nohami. Výhodou bývania v rodinách bolo to, že každý spoznal nielen členov rodiny a životný štýl Holanďanov, ale hlavne sa zdokonalil v komunikácii v cudzom jazyku a naučil sa, ako sa správať v rôznych spoločenských situáciách a tiež sa naučil, že spolunažívanie rôznych národov nie je až také jednoduché, je potrebné spoznávať sa a naučiť sa robiť kompromisy.

Počas piatich dní nášho pobytu v Holandsku sme mali každý deň pripravený zaujímavý program. V pondelok sme strávili dopoludnie v škole, kde sme sa navzájom predstavovali a spoznávali, prezreli sme si školu a popoludní sme navštívili neďaleké mesto Enschede, kde je sídlo regionálnych novín Tubantia, ktoré sme navštívili. Videli sme, ako sa dennodenne zostavujú a potom tlačia noviny. Poprechádzali sme sa aj v centre tohto univerzitného stotisícového mesta. V utorok sme boli v miestnom televíznom a rozhlasovom štúdiu RTV Oost v Hengele a mali sme možnosť nahliadnuť do výroby televíznych programov, hlavne zábavného a publicistického charakteru. Jeden z nás, Filip Méheš, sa zahral na moderátora, prečítal správy v holandčine a naša holandská sprievodkyňa a aj my všetci sme museli uznať, že mu to išlo celkom dobre. Boli sme aj v rozhlasovom štúdiu v živom vysielaní, takže o nás vedeli široko-ďaleko.

Najviac sme sa tešili na stredu, pretože tento deň sme mali na pláne návštevu hlavného mesta Amsterdam. Tu sme si prezreli najzaujímavejšie pamiatky v centre mesta (áno, aj známu štvrť Red Light District). Všetkých zaujalo hlavne Múzeum voskových figurín Madam Tussaud. Každé dievča sa chcelo odfotiť s J. Deppom, J. Timberlakom či R. Williamsom a každý chalan mohol vidieť Beyonce či Spice Girls zblízka. To sú len niektoré zo známych ľudí, ktorých voskové modely sú vystavené v tomto múzeu. Po tejto prehliadke sme mali čas aj na nakupovanie a každý minul svoje úspory zväčša na oblečenie a darčeky pre blízkych.

Štvrtok patril spoznávaniu mesta Hengelo. Ráno sme vyšliapali okolo 200 schodov na vežu mestskej radnice, odkiaľ sme mali pekný výhľad na celé mesto. Počasie nebolo najkrajšie, a tak sme nemohli vidieť okolité



mestá, teda Enschede a Almelo. Po obede vo fastfoode sme navštívili miestne historické múzeum, kde sme okrem iných exponátov videli aj výstavu venovanú výrobe piva (v Holandsku tak obľúbený nápoj) v Hengele, a dozvedeli sa niečo o histórii samotného mesta. Po krátkej exkurzii v Požiarnej stanici Hengelo a dlhej prechádzke upršaným Hengelom sme sa dostali do Yip's bowling centra, kde sme súťažili, kto je najlepší v bowlingu. Keďže niektorí z nás hrali bowling po prvýkrát, lepší v tomto športe boli Holanďania. Z nás bol najlepší Ivan Pavlík. Po spoločnej večeri nás čakala rozlúčková party v café Pleintje.

Najsmutnejší deň bol piatok, pretože sme sa museli rozlúčiť s našimi holandskými priateľmi, ktorí nám v priebehu niekoľkých dní tak prirástli k srdiečku. So slzami v očiach sme sa o 14. 00 vydali na cestu domov. Teší nás skutočnosť, že holandskí študenti i učitelia navštívia Považskú Bystricu v prvý aprílový týždeň a my im budeme môcť ukázať, ako žijeme tu na Slovensku, akú školu, prírodu, pamiatky máme, ako bývame a zabávame sa. A raz, keď budeme chcieť vycestovať za hranice, vieme, že tam niekde v Holandsku žijú naši priatelia, ktorých môžeme navštíviť. A tiež naopak, aj my ich kedykoľvek radi privítame v našej krajine. Veď dobrému priateľstvu neprekáža žiadna diaľka!

Opinions of the Slovak students on the exchange trip to Hengelo:

- I did not like the flat countryside, all the houses looked the same,
- I liked the life in the country, the roads for cyclists,
- I think we should have seen more in Amsterdam and also in other towns,
- I knew nice people, practised my English and saw a different way of life,
- I liked the wax figures in Madam Tussaud's Museum in Amsterdam and the last evening with our Dutch friends,
- surely I would change the means of transport, students should travel by plane, not by bus,
- I would omit that part of the programme which was not spoken in English, e.g. in the Firestation,
- Dutch people are friendly and they like having fun, I minded their smoking a lot and the fact they did not know anything about our country and were always mentioning Czecho-Slovakia instead of Slovakia,
- I thought I would have seen more during those five days and the programme would have been more varied,
- the Dutch students should have sent the information about themselves earlier so that we could know about the people we were going to stay with,



- I would omit the visit to the newspapers´,
- the Dutch students were very friendly, good and funny hosts, I liked Amsterdam most because there were a lot of attractions and we visited the museum of wax figures, the shops were great and we had a lot of time for shopping,
- I like their countryside, the Dutch are nice and friendly people, the students in Holland have more freedom and their relationship with their teachers is freer,
- it is great we can improve our language in this way, can find new friends, know different country, different way of life, different customs and traditions,
- I did not see anything from Dutch art and culture,
- I liked most the trip to Amsterdam and when we were together and were having fun,
- everything was superb, the trip exceeded my expectations,
- I would change the transport, because the minibus was really mini and I would also change the length of the stay to ten days,
- the Dutch people behaved amiably, but sometimes I was surprised they did not know anything about Slovakia, and I did not like the questions like: Do you have mobiles? Do you have tv sets?
- we enjoyed a lot of fun, got to know different life style, but I am a little disappointed that my exchange partner is not communicative,
- it is useful we have to speak English, we can find out what we know and can practise it,
- I liked they do not worry about anything, but I did not like their coming late, untidiness and excessive smoking.

Názory slovenských študentov na výmenný pobyt v Holandsku:

- nepáčila sa mi rovina, to, že všetky domy vyzerali rovnako,
- páčil sa mi život na vidieku, cesty pre cyklistov,
- myslím si, že by sme toho mohli vidieť viac v Amsterdame i v iných mestách,
- spoznal som dobrých ľudí, precvičil si angličtinu a videl iný spôsob života,
- páčili sa mi voskové figuríny v Múzeu Madam Tussaud v Amsterdame a posledný večer s holandskými priateľmi,
- určite by som zmenila dopravu, malo by sa chodiť letecky, a nie autobusom,
- vynechala by som tú časť programu, kde sa nehovorilo po anglicky, napr. v požiarnej stanici,



- Holanďania sú priateľskí a radi sa zabávajú, vadilo mi, že veľa fajčia a že nič nevedeli o našej krajine a stále hovorili Česko-Slovensko, a nie Slovensko,
- myslela som si, že za tých päť dní uvidím toho viac, že program bude pestrejší,
- Holanďania by mali skôr poslať informácie o sebe, aby sme vedeli ku komu ideme,
- vynechal by som návštevu novín a tlačiarne,
- holandskí študenti boli veľmi priateľskí, dobrí a zábavní hostitelia,
- veľmi sa mi páčil Amsterdam, pretože tam bolo veľa atrakcií a navštívili sme múzeum voskových figurín, obchody tam boli tiež skvelé a mali sme dosť času na nákupy,
- páčila sa mi príroda, Holanďania sú príjemní a priateľskí, študenti sú slobodnejší a majú voľnejší vzťah s profesormi,
- je úžasné, že si môžeme takým spôsobom zdokonaľiť jazyk, nájsť si nových priateľov, spoznať inú krajinu, iný životný štýl, iné zvyky a tradície,
- nevidel som nič z holandského umenia a kultúry,
- najviac sa mi páčilo v Amsterdame a keď sme boli spolu a bavili sme sa,
- všetko bolo až nad očakávanie skvelé,
- zmenila by som dopravu, lebo ten minibus bol fakt mini a zmenila by som dĺžku pobytu aspoň na desať dní,
- Holanďania sa správali milo, len občas ma prekvapilo, že nevedeli nič o Slovensku, a vadili mi otázky typu: Máte mobily? Máte televízor?
- užili sme si veľa zábavy, spoznali iný spôsob života, len som trošku sklamaná, že moja partnerka je nekomunikatívna,
- pozitívne je, že sme nútení komunikovať v angličtine, zistíme, čo vieme a precvičíme si to,
- páčilo sa mi, že si s ničím nerobia starosti, ale nepáčilo sa mi ich meškanie, neporiadok a nadmerné fajčenie.





Prepared by

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Považská Bystrica 07/03/2007