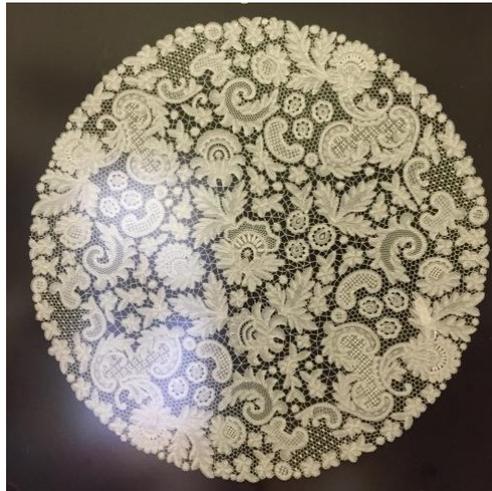


8th Student's Symposium: Research Topics and Intercultural Learning in the International Context (15.-25.6.2018.)

It was a cloudy Sunday morning when we left for Lepoglava and Trakoscan. We were all in a sleepy mood so our colleague Bogdan had to wake us up. He introduced us to some interesting facts about Lepoglava, Lepoglava lace, Lepoglava prison and Trakoscan castle. When we got to Lepoglava, first thing to see was Lepoglava prison. It was a monastery of Pauline Fathers transformed into a prison. We couldn't see anything but the wall surrounding the prison and guard towers. Then we moved on to a Lepoglava lace museum.



We were told about famous lace from the Lepoglava and found out what is so special about it. After an interesting presentation about the lace we could have a try at in making lace by ourselves and take a look around the museum.



After visiting the museum we had a lunch at a restaurant and took some time to rest before moving on to Trakoscan.



When we got to Trakoscan t first thing was - you can guess - photos, photos...and more photos.



Everybody was amazed how beautiful the castle of Trakoscan is. Then we went to explore the castle from the inside. We passed every single room in the castle, explored every corner because it is really beautiful and interesting from the inside, too. We could see the living rooms, bedrooms, libraries, halls, kitchen and other. At some point we came across an old well and threw a coin making a wish. And take photos of course. Later we took a walk around the lake but Hailey, Sarah, Allison, Enrique, Bogdan and I decided to rent a pedal-boats and have fun on the lake.



The ride lasted for a half an hour and then went for ice cream. After some time it was time to go back to Varazdin. It was great day and it was good invested time. We had whole day to get to know each other and to learn and experience something new.

On Thursday we left Varazdin in the early morning hours heading for Plitvice Lakes. We were all happy because the weather was a great and also really excited because of the soccer game in the evening. Trip to the Lakes was fun. I taught Hailey and Sarah how to count to 10 in Croatian. Their pronunciation became really good. I was even surprised because I know how hard it is for non-native speakers to pronounce some Croatian words. Don't know what to say about Plitvice Lakes. Breathtaking.



We took billion photos of everything and had great time.



After a few more hours of driving, we finally reached our last destination – Zadar. Checked in at hostels and gathered in a restaurant to have dinner

and watch the game. Everyone had some Croatian red and white checkered shirts and hats.



The atmosphere was great. The food also. We celebrated every goal Croatia scored. I felt as if I were at home watching the game with friends, but in fact I was surrounded by 10+ people I had met just a few days before. After that we took a short walk just to show people around Zadar. It was really nice because Croatian people were celebrating the victory against Argentina on the streets, waving flags, singing etc.

Day 2. Woke up in the morning around 10:00 and had a surprise for the start of the day. Rain and wind. That was great because I only had t-shirts with me. And we had to go to the city of Nin. When we got there the rain was stopping slowly. The first thing in Nin that got our attention was a candy store. There were barrels filled with candy. Heaven on Earth.



Then we visited the main points in Nin. The statue of Gregory of Nin, the Roman church, remains of a Roman house.
Ended our trip with food. Nothing tastes better than fresh seafood.



When we returned to Zadar, we went for a walk so that we could see the Sea organ, Monument to the Sun and the most beautiful sunset in the world.

It was really amazing, so of course – a lot of photos. After that we went for a stroll around the city.

Day 3. This was the “Beach day”. We decided to take the day off and go to the beach to get some suntan and swim in the sea. We got to the city beach and jumped right into the sea. Also, there was a diving board and we just had to jump from a 15 feet height. While walking back to hostel we came across a monkey on the street and took a photo with him. (His name is Pero).



The rest of the day we spent chilling in the room and getting ready for dinner. At dinner we were watching the FIFA World Cup, after which we decided to meet everyone to tell them goodbye because they were leaving early in the morning for Split, and the six of us had to go to Zagreb. After spending some time with everyone, I had to go and get my stuff ready for going back to reality after 4 amazing days at the Croatian coast. In Zagreb we have gone our separate ways but I hope to see those people again as soon as possible. 10 days of Symposium to remember. Great people, great memories and great experience.