

LG Exchange Part 1: Lappeenranta visits Darmstadt 24.-29.10.2013

We decided to arrange an ESTIEM Local Group Exchange between Lappeenranta and Darmstadt. First Lappeenranta visited Darmstadt in October 2013 and Darmstadt plans to visit us in spring 2014.

We headed to Helsinki-Vantaa airport with three cars in the early hours of Thursday after a sleepless night. Luckily the flight was operated by Lufthansa so the drinks onboard were free of charge. The flight left around 6am and at Frankfurt we met the exchange coordinators Anne and Philipp. After a train ride we met our hosts and we were finally relieved of our luggage. Then we went to the ESTIEM office where we gathered together and finally got something to eat. At lunch Hanna was surprised with a cake for her birthday! After this we got to know each other a little bit with some games and finally got our first anticipated German beers. After this we went for a city tour of Darmstadt, which was quite exhausting for many of us since most of us hadn't slept last night. After a long walk and a



power napping in a rose garden we got to the first brewery restaurant in a cellar of the city's Rathaus. Luckily for us we were there for the happy hour. Refreshed by the beer we headed back to the office for a meal and some presentations about our countries. After some rest and beers we left to a huge local night club A5, where there was a student friendly night...



They sold cheap beer at the office!

The next morning we went to an excursion to Frankfurt airport where we got a tour around the airport area by a bus. Our guide was magnificent and knew everything what was going on around the area. Then we went to the Frankfurt city center. Passing through the red light district we headed to a lookout for the view of Frankfurt skyline. To conclude our tour we visited the old part of the city and had some bar time where tried out the local specialty, apple wine/cider. Once we got back to Darmstadt we went for a pub crawl after a nice meal. We visited four pubs: The Hobbit, Riwwelmaddes, The Shot Bar and Krone. The Riwwelmaddes is the pub where the idea for ESTIEM was born. At the Hobbit we had a Darmstadt special, Laternchen: a one liter tankard of apple wine with a wine glass of cherry wine placed inside.



On the Saturday we shared opinions and experiences by using Open Space Discussion method. Everyone could suggest topics to be discussed and then everyone attended the discussions of their choice. This was a really effective and fun way to find solutions. During



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this Lisa and the organizers made some spectacular tortillas. While our hosts prepared and decorated a room for the Oktoberfest evening we drank beer, played darts and rested. At the Oktoberfest we ate traditional Bavarian cuisines, sang songs and drank wheat beer. After this we were taught a drinking game, flunkyball. To finish the day we went to another huge club, Central Station, in the city center.

Sunday started early in the morning with a trip to Heidelberg which is a beautiful city with the oldest German university and a medieval castle on the hill. During our visit there was a marathon going on and we had fun cheering for the runners. We climbed up the hill – some with a train and some climbed all the 1200 steps – to a lookout where we had a lunch break. There was great view over the city but unfortunately a storm reached us right then. We came down with a train and went for some hot beverages or beers and apfelstrudels,



which were delicious. We headed back to Darmstadt for dinner (and beer). On the bus we overheard someone saying in English that she wanted to know which language we were speaking, she thought we sounded like drunken Russians. This evening was a little less intensive drinking-wise compared to the others since we spent it playing pool, darts and table football of course accompanied by some beers.

Monday morning was leisure time which everyone spent as they wished, some went shopping and some went for KFC. This was a perfect opportunity to acquire some cheap wine! After lunch we had the long-expected brewery tour at Pfungstädter Brewery. We had a tour around the brewery which was unfortunately held in German causing some difficulties translating it to English, but Tiia managed to translate everything spectacularly. After this we had lovely session of 1½ hours of “tasting” their selection. Someone even managed to try the whole variety (Taneli)... On our way back we managed to hop on the bus which went to the wrong direction but we made the best of it by sharing our Finnish singing skills. We resumed our “tastings” at a cocktail bar which had a fun concept of rolling the dice for the price of a drink. Or you could eat ice cream. The wine bottle #1 (inside Topias’ backbag [there was a camera inside]) was broken. In “a little” tipsy mood we decided to head to the familiar shot bar but some members of the group didn’t make it that far. The wine bottle #2 was broken (inside Tuomas’ coat).

In the early and extremely difficult Tuesday morning we started heading home in two waves...

Text: Hanna, Tuomas and Kimi

Pictures: Topias

Attendees of Lappeenranta: Teemu Metsola, Otso "Obo" Holttinen, Hanna Pitkänen, Tuomas Repo, Kimi Översti, Topias Olkkonen, Tiiia Tenhunen, Senni Bilund, Taneli Ripatti, Matti Rissanen, Oona Takala and Victoria Karaseva

