

# Erasmus+ trip in Finland



I am one of the students who was offered the opportunity to go to Finland, to Kuopio as part of Erasmus. It was unexpected, but I was really happy about it.

We were able to spend a week abroad. We travelled there and back by plane and train, and we could do all this at sunset, which was very beautiful.

The name of our hotel was Kunnonpaikka. It was a very cozy and modern building. The hotel had a huge yard, where we could find a lake. It was surprising for us, but for the



Finnish people it is normal because Finland is the country of a thousand lakes. Also in the garden, there was a minigolf course, where we played good games with the group, there was a playground there too, there we always had a lot of fun. Every morning and night, we ate at Kunnonpaikka. The food was delicious, but there were some different kinds of dishes from the Hungarian cuisine. Our rooms were also pretty.



During the trip, we could visit two schools and gain experiences. We spent four days at Klassika grammar school which was a sports school. As I noticed, they are specialized in foreign languages, as they had quite many options in their selection. Finnish education is famous worldwide, and we could experience it. What I would first like to say is that the students had a lot of freedom. And of course, with it the responsibility. There the students can choose their teachers, their classes and whether they want to study in the morning or in the afternoon. Students can take part in the decision-making process. The teachers pay attention to the kids'



mental and physical health. They dedicate different lessons to the children. In that school there were many community spaces and programs every day. Just while we were there, there was an animal day and an athlete's day. These are good to make memories. Electronic devices help students and teachers in their daily school lives. The students get a laptop and work with it in class. They don't have to take notes, they have to pay attention

to the teachers because almost everything is in a digital program online. After six weeks there is a one-week exam period. The accompanying teachers and students were very open and lovely, we have been in touch since the trip.

We were lucky to visit a primary school there in Finland. We spent a day there and four lessons. My group was in an English bilingual class, so we understood everything, they included us in the class work, and we were able to talk a lot with the students of our age. The school was less modern than the middle school. It was more similar to a Hungarian school.



In the afternoon we took part in many programs. We visited two museums, the Old Kuopio Museum and the New Kuopio Museum. In these we could see the old Finnish architectural style and a stuffed animal exhibition. We also looked around in the town, where there were surprisingly colourful houses. We also visited the Puijo Tower from which there was a beautiful view of Kuopio. One day we



visited Helsinki, the capital city where we could also see some local landmarks. We went to see a church and also a huge hockey arena because Finland is famous for winter sports.

This Erasmus trip was an experience of a lifetime, and I am very grateful that I could be a part of it.

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