Erasmus + meeting in Pforzheim

February 2016

This Erasmus + meeting concerning the topic of sustainable and ecological energy production took part in February 2016 in Pforzheim, a small city in the Baden-Württemberg region in Germany.

The mentors from the Czech Republic, Greece, France and Lithuania arrived on Thursday 18th February 2016 accompanied by their teachers. They were kindly invited to stay with host families. On Friday the mentor team consisting of 16 host students and 16 foreign students started to prepare for their very demanding and very responsible job. They were assembling fermenters, preparing presentations and background information about biogas production in English. They carried out the experiment in self-made fermenters, made glucose estimation, purified produced biogas and analyzed it on its quality and quantity through gas chromatography.



These are the flags of countries that joins Erasmus+ project.

On Sunday 21st February, participants from Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Germany (Hamburg), Slovakia and France arrived. In total 100 Erasmus + friends met in the evening in the restaurant Rabeneck for the opening dinner.

The official opening of the meeting with many important guests took place at Johanna-Wittum-School on Monday morning. The mayor of the city of Pforzheim as well as Mr. Keller from Ministry of

Education emphasized in their speeches the importance of Erasmus+ programs, because they enable young people from different European countries to intensively cooperate on the school level.

After the ceremony the laboratory work started. Mentors presented the theoretical overview of the experiment biochemistry, equipment and methods we would be using. We also did some pipetting exercises, glucose determination test which was needed for the actual experiment and we assembled the fermenters, which were brought by individual schools. The fermenters had to be gasproof, with the possibility to set the temperature at 50°C. As most of the teams brought some additional equipment, all of the working groups were able to construct in total 14 highly creative and perfectly functioning fermenters. Guided by the mentors, all the working groups managed to produce biogas of high quantity and best quality.



The following day all the working groups analysed the results of the experiment, which were also put in graphs. All the students presented their results in front of other participants, which was quite challenging for many of them. It wasn't easy to explain the results in English and to answer questions given by the audience.

On Thursday we visited the Ludwigsburg castle – a beautiful baroque castle and after our tour we moved to the Mercedes-Benz museum in Stuttgart where we spent the rest of the afternoon.



In the evenings there took place the presentation of the countries with the motto "Cultural events in the partner schools". All the partner schools had to think of something special to show to the others. However, the highlight of the programme was the Greek natinal dance Sirtaki presented by the professional dancers of the Greek school.



Divided into two groups, we visited two biogas plants in Pforzheim and Mühlacker with which JWS has been cooperating for a long time. There we leant how to produce biogas professionally and how to transform it into electrical energy in a heating plant, how to purify it to get high quality methane and feed it to the gas distribution system of Mühlacker.



On the last day we went to the ice skating centre where we went skating. In conclusion, we had a farewell ceremony where we said goodbye to each other and put out our Erasmus+ flame until the next meeting in Vienna.