

## **LITHUANIA MEETING (AYSU-TÜRKİYE)**

**Saturday:** First of all, we left Izmir by bus for departure. When we arrived in Istanbul, we went to Lithuania by plane. From there we went to our homes by train. This was excitement as I had never travelled by train in our country before. When we arrived, we called Nilsu, Almira, Elif and their daughters to my house. We had fun as a group all day.

**Monday:** We got up early and walked to school with Nilsu and the host. The school was first introduced there. Since it took a long time, the lego was not built and this bothered me a little. We toured the city with a game and then we made soap. I liked these activities because we had to do things outside of our comfort zone. After having dinner at home, we met everyone in the park and had fun there until the night. Then I went home, gave the presents to the hosts, and went to bed.

**Tuesday:** First of all, I did activities on "engineering preparation" at school. In these activities, I learned about the analysis of the environment and various features of the country. Then I took a break and taught students how to use Arduino Uno. We went to the Hill of Crosses and learned the history of it. I really liked the top of the crosses and it intrigued me. On the way back, we played games about our feelings at school. After school, we went to Elif's house and hung out together. When we got home, I chatted with the landlord and went to bed.

**Wednesday:** We got up early and went to school. We met at school and went to Kaunas University. We toured the school there and learned about the school. There, we divided into groups and examined the engineering and robotics examples made at the school. This intrigued me because I want to be an engineer when I grow up. We had lunch on the way to Vilnius and arrived in Vilnius. First we went to the engineering and energy museum. There we learned engineering studies and methods of obtaining energy. We played games related to the subject in the museum and had fun. Then we started to tour the city. First of all, we went to a castle with our teachers. Then we started traveling as students ourselves. We went to a bookstore and bought a book. It was getting late when we got out and we started looking for a gift shop. When we found the shop we bought gifts for ourselves and our family. He gave us a discount because there was a man who spoke Turkish there. We also met and chatted with Turks who had come to the country for a different Erasmus project. When I got home, I went to bed right away because it was late.

**Thursday:** When we came to school, we did the lego work that could not be done on the first day. As a group, we established a city and created various problems in that city. Then we built a robot to fix those problems and presented it to teachers. We split into groups for the next event. Each group built a robot to fight for the sumo competition, and then we presented these robots. I was upset that not everyone was trying to work, and they didn't listen to my ideas much, which made me a little discouraged. Then, as Turkish students, we went to a nearby pizza restaurant. We ate pizza there and played pool. I had a lot of fun as it was my first time playing pool. We went back to school and there were Lithuanian food and people dressed in local clothes. First we danced the local dances. This event took a long time, but I was not bored. After dancing, we ate food and chatted. After leaving school, we went to the park again, but we left because it was cold there. We went to a small mall nearby. We also shopped and ate pizza there. When I got home, we chatted with my landlord and I went to bed.

**Friday:** We got up early and met at school. We went to the tulip field by bus. In the middle of the tulips was a mansion. We toured the mansion and the tulips and took pictures. It was very interesting. When we returned to school, students from different countries introduced their schools. We also introduced our school and introduced our country as students could not come to our

country. We couldn't do all our presentations because the time was short and this made me feel a little bad. After the presentations, everyone was given a certificate of participation and gifts.

The gift they gave was a thermos, which made me happy because I didn't have it before. We left school early. Me, Nilsu, Almira, Elif, Ege, Italians and home our owners went together to a large shopping mall that was far away. We played bowling there. I came third. This made me happy as I'm normally bad at bowling. After playing, we had dinner and bought myself a toy at the market. Most people left early but me, Nilsu, Almira and our hosts went ice skating together. I was proud of myself for never falling. When we got back home, I started packing my suitcase. My host and his family gave me gifts. I was very surprised as I didn't expect them to do this, but I was also very happy. I finished packing my suitcase and went to bed.

**Saturday:** We got up early and went to the meeting point. I said goodbye to everyone there and took pictures. I was sad to leave, but still a little happy. We went to the airport by bus and met with the Italians again. We said goodbye again and waited for our flight. Our flight was an hour late and so I was bored. We ate when we boarded the plane. I really liked the food.

When we got off, we went to Izmir by bus and met with my family. I gave them the gifts I bought and went to bed.

AYSU GENCEL

*Radviliškis, May, 2023*