

Ege Akay, Lithuania Meeting

April 30, 2022 at 21.00 in the evening. We got on the bus in front of İzmir Narlıdere Atatürk Cultural Center. Everyone was so excited that I can't explain. A 5-6 hour journey was waiting for us until Istanbul Airport. We had hardly slept on the trip, and when we arrived at the airport, we were already sleepy. We were very excited while waiting for the plane. We got on the plane after the passport controls and leaving the luggage. Everyone was so tired but also so excited. Many of us fell asleep after the plane took off. And when we landed in Vilnius, we were really excited. After leaving the airport, we got on the bus and went to the train station. The wait at the train station was quiet with the tiredness of the day. After getting on the train, there were no sleepers, the first train journey was not very long since we were going to transfer anyway. When we got on the second train, most of us slept. And finally, that's where we got . We were in Radviliškis. We met the families and dispersed to the houses. That evening, I, Barkın, Deniz and the ones we stayed at met at their house, we spent time in Radviliškis.

When we went to school on Monday, they first introduced the school. After that, we toured Radviliškis. We visited the important places there by doing missions. The part where we train and sing on the Serpentine hill was really ridiculous. When we got back to school, we went to the chemistry class and started making soap. As someone who does not like chemistry in theory, but likes it in applied courses, I liked it. We were free after school was over. We first played volleyball in Central Park. Domas, Anete and Dominykas taught me how to serve in volleyball with great patience. I think I've made great progress, although I'm still not quite able to complete it. When it got dark and the temperature dropped, we went to a gas station and bought coffee. Then, when it was late at night, we dispersed to our homes.

On Tuesday, we first split into groups at school. First of all, we did a few projects, starting with turning on and off the led with Arduino. When we moved to the second course, 4 tasks were given in the advanced engineering course. We made measurements such as light and air in the classroom environment related to the appropriate learning area and compared the countries. After lunch, we went to Haç Tepesi, which means Hill of Crosses in English. His story was really good. After visiting there, we went back to school and we were divided into 4 groups. Each group had to unite and make a robot out of themselves. We made a different bike by going on top of each other. It was as tiring as it was fun. After that, each nation prepared and presented a dance. We played the groom's aunt. I'm not afraid to say that we played very well. In the evening, Deniz, Barkın and I went to the house of Pijus, where Arda was staying. He invited us to the sauna. It was really a difficult environment to create in Turkey and I don't know if I will ever enter such a fun environment again. It was so much fun to jump into the ice-cold pool outside after coming out of the sauna. Of course, we have to repeat this 3 times. After that, we entered the jacuzzi and this is how we got rid of the tiredness of the first two days. I would like to thank Pijus again here.

A trip to Vilnius was organized on Wednesday. First we went to Kaunas University in Kaunas and got little lessons from the teachers there. We visited 3 different classes with automation class, robot arms and small robots. After leaving the university, we stopped at a restaurant serving traditional Lithuanian dishes on the way. We ate a dish called Karaitė kibinai with bread on the outside and meat on the inside. The food was good. From there we arrived in Vilnius. First, we entered the Vilnius Energy and Technology museum. There was a wide variety of activities inside. They made Tesla coils

play music with radio frequencies. It was truly a magnificent sight. The fascinating property of electricity showed itself once again. After the museum we had free time in Vilnius. Gift shop was hard to find. The seller guy was really good, he helped us a lot. While shopping, Turkish teachers from another Erasmus project entered the shop. It is possible to meet Turks all over the world. After that, we went to KFC to eat with the little time we had left. We managed to catch the bus on time. Fenerbahce had a match at 20.30. I watched the match along the way, but unfortunately Fener upset his fans as usual. With the match ending in a draw, I lost my mood and slept the rest of the way. When we arrived in Radviliškis, I woke up. After getting off the bus, I was dying to go home and sleep because it had been a tiring day.

On Thursday morning they asked us to design the city of the future. While it was a bit boring, the writing part of the story was fun. In the afternoon, we made a sumo robot and had it fight. After the sumo robot event, there was a break of 1 hour. As Turks, we went to a pizzeria that also had billiards. Playing pool while eating pizza was a nice experience. After the break, we returned to school and watched the traditional dance show. We joined the dances later, and they were really beautiful and moving dances. After the dance, we tasted their traditional dishes and desserts. After school, we went to the field in Central Park as boys and played football. I would not be wrong if I describe it as a wonderful experience. After playing football, when the girls came, we all started playing volleyball together. When it was late, we dispersed to our houses.

The last day came and when we went to school on Friday, a small bus was waiting for us. We got on the bus and went to Burbiskiai Manor. Tulips are really beautiful. After that, we went back to school and each nation made a presentation in which they introduced their country and school. Finally, everyone was called one by one and certificates were given. The gifts given with the certificates were really nice. After that we went out to have lunch. Lunch was also very enjoyable. Then we went to Kaunasa to go bowling. We had dinner after bowling. I went back to Radviliškis with Rugiles, so as not to waste my time on the road again. After that, we went to Barkın and Talha and Pijus' house for the last time for the sauna and jacuzzi. It had been a really good night. After leaving there around 23.40, I went home. I was very tired but I had to pack my suitcase. I finally slept.

Saturday morning I was so sad, there was a sadness inside me, but it was also mixed with the happiness of returning to my country. After saying goodbye to the Lithuanians one last time, we got on the bus. In that moment, I realized that I had made some really good friends, and there was real pain inside me for breaking up with them. When we arrived at the airport, we finally said goodbye to the Italians. Really like Turks, friendly and cheerful people. I hope we will meet all of them in the future and remember the old days. The return journey was more calm and sad for me. When we finally came to Izmir, we realized how fast a week went by.

Ege Akay, May, 2023