**Kaunas**

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After months of planning the Erasmus+ 8 project, it was time to head to the airport where we first boarded the airplane to Warsaw and then to Vilnius where we were greeted by a small bus that would take us to the place where we would spend the next two weeks, "Domus Pacis guesthouse". We came to the accommodation in the evening just before dinner and besides eating we had exactly enough time left to move in and unpack our luggage.

**Sunday**

The next day was completely free for us so that we could have time to see the city on our own and do whatever we wanted. The room In which I was accommodated was a triple bedroom and besides me in the room were Zoe and Eva, so together we made a small plan of the things we needed to do and buy in terms of hygiene, clothing and a quick sightseeing of the environment. During the breakfast for which we were free to make our own food, we met Lara and Mia who were in a room near ours and we all agreed to go together to do what we needed to do. First up was shopping in the shopping center and after we bought everything that was needed we went back to the accommodation and went for a walk during which we came across the first free café. In it, we all met and hung out until it was time for dinner when we headed to the accommodation again.

**Monday**

The day after Sunday was the first working day that began with meeting the mentors, Mindaugas Juodis and Peeter Krosmann. After we all split into two groups for easier organization, we soon got the first task, designing our imaginary monster with ink. Me and the girls were in Peeter's group and Peeter gave us complete freedom to work, of course with a commentary on opinions during the process of painting the work. After working and eating, we agreed to take a look around the city and buy some things, and our first stop was the second-hand clothing store "Humana", which would soon become one of our favorite locations in Kaunas.

**Tuesday**

In the morning we had a lecture and after that we went to the studio of mentors where we looked at the works of Peeter and talked about them. Then we went to the M.K. Čiurlionio Museum where we looked at interesting works of an artist which in most of his works connected both his musical creativity and his love for music. We were done a little earlier and had free time so we went for a walk through the city again. In general, every night after eating we would hang out in Mia and Lara's room so that every day, whatever kind of day it was, it ended up with jokes and laughter. <3

**Wednesday**

On Wednesdays, we got back to work with the tasks and the new tasks were a psychological self-portrait that I personally did not do because I had an idea for another work and because self-portraits are a bit undesirable for me. After a little work on the first task of the day we were given the task of making a model, we could have made anything and so some of the models were a witch, a rhino and a bat. Around noon we headed to the workplace of a young artist who showed us exactly what he does and talked to us about work and employment as a young artist. Then we went back to the workshops to finish the work for that day, me and the girls were craving something sweet so we walked through the city and discovered a café that sold huge and expensive doughnuts that were perfect in combination with a cappuccino and latte macchiato. After eating, it was worth extending our legs and, as usual, we stopped by for a “small” shopping in our favorite Humana.

**Thursday**

Since the day was sunny unlike the previous rainy and cold days, Peeter gave us the task of going outside and during the walk we would take pictures of interesting details of everyday objects with a focus on composition. After the assignment and eating in Domus Pacis, we headed to the elementary art school in Kunas. The works of the students were diverse and very interesting and there were all sorts of drawings, paintings and even sculptures, of which my favorite were cat sculptures and dog heads at the exit of elementary school, me and the girls took a small task comparing each other with a cat that looked most like us, so there were a lot of interesting statements and comments, the process did not result in injuring either cats or the feelings of persons! In the evening we went back to the workshop to finish the work and work on them.

**Friday**

In the morning we had a lecture on modern photography taught by Remigijus Venckus, at which I was not present at till the very end since I was a little sick and so I went to rest in my room until lunchtime. After lunch and rest, I was feeling much better, so it was time to work in the workshop again and after dinner there was a movie night in the kitchen that I didn't go to.

**Saturday**

Saturday was planned to be a long day of new locations and new things to see and even taste. After breakfast we headed to the capital Vilnius and during the ride we had a guide who told us some interesting things about Lithuania, Kaunas and everything we will see that day. The first station was a gallery where there were several themes, I liked the part of the gallery the most with the theme of the time when Lithuania was still under the occupation of communists, part of it contained various works of paintings of various media, sculptures and statues, as well as photographs that had a particularly distinct influence of the experience of the gallery and even that theme. The whole day was still ahead of us so the next location was Trakai and lunch in Trakai! There we were greeted by a traditional dish in

the form of different types of meat in some kind of bun, the meat could be almost any kind, so in general we all took chicken even though there was even a vegan option. In addition to pastries, we also got some kind of soup in cups that was great for warming up. After eating, we walked around the castle and everyone went to go buy different souvenirs and magnets, everyone knows that if you don't have a fridge magnet from where you were, it's like you weren't even there. The day was coming to an end and we headed back to Kaunas, where we arrived just before dinner. The night ended with hanging out at Mia and Lara's, as usual.

**Sunday**

Sunday was again a day off without any work with mentors and so we all stayed to sleep a little longer, because we still needed to take a break from the whole day walking around Vilnius. Lunch was followed by a small purchase in Iki and an inconvenient surprise. And so, when Eva and I returned to the room where we had been accommodated from the first day of arrival, we realized that we had a small situation with the cleanliness of the room and bedbugs on the beds that we had not noticed before. After this knowledge, panic and disgust started to set in and we started to notify the professor and everyone with whom we hung out or called to our room during those days. Soon the professor came up with the solution of moving to a clean room with Mia and Lara who had extra beds and the entire cleaning of all the things and goods that were in that room started so that we would not further transfer bedbugs to another room. Lara suggested that she make us dinner to relax from this situation and she made us all a delicious carbonara. The night ended with a different hangout at Mia and Lara's and with a lot of washed goods.

**Monday**

The day started with a lecture on the arts of the new medium taught by Rimantas Plunge, the lecture was extremely interesting to me, the topics were completely new to me and something I never thought about in general, so I was very pleased to listen to the lecture. After a nice lunch we went to do the work in the workshop, now we had already put together a lot of the work that we had done during the previous week, so we had started doing new works again. The works included portraits, self-portraits, landscapes, abstract themes, sculptures, reliefs and everything in between. I think that we really had enough materials to do the work and some materials were also completely new to me that I had never worked with before, it was extremely fun for me to use the spray paint, especially because the color was silver and interesting effects could be achieved.

**Tuesday**

Before lunch we continued to do the work and after eating we headed to the studio of mentor Mindaugas. The location of the studio itself was interesting with the fact that if I remember correctly it was the previous location of beer factory that no longer worked, inside was a very relaxed and spiritual atmosphere with the music played by Mindaugas. The works were interesting and special, you could exactly see his style of painting and his personality.

**Wednesday**

Wednesday started like every other day, the only difference was that after lunch we had a plan of travel and sightseeing of the Pažaislis monastery and gallery. Although it rained a little, it was still nice to see the monastery and even from the outside because of the appearance of the architecture. Inside everything was original as it was built and there was a large part of the frescoes and painted ceilings, which was interesting to see. After the sightseeing we went for coffee at the lake near the monastery, this part was even more pleasant to me since it was nice and warm in the café and cold and wet outside.

**Thursday**

On Thursdays we were still working , but we were slowly preparing and arranging the final exhibition with others from school, as well as with the students from ŠPUR with whom we were introduced during the project. After lunch we could still work in the workshop, but the mentors managed to arrange a visit to the studio of a famous artist who was not far from the accommodation. After visiting the studio we had more free time so we went for a walk around the city and quite accidentally ended up in a shop called Humana.

**Friday**

Friday was the day of the final exhibition, we all had breakfast as usual and headed to the workshop that we cleaned up to start setting up works. Peeter and Mindaugas at one point came to visit us to see how we were doing with organizing and preparing with each other and to contribute to the idea of how to set up the exhibition itself. They still left us tremendous freedom to agree on what to do because they did not want to take away from us from this independent design of the way we were going to execute the exhibition. I think that the exhibition was completely fine, of course some things could have been better done but whatever it was I was personally pleased that we managed to make the exhibition in the first place. In addition to the exhibition itself, there was also a part where Eva had a mini concert and played a minute of flute, she was nervous but it still sounded very nice, we also said goodbye to our mentors and everyone else who had received us during our visit to Kaunas. After a well-done exhibition, it was time for a well-deserved break and Zoe and Mia went to a concert off metal band in the evening, so me, Eva and Lara went to the Pjazz café to have a drink.

**Saturday**

Then came the last whole day we were in Kaunas. As the last exhibition was done, we had the day free and we did not have any lectures or work with mentors. Therefore, we decided to experience and see the city for the last time before departure back to Croatia and Zagreb. The first never visited destination was the Humana store, then we got a little hungry so we stopped by for sushi, we bought a few more souvenirs and things and headed back to the accommodation to start packing.

**Sunday**

On Sunday, we got up early to pack up until the end because we were waiting for departure on the plane. We all had breakfast and headed to vilnius airport. From Kaunas to the port we rode on the same bus that had brought us and five minutes from the port we had an accident where the trailer with all the luggage and suitcases broke and we all got off the bus and walked to the port for those five minutes. First there was a flight to Warsaw and as soon as we arrived in Warsaw we boarded the flight to Zagreb. We all arrived in Zagreb alive and well, but with a few bites on our arm and leg.

The experience that was made possible by the Erasmus+ project was really something completely special and in every way completely unforgettable. I have never been out of Croatia before, especially for a long period of time, but this trip has definitely created a desire for more trips like this one.

Because this was not an ordinary visit to a country, but meeting new people, new places, traditions and ways of life.

And for all the new places discovered, knowledge, conversation, introductions and friendships thank you all for this experience. <3