

## Resume-Project – A day to day log

Date		Log for the day	Responsible
27.03		Arrived in Prague approx. 10.00. Got us lodged in the rooms and explored the local area a bit. We took a forest walk up to a peak where there was also a zoo. We spent the afternoon exploring the old town and eating good vegetarian food. A very promising start to the trip so far!	Joar
28.03		Today started with information about the next two weeks and a meeting with the Erasmus + students. After a get-to-know-you game, we got to observe a lecture on Developmental Psychology. During this lecture, we got to see how a Turkish professor used pedagogical tools, such as humor, questions and personal angles in teaching. After lunch we had a productive work session with the Erasmus + students where we planned a teaching session for a Czech school class. The theme will be sustainable development. During the planning, discussions arose and we came up with different views. The Erasmus + student is from Greece, Italy and Croatia and we all discovered that we have different expectations for teaching and the classroom environment. An interesting pedagogical question arose when we tried to find the problem that the student will work with: should we use a deductive or inductive approach to the topic? We ended up with an inductive approach, as the Erasmus + student thought this was an interesting working method. From exercises in pedagogy, we have practiced planning a teaching session for an imaginary class, and then we have often not been told what the framework factors are. In this case, we have to plan for a real school class, but without knowing many of the essential framework factors such as classroom environment, technical equipment and class size. We have therefore tried to create a teaching session that gives students the opportunity to actively participate, without too great demands on English skills or access to aids.	Inga-Maja
29.03		Today we got a tour on the campus in Prague together with Barbora. We live on the faculty of Education and Communication, but all the other faculties are on campus closer to the city. Here we heard about the university's sustainable approach. This is one of the best universities in the Czech Republic on sustainability. They have some subjects about sustainability and the new buildings have green roofs and solar panels. We discovered that NMBU has a different approach to sustainability than the University of the Czech Republic. For example, we have integrated	Solveig

sustainability in all subjects, and this was something they thought was interesting to hear about. We also got to see a lecture at the university. The lectures here last 90 minutes before the break, and our opinion is that they generally last longer than at NMBU. The lecture we observed had an interaction between teacher and student. The teacher asked several questions to the students, and there was an opportunity to ask questions to the lecturer. In advance, we were told that this was a teacher who put up with more activity than other lecturers.

After school we celebrated Joar's birthday with cake and dinner! We visited the largest cathedral in the Czech Republic "St. Vitus Cathedral ", and ended the day with dinner and some shopping in the city.



*We got an insight into how a lecturer at the university prepares to teach.*



*The gang that was sightseeing on the campus in Prague. You must have a mandatory jumping picture!*



*On campus, they have several animals. For example, llamas and goats.*



*Inga-Maja got through the security checkpoint to the Cathedral. I wonder if Joar can do the same?*







*The street around the cathedral in Prague. Gaya is looking for a place to have dinner, while Inga-Maja studies the church's Gothic architecture.*



*The birthday boy Joar turns 26 years old!*

30.03		<p>Another exciting day during our stay in Prague and finally we were thrown into some teaching situations too!</p> <p>We met Jiri today to get a little more thorough information about the program we will have today. At the same time, we received long-awaited information about the teaching day tomorrow and on Monday. It was very interesting to hear what he had to say about the area Most, that we will visit on Monday. Among other things, we learned that the high school we are to teach at is a school that has been established in the echo of the mining that has taken place in the nearby city. It was decided that the entire medieval town had to be destroyed, where only the church was saved, in favor of a large coal mine that was discovered just below the town. According to Jiri, this area is now very influenced by the pharmaceutical and mining industry, which interestingly enough also is the industry that has also financed for this upper secondary school we are to teach at. The subjects at the school are strongly aimed at nature conservation, which is a small patch on the wound for all the nature this industry on a large scale has neglected (according to Jiri's perspective). This was exciting to hear about. After the conversation with Jiri, we also got a little more background information about the class we will be teaching for. As it has been every day until today, there were even more changes in the program, and we spent the rest of the time until lunch to plan a small lecture for a teacher class.</p> <p>Joar and Hanne worked on the presentation for today, and all of them then worked on the joint presentation we will have for some other students tomorrow. After lunch we had time to work more with the teaching plan. We have done the planning together with good help from the erasmus students who will be with us next week.</p> <p>At 3 pm we met the teacher students who we were to be with for the rest of the day. Usually there are around 20 students in this class, but today there were only 7 students. Jiri could tell that during covid there are many who have dropped out, and that there are challenges in getting all the students to the classrooms. Hanne told briefly about the educational programs that NMBU offers, both associate professor and PPU, and the students who were present could tell about their varied backgrounds. It was interesting to hear that there were students from all possible degrees and fields, from agri-engineers to PhD students. Then Joar talked about nature-based learning and nature management in school, as well as</p>	Hanne

		<p>a bit about nature parks and the right of public access, and we got a little bit right about how it is in Prague. For example, it is not allowed to camp out in nature here, but it is allowed to spend the night outside, without a tent.</p>  <p>Jiri then had an interactive program where we were mixed together in groups with both Norwegian and Czech students to work with questions regarding the garden outside. We think this was a good exercise, both because we got to move around outside, collaborate despite the language barrier, and we had to present and share in the end with everyone. It was also nice to see that Jiri took the suggestions we made serious, which also made the exercise meaningful and relevant. A varied and academically rich day.</p>	
31.03		<p>We started the day by completing the teaching session we planned together with the Erasmus + students. We now gathered all the teaching material we will need for Monday and planned the implementation of the actual teaching program. In addition, some of us spent the morning completing the presentation of NMBU and Norway's school system. At 11:15 it was ready for presentation. Hanne, Solveig, Inga-Maja and Gaya did a brilliant job during the presentation, where brilliant humor was combined with important facts and information. some of the Erasmus + students gave similar lectures about their country's school system (Turkey, Italy).</p>	Joar

		 <p>Lunch was served at the department. We had a “trial lesson” for some teachers and some Czech students, where we received valuable feedback on how to improve our disappearance scheme. Among other things, we received another tip about seeing the UN's sustainability goals through Norwegian eyes and how we personally try to reduce our individual impacts on climate and the environment.</p> <p>In the afternoon Natalie took us to Smichoff climbing hall! Here we enjoyed ourselves all afternoon with bouldering and rope climbing. Afterwards we went to Manifesto, which was an incredibly great food hall. Here we discussed our wonderful stay in relation to Natalie's stay in Norway. The feeling we are left with was that we feel that NMBU should have done more for these Czech students when they visited Norway. They have been incredibly important for our stay down here, and this should have been reciprocated by NMBU and Norwegian students. Our problem was that we were not introduced to these students until well after they arrived in Norway. In addition, there was little plan to build relationships between us Norwegian students and the Czechs. This would have created a closer bond earlier and thus it would have been easier for us to take responsibility and guide the Czech students around Norway and on Ås.</p>	
01.04		<p>Today we took the bus to Solavy mines, a historic mine, where Barbora gave us a guided tour of the area. The mining area is a protected landscape area that has been re-cultivated after intensive mining in the early 20th century. From the mining area we went to a view point where we followed a path down to a small village. We were supposed to have lunch in the Svaty Jan pod Skalou area, but it was closed due to bad weather. Fortunately, the cafe in the Catholic Church was Kostel Narození sv. Jana Křtitele open. Furthermore, the trip by bus went to the nearest town where we stopped by a glass shop and a restaurant. In the evening</p>	Inga-Maja



		we got to experience Czech nightlife with the Czech students.	
Mon 04. 04 Th e		<p>This week started early with a bus trip to the secondary school "Schola Humanitas" in the Czech Republic. This is a private school with a focus on the sciences biology and chemistry. The school is funded by the industry in the local community, which is based on the extraction of brown coal. We experienced this as an interesting and surprising collaboration. We were curious to learn more about the thoughts behind this project. The aim of the stay was to gain experience about the learning environment in the Czech Republic by holding a teaching class, and see how they teach about sustainability at this school.</p> <p>We were very well received. Our impression was that they greatly appreciated the cooperation with Norway, and that they are open to more cooperation in the future. We received a thorough introduction and tour of the principal about the school. During the tour we saw modern chemistry and biology laboratories. These were complex and had a lot of teaching materials available. We understood it to be school laboratories that were more modern than in other public schools. After the tour we had lunch, and after that we got ready for teaching.</p>  <p><i>Schola Humanitas has decorated with the Norwegian flag during the visit.</i></p>	Solve ig





*Modern chemistry lab at Schola Humanitas.*



*Stuffed animals in the biology lab.*



*Posters in the biology lab. To the left is the principal of Schola Humanitas, next to our teacher representative from the Czech Republic.*

We held a 45-minute teaching lesson with the theme "sustainable development". The goal was for students to reflect on how they can make their everyday lives more sustainable, based on selected sustainability goals from the UN. The group of students was 17 years old, and we were prepared for the fact that they could have great challenges with English and group work (since this is not so typical in the Czech school).

Experiences: There was a varying level of English skills. This still went well since the students were active in



		<p>translating to each other. It was clear to us that the students did not have much experience with group work, but they were good at taking the assignments right away anyway. We understood that they usually only learned from the teacher in the teaching, while sharing experience and knowledge with fellow students through collaboration is not as common.</p> <p>Had we had more time to hold the teaching, we would have spent more time on relationship building and be sure that the students understood the selected sustainability goals before the group work. We would also have more time to end the lesson by talking about why this exercise and their solutions were important for sustainable development.</p> <p>Towards the end of the visit, we asked the management more about the collaboration between the coal industry and the school. We wondered what was the motivation for a collaboration between two institutions that have such a different view of sustainable development. Here we got different answers from the management and the students. The management explained that the parties were dependent on each other. The school needed the funds to maintain high-quality teaching and a forward-looking vision. Through the collaboration, the companies were able to train people with the high level of knowledge they needed in the industry.</p> <p>One student also said that the collaboration was a way for the companies to make the business look more sustainable.</p> <p>After the visit to the junior high school, we traveled to the national park. On the drive we made a stop to see the mining area near the school. Here we heard about the medieval town "Most", which was demolished after brown coal was found in the ground. This happened while the country was in a communist system of government. Only the church from the city was preserved. Large areas were destroyed in favor of mining. Jiri said that this is the only man-made structure in the Czech Republic that can be seen from space.</p>	
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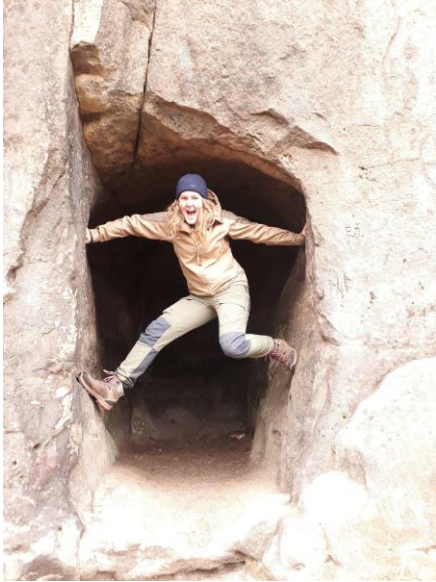

*The church which is preserved from the city of Most. Around you can see large areas that have been used for coal extraction. This area is twice as large as can be seen in the picture, and can be seen from space.*






*The coal industry has large facilities in the area and accounts for a lot of emissions. The city had a strong smell of burnt coal.*

		 <p><i>Our stay has made us good photographers. Here you see Hanne in full swing documenting the journey.</i></p> <p>After looking at the church and the mining, we went to a national park in the north of the Czech Republic. We will be here for three days. We look forward to our stay!</p>	
05.04		<p>We woke up in our luxurious cabin in the Lipa region where both Barbora and Nathalie joined the group late yesterday. On today's agenda was a tour of one of the many trails in the Czech-Saxon Switzerland National Park, with our informative Jiri as our guide. As we could see on the way to the cabin, and as we could now take a closer look at, there are acres after acres of fallen trees in the area. It has previously been cultivated spruce forest, which has been impacted from periods of drought, which has led to unimaginable attacks by bark beetles. There is a great deal of conflict between nature conservationists and the forestry industry about which measures can be the best response and measures to restore the area.</p>  <p><i>A well camouflaged creature. Do you see it?</i></p> <p>Further on the trip we could experience beautiful sandstone formations, and what was called the small stone bridge, a</p>	Hanne



		<p>taste of what awaits tomorrow's trip.</p>  <p><i>Image: The geologist in his ace.</i></p> <p>We had a good lunch at the local restaurant and had a quiet afternoon with games, chat and short walks in the area. We made cultural cuisine with both Norwegian and Czech-inspired food in the evening.</p>	
06. 04		<p>We started the morning early in the National Park Czech-Saxon Switzerland.</p>  <p>We had a long 4 hour, beautiful walk in the national park. The goal for the trip was a really nice stone arch.</p>	Joar

		 <p>We learned a lot from Jiri. He told us about the bark beetle which has killed millions of acres of spruce forest all over central Europe. He also explained how the geological formations was formed in this region millions of years ago. After the walk we had a nice lunch at a local restaurant. Great food! After this meal we went back to the minivan and headed back home to Prague.</p> 	
07.04		<p>Today start with a visit to a vocational school in Velká Chuchle. The school specializes in horses, with a focus on galloping, trotting and show jumping. We were given a tour of the stable, inside the school and there was time to ask the leader questions about the school. We talked about the school's boarding school, natural disasters that had affected the school and how the competitive environment affected the students' everyday school life. The school produces winners in equestrian sports in the Czech Republic and this means that the pressure on the students is high. If they do not pass the theoretical and practical tests, they will be recommended to change schools. The offer for the students who hung on was extra training and closer follow-up. The school's competitive mentality is in stark contrast to the Norwegian attitude that "everyone should join": in the canteen there is a</p>	Inga-Maja

		<p>picture of students who have excelled. The three categories for award are: award in theoretical subjects, competition and "life in general". An employee with a disability had got his own picture, but then on another wall than the prestige students.</p>  <p>In the evening, the table was set for a closing dinner, where the participants were awarded a diploma for good work in the project.</p>	
08. 04		<p>Last day in the Czech Republic, before returning home tomorrow. Today we have not had any plans, but had a quiet day in the city.</p> <p>We are very happy with our stay these two weeks in the Czech Republic, and look forward to telling about all our experiences back home in Norway. We have learned about the school system, met students from CZU and seen the culture in the Czech Republic. The schools we have met here are open to collaboration with our future classes in the future, so maybe we will travel down again in a few years to show our students this great country. A big thank you from all of us for this opportunity!</p>	Solve ig
09. 04			