

We have something to say...about Germany

As it was one the previous times, our students we asked once more to evaluate the visit and tell us their impressions. We have selected the following samples.

... differences between the two cultures and the educational system

Susan

I would say that everyone and everything work punctually. [...] As for the educational system [...] In my opinion, something beneficial is the "work experience", meaning that students, some days, are allowed to attend classes concerning their future job.

Ricardo

[...] The north culture relies on punctuality while the south on the person.

Theodore

[...] The cultural gap between different countries is really big, but it gets bigger when referring to north and south culture.

Pandelis

[...] The basic characteristic of the German model is discipline, which sometimes results in being annoying.

Jason

[...] Severity prevailed when it came down to following the programme and more specifically their time schedule. The organization of the state was pretty obvious[...]

Students in our age didn't have a defined schedule, 8:00 am to 14:00 pm, but their programme was arranged by the subjects they had chosen [...] On the contrary, the differences considering the material infrastructure was not what we had expected. Besides the size of the school, everything else was far from what we had imagined.

Apostolos

I have to admit that in the school they had technological convenience and the knowledge to work in groups but I noticed that they lacked fantasy and creativity.

...what they gained, how they felt

Susan

Without exaggerating, I believe that those 6 days I spent in Germany were the best ones I have had in my life so far. It was a totally different experience, truly full of new things, people and feelings. Mere words cannot describe how I felt and the emptiness that took a hold of me the moment we left. This experience will never be forgotten, and I hope that sometime in the future I will have the chance to see again the people I met.

Ricardo

One of the biggest acquisition from my participation was the fact that my dream came true, to travel abroad beyond the Balkan States. In my opinion the most important thing I earned was this tremendous experience

I had. Moreover, I met people from other countries, along with their cultures and ideas, and I have learned so many things for those people that I never knew. The way I feel now is quite complicated, because I am both happy for everything I had experienced, yet sad due to the shortness of the trip and the return to Greece, kilometers away from my new friends.

Theodore

For me this travel is an unforgettable experience. That is because I have broadened my horizons, come in touch with a lot of different cultures, not only affected by them but also representing the Greek cultural elements and ordinaries. Also, I have developed a huge communicative ability through this programme, setting myself free from insecurities I had. Last but not least I discovered my leading skills and my inventiveness, things I never believed that could describe me. Even if the food wasn't so good (hahaha!!) I would like to stay more days in Hamburg as I had started getting used to their lifestyle and also I was close to all the teenagers participating in the programme.

Pandelis

The experience was amazing, honestly I had a great time! I wish I had stayed two weeks and not one. I am truly sad for leaving my new friends! I believe that my participation in the "mission" helped me discover aspects of my personality that I wasn't aware of as well as to reach my full potential. Also, I could say that I learned a lot of stuff about the other members of this "mission", even about people that I have had a close relationship for a long time. Moreover, every doubt I had for this trip was no more when I realized all the things mentioned above. My visit to Germany is a life experience for me. It is also a vital piece in the puzzle of my life!!!

Jason

Even if I used all the paper in the world, it wouldn't have been enough for me to include all that had happened in Hamburg, so I am going to be specific (and that is because the "team" vowed that, "Whatever happened in Hamburg, stays in Hamburg"). The most important thing is nothing else but the people we met there. For some of them I felt like I knew them for months or years, I just can't believe that it was only 6 days. When I recall the trip, it isn't the city or anything that we saw, but the people living there. And at least for me, the programme isn't about admiring new towns, seeing sights and buying gifts for your loved ones. It is about meeting new minds, other cultures, different worlds. Because it is the only way to get to know yourself.

Apostolos

I don't believe that there can be a trip of this kind that will bear no fruit. From this specific trip I believe that the most important thing was our meeting with a new and unique culture and a whole different way of thinking. Also, us, the members of the team, bonded and came closer to our teachers, something that for me is really important. My feelings are mostly joy and satisfaction that our goal was accomplished, excitement for the places and the people I met, but sadness as well, for all those we left behind not knowing if I will ever see them again. Although, I will try to keep in touch with most of them.

Us the teachers

We are proud – for a second time after Italy – that we have such a great team. Both in Italy and Germany, our kids were remarkable not only for their good preparation and their performance in groups and activities, but they also impressed our colleagues with the honesty of their opinion, their intelligence, ability to criticize, behavior, kindness, diligence and their energy and joy.

We thank them for all the smiles that gave us and we are looking forward to the program's sequel.

Responsible professors

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