



Erasmus+

What's Up?

Participating countries:



France



Finland



Italy



Spain



Portugal



Croatia



Lithuania



15 March

*The weather forecast
(11-3)*

Cold, cloudy and drizzling

FINALLY!!!

The French delegation has arrived

- 9.00 Meeting up at school
- 9.30 A short headmaster's speech
- 9.30-10.30 The concert...

What stunning and warm performances have been held on the stage!!!

Shy, but curious at first...

Later, very daring!



Inside this issue:

The Castle of Gediminas	2-3
A trip to the ballet	4
The evening of national dishes	5
Kazimieras's Fair in Kaunas	6
The Sightseeing tour of the historical old town of Klaipėda	7-9
The game-Show me your town	10-11
A tour of 'Versmės' school	12
A visit to the Mayor	13
The Chocolate show	14
The Baltic Sea - Palanga	15-17
Jour de la Francophonie a 'Palanga 2016	18-19
An excursion to Užutrakis Manor Estate	20-21
A trip to Trakai	22-23
The Jewish museum in Vilnius	24
A farewell evening	25
The unforgettable moments...	26-27
I.M.A.G.I.N.E calendar, Mini dictionary	28

What's Up?

The Castle of Gediminas

On 17 March, the team of Erasmus went to Vilnius. During that day, all the participants had a unique opportunity to watch a ballet *Barbora Radvilaitė* at the Opera and Ballet Theatre. The weather was warm and sunny. As there was still much time left before the beginning of the performance, everyone decided to visit the Old Town and climb up to the legendary Gediminas Castle.

At the halls of the castle tower the guests visited the exhibition of Lithuanian history. The XIV century's reconstruction model of the Vilnius Upper, Lower and Crooked Castles helped the participants to imagine how the castle looked like during old times. In addi-

tion to this, there was a display of Vilnius famous photographers who had taken some photos of the Castle hill, its ruins as well as the reconstruction images of the XIX–XX century. On the second floor, there was exhibited Lithuania's military weaponry of the XIV–XVIII centuries such as shirts with armor, breastplates, helmets, swords, cannons and shells, as well as the knights armor -



The tower of Gediminas

which was a popular decoration for castles and mansions interior in the XIX century. The third floor exhibition told the story of contemporary history of Lithuania: lifting of tricolor on the Gediminas Castle Tower on 7 October, in 1988, the Baltic way which joined 2-2.5 million people of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia into a living chain on 23 August, in 1989.

When everyone came to the top of the tower, they were able to observe the city of Vilnius which was lighted by the sunlight emphasizing the mystery of the Old Town. The majestic church towers stated the faith of Lithuanian people while the shiny glass skyscrapers on the right side of Neris testified the synthesis of the developing historical and modern city.



At the observation site of the tower of Gediminas

What's Up?

A trip to the ballet of “Barbora Radvilaitė”

On 17 March, the participants of the French team from Pau, from the *Honore Baradat Lyceum* together with the Lithuanian team, from Elektrėnai, from *Versmė* gymnasium travelled to the Vilnius Opera and Ballet Theatre to watch a two-act ballet *Barbora Radvilaitė*. First of all, the guests observed the Opera and Ballet Theatre, enjoyed the distinctive taste of hot chocolate as well as studied the programme of performance.

During the ballet, the guests watched the love story of Barbora and Žygimantas Augustas, which is the unique and the only true-love of the king based on real facts. The action had been moved to an abstract scenery, the actors wore stylized costumes typical of that period created by one of the most famous Lithuanian designers, Juozas Statkevičius. A

well-known ballet choreographer, Anželika Cholina, helped to convey a live theatrical action as well as give a modern form to the story by showing the people's lives and their destinies.

This ballet has caused the indestructible feelings to the hearts of all participants of the project. Above all, no one has remained indifferent to the great history of a tiny country Lithuania.



The scene from *Barbora Radvilaitė*

The evening of national dishes



The feast of national dishes



Vincent Samuel is introducing Lithuanian team with French cuisine



The DJs of the evening

On Tuesday evening, all participants of the project gathered at 'Versmės' cafeteria, where an evening of national dishes was held. Moreover, in the beginning of the evening, the participants had to present the meals they had prepared.

For example, Lithuanians set a table full of curd cheese with honey, baked bread with cheese, Kibinas and, of course, Šakotis. The guests from France - cured ham, various pates, and stews. What an evening can be without traditional Lithuanian dances. Any! Therefore, the French guests were taught some moves of Lithuanian folk dances. In the end, everyone was caught with a whirl of dance.

Kazimieras's Fair in Kaunas

On 19 March, the guests from France had an opportunity to visit one of the biggest spring events, the traditional Kazimieras's fair, which takes place in Kaunas every year. All attendees of Kazimieras fair were attracted by tasty dishes that had been cooked right at the fair, by amusing folk music and, of course, by textile, metal and wood items produced by Lithuanian handicrafts. In addition, local farmers suggested fresh vegetables, smoked fitch, sausages, pies and bagels. The fishermen were proud of their own caught fish which, pulled out of the kingdom of smoke, made many to stop, taste and buy it.

Although the weather was quite harsh and at the same time sunny, the guests took their time and felt contented with the moments of the fair. Some of them couldn't even resist the temptation to buy some traditional Lithuanian souvenirs.

We were very delighted that the French guests had arrived at the time of this fair, because it was a great opportunity to disclose the cultural traditions and national heritage of Lithuania.



Kazimieras's fair handicrafts



The feast at Kazimieras's fair

The Sightseeing tour of the historical old town of Klaipėda



Let my dream come true...



Carole Foulon is touching the button of happiness

On 18 March, the delegation of the guests from France, led by 'Versmès' gymnasium IMAGINE team, travelled to Klaipėda. It is one of the oldest town and the only port in Lithuania with 160 000 inhabitants.

Klaipėda is established at the merge of three waters – the Danes river, the Kuršių lagoon and the Baltic Sea. After being lifted up to the 20th floor of 'Amber Klaipėda' hotel, all participants could spot the beauty of ships passing through the gates of the sea.

Narrow and stoned streets, colourful houses of merchants and handicrafts, the buildings of a fachwerk style, a ship 'Meridianas', which had been floating on the Danes river - all this created an incredible charm to the old part of the town.

What's Up?

The walls of historical buildings became alive again with a help of interesting and real stories about Heinrich Schliemann, the founder of Troja as well as the queen's of Prussia Luize and her husband's Wilhelm III visits to Klaipėda.

Despite the fact that the old town of Klaipėda is small, it's full of attractiveness. You can find here lots of bronze inhabitants that are full of magical powers and hidden old legends. This makes this western town of Lithuania even more beautiful.



The city art on the walls of the buildings

There, the participants came across with **The Mouse Sculpture** surrounded by bronze band with the magical words written on it: 'When thoughts will be made into words - only then the words will become magic.' According to the authors, this mouse is magical, thus, it can make your dreams come true, all you need to do is to whisper them into its ear.

The other sculpture **The Cat with the Face of a Gentleman** represents a cat that goes and comes back whenever it wants. In the old times the old town cat had secret powers.



The Dog sculpture is the old town's keeper - it is a bronze sculpture of a Doberman dog, which takes care of the old town of Klaipėda.

It is unknown who was the first one with the idea of 'love locks', but you can find these love symbols with the names of lovers all over the world, most often on bridges. On the contrary, in Klaipėda you can find the sculpture of 'love locks' called **The Tree of Love**.



The Theatre Square is the heart of the town. It is very popular among the inhabitants and the guests of Klaipėda. The theatre square is like a magnet that attracts people. It is a common place for concerts and events like International Castle Jazz Festival, Sea Festival and alike.

The game - Show me your town

On 15 March, the participants of the project tested an I.M.A.G.I.N.E smartphone application. The guests were divided into two teams. In addition, the game participants had to find 12 marked objects in Elektrėnai by using the smartphone application. With a help of an Internet connection and GPS, everyone was able to receive information on the given subject and only then try to answer the question. For every correct answer the

participants received one point. As a proof that the team found the right objects, they had to take a selfie picture of those objects in the background.

It's interesting to mention that both teams carried out the task in a very honest and enthusiastic way. And finally, due to participants of the game, the smartphone application was verified by naming its weaknesses and mistakes.



In front of the ice-rink



What a fun to play a game of pool!

Let's meet up on the bridge!



Let's work out a bit!
One, two, three...

A short tour of 'Versmės' school

The acquaintance of the French guests from Pau with Elektrėnai began with a short introductory tour of 'Versmės' school. Andrius Simankovas, Valentinas Leskauskas, Beatričė Gruzdytė, the pupils of the school and the participants of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project, were those who conducted a tour by showing not only the classrooms, the gym, the science lab and other things of the school, but also by telling what the pupils of this school are proud of and excited with.

The French guests were able to take their time by exploring 'Versmės' school and by asking some questions regarding it. After a short introductory tour, the guests were quite well at orienting at 'Versmės' school.



Vincent Samuel: "Not again! I'm at the physics lesson..."



At the music room

A visit to the Mayor of Elektrėnai

On 15 March, the mayor of Elektrėnai county, Kęstutis Vaitukaitis, welcomed the French guests from Pau and the project participants of 'Versmės' school. Arvydas Vyšniauskas, the mayor deputy and Virgilijus Prunskus, the administration director, had also attended the meeting at the municipality of Elektrėnai.

The mayor talked about the town of Elektrėnai, presented its traditions, customs and holidays. A short film a-

bout Elektrėnai and its nature had also been shown. In addition, Kęstutis Vaitukaitis handed in the remembrance gifts to the project participants of I.M.A.G.I.N.E – the latest books about Elektrėnai.

Finally, the French guests from Pau also presented their city, showed a film about the Lycee Honore Baradat as well as shared the progress made during the project by emphasizing the importance of the project I.M.A.G.I.N.E on younger generation.



At the mayor of Elektrėnai

What's Up?

The Chocolate show

The project participants had a chance to find out the subtleties of cooking mouth-watering chocolate. A chocolate-tasting cooking show is an unforgettable entertainment for both, children and adults. *Algimantas Jablonskas*, the owner of *AJ Chocolate*, was a person who not only welcomed the visitors, but also showed and explained how the chocolate is made. Everyone had to wash their hands, put on the disposable aprons and hats, and only then were ready for a show to start.

The owner told the history of chocolate and manufactory briefly and wittily. Before starting to pour raw chocolate into the frames, he showed it up as well as let it taste. Then, the chocolate was being tempered by pouring onto the table and cooling down with a help of paddles. Later on, it

was casted into molds by adding some cream prepared in advance. Once the chocolate is frozen, everyone can start the degustation of the freshest chocolate. After that, the participants had a possibility to make delicious, tasty treats with their own hands. The winners were announced. The participants of the project left the chocolate show delighted and charmed.



Adrien Sanuy: "Now, I know how to make mouth-watering chocolate desserts!"

The Baltic Sea - Palanga



On Friday morning, the project members of I.M.A.G.I.N.E set off to the Lithuanian seaside resort town – Palanga, which is in western Lithuania, on the shore of the Baltic Sea. It is the busiest summer resort in Lithuania and has beaches of sand (18 km long and up to 300 m wide) as well as one of the most spectacular sand dunes. In summer, Palanga is captured not only by local residents, but also by a multitude of tourists, who stay in this town both for its beaches and to enjoy the maritime atmosphere.

The first thing that the participants did upon arrival in Palanga was a cosy walk through *Jonas Basanavičius* street, which is a pedestrian only as well as the main street. There are dozens of restau-

rants, bars, rides, and other forms of entertainment. In addition, this street leads towards the famous bridge of Palanga, which is one of the symbols of the town without which it is difficult to imagine a resort. Every night the holiday-makers meet up on the bridge to watch the spectacular sunsets. Although during the visit it was a windy day, all participants of the project couldn't resist the temptation to have a walk on the bridge and admire the view of the Baltic Sea.

After having had a pleasant walk at the seacoast, everyone turned towards *Birutės Hill*, which is situated in the Northern part of the Amber Museum park. It is a relict dune, and was marked on all the larger maps already in the XVII century as the highest

What's Up?

dune of Palanga's coastline. According to a legend, there was a pagan shrine at the foot of a hill in Palanga where a beautiful priestess named *Birutė* used to tend the ceremonial fires. Having heard of her beauty, the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Kęstutis, came to make her his wife. However, *Birutė* did not consent and answered that she had promised the gods to remain a virgin as long as she lived. Kęstutis then resorted to take her by force, and with great pomp brought her back to his capital, Trakai, where he invited his kinsmen and celebrated

with a lavish wedding. Kęstutis was later murdered and *Birutė* returned to Palanga and resumed serving at the shrine until her death. The legend claimed that she was buried in the hill which is now named after her.

Later, the members of the project visited the *Tiškevičiai* palace and the impressive park with ponds, fountains, and collections of rare plants, which was designed by Edouard Francois Andre, a French horticulturalist and a landscape architect and his son. Today it contains two hundred different types of trees and shrubs. Moreo-



On the bridge of Palanga



Vincent Samuel is exploring the amber
at the Amber Museum



The hill of *Birutė*



Carole Foulon at the Amber Museum

ver, the palace, now the Palanga Amber Museum, has an extensive collection of amber jewellery and other artifacts. The museum's collection of amber comprises about 28,000 pieces, of which about 15,000 contain inclusions of insects, spiders, or plants. About 4,500 pieces of amber are exhibited; many of these are items of artwork and jewellery. In addition to that, symphonic concerts as well as other musical festivals and events take place in the summer, usually in the evenings.

So, the participants of the project had a possibility to see the Amber Museum with their own eyes. The French guests listened to the guide's narration about the history of amber formation and its prevalence in the world in a very attentive way. Also, the visitors were able to purchase the eye-catching jewellery from amber. And finally, the participants of the project faced with one more surprise - an invitation to take part in the Francophonie Day events in Palanga at the Museum of Amber.

What's Up?

Jour de la Francophonie a 'Palanga 2016

On 18 March, the members of the project IMAGINE had a unique opportunity to participate in the Francophone Day event in Palanga at the Amber Museum. The event began at 5 p.m. with a musical introduction aria performed in French by an opera singer Aisté Ruškienė. In addition, Nicolas Torres, an attaché of the French Embassy in Vilnius on linguistic issues, had a warm welcoming speech. Later, the French participants of

IMAGINE project from the town called Pau were extremely excited having the possibility to perform a few songs for the guests of the event.

The pupils of Old gymnasium of Palanga as well as the pupils of Vlado Jurgutis primary school of Palanga appeared at the concert under the direction of a French language teacher Živilė Kerpytė. The songs performed



The French team is congratulating Nicolas Torres, an attaché of the French Embassy in Vilnius

during the concert are as followed:

Gabija Paulikaitė - La derniere danse, Indila

Teodora Žvilaitytė - Ton Visage, Frero Delavegas

Paulina Skrabytė - Je t'aime, Lara Fabian

Austėja Mikutyte - Jamais assez loin, Isabelle Boulay

After an impressive concert, the participants of

IMAGINE project were invited to a cosy party at the Amber Palace, where everyone was able to have a talk and discuss the cultural issues with an attaché of the French Embassy in Vilnius, Nicolas Torres, as well as tell about the on-going project IMAGINE. All in all, Mr. Torres promised to continue taking his interest regarding this project as he strongly agreed upon the benefits of the project giv-



The French and Lithuanian teams during the Francophone Day event

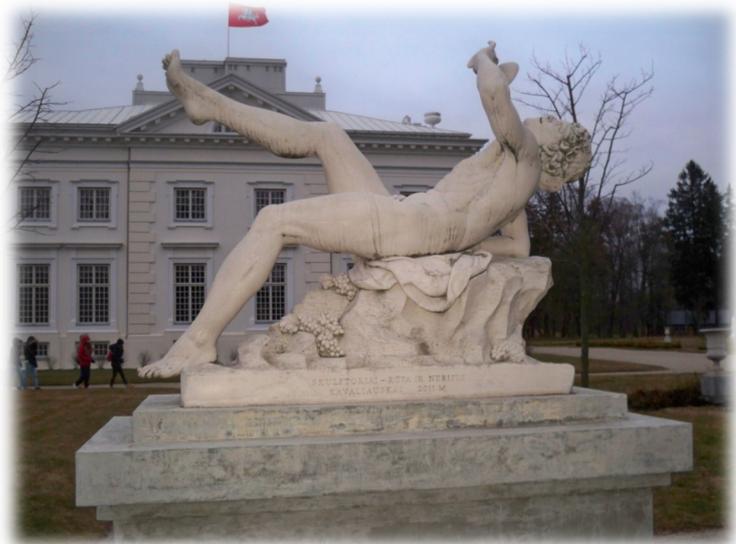
What's Up?

An excursion to Užutrakis Manor Estate

On the way home, the participants of the project had a chance to visit Užutrakis Manor Estate in the Trakai National Park on the shore of Galvė lake, which was designed in 1897-1902 by the initiative of the Count Joseph Tyszkiewicz and his wife. What is more, the author of Užutrakis park is the French landscape architect and botanist EF André, (1840-1911) - a world-renowned artist. The estate consists of a palace, a park and auxiliary buildings such as the stable, distillery, forge, granary, houses of the watch, ferryman and gardener, cattle sheds and so on.

Moreover, the original park was designed as a water park in which a complex system of more than twenty

interconnected ponds joined to one of the bigger lakes was made. In addition to that, the neorenaissance style palace with a terrace to the view of Galvė lake and Trakai island castle was built having a massive red brick and stone masonry support wall. The terrace and balustrade is an inseparable part of the west facade.



One of the sculptures at the park of The Manor Estate
Užutrakis



A selfie at *Užutrakis*



The hill of Angels

In our days Užutrakiai Estate is used for various events. At the weekends the chamber music concerts have been taken place here since 2005 in which famous Lithuanian and foreign performers take part.

Having taken a pleasant walk in the park as well as admired the stunning views of the lake, the participants of the project were offered to visit the hill of Angels - the place where all the dreams come true. In 2009, thanks to the initiative of two citizens (the authors of the idea – Dominyka Dubauskaitė Kairevičienė and Lolita Piličiauskaitė Navickienė) – the hill of Angels appeared. The main idea of this project was to house 10 angels in order to note Lithuanian Millennium anniversary. During those couple of years, the hill has become the house of angels, where 36 large monuments can be currently found there.

A trip to Trakai

On March 16, the project participants of I.M.A.G.I.N.E visited Trakai. Trakai – a historic city and lake resort in Lithuania, which lies 28km west of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. There, the participants had a chance to visit the pride of Lithuania - the only castle in Eastern Europe built on the island, the Trakai Island Castle.

A 300m wooden bridge leads to the castle of Trakai, which was constructed on the largest of three lake islands by the order of Grand Duke Kęstutis. The project participants visited the castle exhibition halls, where the collections of Applied Art Museum are exhibited: furniture, smoking pipes, stamps, watches, china and glassware as well as hunting trophies. Having visited the castle, the students and teachers were invited to the castle defensive gate tower hall, where an educational class is installed. There, everyone heard a story about the warfare during the Medieval times and

watched an educational video about the usage of crossbows and bows as well as their production.

During the practical part of the session, it was possible to examine the arms exhibition, try on some armor knights by taking the sword or crossbow into their hands. Everyone, even those who had no wish to try on the armor, felt the Medieval spirit of the epoch.



Adrien Sanuy: "What a fun to experience the past!"



At the main entrance of
Trakai Castle

Carole Foulon:
“Oh no!
Could anyone help me to get
out of there? “



At the main hall of *Trakai*
Castle where various perfor-
mances take place

What's Up?

The Jewish museum in Vilnius

The Jewish museum - as an institution which cherishes Jewish culture and traditions - has a long history in Lithuania. 1913 was the year when the first Jewish museum was founded in Vilnius with the help of the Society of Lovers of Jewish Antiquity. Many Jewish organisations were liquidated due to interruption of the Soviet Union. Activities of this society were suspended, newspapers, magazines and institutions that used Hebrew language were closed. Despite the repression, although strictly controlled and limited, the museum continued its creative work. Privileges to Jews originals (parchment) approved by three kings of Poland and Lithuania are regarded as the most valuable historical documents.

On 17 March, the participants of the project visited

The Jewish Museum at the capital of Lithuania, Vilnius. There, everyone was introduced with accumulated, stored and exhibited material as well as with the spiritual heritage of Lithuanian Jewish people. Moreover, the guests had the opportunity to deepen and widen the knowledge of Jewish history, to learn about its eminent Jewish personalities which had had a great impact on Lithuania's and world's history, culture and art during those times.



Outside the Jewish museum in Vilnius

A farewell evening

The work week in Lithuania has swiftly come to the end. On Saturday, the participants of the project Erasmus+ I.M.A.G.I.N.E gathered at the cafeteria of

‘Versmės’ school to a farewell evening.

The school’s group of folk dances together with their teacher R. Butkienė not only showed the splendid performance, but also taught the guests how to dance Lithuanian folk dance TRANSVERA. Shortly after that, the guests were given some token gifts.

During the farewell evening, the pupils of ‘Versmės’ school, Edvardas and Agnius, held an improvised concert. In addition, the principal, Egidijus Kontrimas, handed in the lyrics of a well-known French song sung by children – ‘Sur le pont d'Avignon’. As a consequence, everyone was singing merrily and the evening ended up with a disco fun.



The headmaster is handing in the certificates of attendance



The members of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project
from France and Lithuania

What's Up?

The unforgettable moments...

This experience for me was really something. I had the privilege to host the concert for the arrival of French students. It was amazing to see their performances. This makes me extremely excited for what this project is going to bring next.

Enrika Nesterovaitė

This project has been a great opportunity to bring myself from the comfort zone. Also, I hosted one of French students. We had so much fun together! All the program was organized very neatly and it was very entertaining. Can't wait for the future of this project!

Beatričė Gruzdytė

Meeting with French people was very interesting and funny. We had a lot of fun and we visited the Baltic Sea, Trakai, Vinius and, of course, Elektrėnai. All French were very friendly. I'm very happy that I had the opportunity to meet young people from another country.

Dominyka Norvilaitė





I was happy to meet the participants of the project Erasmus+ I.M.A.G.I.N.E from France in Lithuania. I had taken part in activities at school, attended the concert and travelled to the seaside. We had a really great time!

Justina Kilnaitė



The French delegation visited our school in spring. It was very nice to meet them. We had a really good time together: we travelled to the capital of Lithuania, to Trakai, to Klaipėda, also we participated in a game and showed our town. The French really liked our country. I'm very happy to be in this project – it's a very good experience for all of us.

Akvilė Valytė



A farewell to Elektrėnai

Erasmus + I.M.A.G.I.N.E calendar:



A short mobility
meeting



The students and the teachers from Lithuania 'Versmės' gymnasium and from Italy *Lycee J.F Kennedy* will be meeting in Finland in Alajärvi

Mini dictionary



- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Good morning | - | Labas rytas |
| Good evening | - | Labas vakaras |
| Good afternoon | - | Laba diena |
| Cheers | - | Į seikata |
| What's your name? | - | Kuo tu vardu? |
| Nice to meet you | - | Malonu susipažinti |
| Where are you from | - | Iš kur tu esi? |
| Thank you | - | Ačiū |
| You're welcome | - | Prašom |
| Please | - | Prašau |
| How are you today? | - | Kaip laikaisi šiandien? |
| Goodbye | - | Ate |

Produced by

Elektrėnų 'Versmės'
gymnasium in Lithuania



From the left:
Rita Grigonienė,
Ilona Švenčionytė,
Anelė Valentinavičienė,
Neringa Laimutytė



Erasmus+

