

REFLECTION ON MY DEVELOPMENT DURING THIS PROGRAMME

REFLECTIVE JOURNAL

Date: 25.07.2016

We visited the most interesting and famous places in Dublin, for example : Cathedral of St. Patrick, Dublin Castle and the others. We met people from different European countries: Spain, Hungary, Greece, Italy, German, Turkey etc. We were looking for famous places in Dublin. We took the pictures of those things with our new friends. We learned many interesting things about those places. We knew history of Ireland and stories connected with that country. We learned about the Famine, Leprechaun, Kells Library etc. It was a very interesting day.

Date: 26.07.2016

We were getting to know each other, We knew new English vocabulary. We learned a lot of interesting things about Irish culture and language. We learned how to make our Portfolio. It was the next day full of information about Irish history and Irish nation. Irish also referred to as Gaelic or Irish Gaelic, is a Goidelic language of the Indo-European language family originating in Ireland and historically spoken by the Irish people. Irish is spoken as a first language by a small minority of Irish people and as a second language by a rather larger group of non-native speakers. Irish enjoys constitutional status as the national and first official language of the Republic of Ireland and is an officially recognised minority language in Northern Ireland. It is also among the official languages of the European Union.

Date: 27.07.2016

We were in National Museum of Ireland. We learned a lot about Irish history. We learned the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology on Kildare Street has displays on prehistoric Ireland, including early work in gold, church treasures and objects from the Viking and medieval periods. We learned that the Kingship and Sacrifice exhibition includes well preserved bog bodies and Ralaghan Man. We learned that there are special displays of items from Egypt, Cyprus and the Roman world, and special exhibitions are regularly mounted. We learned that this section includes famous examples of early medieval Celtic metalwork in Ireland such as the Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch, and the Derrynaflan Hoard. Prehistoric pieces include the Iron Age Broughton Gold and over 50 gold lunulas and other Bronze Age jewellery. We learned that many of these pieces were found in the 19th century by poor people or agricultural labourers, when population expansion led to cultivation of land which had not been touched since the Middle Ages. Indeed, without the intervention of George Petrie of the Royal Irish Academy and like-minded

individuals from the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, most of the metalwork would have been melted down for the intrinsic value of its materials, as did frequently happen despite their efforts. Contemporary Irish are more tuned to their heritage, as can be seen in the example of the Irish Bog Psalter, which was discovered and reported by an alert machine operator in July 2006. Visiting National Museum of Ireland was a very interesting experience for us. We learned many new English words. Our English is getting better and better.

Date: 28.07.2016

We learned a lot about Irish food and drinks. We knew the names of them: bacon and cabbage, barmbrack, battered sausages, black pudding, boxty, breakfast roll, champ, caddle, cottage pie, Irish stew and drinks: Guinness, whisky etc. We learned that the potato, after its widespread adoption in the 18th century became almost the only food of the poor and, as a result, is often now closely associated with Ireland. Many elements of Irish cuisine were lost or abandoned during this time and particularly from the Famine up until the mid 20th century,

We learned a lot about European food. We tasted European food too. That was a day when we learned new English vocabulary connected with food and drinks.

Date: 29.07.2016

We learned a lot about Irish music. We knew the names of Irish instruments, songs and dances. We learned that Irish traditional music includes many kinds of songs, including drinking songs, ballads and laments, sung unaccompanied or with accompaniment by a variety of instruments. Traditional dance music includes reels - 4/4, hornpipes and jigs - the common double jig is in 6/8 time. The polka arrived at the start of the 19th century, spread by itinerant dancing masters and mercenary soldiers, returning from Europe. Set dancing may have arrived in the 18th century. Later imported dance-signatures include the mazurka and the highlands. In the 19th century folk instruments would have included the flute, the fiddle and the uilleann pipes. We learned also that revival of Irish traditional music took place around the turn of the 20th century. The button accordion and the concertina were becoming common. Irish stepdance was performed at céilís, organised competitions and at some country houses where local and itinerant musicians were welcome. We learned that Irish dancing was supported by the educational system and patriotic organisations. I listened and sang song about Molly Malone and „Fields of Athenry“. We tried Irish dance. We listened to modern Irish music too, for example Bono, Sinéad O'Connor and Enya. We talked about famous Irish pop, rock and folk musician. It was very interesting for me.

Date: 31.07.2016

We visited Glendalough and Kilkenny. We saw many interesting places in Ireland going by bus. The guide related us about Irish history.

We learnt that Kilkenny Castle was built in 1195 by William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke to control a fording-point of the River Nore and the junction of several routeways. It was a symbol of Norman occupation and in its original thirteenth-century condition it would have formed an important element of the defences of the town with four large circular corner towers and a massive ditch, part of which can still be seen today on the Parade. We learned also that the property was transferred to the people of Kilkenny in 1967 for £50¹ and the castle and grounds are now managed by the Office of Public Works. Nowadays the gardens and parkland adjoining the castle are open to the public. The Parade Tower is a conference venue. Awards and conferring ceremonies of the graduates of "Kilkenny Campus" of National University of Ireland, Maynooth have been held there since 2002.

We knew a beautiful place which is Glendalough. We learned that it is home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. We also learned that his early Christian monastic settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century and from this developed the „Monastic City“. Most of the buildings that survive today date from the 10th through 12th centuries. The guide told us that despite attacks by Vikings over the years, Glendalough thrived as one of Ireland's great ecclesiastical foundations and schools of learning until the Normans destroyed the monastery in 1214 A.D. and the dioceses of Glendalough and Dublin were united. We knew that close to the monastic city is the interactive centre. The centre features an audio visual and has a model of the monastic site on display. Glendalough is one of the top attraction on Ireland's Ancient East. We could see the beautiful lake. It was a very interesting day full of new experiences and new English vocabulary.

Date: 01.08.2016

We learned a lot about jobs and work. We learned about adjectives options which describe people who want to have any kinds of jobs.. We learned knew skills options , personality connected with that subject. We learned how to hold talks when look for a job. We knew the names of jobs nowadays and in the past. We learned many new English words which enriched our English vocabulary.

Date: 02.08.2016

We knew English vocabulary connected with sports and hobbies. We learned the names of kinds of sport. We learned that sport is commonly defined as a sort of game that requires physical activity and involves a degree of competition as, for example, baseball, soccer, bowling, or basketball. We learned that sportsmen need coaches to teach or train teams or individuals how to do better. Sports can be played indoors or outdoors and by individuals or teams. We talked about our favourite kinds of sports and we learned the names of them in English. We imagined new sport games and the names of them. We learned vocabulary connected with sport equipments. We talked about our and the other persons' hobbies. We named them.

Date: 03.08.2016

We learned a lot about Irish Art. We were in the National Gallery of Ireland. We saw the Irish national collection of Irish and European art. It is located in the centre of Dublin with one entrance on Merrion Square, beside Leinster House, and another on Clare Street. It was founded in 1854 and opened its doors ten years later. The Gallery has aures which were interesting in our extensive, representative collection of famous Irish and European artists. We talked about pictures which were the most beautiful and interesting in our opinion.

We learned the names of colours and a lot about the meaning of them.

Date: 04.08.2016

We knew much more about Irish fables and fairies. We learned that Ireland's long history is riddled with ancient mythology and folklore. Ireland's ancient societies, the Druids and the Celts, believed in the power of magic and many of these beliefs spread to modern day legends told again and again across the country. We learned that stories of warriors with all the knowledge of the world, fairies playing pranks on farm owners and leprechauns hiding their gold at the end of a rainbow add to the mysterious appeal of Ireland. We learned about the Banshee, Children of Lir, Changelings, and the others.

A final overview of my experience in this Erasmus+ Continuous Professional Development programme:

I was a very interesting experience for me. I could learn much more about Ireland, Irish history, art, music, sport etc. I met very smart, nice Irish people. I had good teachers. I visited many beautiful places. It was amazing time for me. I would like to thank everybody who was responsible for organization of this programme. According to me organization of Erasmus+ in Ireland was perfect.