

Slovakia enchanted with its beauty

The meetings within the international project V4 Gen Mini-Grants supported by the International Visegrad Fund continued from 04.03.2024 to 08.03.2024 with the meeting of the three participating schools (Secondary Technical School in Tlmače, Győri SZC Lukács Sándor Járműipari és Gépészeti Technikum és Kollégium and SPŠS Betlémská in Prague) in Slovakia at the Secondary Technical School in Tlmače.

The programme of the meeting started with the arrival of the participants in Tlmače on Monday, continued with lunch and a tour of the school led by the headmistress Jana Mrázová. The tour was followed by accommodation in the school dormitory. In the afternoon we went to the district town of Levice, where we walked around the town, saw the Square of Heroes and the Levice Castle.

On Tuesday, during the morning block, the participants had the opportunity to try working with CAD/CAM systems under the supervision of qualified teachers and also had the possibility to get a glimpse into the secrets of the welding profession by working with Fronius welding simulators, which made the students very interested and engaged.

In the afternoon we visited Banská Štiavnica, where we had the opportunity to admire the picturesque corners of this historic mining town. The visitors walked around the Holy Trinity Square and admired the Baroque sculpture of the Holy Trinity with the Immaculata and the saints, the Town Hall Square, the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the Old Castle, Celemantia, the Klopačka or the botanical garden in the area of the historical Mining and Forestry Academy.

On Wednesday, the morning working session was held in an excellent working atmosphere. The participants had the opportunity to work with the technology of the future - virtual glasses and the associated accessories. Their task was to assemble a welding robot or a lathe in the virtual space. This activity completely absorbed the students and aroused their enthusiasm. We ended the morning in the student

engineering workshop of the Tlmače Secondary Technical School, where the students could try how to cut out nameplates, characters or shapes from sheet metal using a plasma cutter. All this was happening under the supervision of the master of vocational training.

In the afternoon we visited the company Tatravagónka Tlmače, where the participants had the opportunity to see the production halls where different types of wagons are assembled. We finished the afternoon with a pleasant bath in the unique thermal spa in Slovakia - Podhájska, which was an enjoyable refreshment for all.

On Thursday, during the morning block, the students worked on programming CNC machine tools and had the opportunity to work with Heidenhain and Sinumerik programmes. Each participant had the opportunity to make their own part according to the instructions of the master of vocational training. The work was beneficial for the students in their professional profiling.

Later we moved to Nitra, where we had a tour of the castle with a professional interpretation in English. After the tour, we moved to the Gravity Laser Arena, where the students had the opportunity to try one of the most modern forms of adrenaline-filled entertainment named Laser Game. After this immersive experience, we continued with a tour of the Fanuc Company, where automation and robotics enthusiasts in particular could enjoy themselves. We ended the day full of diverse experiences with a tour of a mini game farm and a tasting of game specialties.

The final day of the visit culminated in a virtual welding competition, an evaluation of the competition together with the summing up the whole week spent together, and a trip home.

The last stop of the project will be a visit to our partner school in Győr, Hungary, to which we are all very much looking forward to.

Peter Izsoff

