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INNOVATIVE GENERATION

1 Flight to Belgium

This year, in september our teachers told us that we would spend a week in Belgium for a cultural project. We were really excited about that, so when on sunday the 5th of february we arrived at the airport we were ready and happy to leave. We said goodbye to our parents and we made the check-in. The plane left at 8:05 and landed in Belgium at 10:30. During the flight we were all thinking about our future experience and about what we could do during our week. When we arrived at Brussels airport, we were a bit nervous because we had to meet our hosting families. They were waiting for us and after a small presentation they drived us at their home. There we had lunch and we started talking and making some games together to break the ice and know something more about each other. After the activities we had dinner and went to sleep.

Barbaglia Luca & Fusè Simone



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We started our journey on the 5th of february in the middle of the night. We left our hometown, Kamienica Polska, at 2 a.m. because we had to catch a plane from the Warsaw Chopin airport. In Poland, the road conditions could be very difficult in winter and we were afraid that the roads could be slippery, but fortunately there was no fog and we had a nice and safe ride. We had to wait for 2 hours at the airport but we weren't bored because our gifted friend Julek entertained us and other passengers playing the piano. For 3 students it was the first flight so they were a little bit stressed. After two hours of a smooth flight, without any turbulence, the plane landed at Brussels airport and after picking up our luggage we received a warm welcome by our hosting families and Belgian teachers. It was nice to meet our friends with whom we had contact on facebook. When we got into the cars we started communicating in English and we felt that it was the start of our official visit in Belgium.

Aleksandra Dukat & Nicola Maciagowska

2 Impression of KA Zottegem

When we arrived at KA Zottegem we were welcomed by a really big school which was surrounded by a lot of smaller buildings. We were told that those smaller buildings were primary school. Near the school there were several ping-pong tables and a soccer pitch, the pupils there seemed to have a great time. The KA Zottegem holds more than 1000 students which is almost 3 times more than in our school in Lithuania. All the students were waiting for their classes outside which is unusual for us. We were greeted by a school's headmaster, she looked very welcoming and happy to see us. Nice girl called Itza showed us the whole school and told us everything about their school activities, for example, how and where they have different kind of lessons. She even mentioned a STEM program which we have in our school too. Classrooms inside the KA Zottegem looked quite big but cozy at the



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same time. Overall, even though the school is bigger than the one we are from it's atmosphere is very homely like.

Tomas Klevas & Klaudijus Mackonis

The first impression of KA Zottegem was the enormous size of the whole campus. Though such a big number of students is not an unusual thing, we were impressed by the variety of various Fab Labs and classrooms. We found this type of school a bit American-style.

We were intrigued by how many children (especially from a primary school), were running and playing on a courtyard, despite bad weather conditions. It's nice that not everyone is glued to his/her mobile phone during the breaks yet.

The thing that really impressed us, was the technology used in this school. A lot of expensive and advanced equipment is free to use for students, such as plenty of iPads for example. We might have expected that, due to high living standards in Belgium, but we were really astonished, when we saw 3D Printers and a laser cutting machine in a Fab Lab, which everyone could use.

Summarizing - KA Zottegem, from the point of view of a visitor, seems to be quite a friendly place to study. Though some things (like the lack of students' cafeteria, where one can buy some snacks) surprised us a little, it's still a place we will remember as a nice school, providing excellent learning opportunities for students.

Jakub Drózd & Julian Margasinski

3 Ice Breaking Activities

On Monday morning we made some activities that helped us to know each other.

For example we played a very funny game in which we learned some characteristics of the other students. Then we played a game in which everyone had a card and we had to find another student with the same card. We enjoyed this game a lot because everyone was screaming the number of his card in his native language! Knowing the other students was very exciting and helpful for the course of the exchange

Bosotti Andrea & Visigalli Francesco



On the first day, Monday, we arrived at the KAZ school and we entered in a common-room with the rest of the Erasmus-groups. There were 5 groups in total: Belgium, Poland, Lithuania, Italy and Spain. We played 'human bingo' to discover all kinds of features to the other students. Afterwards they gave us a card. We had to find a student with the same card and then we had to talk about us. We think that when you arrive at a new place it is hard to establish a relationship. But all these activities helped us to meet new people and to be able to talk without being shy.

Later in the morning, we went to the Castle of Egmont, a public library, to give an introduction about our school and country.

Silvia Jiménez Ruiz, Manuel Heredia Carmona & Jonathan Pérez López

INNOVATIVE GENERATION

4 Hosting families

We were appointed to Femke De Rouck's family. The first impression that we had of them was at the airport. The parents of Femke (Kris and Hilde de Rouck) looked friendly, warm and welcoming. The trip to our new home was very short because we had a lot to talk about, for example, what pets they had, how was our flight, etc. When we arrived the house that we walked in was very tidy and beautiful, even though the house looked small from the outside the space inside was more than enough. We were living at the third floor of the house. The room was very big and clean and beautifully done. In the morning we had a lot of choices of what to eat for breakfast. We noticed that they eat a lot of chocolate. After tasty breakfast we drove with Femke's dad to school, he is a teacher in KA Zottegem. We had various activities in our free time like playing ps4, board games and probably the best thing that happened was the chance to go to the jacuzzi. We had a lot to talk about with the hosting family, they made us feel like at home. We were very thankful for an opportunity to stay with such a wonderful family.

Thomas Klevas & Klaudijus Mackonis



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My hosting family is really nice. When I first met them at the airport, I realized I was not going to have any problem with English and communicating, since they all speak really good English.

During the ride from the airport in Brussels to Zwalm (where their home is), their dad told me he is currently a teacher at MIT Uni in Boston. I was pretty amazed, because studying at MIT has always been my dream! I then understood that he was a very important person in Europe and the US, he wrote books and founded a few start-ups. He is a really smart man! During the week, he taught me some Dutch words and basic sentences: by the end of the week I could also count up to 25!

When I arrived home, I saw that it was on a farm: in fact, they have owned a farm with 15 horses and some chickens for 15 years already! Their house is really big, my room was on the third floor and it was very cozy. Also, the bed was fluffy and comfortable.

The first day I also discovered that the father is the greatest collector of old Apple products in Northern Europe: funnily enough, Apple is also my favorite company! He had an Apple exhibit in Hasselt on Monday 6th, so, instead of going to a “cheese and wine” evening at school with my friends, I went to the exhibit. It was so cool! I took loads of pictures as well!

I hope we will keep in touch later on, and of course, they’re always welcome in Italy!

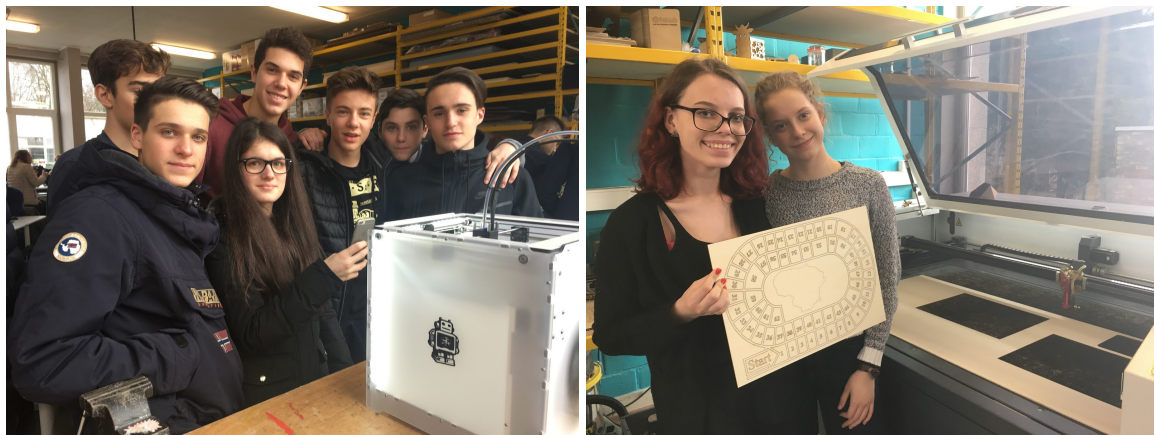
Davide Errico

5 Fablab

On Monday half of the Innovative Generation students had FabLab classes. Our aim was to create a new board game with our country flag in the middle by ourselves. We used newest technologies like 3D printer and laser cutter. We were divided into three groups. Each group worked with a specific goal. For example, our mission was to work with a computer and create our board on a special program, which was cut by a laser cutter later. Teachers and students were very friendly and helpful, when things were not going so well. Another group had to create a little board game figure using a 3D printer program. Our team member from Lithuania made a cute pyramid, which was printed using a 3D printer. The last group was making stickers with question marks and exclamation marks. They used a vinyl cutter to make it. When everything was done, we took stickers from their sheets and put them on the game board. After that we came up with questions about Lithuania. Questions were like “How many kings Lithuania had?”, “What is the capital of Lithuania?”. We also had some tasks to do, like they had to say the longest Lithuanian word “nebeprisikiškiakopūsteliaudavome”. When the games were completely done, we tried to play them in different nationality groups. It was very overwhelming to experience playing the board game that we made ourselves.

Toma Misiulyte & Migle Urbonaite

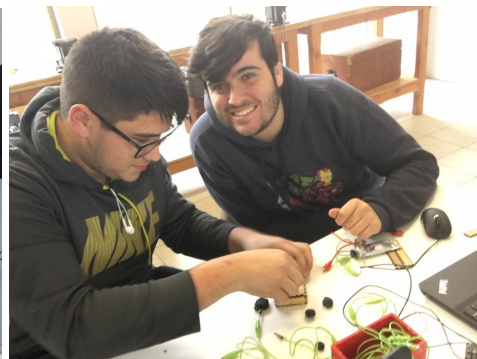
INNOVATIVE GENERATION



On thursday we went to the fabrication laboratory at school (FabLab) where we were organized in two groups. One group started programming a videogame called Ping-Pong using Scratch software. It was the first time we used this program and it was really interesting. The other group was designing a wooden box to put inside a motherboard to play the games the other group programmed. They taught us how to use a laser cutter which costs around 12,000 euros. Teachers and students were helping us to design the pieces and when we finished to design it, we could print it. Each of us has our own souvenir made at the FabLab. At the end we were able to play the game with our own controller and designed videogame.

David Moya Durán, Juan Muñoz Guzman & Jonathan Pérez López

INNOVATIVE GENERATION



For Erasmus+, we had to prepare a workshop for the foreign students. In our case, for the Italians and Lithuanians. Every Tuesday night and Saturday morning leading up to this day, we worked very hard on this workshop. We brainstormed, tried it out, failed, and tried again. We had to learn how to work with Inkscape, 123design and all the machines from scratch. We were very proud of the result and couldn't wait to show it to everybody.

We were really excited to give the workshop because we worked so hard on it. We started by explaining what we were going to make: a playboard. We did this in three groups, one for the board itself, one for the pawns, and one for the stickers, to make the game a little more interesting. We had made an example for Belgium, so that they would know what to do. First, each of us had to explain the tasks of the different groups.

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The first group made the boards with the lasercutter. They had to design it with their own country in the middle and cut it with the machine. The second group made the pawns with the 3D-printer. They designed them themselves with the 123D program and printed them to play the game with later on. The last group made stickers with the vinyl cutter. These stickers were pasted on various places on the board and had different meanings. For example, if you ended on top of a question mark, you had to pick a question card and answer it. This means they also had to look up questions about their country.

We were a bit nervous to give the workshop because it was our first day with them. But it turned out pretty well. The nervousness went away pretty quickly when we saw how well they were doing it. They all learned to work with the programs and machines and they did surprisingly well, considering that this was our first time teaching pupils.

We hope that they liked it and that they learned something new. We can't wait to see what kind of workshops we're going to do in their country.

Femke De Rouck & Hanna Van Cauwenberge

On Thursday we went to the laboratory fabrication at school (FabLab) where we were organized in two groups. One of them was programming a videogame called Ping-Pong using Scratch software. It is the first time we have used and it was so interesting. The another group was designing a box to put inside a motherboard to used play games.

They taught us how to use a laser cutter which costs around 12,000 euros. Teachers and students were helping us to design the pieces and when we finished to design it, we could print it. Each of us has our own souvenir made at the FabLab.

David Moya Dúran, Juan Muñoz Guzman & Francisco Moreno Rocha

More information about the Fablab in KA Zottegem: <http://fablab-zottegem.be/>



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We gave a workshop to the Spanish and Polish students in the Fablab today. We had been preparing it for months. This was because of the Erasmus+ project. Students from 4 different countries came to our little town Zottegem, Belgium.

Our idea was to create a game controller and a game to play. We used the laser cutter in the schools fabrication laboratory (FABLAB) to make a wooden controller case. Lauren instructed the students in the online program "scratch" where they could make their own mini-game. Kelly and me worked with the program "Inkscape" to make the controller design. The hardest thing was to overcome the language barrier. We tried hard and with English we were able to overcome that problem and communicate with everybody. Most students were interested in the project, had some fun and all had a cool laser cutted souvenir to take home.

We really enjoyed the experience to work with these foreign students. When we look back at it, there were a lot of things we could have done different. Things like taking too much time because some people weren't as fast as others. Some people also wanted different things and had different ideas. Some wanted to make it more of their own and personal, other people didn't want to do a lot and just copied everything from the model. The project could really get confusing that way, but it all ended well, with a playable game and a working game controller.

We hope the visiting students enjoyed doing the workshop as much as we enjoyed giving it.

Kelly Halbach, Lauren Schoupe & Margo Braeckman

6 Taking classes

On thursday we took some classes with the students from our hosting families. Classes in Belgium start at 8:20 in the morning. This was a surprise for us because in Lithuania lessons starts at 8:00. The first lesson for us should be biology, but the teacher was absent, so we stayed in the hall with our new classmates. It was a wonderful time for us, because we were able to talk with other students. They were very cool and friendly. Our first lesson was French. The whole lesson was dedicated for us. At first we were divided into groups. In each group there was one student from Lithuania. Students thought us how to say hello “Bonjour” or how to introduce ourselves. For example, je m’appelle Toma, Migle. We also learned how to count to twenty. Second lesson was mathematics. We were learning functions and the teacher was really nice: she was trying to teach us things that we will learn next year in our school. The best thing is that we understood almost everything! Third lesson was geography. The teacher was very ready for the lesson: all information was in English. Last lesson was German. We were trying to figure out the meaning of our names. To sum up, it was a very interesting to see how Belgian students are taking their classes.

Toma Misiulyte & Migle Urbonaite

Tuesday morning we experienced a typical Belgian morning at school. In the morning we attended 5 lessons: Latin, two lessons Dutch and another two of Italian. During the first one, the Latin teacher prepared for us a game that consisted to guess Latin sentences. We were divided in 3 teams and the winner was the one who had most of the points. The Dutch lesson was harder than the others and we spoke about the onomastics, the meaning and the origin. The last lesson was Italian and it was very interesting to see an Italian lesson by a foreign teacher. We preferred this lesson because we felt like teachers and we helped the students to learn Italian words and to write a text. The Italian teacher really impressed us:

we liked his method to teach and at the end of the lesson he decided to sing for us an Italian song, it was fantastic!

Niccolò Buffoni & Andrea Caimi

7 Visiting Brussels

On Tuesday, the second day of our exchange project, we went sight seeing Brussels. Unfortunately the weather was not so good, in fact it rained all day. When we arrived at the Central Station of Brussels, the first thing we saw was the Royal Palace. Later, we visited the Museum of Natural Science. We had a walk through the European Center. During the afternoon, we saw a lot of typical shops where we could try some Belgian food. We entered in Mary's shop where we tried the typical Belgian Chocolate and, of course, it was so good; then we tried some cheese and other typical sweets. We saw Manneken Pis, that is a small statue of a child.

Alice Bestetti & Beatrice Braga

On Tuesday we met early at the school and we went to Brussels by train. When we arrived in Brussels city center, there was a tourist guide waiting for us and he was explaining us the main monuments. We visited the European quarter and the Natural Science Museum. Then we went on sightseeing tour around Brussels and we tasted some typical food and could admire the beautiful Gothic style in the Grand Place and also the well-known Manneken Pis. We loved Belgium chocolate and waffles. After this, we walked on our own in the city. At half past six we took the train back Zottegem. We were very tired but it was great to enjoy with our new friends.

David Moya Dúran, Juan Muñoz Guzman & Francisco Moreno Rocha

INNOVATIVE GENERATION



8 Museum of Natural Sciences



On Tuesday we walked through the city of Brussels and we arrived at the Museum of Natural Science. It was divided in different sections: there were rooms with a lot of different types of birds, butterflies, insects and living spiders. It was a really big museum with a lot of rooms. We saw a room called “The History of Humans” which, in our opinion, was the best one.

There were also a lot of skeletons of dinosaur. The visit was really interesting and we enjoyed it.

Alice Bestetti & Beatrice Braga

INNOVATIVE GENERATION

On Tuesday 7th, February 2017, we visited the Natural Sciences museum in Brussels with the Belgian students of KAZ, in Zottegem. The visit started at 10:30 and finished at 12:30.

Inside the museum there are skeletons of many different types of dinosaurs, lots of taxidemed animals and pictures of different types of fishes.

We visited the museum divided in groups of 4-6 people, mixed with the different nationalities, trying to understand what that stranges things was, like different parts of fish bodies and the skulls of the animals.

There was also different stands with the evolution way of the human's feet and the evolution way of the monkeys.



Edoardo Grimoldi & Niccolò Soria Vittorelli

9 STEM-lesson: 3M-science

On Wednesday 8th, we had a STEM class with the Belgian students.

For those who don't know what STEM is: this project was created by 3M firm and it consists of a competition among students of different countries on smart solutions for daily life problems.

Each invention is presented in a video and uploaded to the Facebook page of the project.

The invention that gets more likes wins a prize of 10,000 euros!

We were divided into groups of 5/6. You normally have to build what you invent, too, but we didn't have enough time for that, so we limited ourselves to just coming up with the ideas and realizing the commercial videos.

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Our group solved a widely felt problem: discharge of cellphone battery.

When you're out of home you don't want your battery to run out, but we all know that this happens quite often. What do you then? Do you bring a power bank every time (which, of course, needs to be charged too)? NO! You wear our brand new coat, Charjacket. It has solar cells on the sleeves, which are connected to a cable that runs through the inside of the jacket and ends in your pocket. Free, light, and good for the environment!

Davide Errico

On Wednesday morning we concentrated on a real STEM-project. In group we had to think about a daily problem and a way to solve it with a science experiment. When we started, we found a lot of problems. The majority though, were already solved. Others were impossible to solve with a scientific experiment. At the end, we decide to invent a fantastic way to preserve our monuments. The solution? We would create a sort of spray that you can put on the monuments so it gets a strong protection. All the groups invented strange and unusual things that helps the life to be easier and the world to be better. At the end, each group made a video to present our ideas.

Niccolò Buffoni & Andrea Caimi

10 Bowling and stone grill dinner

On wednesday we went to Oudenaarde and at first we visited the centre of the city. Then we went to Bowling Stones, a place where you play bowling and than you eat meat on a hot stone. The bowling matches were really awesome and funny and the food was very good. There were also some slot machines in which we played since we finished eating until we had to go. We really enjoyed the experience and now we would like to go to play bowling in Italy.

Bosotti Andrea & Visigalli Francesco

On Wednesday afternoon, we went bowling to play all together but in the way we visited the town hall, architectural style is not the same as in Spain.

At the bowling place we had great fun because we had the opportunity to talk with all students and play with them. After two games everybody went to the tables to eat meat on the stone grill and a dessert. When food was over it was time to play billiards or table football. By that moment, we knew each others and we did not feel as ashamed as the first day, we were more comfortable in that environment. Time went pretty fast and it was time to go home.

Silvia Jiménez Ruiz, Manuel Heredia Carmona & Jonathan Pérez López

11 Feelings about visiting Belgium

The travel to Belgium was very short and not too tiring. When we arrived here we met our hosting family. They were very friendly with us, they explained us things about Belgium and we compared Belgium to Italy. An hour later we arrived at home by car.

My first sensation was of a very small and very isolated house, but later we discovered that it is a bigger home than we aspected and it is also very modern. We liked the food very much, also if it is very strange, but it tastes good.

Here the people are very friendly and our hosts always help us.

Edoardo Grimoldi & Niccolò Soria Vittorelli

Visiting Belgium was a really interesting experience. In fact, we hadn't known what to expect in Belgium, but we had imagined that the culture, people, traditions, cuisine, and also some other aspects, would differ from their Polish counterparts. We were wrong - it turned out that there were a lot of things, that we were familiar with.

The things we've enjoyed the most were sweets, which really tasted sweet (not like plastic), chocolate obviously, local beer - with a lot of different tastes. We really admired the rich architecture, which contains almost every kind of brick that exists in the world.

The traffic in Belgium seems not to be as heavy as in Poland, due to the fact that there are far fewer trucks on the roads. While going by car to our hosting families, we admired the Belgian landscape, which was pretty, but could've been much nicer if only the weather had been better.

Different from what we expected was breakfast - we are used to having a big meal, which includes ham, eggs, cheese, sausage etc. In Belgium very often it's a light and sweet meal. However, we really enjoyed fresh croissants and crispy bread rolls.

In general, we've found Belgium a beautiful country with tasty food and friendly people enjoying a high standard of life.

Jakub Drózd & Julian Margasinski

12 Compared to our school

Similarities and differences between our schools.

The schools in Kamienica Polska and in Zottegem are really different. Below there are the biggest differences that we have noticed.

	LO Kamienica Polska	KA Zottegem
SIZE	Our school is very small, we only have 6 classrooms)	The school has lots of different classrooms and Fab Labs
NUMBER OF STUDENTS	About 50	Over 1000
NUMBER OF TEACHERS	15 teachers	About 120 teachers
MARKS	1-6 (6 is the best)	A,B,C (A is the best)
LOCATION	On a hill surrounded by forest	In the centre of a small town
CLOAK ROOM	We leave our clothes in lockers	No place to leave coats and jackets
CANTEEN	We have to bring sandwiches to school	Students have lunch in a school canteen
LESSONS	From 8:00 to 15:00	From 8:20 to 16:05
AGE OF STUDENTS	16-19 years old	12-18 years old
WAY OF TEACHING	More theory than practice	A lot of practical activities, working in groups, doing projects

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On Monday we've visited the school (the KAZ in Zottegem) for the first time. We went there with our hosting student and, after some ice-breaking activities, Belgian students showed us their school. It is a big and modern school with a lot of places where students can stay. It has a lot of new and different classrooms and there are a lot of students, about 1145. It's different from our school, which is as big as that but has much less students and it's older. Another big difference between KAZ and Italian schools in general is that in the Belgian students have to change their classrooms every time they have a different lesson, while in Italy you are always in the same classrooms and teachers move from one to another, and I think this is the biggest difference we've seen between our schools. Anyway there are also similar things in our schools, the biggest for example is that they both have technology like computers and interactive whiteboards.

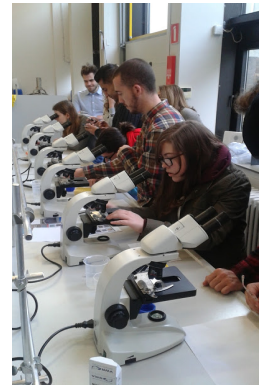
Luca Barbaglia & Simone Fusè



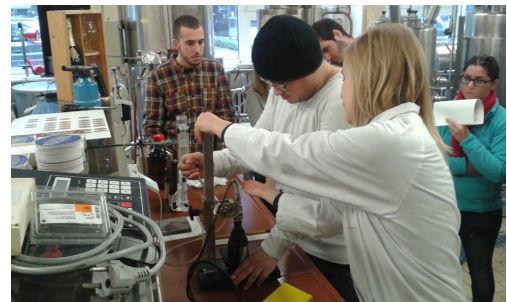
13 Visiting Ghent

On Friday we went to Ghent. The University of Ghent was very pleased to welcome us in their research institution. We visited several labs at the faculty of applied biosciences.

In the lab of environmental technology we learned about water pollution and the influence on (good) bacteria. We had the opportunity to prepare a microscopic slide, using a micropipet. We were able to look at several bacteria.



After this scientific activity we went to the brewery of the University of Ghent. We were very surprised: a beer brewery in Ghent? In fact they are constantly doing experiments over there! Checking the concentration of CO₂, checking the amount of sugar and so on. In fact, when a brewery has a problem with taste, colour or foam they contact this research group and ask for a 'check-up'. We determined the concentration of the beer 'Gentse Strop' and could see the level was just fine!



They also have a bakery at the faculty of applied sciences. Just like the brewery, it's not that they are baking bread in large amounts. But they bake bread so they are able to carry out some tests. During these tests they determine the parameters which are important for the elasticity and amount of air in the bread. After the testing, we could do some tasting: great!

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Final destination at the University was the lab where they investigate cookies and other food. One of the important things is looking for the presence and the amount of metal elements.



After a nice lunch at the university we went to the centre of Ghent. We got to know some historical buildings during a boat trip. The guide showed us the main three towers of Ghent, the ancient fortified castle Gravensteen, the nice watersides Graslei and Korenlei and many more.



After some free time we sailed back to Zottegem where we enjoyed a farewell drink.

14 Looking forward

We were looking forward to this week for months. We couldn't wait to see all the other students who enjoyed the project. The moment we saw them, we knew it would be a week we would never forget.

It has been such an amazing week and we had the chance to meet every single person. They were all so kind and it was like we knew each other for years. Because of this we felt really comfortable around them. The fact that we also can go to their country makes it even more awesome. We'll go to Lithuania and Italy. Although we go in October 2017 and April 2018, we are already looking forward to it. The countries are so different from each other, which makes this project more special. Lithuania has the beautiful nature with all the lakes. The school we will visit is not that far from Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. We are so glad we get the opportunity to move out of the buildings and go into the "wild". We were the hosts of the Lithuanian students, so we felt how warm and kind people are. Italy on other hand is so modern but also old because of the beautiful architecture. The students of Italy are social. They make friends so easily. When we go to their country, we know that they will receive us very well. We can't wait to visit their countries, because we know it will be the time of our lives.

This week made us a really close group. We will feel very comfortable in Italy and Lithuania. This is because at the end of the week we could notice that all the students weren't just friends... they are family to us.

Femke De Rouck and Hanna Van Cauwenberge