

Denys Tretiak - STEP 2011 Feedback
„Ahoj! Jmenuji se Denys!

Já jsem z Ukrajiny!“

„Hello! My name is Denys!

I am from Ukraine“

“Hallo! I heiÙe Denys!

Ich komme aus der Ukraine!“

From these phrases our Short Term Exchange Programme 20/08-02/09 2011 in Jihlava (Czech Republic) started.

STEP-2011 became one of the most memorable events that will get a deserved place in the book of my life. Two weeks of staying in Jihlava were amazing and anyone, who hesitates to take or not part in the program next years (hopefully, the program will continue), should brush his/her doubts away and go to Jihlava.

Why can I say such words? You will understand everything after reading the whole document.

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So, everything started with warm greetings of the Czech side on the railway station. Nice representatives (teachers and students) of Vysoká škola polytechnická Jihlava (College of Polytechnics Jihlava) gave us a cordial welcome and settled us in Mahleruv penzion „Na hradbách“ (3-5 persons in one apartment), a good place for relaxing with cozy rooms, but slightly unvaried breakfasts. After accommodation and some welcome photos our two weeks of eventful and interesting Czech story began.

As this program is educational one I should say about courses we had.

The most important courses we attended were Czech language courses. Division of the whole group into two smaller groups allowed us to learn language more actively and effectively. Wholeheartedly two nice teachers were teaching us this interesting language, organizing different interactive games, dialogs, drawing, pantomime etc. To be honest, for me, Czech was not very difficult and I even could understand some phrases of teachers and people on the street beginning from the first days of my staying in Jihlava. The reason of

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it is that I am from Ukraine and my
mother tongues are Ukrainian and Russian,
which with Czech belong to Slavic
language family. This fact created me illusion
that I know Czech very well and
sometimes it made bad jokes with me when I
tried to invent new words using
Ukrainian ones and hoped that the same words
exist in Czech. You should remember

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that in some cases the familiar word in
Russian or Ukrainian mean opposite in Czech:
e.g. "cerstvý" in Czech means "fresh", but
sounds as "dry/stale" in Ukrainian.

Jihlava Zoo attending was one of the most
interesting parts in Czech learning.
We could see and admire not only this lovely
and well-organized zoo with wide
variety of animals, but also learn new words
of animals' determination with
adjectives appropriate to them in Czech.
Everybody who will go to Jihlava should
definitely see the performance with birds in
the Zoo. It charms to see free flight of
birds and sometimes have massage of your head
when a huge eagle sits on it:)

Another interesting event was quest game -
Schnitzeljagd in Jihlava - where
we had different tasks to solve in the city in
Czech language. Finding solutions with
using obtained knowledge in Czech was

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fascinating. As a result my team got the first
place and I am very proud of it:)

The most comic situation with Czech happened
in the local cinema. When film
started, it occurred that it is in Czech (we
supposed it would be in English). So we
were totally absorbed in Czech for two hours.

Despite Czech courses we had another ones
related to basis of computer nets
and web in practice with basis of PHP
programming, well-structured courses with
some practical exercises.

The lion's share of the program was engaged
with field trips to Czech
companies:

- . OPTOKON Co., Ltd. spol. s r.o. - a leading
global designer and manufacturer
of fiber optic network solutions;
- . Valeo Compressor - a part of Valeo Group, an
independent industrial Group
fully focused on the design, production and
sale of components, integrated
systems and modules for the automotive
industry, mainly for CO2 emissions
reduction. Valeo Compressor in Czech Republic
is oriented in thermal systems
that ensure greater efficiency and autonomy,

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longer-lasting components, as well as greater comfort, whatever the outside temperature;

- . Bosch Diesel, s.r.o. - a part of Bosch Group, one of the leading global suppliers of technology and services. Bosch Diesel, Jihlava main activities are production of Diesel fuel injection systems;
- . Centropen a.s. - a producer of high-quality writing and drawing supplies, designed for the broadest possible utilization.

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These trips were very interesting with warm audience in conference rooms, tours to automated production lines and good guides, experts in their spheres.

But not only education was a part of our program...

In the first sentences I mentioned about two pretty students, who greeted us when we arrived. I would like to say them additional appreciations. These two girls provided us entertainments after courses and were good guides during excursions to Czech cities.

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The list of entertainments and cities is a big one (in the measurement of two weeks).

During our staying in Czech Republic we visited such cities as:

- . Telc - with its amazing square, more than 70 buildings with different facades on it and Gothic castle;
- . Trebíč - with panoramic view on the city from the church tower and Jewish quarter;
- . Dacice - the home of sugar cube, big castle and old park neat it;

and, of course,

- . Prague - it was not planned but we could not miss it. I was there the second time in my life and I would exactly say that for now it is one of the leaders in the list of places I would like to visit again.

Among the entertainments in Jihlava we easily found modern shopping center near our accommodation, disco clubs, snooker, bowling, restaurants etc. College club, where all students of the city gather each party day, became our favorite place

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to relax with rhythmic dance music,
comfortable sofa, table football (wuzzleln) and
cheap prices. This club was marked with
birthday celebration of one of the students
of the program.

It is another story, a story of our
entertaining which is worthy to be written in
many-many pages but not in this feedback.

In some words I would like to say words of
gratitude to 16 group members of
STEP-2011 group. I had great pleasure to meet
them all, different, smart, cheerful,
good-natured etc. They all are young
generation of people who will build our
future.

So, after having known them, I am sure that
our future will be great!

Thanks everybody who took part in organization
of this program. We had good
atmosphere with lovely people around.

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Thanks for opportunity to take part in this
program as an incoming student
(student from Ukraine). Ukraine is not yet a
part of European Union, but, hopefully,

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it will be this one in early future. Such programs in Europe help to understand the various aspects of European family's state members, in economics, in culture, in geographical opportunities etc. I am sure that my experience in knowing such aspects will help not only me in my future work, but also my native country which I love and I would like to make life there better, because now it is more clear what could be our competitive advantages.

Thanks for international experience, for opportunity to know new people, to feel new emotions, to open new horizons, pages, unknown before!

Thank you for carefree pastime in Jihlava, Czech Republic!

Not everything can be said in these small feedback, not everything - by words, something left inside me...

would like to go back and be a part of
Stránka 8

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STEP2011 group again:(

And some words to continuers of Jihlava
experience:

Go to Jihlava!

Use your chance!

And...

Do not forget that everything is for free and
free time spending in Jihlava is
cheap:).

Best regards,

Denys Tretiak

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