

Elias Elonheimo, Finland
Bulgaria Diary

Monday

In the morning I was still a bit confused. Travelling with my mates the previous day was great. Just as I had anticipated. On Monday we were shown the school, gave presentations of our country and school and visited a polytechnical museum. Our presentation was OK. I wasn't too happy for my performance but it wasn't too bad. At the museum the tour guide/chemist educated us about the history of cars, rose oil and glass production. And gave us a (not so) brief history of recording music. He also showed us how to filter water using cotton wool and charcoal. Vinski almost killed himself by drinking his half-filtered brewing. The tour guide/chemist did some cool chemistry experiments including the legendary elephant toothpaste experiment. On the way back Vinski didn't try to obliterate any poles with his head.

Tuesday

In the morning we went to a local science center Muzeiko. Me and my group went and did some chemistry wizardry. The instructor said that I must have a Bulgarian partner when we were divided into pairs. She said that every pair has to have a Bulgarian so that they could read what's what. So she changed my place and I was like "Well isn't this great!". Firstly the chemical compounds were named by the formulas which are the same internationally so it was unnecessary to move me on the other side of the table. And the second thing is... I didn't even have a pair. So the instructor messed up. After the chemistry part we went and dried some newspapers. They said that we were recycling paper but I think I was just training my patience. When we were leaving Muzeiko I bought some souvenirs to bring home. In the shop there was some really cool stuff! I couldn't buy everything so I decided to buy an egg cell and a sperm cell. They are ridiculously soft and cute! It would've been great to go on a hike but unfortunately that was canceled.

Wednesday

Museum at Pernik. I wasn't too excited to make a pot out of clay but the rest of the museum was interesting. Next was a mining museum. We had a tour guide explaining how mining was done in different decades. It was colder than I had thought inside the mine. After the mine we went to a restaurant where we waited 100 minutes for bread. The food followed right after. The restaurant had forgotten that we were coming. In the schedule

there was supposed to be a workshop after lunch but there wasn't. And even if there would have been one we would have been waiting for bread at that time. A little break before we went to the train station and almost froze to death. The train was half an hour late. It was a great prank.

Thursday

University visit didn't go as planned. No workshops. No Q&A with the professor. Basically just standing and listening to some mumbo jumbo about physics. They showed us their brand new library just to kill some time! I wasn't too happy about the visit. Fortunately after that we went for a pizza. I couldn't help but notice that Anton's host Victoria was nowhere to be seen. Nevertheless we had fun and ate well. The last thing we did on Thursday was a drawing for a drawing contest. My idea for the drawing was pure genius. Partly because of its genius I had this feeling that others wouldn't understand it.

Friday

The idea was to measure air pollution with some app. The app didn't work and it was raining. We were given a tour of the city instead. Next up was a scavenger hunt in the school. We kind of didn't read the whole text so we screwed up. Still we managed to finish the puzzle. While still working on the puzzle I wasn't feeling too good. I was really hungry so I went and grabbed some kebab. I don't have any complaints about the party that followed the puzzle.