



Greetings from tomorrow

Second exchange in France (Bretigny-sur-Orge)

"Global Warming and Communities Today"

24th - 28th of April 2017

Finnish team diary

Preface

This diary is about our Erasmus+ student exchange to Brétigny-Sur-Orge in France, just south of Paris. It is written by the Finnish students Aleksander Heino, Siri Hetta and Lilli Rantanen. All the photos are taken by them. The teachers participating the project were Virpi Vatanen and Jouni Kovero.

The topic of the activities was *"Global Warming and Communities Today"*. We participated in different workshops and excursions around the city and its surroundings.

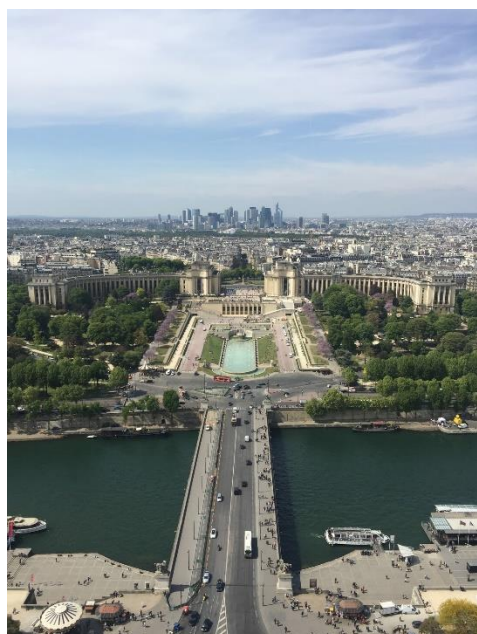
Sunday 23th April

So ladies and gentlemen, bucken up your seat belts because we are going to write about our fabulous journey to France!

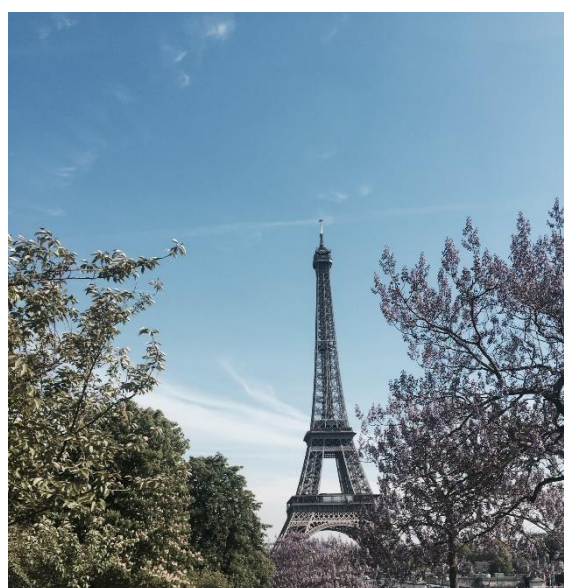
It was a cloudy and cold Sunday when we started our trip to sunny Paris. We were looking forward to weeks programme in Erasmus co-ordination *"Greetings from Tomorrow"* and specially we were anxious to meet our hosts and other students.



Monday 24th April



The first day at school was pretty chill, we met up in a classroom where everyone gave a small presentation about our schools and countries. It was nice, seeing how some people go to small schools, and on the others to schools with hundreds and hundreds of people. After that we went to



have a lunch in school big cafeteria. We had a selection of salad, main course and dessert. Then we took a local train to to Paris and visited a few places, for example

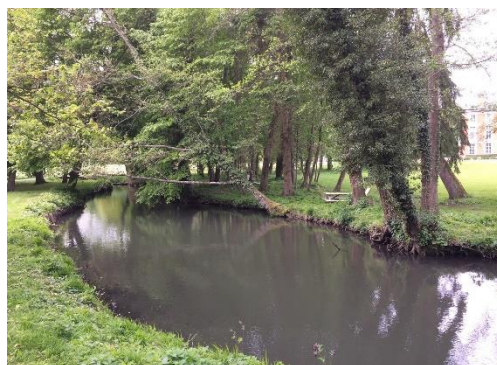
The Eiffel Tower. We climbed all 674 steps to the second floor, we felt a little tired after that. Visiting the Eiffel tower was the last thing in school's program, and we could go on to have some free time, we used it well, we roamed a bit in Paris centre, ate in Macdonalds, and after that went back to Brétigny-sur-Orge.

Tuesday 25th April

The school started only at 8:45, so we didn't need to wake up too early. In school we had workshops greenhouse gases, then we created masks from recycled materials. There was a costume day at school so we had a great time seeing them with a full face of makeup and great costume ideas. The school's parade was quite interesting! It made me feel like WOW, we don't have that kind of a community in our school.



Later in the evening we visited the Chamarande, were told about it's history from 17th century to modern times and spent the evening enjoying the nature in the park.

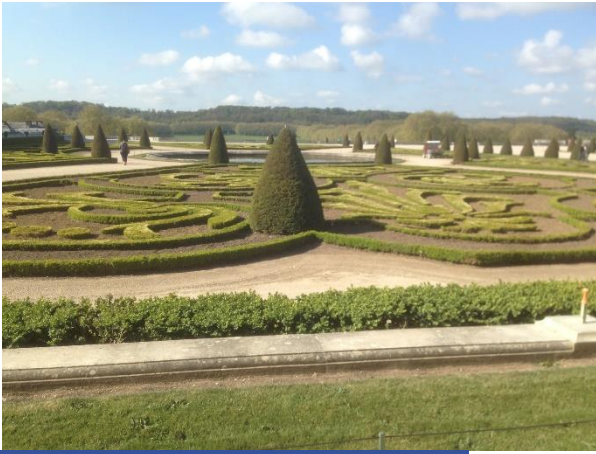


Wednesday 26th April

On Wednesday we had to wake up very early, because we met up at train station at 7:30. But thinking back, the early morning and the tiredness were well worth it. After meeting at the train station we headed up to Versailles. The trip was long and most people were asleep on the train.

This day was great, we saw the huge palace of Versailles, where they signed the peace contract in 1919. The palace was really interesting and during the whole tour it fascinated to imagine what would it be like to be a princess three centuries ago? Maybe I would have had my own white horse? Or maybe my servants were my secret best friends? Seeing all those royal chambers got us excited.





After walking around this beautiful place we sat down for a picnic near a lake, to my surprise there were some huge fish swimming in there!



After our improvised picnic, it started raining. Luckily everyone had eaten at that point, so it didn't interfere with our plans.



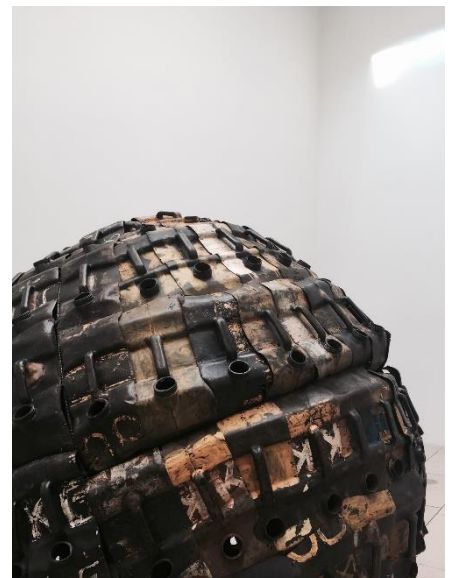
We had a free evening that day, and we went to see the Champs-Élysées.

Thursday 27th April

We again woke up early and met up in front of train station at 7:30 am. After that we went to the Foundation Louis Vuitton for a small tour. The architect who designed this building is Frank Gehry.



Gehry is a world-famous architect who has designed lots of well-known attractions like Guggenheim museum in Bilbao and Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. It wasn't what we expected it to be but it was interesting. We were told about the history of the foundation and the park surrounding it. There were a lot of pieces of contemporary art which were a bit difficult to approach. After the guided tour inside of the building, we had our lunch at the University. We had never seen such a good lunch, it was amazing.



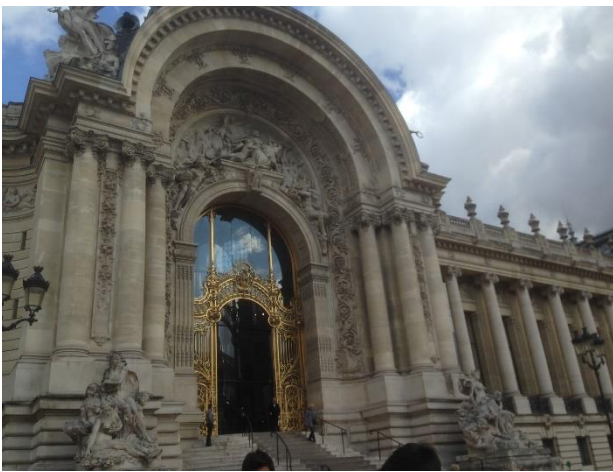


They had like four different meals and starters and desserts and stuff. Right after the lunch me and the other Finns decided to go explore the environment a little.

After lunch we took the train to city centre.



There we visited Victory Arc and went on a river exploring on Seine, it was great, even though it rained while we were there!



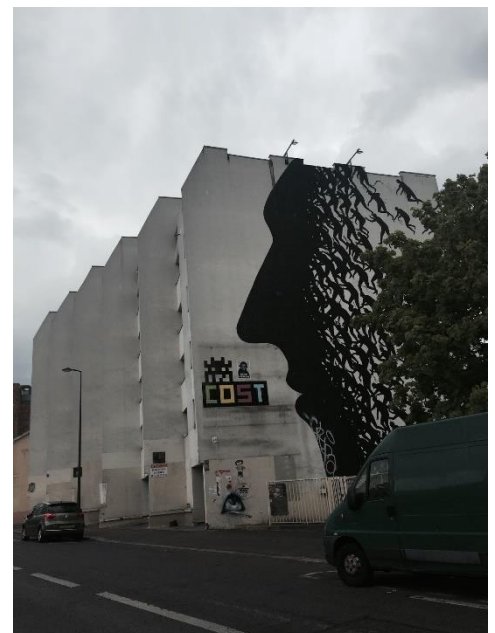
Friday 28th April

From the morning on we made some posters and prepared a Flashmob where we sang, that everybody should save the planet. This was demonstrating the purpose of this project, environmental awareness.



We spent some time hanging out in the school that day. The last part of our programme was visiting Paris for one last time and to go to see paintings in the walls. (And to have some great Indian tea!)

Though we had a lot to walk again, it was great to see the 'quiet' side of Paris.





Later that day we had a party at school which was organized by the host families, I think the foods were awesome and delicious! Evening started with planting a tree to demonstrate sustainable development and the importance of nature to mankind.

Saturday 29th April

In the morning I felt excited to return to my own bed and my own bathroom. Our host families were so kind for us during the week. Their hearts must be made of gold or something :) We can't wait to see our hosts!! It's only a year to wait.

Conclusion

The week was nice but there were too much walking. We know that we walked a lot because it is greener than using cars or public transport but still in some cases we could have used city metro. It was nice seeing people from different countries and raised in different cultures! But even though, one can still see that Europe has had a big effect on traditions and culture of countries, and the difference between free time activities and spending the evenings is not as big as it used to be. People got along pretty well, we learned a lot of French during that trip!