

Our stay in Hasselt - Belgium

The International Exchange week started at the 24th of April. 6 students of social Work took part in the travel to Hasselt, Belgium. The participants were Steffi, Martina, Alessja, Anja, Ronny and me, Andreas.

We all met at 8.40 am at the west station in Jena. The travel took 7 hours. As we finally arrived Hasselt, the Belgian organizer Ilse Vanderstukken welcomed us warmly. Our accommodation was like a hostel. It was situated near the school. It's called "Kiekkenkot". That means in German "Hühnerstall".

In the evening we gambled a bit. We played "UNO" with our colleagues from Emden till late in the night.

Monday

In the morning all the participants of the International University Week met each other at the "Hoogeschool XIOS". They came from the Netherlands, Austria, Spain, Norway, Czech Republic and Canada. Everybody introduced him/herself to get to know all the people around.

In the afternoon professor Dresler joined us. He went to Belgium by car.

In the evening we got a volleyball match. We built two teams with mixed nationalities. We had much fun playing this game. Ice-Hockey and football were offered, too. As we decided for volleyball.

In the evening we checked out some taverns and had some beer.

Tuesday

Tuesday morning, Martin held a guest lecture. He is an African who talked about non-material and self-confidential thinking.

At noon we had a field visit. That means one group with six members went to an institution where social workers do their jobs.

We had a field visit in "Bezoek Act Desiron". It's an institution where chronically ill patients and long-term unemployed people are physically made fit for life. There are rehabilitation courses and other physical training programs.

Wednesday

At 9 in the morning we went to the school like every morning but this time we could talk to some Belgian students of social work. They were very nice and polite. We had to represent Jena and our University of Applied Sciences.

After the lunch we visited the student Regatta of Hasselt which had an important tradition to this university. Hundreds of people watched down from the bridge to the race. The XIOS Hoogeschool earned the second place.

After this great spectacle a party started on the whole bridge. We went into a big tent to get some beer and had a little dance.

Thursday

At 8 am our professor Dresler who was invited as guest lecturer spoke about social medicine. He talked about mentally diseases like schizophrenia , depression and senile dementia. He also showed us a video about depressed people, their symptoms and how they live.

After the lunch we visited another field of social work. The institution was called “Klavertje 4”, which means in german “Vierblättriges Kleeblatt”. There people can come to eat for less money, play cards and talk to other people. Everybody can go there, even if you are young or old, got more money or only less of it.

In the afternoon a politician hold a speech about the European Union. Afterwards this man handed over our certificate of the XIOS Hoogeschool Limburg.

In the late evening we all went into a disco club, which was called “Ritz”. Everybody of the exchange week were there to make party, even our organizer Mrs Vanderstukken. We danced the whole night long and got much fun with all of the others.

Friday

Friday morning we all went to the Hoogeschool and said goodbye to everyone and “Dankewell” to Mrs. Vanderstukken for her great organization.

Alessja, Martina, Anja, Steffi, Andreas und Ronny