

International University Week (IUW) 2014 Linz/ Austria – English Abstract

Arriving from the Austrian capital Vienna, our IUW experience already started on Sunday (3/30/2014), when we first arrived at the youth hostel. Since all guest students had their accommodation in the same hostel, we had the great opportunity to already get to know many other students from other European – such as Belgium, the Netherlands or France.

On Monday morning we started our program with a small welcome reception in the aula of the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria/Linz, where we could choose our seminars and field trips for the week and received important information. After some lectures for all students we ended our day with our “highlight” of the day: the *world café*, where all participating students had the chance to introduce themselves and their own university.

On Tuesday we started with more seminars, which included a variety of different topics such as: “strength of family networks” or “migration: people`s life – our work”. After having lunch in a nearby restaurant – apparently there was no canteen for students – we went to the city center to have a city tour. For us, this was one of the few moments where we had the chance to get to know our tutors. Like all other days the program ended quite early in the afternoon, so that we seized the opportunity to get into contact with the other guest students

During a field visit trip on Wednesday we had the chance to see some Austrian social work institutions (e.g.: a refuge for the homeless or a refugee center). Our day ended with a quite interesting lecture for all students, held by guest students from Bournemouth, England.

Thursday was already our last day before our departure on Friday morning. Again we joined the seminars and ended the IUW with a final farewell party.

Summarizing our experiences we come to the conclusion, that the IUW is a great possibility to make new transcultural experiences and can be a first step towards international exchange projects as ERASMUS or others.

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