

# Report České Budejovice 2023

The International University week (IUW) was offered as part of Module 1.213 Elective 1. In addition to the locations Emden and Linz, participants could also travel to Budweis this year and attend the events there.

Instead of this report, the achievement could also have been achieved by designing a workshop. Two fellow students and I prepared a workshop together with the professor Dr. Opielka, but before it could be finalized, the professor fell ill and cancelled his participation in the IUW. This meant for us that we had to cancel the workshop, because we could not have imagined the elaboration and the methodological approach on our own.

In addition, we were supposed to present an image of our university/city/state/country. We decided to shoot a small "image video", in which we presented mainly the Ernst-Abbe-Hochschule, but also the city of Jena. 3 hours of shooting and 3 hours of editing were put into the video by my commoliton F. and me.

The journey was self-organized and I was offered a place in the car of a commoliton. Together we drove the whole day through the countryside of Bohemia winding country roads, because we wanted to avoid the toll highways and enjoyed the view to the fullest.

Arriving at the accommodation we could occupy the rooms. Since my roommate was not present at the time, I did not get into my room and went to their room with the others instead. The view from the 10th floor of the dormitory brought some joy at least for a short time before we noticed the water damage on the ceiling. Fortunately, the fellow students were assigned a new room and I was also able to go to my room afterwards, since I was able to find the roommate quite quickly and capture the key.

Monday started with a bunch of welcome speeches by various professors of the University of České Budejovice. After the really meager meal at noon, we were also allowed to present our image video. Since we as the Jena group had to present first, the

excitement was great. But the video was amusing and well received by the audience. Afterwards we were allowed to listen to the presentations of the other students from Denmark, Belgium, Bremen (Germany), France, Austria and Spain. Between quite tough presentations, funny video snippets and exciting quizzes, everything was there. Afterwards we could browse the "Students market", where each group offered something typical from their country or region for tasting. Since we were not allowed to serve our regional beer due to alcohol prohibition at the university, we had no choice but to stuff our bellies with chocolate and licorice from Belgium, Austria and France.

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME lectures/workshops			
TUESDAY 18. 4. 2023	07:30 - 08:30	BREAKFAST - STUDENTS (University Refectory)			
	8:30 - 11:00	EXCURSION 1, 2 8:30 at meeting point St. Veronica's Home Hospice Home for the Elderly "Máj"	EXCURSION 3, 4 8:30 at meeting point Home for the Elderly "Hvizdal" Arpida (Center for People with Combined Disability)	EXCURSION 5, 6 8:30 at meeting point Fokus (Center for People with Mental Handicap) Salesian Youth Centre	EXCURSION 7, 8 8:30 at meeting point Police str. "Máj" "Pleasure without risk"
	11:00 - 13:30	LUNCH (University Refectory)			
	13:30 - 15:00	Lecture topic (Auditorium A) Green Social Work Michal Opielka Michal Opielka: Green Social Work and Green Social Policy	WSH (room US) Mobility and Social Work Can M. Aybek Chances and Challenges of Digital Interpretation Services in Health and Social Care Settings	WSH (room US) Medical Social Work Alicia Pareis Bayerri, Fran Calvo Drug use and drug dependence: Social aspects and stereotypes	WSH (US) Evidence Based Social Work Katarina Minarovičová Social work with biological families of children placed in institutional care
	15:30 - 15:45	BREAK			
	15:45	STUDENT'S ACTIVITY - CITY TOUR			

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME lectures/workshops			
WEDNESDAY 19. 4. 2023	07:30 - 08:30	BREAKFAST - STUDENTS (University Refectory)			
	8:30 - 9:00	BRIEFING (Auditorium A)			
	9:00 - 10:30	WSH (Auditorium A) Mobility and Social Work Salim Murad Anti Bias Workshop: Imagining Diversity in Social Work Education, (From the Perspective of Cultural Semiotics)	WSH (room US) Green Social Work Bert Nissen Green social work	WSH (room US) Medical Social Work Christian Mallic-Skau Managing aggressive behaviour in social work	WSH (U 9) Green Social Work Jutta Verströeten Animal Assisted Intervention and Social Work
	10:30 - 10:45	BREAK			
	10:45 - 12:15	WSH topic (Auditorium A) Mobility and Social Work Renata Švestková Exploring cultural differences – intersectionality	WSH (room US) Green Social Work Nanna Jørgensen The therapeutic mobilities of Pilgrimage Walking: A study of the health impacts of walking the Norwegian St. Olav Way	WSH (room US) Mobility and Social Work Klim Nørbygaard Intercultural competence and social work	WSH (U 9) Mobility and Social Work Kristina Vesama, Karl Keuro Photovoice -method

In the evening we were invited to the big welcome party. Before that, we organized something for dinner. What turned out to be quite difficult, because in the kitchen of the dormitory there were neither dishes nor cutlery nor pots or the like. However, with an oven rack we managed to heat up frozen pizzas, only to be surprised by a huge buffet at the party. The party should rather have been advertised as a "welcome dinner", since virtually all participants had eaten beforehand and so there was an extremely large amount of food left over from the buffet. However, we were able to pack the rest and use it for the next days.

Tuesday started with exciting excursions, which I unfortunately missed due to a misunderstanding. Afterwards, I went to the cafeteria to eat lunch and was surprised by an omelet dripping with oil. I could barely get down three bites and had to throw away most of the food. The quality of the food did not improve much the following days, so we were increasingly prepared and brought sandwiches for the breaks.

In the afternoon I took part in a workshop of the Spanish students about drugs. There was not much new content, but there were exciting discussions in which different positions were represented, for example on the legalization of drugs, but also on personal attitudes and reflection on consumption.

The last item on the program on Tuesday was a guided tour of the city. An extremely dedicated student from Budejovice lightened us for 1.5 hours about various historical buildings and stories from Budweis, while two groups were guided exclusively for 15 minutes to the tourist attractions!



Wednesday started with a lecture on "mental hygiene" and prevention of burnout. Again, the content seemed familiar, but that was because I am currently reading a book on the subject. Afterwards, I attended a workshop of the Czech students on the topic of intersectionality. Besides a theoretical input, groups consisting of participants from

different countries worked out different privileged groups. Afterwards, the different countries compared their results and came to similar conclusions. In Europe, the adult, white, national language speaking, educated, rich, hetero-cis male seems to enjoy the most privileges everywhere.

In the afternoon I attended an event called "Animal Assisted Intervention, Activity and Therapy". The professor (!) from Budweis showed almost exclusively videos in Czech and tried to translate them into English. The criticism of a Belgian professor, who had also offered a workshop on the same topic, bounced off. For example, it was criticized that the animals (in one video one saw an elephant with open wounds) did not enjoy it. The answer of the lecturing professor was that she was first concerned with the clients and their healing process. In addition to the methodological-didactic disaster, the workshop was also cruel in terms of content, which the participants (students and teachers) agreed on.



In the afternoon, all participants went on an excursion to a castle about 20 minutes away by bus. We climbed the high mountain but decided against the guided tour, which would have cost about 9 euros and went for a walk in the castle park.



Thursday was characterized by quite long workshops. I attended the workshop "Use creative Arts Therapy in a Medical Social Work. After we were taught the content of the topic, we were allowed to paint a picture in pairs in the role of the clients, so to speak. The task was to create an animal, which was fused from one animal per person. So to paint an animal mix from two animals. Afterwards we were supposed to write down a few words about the animal in 3 sentences. Together with my roommate we painted an "elefly". So a fusion of elephant and butterfly. We named the creature Funky Fred. Since he became very colorful, we attributed a subtle drug addiction to him. Besides his vegan lifestyle and occasional accidents with airplanes, we attributed to Funky Fred a love of music festivals.

Unfortunately, there was no time left for an evaluation of the content, but our work caused a lot of enthusiasm.

In the evening there was the big "Goodbye Party" next to an even more abundantly filled buffet than at the first party an excellent band played. There was dancing and as soon as the band was finished the stage was occupied and students spontaneously made music themselves.

On Friday the week was evaluated with a questionnaire and certificates and diplomas were handed out. However, since each participant had to go on stage alone, the whole story became a seemingly endless ceremony. A brewery excursion was offered as the crowning finale of the IUW. Unfortunately, I missed this highlight because some of my fellow carpool members fell ill and wanted to leave early. So we got back into the car in the best weather and drove back on the autobahn, this time with tolls.

Besides the sometimes more sometimes less well organized events, it is the many memories around them that remain. Whether it was a night tour with a bunch of Austrian students through České Budejovice, a visit to a dance bar with students of different nationalities or the visit to a student pub with their own compatriots from Bremen, the open and cordial nature of the newly established contacts remains in memory.