

## TRAVEL TO EUROPE ALBANIA 2015 – STUDENTS’ IMPRESSIONS

### Artemisa Hidri

This current summer I took a trip to Europe. Well, the reason I went on this trip and got the chance to go see all these fantastic places was because I got selected to travel abroad with a program of Robert Bosch Foundation, carried out by the “Mjaft” movement. Through this program, students experienced educational travel that opens minds and lets us experience many different cultures of the world. In order to be a part of this program you had to be chosen. You went through a process of filling out your application, writing an essay, getting recommendations, and going to an interview.

It truly did change my life for the better. So since we went over some background information that that leads me to talk about the places I went to!

I went to many intriguing places including Slovenia, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Spain. Some places that you should definitely go to is the Louvre and Eiffel tower in France. In Germany, you should go to the castle of Koln, but don’t forget to just walk around and see all the different and ravishing cities! In Spain, you have to go to see the center of Barcelona, which is amazing and take a ride. But we can’t forget the Netherlands. While there don’t forget to visit the Ana Frank House.



To start with, France, without any question is place you have to go to if your ever there. Now everyone knows about the Eiffel Tower, but experiencing it for yourself, is truly amazing. You’re

able to see the entire city from the top, which was jaw dropping for me. The Louvre was absolutely fantastic. Actually getting to see so many of the masterpieces of the world that I've learned about in class was mind blowing, especially when I saw the Mona Lisa. To continue with, Germany is also another place that you should definitely consider. There was always so much to do and so many sites to see, The Castle of Koln was really a beautiful site, and it was astronomical! The only thing that wasn't as fun was climbing all those stairs! Just in general, Germany had such a pleasant atmosphere and everyone was so friendly! It was truly one of my favorite countries that I went to. Last but definitely not least...the Netherlands! One of my favorite places was the Anne Frank house. All my life I've heard of everything she went through, but to actually be in the place she stood and struggled, to read the actual journal she wrote in, it was astounding. There was so much emotion and history, and a mix of feelings that hit me when I actually climbed those stairs, and stood in the cramped space that was her room. I was just extremely honored to even be there.

In conclusion, this trip really did have an impact on my life though. It was such an eye-opener to see and really experience the different parts of the world. It planted in me, an appreciation for all the cultures and different type of people in our world. It really was an astonishing experience for me, and if you ever get the the chance to travel, I hope it's a fantastic experience for you too!

### **Aida Skana**



This Travel to Europe has been one of my best experience that I have ever had in my all life. When they told me that I would take part of this trip I was very excited because I always wanted to see as much countries as I could and also to meet new people.

First place we arrived in was Lubiana in Slovenia for a couple hours with our student group, we walked around to see a little the place and then we left to take the train for Berlin.

In Berlin we met other student groups that came from all over the Balkan territory. The organizers that evening created some games so that we could know each other better. The following day all students went to what a considered an important event at the Academy in Berlin, where we met the

member of the European Parliament, Ms. Doris Pack.

After that our group was divided in different groups, each one had its own guide and this guides showed their groups different places. The thing that I liked the most in Berlin was the rules and cleanliness.

In conclusion to our trip in Berlin we had a awesome party where we had fun. Because of such activities let's say I made a lot of Facebook friends from all over the region. Next destination after Berlin was Amsterdam, it was a beautiful and lively place with funny and eccentric people, for this reason I like Amsterdam the most. The next place was Paris in France, it was pretty good but this for me was a bit delusional because it was not as impressive as I thought it would be. On the contrary Barcelona was beautiful with beautiful buildings, fountains and nice people. We also went to the beach that was quite good.

Then the final destination was Italy in Milano, it was a really great chaotic city with lots of buildings and shops, there I also went to visit Expo, it was a magical experience. For this travel I could say lot of things but these statements are only basics. In less words, this trip will never get off of my mind.

### **Andi Begaj**

The best experience of my life so far. Berlin was very nice. and meeting with Doris Pack was very interesting and insightful. After Germany our next stop was the Netherlands, Amsterdam city of freedom for tourists from around the world. Then we stopped in Bruges then in Paris where everything was very beautiful and full of history. Then we went to Barcelona, the famous Catalunya. We can not leaving without visiting the south of France, Cannes, Nice, Monaco luxurious life. Everything was very nice.



I have learned a lot, I meet people from all over the world with different cultures. Everyone must at least once in life to do such a trip, it will change their whole outlook and perspective on life in general.

## Sindi Hyseni

It was with no doubt one of the best experiences of my life. I have travelled before to the neighboring countries, but nothing is compared to this Euro trip. It is not only about the amount of places u can visit in a short period of time but its more about everything you go through the whole trip. The Berlin events, the lessons shared with our peers from the region, the party in the end made it an unforgettable experience.

On the road, there were times that we had to run to catch the train, times when we had to sleep in the train station, at the beach , in the ground when we forgot to make the reservation but we always ended up laughing with every madness that we made. Each and every day of that trip was filled of adrenaline, curiosity, long walks, insomnia, wonderments and amazement.

Our trip started with Ljubljana where we spent almost a day in the center of the city playing cards, having some drinks and at the end suddenly we started singing along with some strangers from Paris who were playing guitar. After that we took the train to Munich and then to Berlin.

I saw excited faces, worried ones but in both of them you could tell serenity, something here in Albania we still miss.



## Tergita Preci



This trip was a once in a lifetime experience. Through it I managed to encounter a lot of new people and also met the concerns of Balkans Youth through their representatives in this event. The way it was organized was very thoughtful and it included meetings with honorable personalities and during the leisure time pleasant and creative games among youth.

For this we must be grateful to the organizers of this event in our country and

those regional. In Berlin we were able to recognize a part of its history through the local heroes that guided us across the city.

After the attractive Berlin we continued our trip to Prague. The touristic Prague with its bridges, the castle and dozens of squares to be visited was breathtaking. But there was also another Prague...a silent one... during the nights, staying in the park on the Kampa island you could see the shining reflection of the city on the surface of the Vitava river and it was magical. Our next stop was Vienna. Vienna had a multidimensional personality... the fascinating historical Vienna with the Opera, Parliament, theaters, castles and also the modern Vienna with young people who gathered in squares, parks and exhibitions. I could see myself living there for a period of time in my life.

Our final destination was Ljubljana, a very pleasant city. Throughout this journey I was in the company of wonderful people who shared they experiences, their ideas for the future and gave me the opportunity to recognize their cultures. We remained very good friends. Also during this trip I became aware once again that my country has many challenges that needs to pass in order to be a honored part of Europe. I believe that the youth are the leading force toward a brighter future and I encourage everyone to participate in such events in order to perceive the common problems of the region and to find permanent solutions to these problems.

### **Syzana Kurtallari**

Traveling is always a good experience, and yeah this euro trip was a unique, unforgettable and the most wonderful experience of my life. The trip began from Tiran to Ljubljana with plane. In Ljubljana was my first time. After we have enjoyed the old city we took the train for Berlin. In Berlin was the first time to and everything was perfect.



The city, the hostel, the place where we stayed and had the activities, everything was extraordinary. I met a lot of youngsters from all the Balkans and now I'm friend with them. We talked about the our country, culture, etc . We learned a lot of things for each other, for their countries. “ Robert

Bosch Stiftung” had planned everything in details. The trip in Berlin, the meeting with Doris Pack, the party and everything else was a beautiful experience.

After Berlin we went to Netherlands, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Brugge, Paris, that big and wonderful city, Barcelona, Milano the fashion city, and of course San Siro. From Italy in Austria and then in Slovenia which was the first and last destination of the most wonderful experience of my life.

### **Edona Bylykbashi**



This trip has been very remarkable for me. I can surely say, that after this experience in Berlin, I have a lot of new friends all around the Balkans that I just can't wait to go and visit. I also discovered that apparently I really like trains!

Crossing half of the continent within a day-night, and getting to watch all those amazing views (even though from the window) was beautiful. Hence, what was really great about this trip, was the fact that with just one backpack, jumping from one breathtaking city to another, we felt part of the big picture! I am really grateful to everyone that made this possible.

## Misuela Shimaj

When I first found out about Travel to Europe I instinctively thought of all the parties and the fun moments I could get from that opportunity.

Then I started to read more about the initiative and I understood that it included a larger view of activities and experience sharing. Keeping that in mind I fulfilled the documents and I applied. I got admitted. The traveling began.

When I first landed in Berlin I had all the stories and movies ringing in my ears and gazing in my eyes. The first activity started and I got to meet people from Balkans...in Berlin! I had earlier experience with Balkan people but this time was different. Everyone was opened into knowing each other's stories and point of views over any topic, even nationalistic ones which are a little bit sensitive in Balkans. I had all the nice conversations and all the nice sharing experiences and I felt myself challenged to discuss even my opinions and stereotypes. After these first days we continued the traveling to other European capitals and it was awesome. All the parties and the fun moments were happening in a complete different way that i thought.

I was happy to see every building and street and cathedral and institutions because somehow they were so similar to my Tirana and yet so different. I had good moments with everyone that I talked to, with every waiter, every policeman, every by passer, old and young people because that was Europe to me: diversity, hospitality, challenges and colors. I have a lot, a lot more to say but I would conclude by saying that Travel To Europe was the best thing that happened to me in a long time and it will take a longer time until something similar or better will happen because of all the intensity and the diversity of elements that made me enjoy everything.

