



- Biotechnology in our life -

SCHÜLERBERICHTE PROJEKTTREFFEN 2017/2018

des von der Europäischen Union unterstützten internationalen Projektes

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The project “Biotechnology in our life” is an exchange between six European countries, England, Spain, the Netherlands, Estonia, Italy and Germany; from which three years in a row four students from each country participated. There were three meetings every year and this text is about the first meeting of the third year.

The project taught us about biotechnology, how it works, how it is applied and more backgrounds, as like ethical problems and more discussions. We visited some companies and heard many lectures about the economic and scientific sector of biotechnology.

From the 7th to the 12th of October the third meeting, the kick-off for the third and last year of the project, took place in Bielefeld in Germany. The twenty students from St. Neots, Xativa, Haarlem, Pärnu and Verona arrived on Saturday and stayed that day in their German host families. On the next we started at the university and met us all for the first time.





At first every student group from each country introduced themselves, the town they live in and their country. Afterwards a professor from the university of Bielefeld was holding the first lecture about biotechnology in general, a topic the most of us never really got in touch with, and where we find its applications in our lives, we also heard about the field of genetic engineering.

Before lunch we had the possibility to get to know each other with group activities: in international groups we had to solve various challenges and had to work in a team.

On the days we were in the university we got lunch there. In this time we had the possibility to again chat a bit and learn about the others.

After lunch we German students guided the others around the town and tried to show them the nicest parts of Bielefeld; we ended at the castle in the afternoon to climb the tower from where you have a great view over the city.

When we all were picked up it felt like we were no strangers any more.



The second day started with our teamwork. We all were divided into four groups with a student from every country and in this groups pairs of two have written an article about a biotechnological topic. So we were working on these in the morning.



After lunch we visited a company near to Bielefeld called "Evonik". The site we went to researched on amino acids and produced them for the international market for animal food as nutritious substitutes.

We heard a lecture about the company and their work and we also saw the labs. In the end of the day we all were tired but happy.



On Tuesday the day started with another lecture about breeding of plants and how it developed over the time to the modern genetic engineering. The breeding of plants has a long history, it started more than 10000 years ago. The first prove of controlled breeding was 6000 years ago in Mexico with the development of maize. Around 1000 years ago cabbage was modified by selection since 1900 breeding by crossing has risen up and now the next developing stage is the genetic engineering which is basically the same like the selection but more controllable and more fast.

The conclusion was genetic engineering is one solution for problems like the growing population.

Afterwards we worked on with our research for our articles.



After another lunch in the university Mensa we had a guided tour around the CeBiTec, the Centre for Biology and Technology of the university Bielefeld and the university of applied sciences.



On Wednesday, our last day at the university, we heard a lecture about biological pest control and biotechnological aspects and possibilities in that topic. They tried to find a way to attract and kill pests on a sustainable way.

Afterwards we tried to identify orchids by excluding the DNA of it and compare it to other DNA samples of already known orchids. We used techniques like the PCR, which breaks up the DNA to multiply it to have comparable amounts of it.



One evening we went to a bowling centre. We had a very fun evening together, another experience putting us closer together as a group.



At the last evening we met in a restaurant. By now we all really liked each other and became friends. It was hard to know that would have been the last evening together for three months.

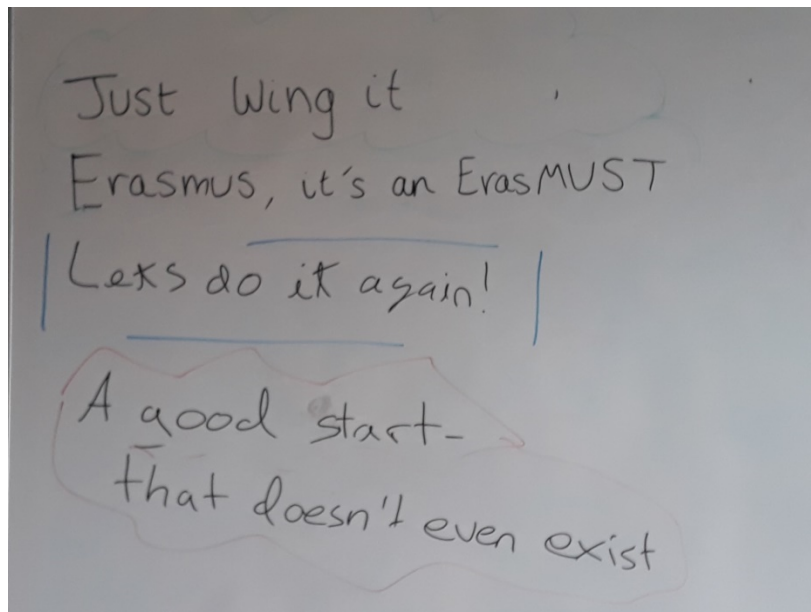
On our last day together we were not in the university but in our school, where we showed them around and then worked on the articles. As a finish we had a panel discussion about genetically modified salmon. We all had to pretend to be an important person in an international discussion about the legalization of selling of GM salmon. It was very interesting and also confronted us once more with the problems coming along with new technology and also took us to our borders of possibilities while speaking and discussing on a language we all learned from school.



In the afternoon and after another meal together the students left and went back to their each towns.

Not like them the memories stayed and we were all looking forward for the second time we would meet in Haarlem.

We learned very much about biotechnology that week but I think what is much more important we got to know new people and friends from all over Europe and that was the greatest goal of that week.



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