



- Biotechnology in our life -

## SCHÜLERBERICHTE PROJEKTTREFFEN 2017/2018

des von der Europäischen Union unterstützten internationalen Projektes

**drittes Projekttreffen:** 11. – 15. März 2018  
Pärnu  
Estland

*Report from Karin, Annabel, Theodor and Arlet  
Koidula Gymnasium Pärnu, Estonia*

Sunday, 11 March

On the first day, we started with a lecture about all the educational facilities about biotechnology in Estonia given to us by geneticist Riin Tamm. Later we were presented with an introduction about Estonia with a short presentation and a trivia game. After a short break everyone was instructed to gather up in the city centre in front of Endla theatre, where we were tasked to tour around the city to find the city's landmarks.



During the game everybody had a chance to enjoy a walk and get more acquainted with the city. After a tiring walk we went to the Irish pub, where we had dinner. In the evening, one part of the group spent their free time by going bowling and the other part enjoyed the snowy weather of Estonia and went sledging.

Monday, 12 March



On Monday, we had a bus trip to Tartu, the university city of Estonia. There we visited a biotechnology company named Icosagen. The company produces recombinant antibodies and challenges recombinant proteins in mammalian cells.



Mart Ustav, the founder and CEO of Icosagen, gave us a presentation about the history of the company. After that, we headed to a science centre AHHA, where we had free time to discover exhibits and get to know new things in a playful way. After that we had lunch in a cafeteria. The last thing at AHHA was a science theatre, where we saw different experiments and got simple and understandable explanations for them.



We spent the evening and the night in a hostel named Hektor, where we also had dinner.

Tuesday, 13 March

On Tuesday we had breakfast at Hektor. After that we visited the University of Tartu Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology. There we had two lectures by the professors Ants Kurg and Andres Salumets. Andres Salumets gave an insight into the process of in vitro fertilisation and brought out some statistics about the situation in Estonia. Ants Kurg talked about the House of Romanov and the possible use of DNA in case of identifying unknown bodies.



After the lectures the foreign students took part of the Traveling Bioclass. The Traveling Bioclass shows students the basic work of lab workers and gives them a hands on experience. While the foreign students were in the Traveling Bioclass, the teachers got a tour to the Estonian Genome Center. In the evening we took a coach to Pärnu.

Wednesday, 14 March

On wednesday we finished preparing our presentations.



Later we had a workshop where we isolated bananas DNA. Firstly, the banana was smashed and some ethanol, washing-up liquid and hot water was added. Secondly, the solution was filtered to remove bigger banana chunks. We were able to see the DNA in the remaining solution. In the end of the workshop we played a game about the genetic diversity of species.



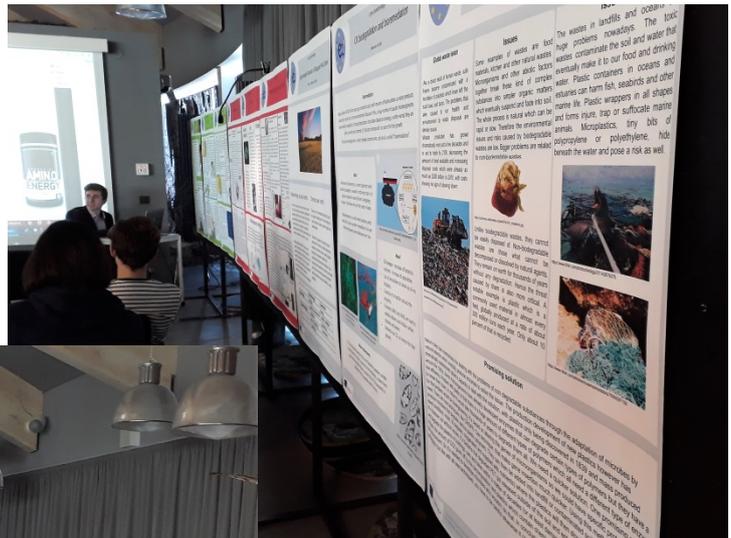
In the evening all of the students went to Estonia spa.

Thursday, 15 March



Thursday was the final day of our project, we finished it in Pernova nature house.

The graduation started with a speech by our towns deputy mayor. After the speech every pair showcased their work and answered all the questions the audience had.



When the presentation part was over there was a final speech by the project manager Maren and she also handed over the certificates of the project.

Then all of the students went to Hans Pub for the last meal together. After the meal everyone had their goodbyes and the project was over.



*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.*