

September-October 2014

LONDON



~The Newsletter of the Finnish team~

September 28th

The Finnish team had looked forward to the first EXPLiCiT meeting in London. On sunny Sunday afternoon, September 28th, we arrived in London. Soon after our arrival we eventually met our new colleagues from the UK, Sweden and Denmark. We had a great Italian dinner in a cozy restaurant. We got to know each other a bit while enjoying tortellinis and swordfish. The atmosphere was very nice and relaxed.

Monday 29th September

We met in The London Nautical School and started our day with delicious breakfast. We got important information about our project and the Nautical School. The headmaster of the school, Hyder Dastagir, wished us warmly welcomed. After that we were taken to the classes. We saw lessons in arts, social sciences, sports and English. It was very interesting to see how teachers and students worked. We were also impressed about the wideness of the nautical studies in this school. The students were very helpful and social, which made us extremely happy. In lunchtime we were taken to a peaceful and sophisticated restaurant RSJ. There we had a full meal including delicious starters, a fantastic main course and such a sweet dessert. After lunch we planned our project carefully and asked many questions. As being “rookies” we Finns had much to learn and many things to ask. In the evening we finally enjoyed a bit of free-time in city centre having traditional British fish and chips on a river boat. We were tired but happy having learnt so many new things!



“You
can do
Anything but not
Everything”
-David Allen-



Tuesday 30th September

Teacher training started at CLC (London Connected Learning Centre). We learned how to use several useful and important applications (i.e. iMovie, Book Creator, Popplet, Pixlr) needed in this project. Our teacher was extremely helpful and it was great fun to learn new skills! The day was sunny and warm and we could enjoy both the weather and our lunch outside. In the evening the whole Erasmus group met for a dinner at a Turkish Ev Restaurant. The atmosphere was cheerful and the language was mixed up with English, Danish and Swedish - not to mention some Finnish words we taught to our new friends.



Wednesday 1st October

In the morning we took underground to Clapham and CLC. We had breakfast in a cozy small café. Tea was served in old-fashioned rosy cups. At CLC the teacher training continued. We learned more about programs and applications. After having lunch together we gathered in the Nautical School. We had many issues to discuss. We talked about having blog and webpage, discussed about details of coming tasks and remits of every country. In the evening the Finnish team headed to Westfield mall in White City. We found really nice souvenirs to our families and colleagues in Rauma. We were amazed that the shops were open until 10 pm!



Thursday 2nd October

Thursday morning was dedicated to London history as we were taken to the Tower of London. First we were amazed at the bloody-looking moat: an art installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* was being created to honor the victims of the WWI (888 246 dead British soldiers = 888 246 poppies!) that began hundred years ago, in 1914. The Tower of London itself was extremely interesting. We visited the Chapel and learnt why the Beefeaters are called Beefeaters, climbed up the Tower where the Two Princes had been locked up, saw the Royal Armoury and even the old-fashioned toilets, and were horrified by the dark Bloody Tower and its several ways of torturing people. On the top of all, we were delighted as we were able to see the Crown Jewels in the Jewel House! We really enjoyed the tour and learned a lot! In fact, we could have spent a lot more time at the Tower! After the visit we gathered together once more time for a lunch. When talking and joking with the colleagues, it felt as if we had known each other for a long, long time!! We continued from there to the London Nautical School in order to get the certificates and to say goodbye to all. The Swedes and the Danes left already on Thursday evening whereas we Finns stayed for one night more (due to not-so-well-departing-flights to Finland). The rest of the day and the Friday morning we spent on sightseeing, geocaching (Johanna: #1000 found in Oxford Street!) and little bit of shopping. And, of course, on planning the coming activities and the next mobility in Finland. In all, the Meeting London left us the feeling that we will surely make this project a success!

