



The Ursuline School
in GENEVA

11.11.2012 - 15.11.2012

Sunday

It WAS and early morning! We met at 3.30 am in Rybnik to catch the plane from Katowice at 6.00 am. Just in time for a sunrise up in the air!!! We had to change the planes in Frankfurt so it took us quite a while to get to Geneva. In the afternoon we met our host families and spent the rest of the day with them – getting to know the culture, customs and improving our skills in communicating.



The participants of the camp from Germany, Italy, France, The Czech Republic, the UK and Poland



Monday

The Swiss showed us round the school. We were very enthusiastic to see the new place. We talked with the students and we got to know that they are of more than 100 hundred nationalities. It is a melting pot!



We were surprised to see the walls covered with different graffiti and paintings. We also took part in two lessons- English and Art. We were shocked to learn our principal- Sister Zuzanna was not allowed to enter the classrooms, as the way she is dressed shows her faith.



In the afternoon we went for a walk round the town.



HENRY DUNANT
1828-1910
FONDATEUR
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE



We walked past the bust of Henry Dunant (1828-1910), who was one of the founders of the Red Cross.

We visited St Peter Cathedral (XIIIth century) which used to be a Catholic church but now it belongs to protestants and it is used by local authorities, too. We went up the cathedral's tower. The view was amazing! You can see the Geneva Lake and Mont Blanc from here.





We saw the City Hall, where there aren't any steps just to have enabled the horses to carry their loads up in the past.

We walked past the Opera house, too.



We saw the Reformers' Wall from the XVIth century. It shows the statues of the pioneers and defenders of the Protestant Reform.



Where is the longest wooden bench? Of course, in Geneva!!



Tuesday

On a Tuesday morning we attended **workshops** about human rights. We talked about the childrens' rights. In international groups we were also supposed to talk about the bad language we hear at school. Our conclusion was- our school IS exceptional as we don't hear bad words in it. It's not like that everywhere, though! We realised that we can't discriminate people from other social groups. Everyone has the right to say what he feels.

- Then we visited the Organization of **United Nations** which is an international organization whose stated aims are facilitating cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, human rights, and achievement of world peace. The main seat of UN is located in New York, but offices of this intitution work in Geneve, Nairobi and Vienna. The UN has has six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

United Nations



One of the rooms where sessions take place



Interesting exhibitions



Our group while voting ;)



The United
Nations'
courtyard –
unbelievably
perfect!



CERN

is the European Organization for Nuclear Research. It is one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research. Its business is fundamental physics, finding out what the Universe is made of and how it works.



Large Hadron Collider

Most of the activities at CERN are currently directed towards operating the new Large Hadron Collider (LHC), and the experiments for it. The LHC represents a large-scale, worldwide scientific cooperation project. The LHC tunnel is located 100 metres underground, in the region between the Geneva International Airport and the nearby Jura mountains.





In just one second protons travel 11 000 times around the 27km ring of the LHC, crossing the border between France, Switzerland on each circle.



Wednesday

First we took part in the workshops organised by The Red Cross. We had a unique opportunity to experience the feelings and responsibilities of prisoners, soldiers, generals and the Red Cross volunteers.

We got the passports from an imaginary country- this way we became the citizens of Haddar.



International Committee of the Red Cross



- was founded in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland, by Henry Dunant and Gustave Moynier
- is independent and neutral
- protects war victims' lives and dignity
- 188 nations are recognized as ICRC members

1st Stop

- The woman told us that on every stop we are supposed to play a particular role.
- After that she shouted “The game is about to start”. Then we didn’t understand what it meant.
- The army or something like this appeared. We were totally shocked and even scared. There was no way to run out so we completely didn’t know what to do... They turned out to be our enemies.
- They had guns and they asked us to do quite strange things like “raise your hands in the air” or “sing something”. At the beginning it was amusing but then we realised that we didn’t know what would happen next.
- While we were prisoners, a woman from the Red Cross told some of us to follow her. She asked people about their family or if the enemies had hurt them. She tried to help us somehow. We knew, we felt, that we’re safe during the talk with her.



2nd Stop

After the shock we were still scared and we couldn't predict what may the next task be like. It wasn't simple. **We had to move a big box to the border.** There was something like an obstacle course. It included lines, mines (yellow pieces of paper) and chairs and tables. **One person was obliged to carry the box through the track blindfolded and the others directed him.**



Then **we had to explain to a border guard that we wanted to enter their country to help victims of war.** We were getting more and more nervous. The guard kept asking rude questions and it confused us, in the end it turned out there was something in the box that we didn't know about.

It was stressful. Yet, it was **a real situation that the Red Cross volunteers experience while people in desperate situations are waiting for their help.**

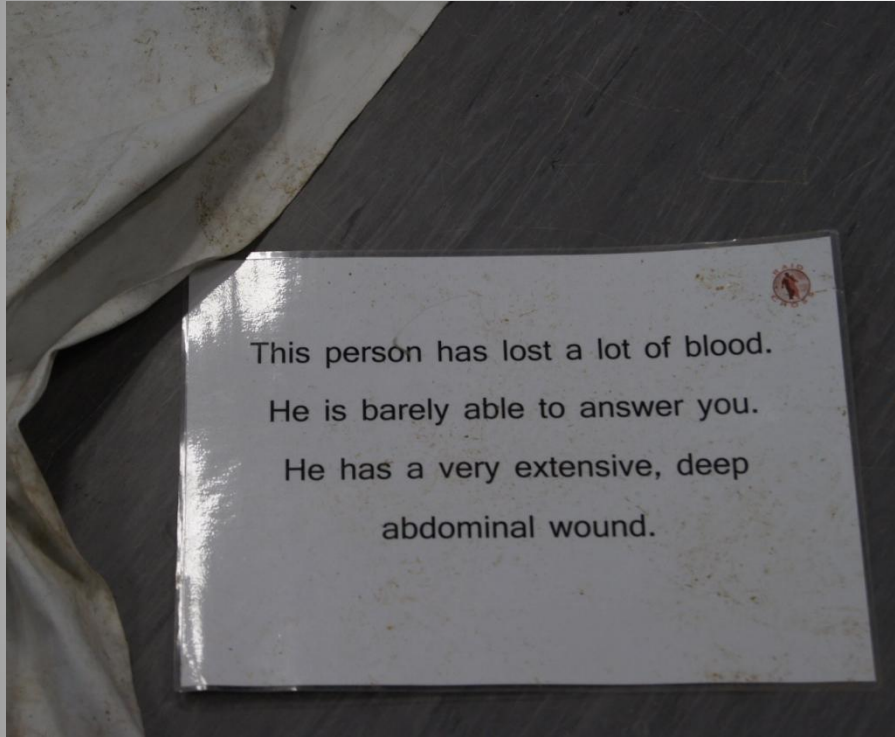
3rd Stop

- The previous tasks were tiring for us but we were still excited.
- The third one also wasn't very simple. We had to throw the balls) missiles at military objects. The main task was to decide which groups we would shoot during the real war.
- It made us realize how responsible the soldiers' job is.



4th Stop

- We got to know that it would be the last stop in the game. There wasn't any possibility to get to the classroom for quite a long time so our imagination was full of ideas.
- While we were standing outside, a woman who looked like a doctor, cried for help. We got into and noticed that there were three victims: two of „our people”: one was dead and the other had a heelache and our enemy with a big wound somewhere on his chest.
- We were to decide who should we help first. It was confusing for some of us because we didn't notice a label with a word „hospital” so we didn't know what to do. One of us said „Have a look, hospital is over there!”. The task became simple but we were nervous. We knew that we had to help our enemy first as he needed help immediately, then the slightly wounded and at the end, take the fatality's body to hospital and we couldn't take any of the stuff that was near her.
- It was exciting and it took a lot of our energy.



Conclusions

Luckily, there were people who explained us every task after we had done it. We could ask questions. During these conversations we learned a lot of things that are useful in case of conflicts.

We were really glad to take part in such workshops. We enjoyed them as well as talking to the young Swiss students who are volunteers for the Red Cross. We appreciate their work!



Visiting museums

We went to **Patek's Museum** which exhibits important collections of European horology (watches) and enamelling from the 16th to 20th century . Patek was a Pole so we were proud!!



Later we visited the **Museum of Contemporary Art**. There were some pieces of furniture, awesome walls and great paintings. Not all of us had the same opinion, but It was a new experience.

It WAS shocking in many ways. As a welcome gift we were offered littles stones that we were asked to put into our shoes to make us feel the art more!



The exhibits
showed us
round
deserted
districts,
modern
apartaments
and many
more...



Last moments together...

THE LAST AND THE BEST THING was the PARTY !! We ate the speciality from Switzerland *raclette* and spent great time talking with students from our Comenius partner schools from Italy, Germany, France, The United Kingdom, Czeck Republic and Switzerland.

