

## **Practice report from Slovenia at Osnovna Šola Franceta Prešerna Kranj.**

**Students: Helen Helland And Monica Wiik Svartsund.**

**Period: 20<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004**

### Description of the school and the system:

The school is in Kranj, which is a town near by the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana. There is about 50 000 inhabitants in Kranj. The school we were assigned to is in Kranj, and it is a large school in respect to Norwegian schools, approx. 700 pupils. There is also a school near by with pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> till 4<sup>th</sup> grade, this school is a part of Franceta Prešerna school. The pupils in the Franceta Prešerna school is from the 1<sup>st</sup> grade up to 9<sup>th</sup>. There are 35 teachers there, one psychologist for the pupils and one special educationist for the pupils with special needs.

The school has separate classrooms for each subject. They have separate rooms for English, mathematics, Slovenia, art, science and so on. In Norway it is usual that the pupils use the same classroom for most of the subjects, but not in physics, art, home economics, woodwork and a few more subjects. In Norway they teach Norwegian, mathematics, English, society, geography and religion in the same room. In Slovenia they also have three different levels in the basic subjects such as Slovenian, mathematics and English. The pupils choose what grade they want to be in, but their parents have to agree, and they also have conversation with a teacher so they can give a recommendation of what grade they think is the best for them.



*4<sup>th</sup> grade in Kokrica.*

At school they get three meals a day. They pay a symbolic amount for this, and the government covers the rest of the cost. There are a few pupils that can not afford this, then the school has a fond that pay the food for those pupils. They have breakfast, hot lunch and dinner. Most of the time the children bring the lunch to their classrooms and eat the food there. We think this is a very good system. In Norway the children have to bring their own food to school. With this system you are sure that all of the pupils will eat proper food during the day. The meal is free for the teachers. We also got free meals at the school. ☺

All of the pupils have access to three computers in the hall. The computers are connected to internet all the time. There is also a web camera, so we can see the pupils working on the computers on the school home page. They also have a computer room they can use for lessons. It was a video canon in this room that we used in a few lessons.

### Our practice:

Before we went down to Slovenia, we had a lot of e-mail contact with Aleš, the headmaster. We prepared our practice a little bit, because Aleš asked us if we wanted to teach. And we agreed to his offer. We met with Aleš on Friday when we arrived in Kranj. At Monday we met him again at 8 o'clock in the morning. Then we had a meeting for two hours. He informed us about the school system in Slovenia. We also got a summary of all of the lessons from all the grades. After this meeting he showed us the school building and all the classrooms. We think it was exiting, because we are generally curious ☺.

Aleš asked us if there was special subjects we wanted to observe. He helped us with our plan for observing, and gave us a temporary plan for the next two weeks. On Tuesday we were supposed to observe for three school hours. In two of this hours we were talking with the pupils. On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Monday we were teaching for eleven hours alone in the classrooms. The subjects was mostly English and history. We also observed other subjects those days. The rest of the days of our practice we observed a lot of different subjects.

We noticed that the children are different and so was the classes, and it is the same in Norway. Almost all of the children were very kind to us and very curious about us and our country. And it was very fun for us to answer their questions.

We also had conversations with the other teachers in the school. They were all very nice to us, including those who do not speak English ☺. We spoke mostly with the other teachers between the lessons. If we had a longer practice period, we may have had more time to exchange experiences with each other. On one of our last days at school, we made vaffels to the teachers.



*Vaffel for the teachers.*

It was very much up to us how much and what we want to observe. This kind of practice was excellent for us, because we could decide what we were interested in observing, and Aleš could give us tips for what he thought we should observe. Because of this we think that our practice was very good. Another reason could be that we are used to working together when we are studying in school.

## Other experiences:

Our trip to Slovenia started on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. We had to stay one night in Frankfurt because of some technical problem with the plane in Copenhagen, so we missed our plane from Frankfurt to Ljubljana. But it was on Lufthansa's bill, so ☺. We arrived in Ljubljana on Friday morning, and we sent sms' with Mirko "the vaktmester" all the time, so he knew that we were stranded in Germany. He came and picked us up at the airport, Brnik. He guided us around in Kranj. And then he drove us to the school so we could say hello to Aleš the headmaster. Here we got a free dinner. Then Mirko drove us to the flat, where we should stay for over fourteen days. The flat had all that we needed, like shower, toilet, kitchen, bedrooms and so on. There was also a computer in the flat available to us all the time. They had also hired two bicycles for us, they were also available to us all the time.



*Helen appreciate the bicycles ☺.*



*Monica on her bed in the flat.*



*Monica on her last day in Kokrica, impatient before her departure back to Norway.*

The first Sunday we went together with Mirko and another teacher to Croatia. Here it was nice and warm weather, and one more country to experience. They drove us to Pula. This is a town with many facilities, they showed us some of them. One of them was an old building from the time when the Romans ruled this area. It was almost like the Colosseum in Rome, but in much better shape.



*Monica and Helen in the schoolbus in Croatia,  
hot weather ☺*

One evening Aleš and Suzanna drove us to Ljubljana and showed us the old part of the town. The other two students from Norway was also with us on this trip. This is a nice town we think. The number of citizens is almost like our capital in Norway. Another evening two teachers from the other school, Anita and Aleš also drove us to Ljubljana.



*Here we are in a Mexican restaurant in Ljubljana, together with Anita and Aleš.*

The second weekend, on Saturday, we went on a trip around the country with Mirko. First we, all the four students, visited a cave in Postojna early in the morning to avoid most of the tourists. But it was a lot of small Italian tourists there already. We think the cave was wonderful, we took a train 2 kilometres inside the cave.

When we were finished in the cave we went to drive all the Slovenian coast line, which is 42 kilometres long. We stopped in Piran, a wonderful old town near by the sea. Here we had dinner and a very good ice cream.



*Eating Ice cream in Piran.*



*Drinking coffee with Mirko in Piran.*

After this, Mirko drove us to a vine yard which belong to the music teacher at the school and his family. Here we picked grapes, and after that we got to taste their vine. The family explained to us how they produce the vine. They produce many sorts of white and red vine. The family was very kind and hospitable to us. We had a very nice time there to.



*Monica picking grapes.*



*Helen together with her 83 years old friend ☺.*



*Here you can see that we were picking a lot of grapes on our day off ☺.*

On Sunday, a teacher on the other school, Aleš, picked us up in Kokrica and drove us with his car to Bled. Here it is a lake with an island. On this island there is a church. It was also an old castle on a top of a mountain near by the lake. From the castle you could see down on the lake and the island. The Slovenian rowers is using the lake for their training.



*The castle in Bled.*



*The island in the lake, with the church.*

Many evenings we travelled around in Kranj on “our” bicycles. Here they have an old part in the town with an old church and a statue of the famous poet Franceta Prešerna, the school has the name after him. It was very cozy to spend time in this part of the town 😊.

Many evenings we went to the local restaurants to eat food and see the local people. We liked the food in Slovenia, because it is very varied. One time the local people ordered some local red wine for us 😊.



*Here we are on our way to a local restaurants.*



The last weekend we rented a car, with help from Ales and Mirko. And the four of us drove the car over the mountain to Klagenfurt in Austria to visit two of the Norwegian students who have practice in this town. This was for one evening. They also visited us in Kranj a few days earlier.



*This is a restaurant in Kranj, we had visitors from Austria.*



*Klagenfurt and our rented car, finished with our shopping 😊.*



*Andrej is saying goodbye to us.*



*On the railway station waiting for the train to München, our last minutes in Slovenia, with a lot of baggage 😊.*

*We want to say thanks to all of you that have given us this amazing opportunity to experience these wonderful two weeks in Slovenia.*

*Monica & Helen  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2004*

