



Erasmus+



innovated  
innovative education



# Expect the unexpected! “Sea you around..”

## *An Erasmus+ Youth exchange in Puck!*

“Sea you around” was a Youth exchange program organized by S.I.R (an NGO based in Krakow) which wanted to create an opportunity for 40 young people from Hungary, Romania, Greece, Italy, Lithuania and Poland to debate and compare their situation about local and mass-media. The project took place from 08.05.2022 to 14.05.2022. During these days, participants were implementing activities in order to be aware and find easy ways to promote their local community, history and traditions. Moreover the project provides participants with personal development, educates them and strengthens their sense of European identity.



## **Who are we? And what are we doing here?**

Let's hear some of the participants' personal stories. Catalin, a 26 years old Romanian guy was one of the participants. He is considering himself as a free spirit who loves to travel and meet new people. So far, he has participated in 26 Erasmus+ projects and he says he will participate in many more.

“When we first arrived in Puck we felt the cold breeze of the Baltic sea weather. For us as travelers was a heavy transition towards this type of climate. Although at the end of the day we were happy to get approached by the friendly polish hosts with warm tea and coffee at dinner. None the less the place we were accommodated was breathtaking. It was close to the small port, friendly size sand beaches and cold sea water.



Looking at the shore I could notice some birds like swans and ducks playing. The place is called Harceski Osrodek Morski and it's famous for the scout experience and sailing activities all around the year. The following day when we were out exploring the city we realized how old and rich in history the buildings around the town are. For example the church from the main square, the architecture in the city center. By the time we got back we had concluded that locals are a bit shy when you ask them for a picture in public and observed their normal life in the streets by

doing small errands. Nature is part of their culture and we could observe how pretty were the parks, the cleanliness of public places and how old and new can live in harmony in such a graceful way like here in Puck. Old churches and new architecture are well represented here.



On other hand we noticed a very interesting man figure around here: his name is Joseph Haller. As history says it's a famous lieutenant general in the Polish army who fought in major events such as WW1, Polish-Ukrainian war and Polish Soviet war. After all the time we went deeper into discovering his story we had came across other facts about Puck. One of it is that was an old seaport and marketplace since 7th century. Our week was planned in advance and because of that we managed to travel across this region. One of the places was Hel. The landscape and nature was very different there. I could explore the area with historical meaning like old buildings and bunkers but also on the promenade there were nice restaurants that were provided with good food. Hel, the popular city in this region with a deep background of world war 2 where you can see the most beautiful creatures of the earth. Additionally, the architecture of the houses & buildings is also worth seeing and dispersed. The shapes of roofs of houses are V-shaped & mostly they are red-colored.

We also saw the Museum of Region, it's a big red building presenting the cultural heritage of Puck region. It originates from the Station for Collecting Cultural Values and Disseminating Knowledge about the Kashubian Region, founded in 1970. There's one Church that I visited during the task on day 2 named "Chiesa di Ognissanti".



Seals and these mammals look scary from far away but trust me, they behave nicely and in a kinway. And, for general information, there is an auditorium where there are sessions you can attend to get more knowledge in regard of Baltic Sea and its creatures. Moreover, we could feel the fresh and pure air with the fragrance of sand where people like us were gathered to explore this lovely city. In addition to that, we can also taste the beauty of greenery and some other scenic places. There are beaches all around where you can also enjoy some water games like surfing, beach ball and many more. In result, it was a mesmerizing moment for us in our life which you all can enjoy too in this amazing nation that is Poland.

### **What is Erasmus+?**

Erasmus + is the European Union's biggest project on education, youth and sports. The most known is the mobility program of universities where students study in another host university.

However, it offers much more than this. These include youth exchanges, training courses and volunteering projects (ESC) all over Europe. Typically, for youth exchanges there is a NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) that writes the project for a selected purpose. They are usually about raising awareness on certain issues for the greater good and at the same time, they help youth and new generations be more international and open minded about other cultures. Once the project is written, they look for partner organizations from other countries that will select the participants of the project. Participants they select are usually 13-30 year old residents of the country of the partner organization. These projects allow people to experience different cultures, make friends from all over the world and the best part is that it is all free. Once the project is successfully completed, participants get reimbursed for their travels.

### **How can you participate?**

There are always many projects going on all over Europe, so it is easy to find one that fits your interests and schedule. You should just know where to look for them. There are facebook groups specifically for these projects that target the needed residents. For example, for Polish people, the main Facebook group could be called “Youth Opportunities PL”(?). From these groups, it is possible to find organizations.

### **Why should you participate?**

Because it is so much fun! Participants not only learn about a topic, but also travel for free, make friends from different countries and have fun activities with them. So it is definitely a good place to improve social skills and confidence.