

International Youth Summer Camp at Lake Balaton

by **Simona Popovičová, 16, Slovakia (one of the participants)**

I have to admit.... I don't know where to start... **10 days** is not a long time but I'm still hesitating....

The tour around the castle with gorgeous gardens, romantic evenings sitting by the fire, bicycle tour with a picnic, adventurous sail at Lake Balaton in a fisherboat, a welcome or an intercultural party, everyday joyfull workshops or just ordinary lessons, that would suddenly change into dramatic „ Wandering around Africa “ or into melancholic „ Rescue our Earth “....

OF COURSE!! I would like to tell you absolutely everything! But then, I would write a „small“ 200 pages book... but I have only few lines...

I don't regard myself as an inattentive person at all, but even though, somewhere at the beginning, the very beginning I have seen this - Hungary, Ukraine, France, Croatia, Poland, Sweden, Russia and Albania - 8 different corners of Europe, 8 different countries, 8 different cultures, habits, traditions ... But when I looked more closer, I have seen, but mainly got to know, 20 amazing, funny, kind, cheerful, talkative, easy going young people, great companions, but mainly friends, which I miss so much just a few days after the end of this camp and which can be just hardly substituted by the tenths of emails which we share each day. I will never forget our table tennis tournaments, card fights to life or death, lying by the Balaton, buying of the souvenirs on daily basis, afternoon teas, evening movies, or gossiping till late night. I hope that once, all those huge experience, skills, new knowledge, maybe a bit more courage, self-confidence, which without doubt all of us gained during this camp, will once be utilized during the fulfilment of our dreams.

..... And at last but not least.....

Anikó, Anne, Gergely, Katarina, Hans, Julia

You would say - 6 ordinary names, 6 ordinary people ... But the truth is that those at first glance ordinary names hide exceptional, hard-working, diligent, but also careful, responsible people always in a good mood - our leaders, teachers, self employed paparazzi, or to some people maybe also humorists, showmen...

One way or the other..... without those people this camp would have never been the experience as they made it to be.

Yes I admit, this speech may be written with a small amount of nostalgia, but

.....**10 days** is not a long time, and after all I am still hesitating...

Summer camp “East meets West“ 2007

In the afternoon of July 29, our teacher Ms Grgec, who was very kind to come with us since our adult advisor Ms Krsnik wasn't able to attend, my best friend, Liza and I set off from Croatia, the Hungarian neighbouring country for the Summer camp in Hungary for the whole ten days.

Our camp was located in Balatonmariafürdo, a tourist sight right next to Balaton lake. Every day, we had to wake up about 7 because we had breakfast at 8 and then at 9 to 12 we had English lessons held by our English teacher Ms Grgec and an English native speaker and teacher Ms Hawksworth, which we enjoyed a lot. Then we had lunch at 1 p.m., and at 3 p.m. we had various workshops until the dinner time at 7 p.m. Gergely Kiss was responsible for organizing our free time and it was great to get to know each other better.

In the meanwhile, we had some free time to go shopping, swimming, sunbathing on the beach of Lake Balaton, sightseeing or just going for walks. One day we all went to the town where we rented bikes and rode to the museum where we had a picnic, and on the other occasion we all went sailing.

There were teenagers aged 14-18 from France, Poland, Sweden, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Albania, Ukraine and Russia. In a few days, we all became very good friends and we have improved our English, too. Thanks to Intercultural Party where we had to introduce to others our country and share some specialties that we brought from our country for that particular evening we all learned a lot about the culture of all the other countries represented at the Camp.

We are amazed how great time we had at the Camp and that was also due not only to our English teachers and Gergely, but also to all the other people involved in organizing the Camp since they all wanted us to feel just like at home.

We returned home on August 7 hoping that we'll have a chance to go there again next year and meet our old and new friends.

We are thankful to PTPI for giving us this great opportunity to go there and have a time of our lives.

Helena Černi, Croatia

In the very beginning everything went wrong. Arrived to Budapest we got on a bus and went in the absolutely opposite direction. We understood it on the last bus station. But it was fun!!! It was our first and last stressful situation!

Just a few hours later we got exactly in a whirlpool of new pleasant impressions! Nice teachers, new friends, delicious food, beautiful nature of Balaton shore, and comfortable rooms.

I like camping in Ukraine, but I have never had that many lessons in the camp before. But I survived, because our free time was energy-boosting indeed! We enjoyed our time together with new friends from 9 European countries. We had fun communicating, watching movies in English, and sitting near the campfire. But most of all we liked sailing and excursions! Visiting a new place is a real adventure when you're on two wheels! It can really fire you up!

But the time was too short. And we had to say goodbye to our good friends. It was great experience I'd never had before!!!

We advise you try the next year language camp! It can really make a difference!!!

Max Ivanchenko

Ukraine, Kirovograd