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# Full STEAM Ahead! in Nidzica "Science Explorers!"



## 3RD LEARNING/TEACHING/TRAINING ACTIVITY OF OUR ERASMUS+ PROJECT "FULL STEAM AHEAD! BEGAN IN NIDZICA, POLAND

The aim of our project is to combat the gender inequality gap existing in the field of STEM and promoting STEAM (STEM and Arts for a full and integrated approach) education among students. During mobility in Nidzica, entitled "Science Explorers!", Polish partner school, ZSO, organized various activities focusing on Science, particularly Biology, Chemistry and Physics, in order to increase interest, motivation, knowledge and skills of students (particularly females) in the area.



**Thursday, 4th November  
2021**

The first day began with a visit to Warsaw. First, both students and teachers spent time exploring the Copernicus Science Centre – one of the largest science centres in Europe. Project participants had a lot of fun exploring the laws of physics, chemistry and biology.

Students could discover the secrets of nature, carry out their own experiments and see how our senses let us interpret the world. They were encouraged to discover the capabilities of human body, our sensitivity to light, colour perception and susceptibility to illusions.



In the afternoon young explorers were taken on a guided walk around Warsaw's Old Town, focusing particularly on exploring places connected with the life and work of Maria Skłodowska – Curie, a famous Polish scientist, e.g. her place of birth, a museum devoted to her and her statue on Kościelna street. Apart from that, they also saw historic places in Warsaw, such as the Royal Castle and the Column of King Sigismund III.



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**Friday, 5th November 2021**

The second day of our LTT event was spent in Olsztyn – the capital city of hosting region – Warmia and Masuria. All the participants took part in a workshop led by dr Piotr Androsiuk from the Department of Biology and Biotechnology of University of Warmia and Mazury, entitled “How to extract DNA at home?” – in a genetic laboratory participants learned about methods of DNA extraction and polymerase chain reaction, and put theory into practice by extracting DNA from an onion.



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Project participants also visited the Planetarium in Olsztyn, where they learned about the positions and movement of stars on Warmian sky throughout the year, and watched a movie "From the Earth to the Universe", about our planet, solar system and other objects in the universe.



The day was ended with a guided walk "Tracing the footsteps of Nicolaus Copernicus", during which the participants explored Olsztyn's Old Town and Castle, looking at artefacts and monuments of the famous astronomer, who created his most famous works while living in Olsztyn.

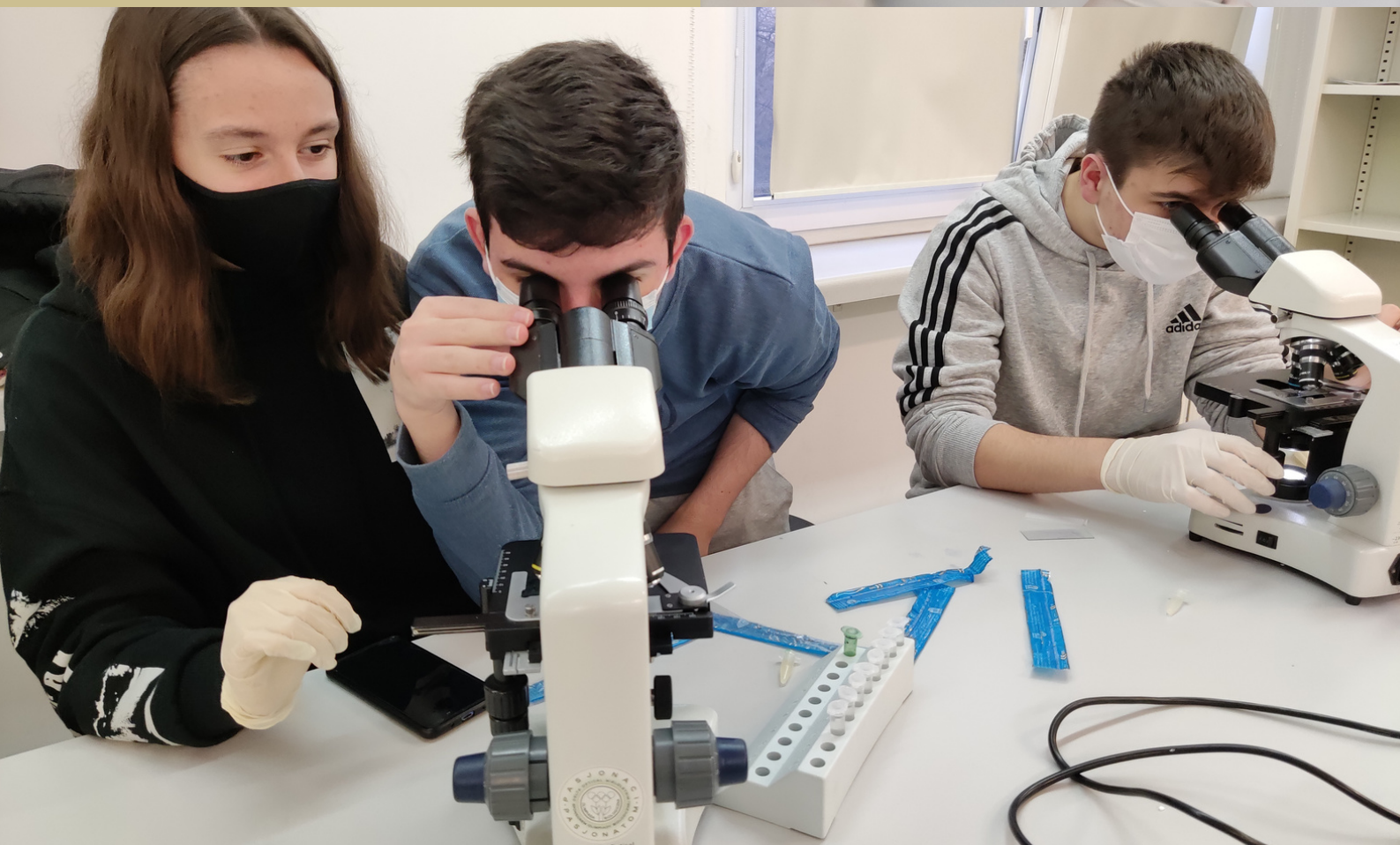


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**Saturday, 6th November  
2021**

The third day of the meeting was spent in Warsaw. Project participants took part in a workshop entitled "Study your own DNA", organized by BioCentrum Edukacji Narodowej in the laboratory of the Faculty of Biology at Warsaw University. The workshop, led by Mr Mikołaj Cup, included learning about the structure and function of the DNA, as well as the extraction of the participants' own genetic material which they later could see and even photograph.



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After the workshops participants visited the Warsaw Uprising Museum, to learn more about the history of their Polish partner.



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## Sunday, 7th November 2021

The fourth day of the LTT event was a working day in Nidzica, at Nidzica's beautiful gothic castle. The day started out with the certificate ceremony, during which the headmaster of ZSO Nidzica presented everyone who took part in the meeting with the certificates confirming their participation and small souvenirs from the host school. Next, Polish students presented to their peers the most significant Polish female scientific figures.. Coordinators also took part in a meeting, during which the project's progress and achievements were discussed.



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# Monday, 8th November 2021

The last day of the meeting was devoted to arts and crafts. Participants took part in soap-making workshops at Łyna – Źródłana Wioska where they could choose colour, scent and mold to create personalized bars of soap.

While waiting for the soaps to set, young people and their teachers took a brief tour of the Springs of River Łyna Nature Reserve and learned about this unique place.



Later, everyone arrived at the Pottery Village (Garncarska Wioska) to try their hand at candle-making, glass painting and decorating Christmas baubles.



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