

# Jobshadowing in Estonia

Pärnumaa Kutsehariduskeskus may 2016

It's a long way to Estonia, especially when the trip involves a missed plane, technical problems, redirection via another Scandinavian airport, 2 times returning to gate again, and a missing suitcase. It was in the middle of the night of day 1, before all participants had arrived at the SPA hotel in Pärnu. The summer capital of Estonia and our host city.

Teele, our Estonian project manager had, together with Lene, our Danish project manager, put a great effort into planning an interesting and relevant exchange for us.



We were 6 teachers on the team. 3 from Iceland and 3 from Denmark. The size of the group was good, we could get around easily and see things and we got to talk a lot and exchange ideas on how we do things in our school and in our country.

We learned a lot about how things are, not only in Estonia, but also in Iceland.

The combination of visiting the school, talking to the teachers, seeing all the facilities and visiting companies and the city council was really good. It was never boring, because every visit was relatively short and effective, and it was never stressed, because the plan was flexible. OK! Our dear project manager Teele was under pressure now and then, because some things took longer than expected. But it never effected us, Teele coordinated on the fly, with the next place to visit, so everything was ready for us, when we arrived, even if we were delayed.





I was nice, that our program also included a tour of our host city Pärnu and a visit to a very beautiful area outside the city. It gave us new energy and it felt like a vacation and not just hard work.



During our stay, we visited many interesting companies. Especially the hat factory Wigers, made a big impression. We saw the production facilities and they showed us, how the hats are shaped. Afterwards we had the opportunity to buy high quality hats at factory prices – not a bad thing, when most of the group was girls.



Another interesting visit was at Pärnu theater. We were **behind, on** and even **under** the stage and we almost got lost, in the basement, where they keep all their costumes.



Last but not least, we had a tour of the cultural center Telliskivi in Tallinn. The founder and CEO of this creative area told us all about the idea's behind the concept, and showed us around. We even tasted newly baked bread from the local bread factory.

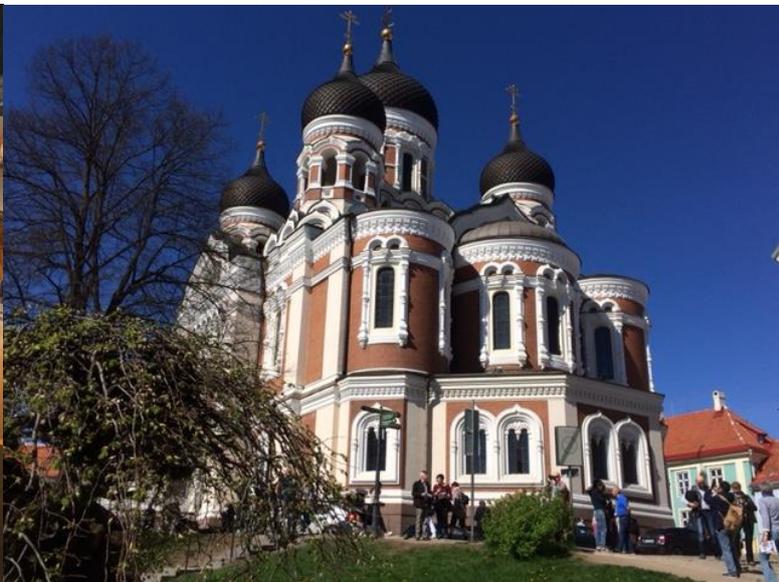


We had several opportunities to exchange experience not only with the teachers from Estonia and Iceland, but also with entrepreneurs from Estonia. It was interesting to learn more about the situation for the upcoming companies there.

Even though the 6 teachers in our group had different fields of interest and different background, it was never a problem. Somehow, everything we did was relevant to all of us, one way or the other.

Now we are back home again, after a wonderful time in Estonia. We bring back inspiration, ideas and new friendships and we hope to build this collaboration even further in the future, for the benefit of the students and the teachers at our schools.

We are tired after having so many impressions, but at the same time we feel relaxed and its like returning from a nice vacation. Maby because there was made room for several visits to the local SPA and a city tour in the beautiful capital Tallinn. Last but not least it may be because the food in Estonia is fantastic.



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