

September is quiet month – children start to go to school, there is not so much time for workshops or some activities anymore. We have sent invitations for schools to make some presentations and workshops about Latvia. Also there will be some workshops in children week in schools. 3rd week of September I will spend in Strunjan – in EVS on-arrival trainings for all volunteers in Slovenia. And then on 25th of September my parents and grandfather will come to visit me for some days – we will go to see some beautiful places in Slovenia.

Last weeks have been interesting for me because of I was picking grapes first time in my life (in total I did it four times 😊) and I saw process of wine making. By the way, in Latvia there is Sabiles wine yard which is in Guinness World Records book because of it is the most Nordic wine yard.

October was very busy month – there were different activities in the week of child – presentations and workshops in schools and in Rizzatova vila. After that there were autumn school holidays – one more week in which we organized different activities in Rizzatova vila and also in school in Vipava (from Monday till Wednesday art teacher Suzana Bajc had workshops there). In Rizzatova vila on Monday – 26th of October – Urška and I had workshop with title ‘autumn on my desk’, then on Tuesday we had expedition – we were searching for hidden treasures in one part of Učna pot near spring of Hubelj. Came 22 children which was really surprising! Day was very sunny and nice and everybody enjoyed. Now we are planning to do some more outdoor activities. I hope weather man will let us to do that 😊 On Wednesday – 28th of October – I had workshop together with Nike. We were making albums and then we put also some pictures from previous day’s expedition. Children were really happy that we can give them some pictures already! On Thursday we wanted to ‘celebrate’ anniversary of first book written in Slovene, so we (me and Urška) prepared Latvian fairy tale about how Riga was founded and children illustrated it in pictures and made a book together. Some of them made it really great! On the last day of school holidays we had workshop for next days Halloween – together with Jana we made Halloween decoration. It was really interesting because of we tried everything for the first time and for some moments I wasn’t really sure if it is going to work this way. But we found solution for every situation and at the end we had beautiful decorations. I think all week was very nice, but also after I was very tired, because of preparation and workshops takes a lot of energy. I made a poster from pictures from autumn school holidays and for some days already everybody can see them in the front of library in Ajdovščina.

Also on my free time in October I have been doing lots of things. We went together with Meta and some friends to Golaki, Slavnik and Nanos – I really enjoy walking in nature

and weather all these days were so good. Mountains are really beautiful, I think that will be the first thing I will miss in Latvia. On 17th of October three other EVS volunteers from Filantropija were organizing Global football tournament in Ljubljana. At first we wanted to participate also, but when we saw how many people are there and that mostly only guys are playing and doing it very good (!!!) we just decided not to traumatize ourselves. Instead of that I helped my friends to organize some things there with results of matches and so on. I met lots of interesting people there from different countries and also from Slovenia. After this tournament we had party in ROG Center – they have prepared lots of food for everybody, we sang karaoke and just enjoyed our time there. It was interesting that 15 years old guys won the tournament. The final match was between them and very well-playing guys from Cameroon, but they had some arguing in the middle of match when result was 1:0 to young guys and Cameroonian guys said they are not going to play any more so final match ended 1:0 for young guys. When they came to the party everybody applauded a lot for them.

On 30th of October came my friend from Spain – we met in Finland while doing our Erasmus and haven't met for 1,5 years. It was really great surprise when she said she would like to come to visit me. On Friday evening we went to Ljubljana and Medvode, spent the night there and then on early Saturday morning together with volunteer from Germany and two volunteers from Turkey we went to Zagreb. We were excited. Just on the border crossing when they were checking our passports I and Turkish people got a little bit disappointed. When they came to check passports, for girl from Germany and from Spain had no problems, it took maybe 2 seconds. When I gave mine, the man who checks, started to call to someone, asking something, then checked my passport with kind of lens and so on. I felt a bit strange, because Latvia is also in EU like Germany and Spain but they acted like... For Turkish people was even more 'funny' – they checked also tickets, ID cards and all the possible things, also checked passport with the same lens, called to someone and then finally left. And it happened for four times – two times going there and two coming back. It was awful... But in Zagreb we enjoyed a lot – city is beautiful and day was very nice (I like Ljubljana more, thought ☺). We were walking all day in the city, sat down in park and ate sandwich etc. We spent all day in the city, then in evening girl from Turkey decided to go back to Ljubljana. In train station we met one more EVS volunteer from France and a guy from Spain (but he said he is not Spanish, he is bask ☺). They knew a guy from Zagreb who offered us to sleep there for night, because of before we were just planning to stay outside also all night, maybe go to some party and then take the first train at 5 in morning. But then guy in Zagreb was very nice, he gave us place to sleep, prepared dinner and we went together to some parties. At 7 in

morning we went back to Ljubljana. Then we went to Medvode to sleep for some hours, then a bit walking in Ljubljana (on this time I also ate chestnuts for the first time! We bought them on the street in the center of Ljubljana, and then sat down to take hot chocolate and it was so tasty together!). After that we came to Ajdovščina. But on Monday we needed to go back to Ljubljana because of my friend from Spain forgot camera in Medvode so we had one more nice day in Ljubljana.