

Portugal,

“In Portugal anything is possible” with these words started my journey. I spent two weeks in Portugal and one of them in city called Barcelos. Only in weeks time I learned many about the culture, local farming, manufacturing and more about people working there. The “**Intercultural Association Mobility Friends**” show us many new areas of the industry of vine producing.



Every day we had a chance to gain knowledge of something new - we went to several vine factories. At start we visited those who collect vines from regions to do the filling into bottles, then finish testing them (we had a chance to participate in few degustation ourselves) and finally mark with “Vinho Verde” certificate. We also visited a vine factory founded on 1990 and I had a chance to hold the bottle same age as myself. We also saw the cognac barrels, wine barrels and vine holders; we tasted the vine from holders and it was an amazing experience! In Latvia vine factories is a very new area, so all the impressions and knowledge gained are very useful for us. It was nice to understand which vine comes from particular region, and why they have been specially marked.

We also visited farms listed for selling. Although it wasn't part of our project, being a group involved and working in agriculture we had quite an interest about the prices and situation when selling the farm. Our friends showed us as much farms as possible, they searched information for prices and answered to all our questions. It was amazing how spontaneous and immediate they react to the all the sudden challenges, questions, and all of our wishes.

The Project aim was to visit vine factory and some vine farms, but we get to see so much more than that - we visited the most beautiful cities, schools, castles and churches...



After this trip I would like to say - I will return to this country and I guess this statement says more than a thousand words. The locals took good care of me, they showed me, not just the obligatory visit points; they showed me the real inside view of the life in Portugal and



the beauty of this country. We went to visit cities during the night just to see the glamour of its different faces on the night. They taught me how to mix national drinks and how to eat local food. We also went to see concert of "Fado" and watched the football game. The day I left I felt that some part of me will stay there and some part of Portugal will come home with me. I didn't just go for an educational project; I went for a lifetime experience. Furthermore – it wasn't just a few beautiful weeks for me – most importantly - I met new friends and I found place where I want to return some day.

There are no words how to say Thank You for how special my time has been. Sometimes I had a feeling that I'm the only one with the saying and all my wishes are like unwritten rule; I just needed to say a word and in very next moment everything was done. People who haven't been in Portugal probably will not understand what I'm talking about, but I tried at least give some bullet points. It would be great if everyone could see it through my eyes. And trust me, with these kinds of people in there -IN PORTUGAL EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

Thank you guys for everything – I had a time of my life! Best regards Māra