

Hello! My name is ChaKo and you are reading „ChaKo’s Diaries”!

I was nameless until Friday 9th of June 2017, when Armenian boy Haiko named me CHAKO! And I really enjoy the time, that I’m spending with these crazy guys of the project „Look around“ 😊:)

1. Participant’s arrival

I sent my application to organization which let people to take part in ERASMUS + program in Poland. It was very delightful because I was chosen to participate in it. I was very excited of going to Poland with my friends. It was already 4 a.m. and registration on flight was beginning. Diana and Giorgi passed through the border and when it came my turn they found out that my passport was out of order and I had to miss that plane. It was shocking for me, because I had to go alone, I had to add some more money from my pocket to exchange ticket, which meant less beer to drink in Poland for me. I even thought about missing this project and stay in my country, but there was no time for giving up, so I decided to have another life adventure.

The next day at the same time I arrived at airport with new passport, with new tickets and with broken heart. I was afraid of having another problem but everything went well and I left Georgia. The next destination was Kyev, because I had to change plane to get Warszawa. I waited for my flight for 6 hours and during this time I looked around every market as well that I knew every product’s price in DutyFree and I could even begin working there as a shop assistant ☹. This 6 hour was like a century for me but finally I got in plane. Also another disappointment of my journey was that when I looked at my ticket I noticed that it took only half an hour to land in Warszawa but I forgot about time difference and flight took an hour and half. Finally I landed in Warsaw and I thought that every difficulty was over, because there must be Diana’s friends in airport to meet me and help to get in Kazimierz Dolny. But everything was beginning that time. That “friends” whom I waited for another 2 hours didn’t come, so I had to find ways by myself. It was too difficult because I didn’t even know how to take ticket or which bus was going to the city centre. At last by asking everyone I got in center of the city, but now I needed bus to get in my final destination. When I was searching the bus station in map, meanwhile I was chatting with Giorgi too, telling him that I was safe and alive 😊:), also every friend together decided to write to me exactly at that time and in 5 minutes my phone’s battery was low. So my adventure of disappointment continued. I had no way back, and not even asking Polish people helped me to find that place, so I relied on my intuition and also with the help of station pictures uploaded on our "LOOK AROUND" group I found it. It felt better than founding a million dollars in the street, I felt like Columbus exploring America. 😊:)

So I didn’t sleep for 48 hours, I spent all my energy on it but I am here and I can say that it worth it.

2. GinKana game

On Saturday morning I had an opportunity to play the game GinKana, which was about reaching the number 50 before others do. It was cool, because it was my first out-door activity and I started to discover the beauty, the peace and the green of Kazimierz Dolny. I really liked this game, because it was a team building activity and I understood the importance of each member of team. Also it was an indirect way to know people better.

Even though it was a competitive game, interestingly different teams were helping each other and we made a very good collaboration! A great variety of feelings and emotions invaded my rubber heart! I feel myself a member of the team now!!!

3. OUTDOOR: GROUP SURVIVAL

We were taken to Kazimierz Dolny's outskirts on touristic buses with our eyes blinded (and some cheerful music in the background —disco - polo). We were divided into 3 groups, white, blue and red. All of them were formed with all the different nationalities and genders, and they were dropped in different starting points.

The participants were told on the spot that two of them were injured and they could not use one leg (they lacked one shoe) on their way back to Kazimierz Dolny. Each team was provided with a survival pack with a rope, a piece of cardboard, plastic bags, a knife and A MAP!!! They were also given a candle and it was crucial for them to bring it intact to the hostel.

This way, three teams had to give their participants a role: some of them would try to find the way, some others would look after their only light and the other would need to take care of their injured companions.

Red team found it too easy, so one of their teammates actually took a nap, and they entered Kazimierz Dolny while dancing in a conga. This was the only group that quickly figured out they could make improvised shoes with the provided materials.

White team had trouble reading their map but they managed to find their way back home... when they learned where the North was.

Blue team also experienced some problems, but fortunately they had a Polish participant who could speak to the locals and get directions. The team showed solidarity when helping their injured to get out of the ravine.

In the end, all teams made it on time to the hostel and felt relieved when they found themselves at home, but the experience taught them companionship, spirit of cooperation, leadership and organization and problem solving skills. And that MOSQUITOES are a real thing here.

4. BBQ

International BBQ was one of the most memorable and colorful activity of the day. Because people brought traditional food, drinks and clothes . Everyone was excited to taste new flavors. I'm surprised how people try this exotic. Their faces was so funny during they taste dishes, sweets and alcohol. People discovered plenty of wines, homemade folk music, crazy dances, and laughing all the time! Also there was a fire of communication: while dancing, in WIFI-zone, on the Rynek and calm and warm BBQ-place. We wanted it to last for eternity.







