On Monday 13. 4. 2015 seven students, Sára Sládková, Petra Jeřábková – both from septima A, Terezie Zichová – sexta A, Lukáš Mareček – 3. C, Michaela Bohušová, Tereza Sovová – both from sexta B and me, Barbora Lösslová – 2. C, accompanied by professor Krumpholcová and professor Helceletová were on their way to the airport in Prague. From there all of us flew to the Ch. de Gaulle airport in Paris. We were heading to the last European Challenges in Innovative Research Diagnostic Methods in Life Sciences Comenius program meeting, which took place in Évreux. From the airport we went by train to the given place, we accommodated ourselves in a hotel and went right to a local school. There we met our colleagues from other participating schools from Switzerland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain, Germany, Austria, Turkey, Hungary and of course the host France.

Next day early in the morning we had a chance to hear several lectures prepared for us by our mentors, the older students, who were in charge of the whole program in lab. The interesting thing was that the teachers were working side by side with us in labs as we were divided into pairs. I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed working with more experienced students as well as having a chance to communicate in english for a change. The topic for this meeting was Nosocomial infections. A patient suffering from a bacterial infection served as a model case for us. We were asked to find the source of the infection, the type of bacteria, wether or not it is sensitive to antibiotics and to determine correct antibiotics and just the right concentration so that the patient is treated but not hurt by the dosage. We studied a contamination of water and catheters, learned to find out if given liquids were polluted, we had a chance to work with the API system and found out many other intriguing things. In the evening we watched a movie called The Untouchables.

On Wednesday we came back to school to evaluate our experiments and subsequently debate about individual results. In the afternoon we took a very pleasant stroll around the Évreux city centre with guides, who eagerly narrated about the history of the city. We visited the magnificent cathedral and an old town hall, where we were surprised with welcoming conference. Later in the day just us youngsters went to a bowling bar and had an amazing time.

The fourth day of our stay we spent in Paris where we split into halves according to the language we spoke and we explored the countless beauties of the european metropolis. We fulfilled our duty to see the Eiffel tower, the Triumphal Arch and Champs-Elysées. We cruised the river Seine and heard an engaging lecture about the history of Notre Dame. This is but a fragment of everything we got to experience. We had fun all day, we absorbed the vibe of the city trying to catch bits and pieces in numerous photos and even though at the end of the day we were drained out of energy nobody wanted to return to the hotel.

On Friday, our last day together, we decided to go to the coast, where we got to know little more about the Invasion of Normandy. We visited the famous Omaha beach and a cemetery Colleville-sur-Mer, where ten thousand american solders rest in peace and at last but not at least a museum of history in Caen. I am sure this program oped our eyes and broaden our knowledge of history. We concluded the day, in fact the whole stay, with a festive supper in Évreux.

Saturday, the day of our departure, was somewhat gloomy for us. We (just us nine) spent about four more hours in Paris before we flew back home at around 8 pm.

I believe I speak on behalf of everyone when I say this week provided much needed experience in labs, a chance to form international friendship and to discover new place in Europe. I think as a team we worked well and I hope we stay in contact in future.

Barbora Lösslová, 2. C

Translated by: Petra Jeřábková, SpA