

## My PASCH Experience – Alumnitreffen in Budapest 2023

During my final scholastic year at Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School, I was given the opportunity to be part of an Alumnitreffen programme that was going to be held in Budapest. Without hesitation, I immediately registered and around



February I got the news that I was chosen and will be going to Budapest during the last week of March. Finally, after what seemed like a forever wait, the day arrived and on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March I boarded my flight to Budapest. Once I arrived, I checked into our hotel and spent the first two days solo traveling and getting familiar with the marvelous city.



Then on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, I moved to my shared room with 2 other girls Dora from Finland and Viviana from Italy. After that, together with 30 other students from different Pasch schools around Europe, we headed to Café Jedermann located near the Goethe Institut there. At the café, we had dinner and started getting to know each other. After that, we decided to go and explore the city before returning to the hotel. During our walk, I ended up getting close with 2 girls from Montenegro, Selma, and Vjera where we spent the whole night chatting nonstop.



The next 3 days started the same with everyone waking up last minute, grabbing a quick breakfast, and hurrying off to the Goethe Institut located about 5 minutes away from the hotel. The first day consisted of multiple introductory workshops where we had to introduce ourselves and where we come from as well as test our teamwork skills through the spaghetti tower marshmallow challenge.



The workshops were split in two, so we used to have the first workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and then the second workshop used to be from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. During our one-hour break, we used to stay together, eat, and sometimes even go out for walks in our area. In the second workshop, we had to use our imagination to show how Pasch makes us feel. In my case using Lego, plasticine, and bubbles I decided to create an image showing that for me Pasch welcomed me into a new world of new and fun experiences.



The second day was filled with so many fun activities. Following the brainstorming workshop and lunch break, the second workshop consisted of an excursion where we embarked on a boat ride on the Danube River and even had a private tour inside the Hungarian parliament.



During the final day of workshops, we were asked to use our sense of creativity once again and think of activities that we could do back in our home countries to encourage others to study German. Together with Viviana, Vlada, and Natya, we planned on doing a Pasch day at our old school which would be in the form of a fair consisting of typical German food and drink, German songs, and much more to show what Germany is all about.



I must say that Saturday and Sunday morning were the saddest days as we had a short leaving ceremony where we were given our certificates and were offered some snacks and sweets and everyone was saying their goodbyes. All I can say is that this experience was one that I will never forget as not only was this an opportunity to practice my German more and meet fellow students who are also studying German but I also got to see the city and make so many memories with the group. Moreover, on this trip, I found some of my closest friends, Selma, Vjera, Vlada, Milica, Sofia, and Zita whom I have also kept in contact with to this day, and even plan on organizing a reunion someday.

