

Haaren (Esch), 29-06-2009

Beautiful days in Stary Poddvorov.

We arrived on Thursday June 11th with beautiful sunshine in Stary Poddvorov. The welcome at the railway station in Hodonin and in the cultural centre of Stary Poddvorov was really warm. Also the welcome by the several families felt very good, so told us our delegation. All of them had wonderful host-addresses. Their hosts took really care of them during all the days we stayed there. Because I stayed in the castle of Cejkovice, I missed this good experience. Although the castle was very beautiful and the staff was friendly, I missed staying in a host family, because that is one of the aims of our Charter: live in families, where we can experience the normal daily life of the several member villages and countries.

The program prepared in Stary Poddvorov was very interesting. We talked about school-systems and we have seen several of them. And also we have seen several offices and services, like a town hall and a sports hall. We were really impressed about all these services and buildings.

Out of this, there are a lot of successful parts of the program I can mention. The number of young participants was very high. And the fact that they had their own program and there own (small) meeting, shows that the organisation took our youngsters serious! And that is very important. Young people come together and we have to realise that they are the future, not only of our Charter, but moreover of the European Union. By the way they work in our Charter; they contribute to develop our aims.

Another part I like to mention is the importance of involving the citizens of the village in the program. And I think the organising committee did a very good job in this. The people of Stary Poddvorov and surrounding villages were very much involved. During this weekend we, the mayors, have met the colleagues of the villages in the region of Hodonin and the regional senator and members of the regional parliament. That was also a very good way to involve those municipalities and authorities. I hope that we will have contact in the future.

Now it will be important that the local authorities take the possibilities to continue the warm feelings for the Charter and for Europe.

All over: we had a very good meeting, well organised, a full program and a good symposium about education systems. I like to thank our colleague Mrs. Buskova, the mayor. Thanks for your work and thanks for everything you did for us!!

But I also like to thank all the people who helped in the organisation. Thank you very much: you did a good job!!

And last but not least: I like to thank the inhabitants of Stary Poddvorov and the surrounding villages. The way you hosted us and took care of us was really fantastic.

THANK YOU STARY PODDVOROV!

Frans Ronnes
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