

## **Newsletter – third meeting in Amersfoort, the Netherlands**

22nd-28th January 2017



### **First day of the meeting in the Netherlands**

We all came to Amersfoort on Sunday 22, in January 2017. We arrived from Nesodden, Ibiza, Rees and Poznan, excited to participate in a week with collaboration, learning, excursions, discussions, social activities and general fun together.

### **Monday 23. January**

On Monday morning, everyone met at Farel College. First of all, the Dutch team gave out information about the main task and the plan for the project week. After this, the students, and the teachers, all got acquainted with each

other. The Dutch teachers had prepared games and ice breakers in which everyone participated. This was great fun, and afterwards everyone felt that they knew each other a little better.

The next item of the agenda was the presentation of the pre-tasks that students from each of the partner schools had prepared before coming to Amersfoort. **LITT MER HER?**



Later there was a vote to decide on which map we were going to use as a basis for all the tasks. Poland was the clear winner! The winning map is displayed below.



Later that day, after the lunch break, the delegations were divided in three separate groups. The groups then set out to explore the city and architecture of various parts of the city. One of the groups went by bicycle, which was a good – but maybe also a bit cold, experience for the non-Dutch. This was a great opportunity for the students and teachers from outside the Netherlands to get to know this charming city.



## **International Evening**

In the evening everyone, including the all the host families, gathered for the International Evening. Everyone had prepared lots of food and it was fun to try specialities from all the different countries. The Norwegian salmon went down very well, but it's not as easy to persuade others to eat the traditional "brunost" (brown cheese). The teachers had arranged a photo

scavenging hunt which was promptly ignored by the students who would rather dance!



All in all, this was a good day with lots of excitement and new impressions. Sure to last for a life time!

## Tuesday 24. January

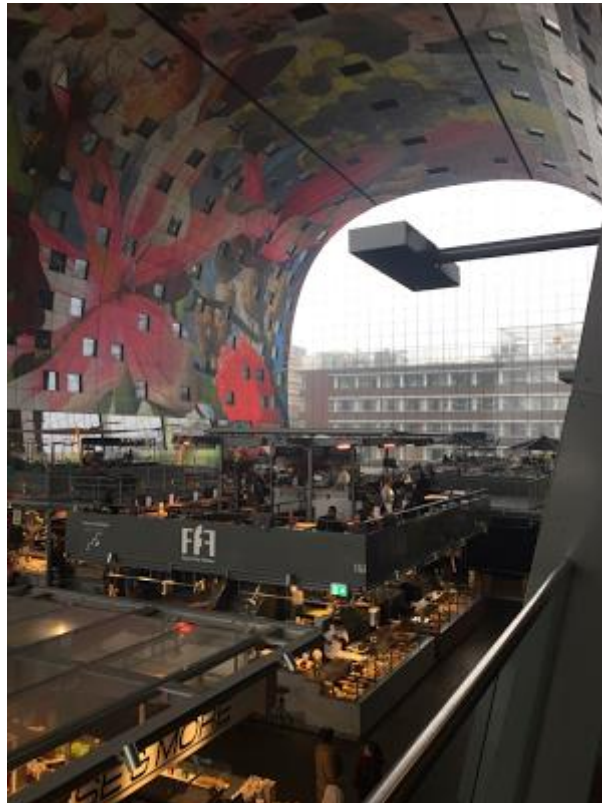
Today was a really busy day, but it was also great fun. We began the day at Delft University.

Here, we had a 'master class' about city development with special care for sustainability and city planning. We also learned that the most important thing in a city is the people living there, and not the city itself.



After the interesting talk, we were able to have a lovely lunch (great cafeteria there!) at Delft University, with the rare opportunity to sit outside in the sun and enjoy our lunch!

After lunch the next port of call was Rotterdam. In this bustling, modern city, we visited a very interesting building; the market hall. This building contains, amongst other things, Europe's biggest piece of art. This enormous and impressive work of art covers all of the ceiling and walls inside. It was quite a powerful sight!



*On the inside, looking out.*



*Part of the painting covering the ceiling.*



*More from the ceiling.*

We were also told about how Rotterdam was bombed during the Second World War, and that the city therefore had to be rebuilt almost from scratch.

## **Wednesday 25. January**

Wednesday was back to Farel College in Amersfoort. The students were able to apply their newly acquired knowledge to the task at hand. The theme of the day was the importance of cooperation and planning. Several challenges had been prepared for the students to help them with this aspect of the project. They all went about the challenges with heart-warming enthusiasm, despite the cold Dutch weather.



## **Thursday 26. January**

Thursday was a great day, because we were fortunate enough to go to Amsterdam. Amsterdam is a city with a lot of 'action', both in terms of the people busily going about their business, and in regards to planning and building activity for both business and housing. There is also a lot of



tourism, and a wide variety of cultural activities is going on all the time. The city was crowded, buzzing, moving, exciting and also very cold!

One of the visits that had been arranged by the Dutch team was a visit to see a model of a large area that was under development, and had been developed for the last 25 years as well. This was then an excellent example of long term planning, and showed us that there is a continuous process which is constantly under revision for new things to come. This visit was very impressive and very interesting to watch and hear about.





After a little bit more sightseeing in an architectural context, everyone had a couple hours of free time for lunch and sightseeing/shopping as 'normal' tourists in Amsterdam.

At the end of the day, we had one more little post on the programme, and that was to visit a museum called 'het schip' (the ship). It was interesting to learn about how the workers of Amsterdam took things in their own hands and started building houses for themselves with a much better standard than they had from before.

### **Friday 27. January**



Today was the Grand Finale of the project. The actual span of the week's task seemed to slowly dawn on the students as they started making the final sketches of their ideal future city. It was a day filled with great discussions and a lot of creativity.



It all came to a climax with the final presentation of the future city and how it was designed with the different themes in mind. The students presented their ideas regarding the sub themes in convincing manner. It shows that the students have reflected on very important matters concerning creating a sustainable future for our cities, its inhabitants and the planet on which we are living.

It was not without a bit of competition, however, and the “Inhabitants”-group was crowned the winner with their clear goals for the future city.

All in all, an inspiring, educational and very enjoyable visit to the Netherlands. Saturday was the day when many new friends had to say goodbye, but hopefully the friendships will last and the students will find the time to meet up again in the near future.

For further details on the project, please visit the blog at:

<http://citiesinternationalproject.blogspot.no/>