



PROJECT „3D AIDS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN“ 2018 – 2021

FINAL EVALUATING ESSAY

The project started in spring 2019 after our team was built. Everyone in the team had their roles, like electrical engineering, programming, and 3D printing. Our role in the team was to represent our country and to document the project. The team was led by 3 teachers, who started the project by talking to people from a Medical institute for children, where they discussed what we could do to help. After that, the technicians started to work on the aids, together with their teacher. Me, Martin, and Pavel started making presentations to make a good representation of our country.

Our first trip was to Sweden in April 2019. While it was already spring in The Czech Republic, it was still cold in Sweden. We stayed there for a week and enjoyed it a lot. As the leader of our team, I had to act responsibly to make sure that everything goes correctly. I also became a part of an international team, which was a completely new experience for me. Not only did I learn how to cooperate with people efficiently, but I also learned the basics of 3D modelling in SolidWorks, and the 3D printing which followed. Apart from working on the project, we were also shown around the school and the town, and we visited interesting places in the area, like the Match Museum or a family-led furniture production factory. Whenever we had free time, we went to the city to breathe in the atmosphere of this incredible country.

Once we returned home, our team had the task of introducing the project to our schoolmates. We made our presentations to share our experiences and to make them want to join similar projects like this.

Half a year has passed, during which our technician team has been working hard on the creation of aids. I didn't want to be left behind, so I, together with my colleagues from the presentations team, decided to make a mobile application for our project. It would serve as a quick dictionary of basic phrases in the languages of countries partaking in the project – Czech, Swedish, Slovak, and of course, English. However, we had no experience in making mobile applications. Therefore, we had to put our heads together and learn programming for Android by ourselves.

The next country we visited was Slovakia. We arrived there in December 2019, and we were taken good care of right from the beginning – The Slovaks taught us the basics of Arduino, PCB design and soldering. They also took us on a day trip to a nearby cave system, to the Betliar Manor House and to Christmas market in Košice to end the day. The main goal for the technical team was to work on more medical aids, while my team had to not only document the trip, but we also had to finish the application by recording the pronunciation of the phrases in all languages. For that, we once again needed to cooperate in an international team, but that was nothing new to me, and we managed to finish the application successfully.

This project was my first experience with Erasmus, and I can say that it was very positive. The teachers showed an excellent skill of organisation, I got to know countries in which I never was before – and thanks to the project, my experience felt very authentic. I made new friends, I improved my ability of cooperation in a team, and I gained many new skills. And all of this was done in the good spirit of creating products, which will help handicapped children.

Jan Hendrych, Martin Ladra, 30.06.2021