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10/6/2013 - Croatia - Salesian High School, Wroclaw at the National Parks of Europe Festival in Zagreb



(ANS - Zagreb) - From 13 to 19 May, a group of students and teachers from the Salesian High School, Wroclaw, Poland, went to Zagreb in Croatia, to take part in the final meeting of the National Parks of Europe programme as part of the Comenius Project. Apart from the Salesian High School, Wroclaw, there were representatives from seven other schools from six countries: Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Italy, Turkey and

Photograph available in Image Bank

As on previous occasions, this gathering was noteworthy for its rich and interesting programme of activities. The principal task, spread out over several days, consisted in observing and cataloguing the flora and fauna typical of three parks in Croatia, at Medvednica, Risnjak and Plitvickich.

The Zagreb gathering gave the participants an opportunity to get to know better the many interesting places in the Capital City of Croatia, as, for example the Gornij Grad – the historic church of St Mark, the interior of the Croatian parliament, the so-called 'Museum of the Broken Bonds', the stone gateway with its miraculous picture of Our Lady, and the Lotrscak Tower.

"For me it was an unforgettable experience that will remain with me for many years." said Maks Stawik, one of the students from the Salesian High School. "This programme has achieved several goals for us as teachers, students and citizens of Europe. We overcame barriers, learned to be more open to others, to get to know the culture and mentality of other countries, and especially to make new friends" added one of the teachers, Magdalena Szewczyk, who coordinated the project.

The principal aim of the National Parks of Europe programme is to allow students of the participating schools to compare the fauna and flora of national parks in Poland, Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania and Croatia. It was also the intention to promote tourism in the areas, and to make the young people more ecologically aware.

The programme lasts two years, was the work of 55 people, involved 8 meetings, visits to 8 national parks, the publication of 18 articles and 55 displays on the national parks. Several films were made and hundreds of photos. All the material is available on the website www.nationalparks-comenius.eu.

This meeting brings the work of the National Parks of Europe programme to an end. The next Comenius project for schools will be a study of rivers. The Salesian High School, Wroclaw hopes to take part also in this study.

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