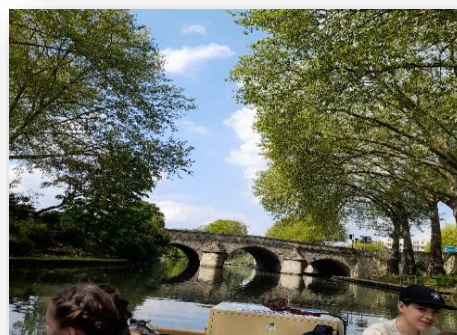


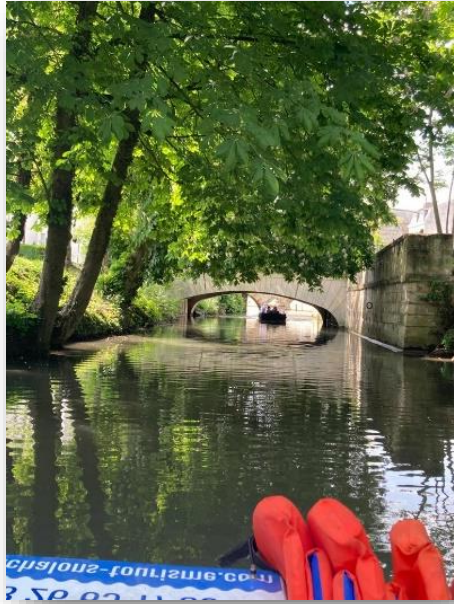
## Final meeting in Chalons en Champagne

1 – 8 May 2022

The final meeting took place only three weeks after the second one ended so there was little time for planning and organising. However, that was the only time option possible for all the participants and despite little time, it all went as planned and it was again, just fantastic.

Day 1 started with the school headmaster's welcome speech and the presentation of the week programme and all three schools, performed by students. French teachers took us to 'Tour de School', where we found out how huge the school premises and area were and how well it was equipped to provide a high quality training for their students. After lunch, we explored the marvellous city of Chalons, taking a boat ride on the local river with a commentary about the history of the city and the sights we saw. In the afternoon, all participants in mixed teams, participated in a treasure hunt all around the city, hunting for sights and taking pictures of and selfies in front of them.



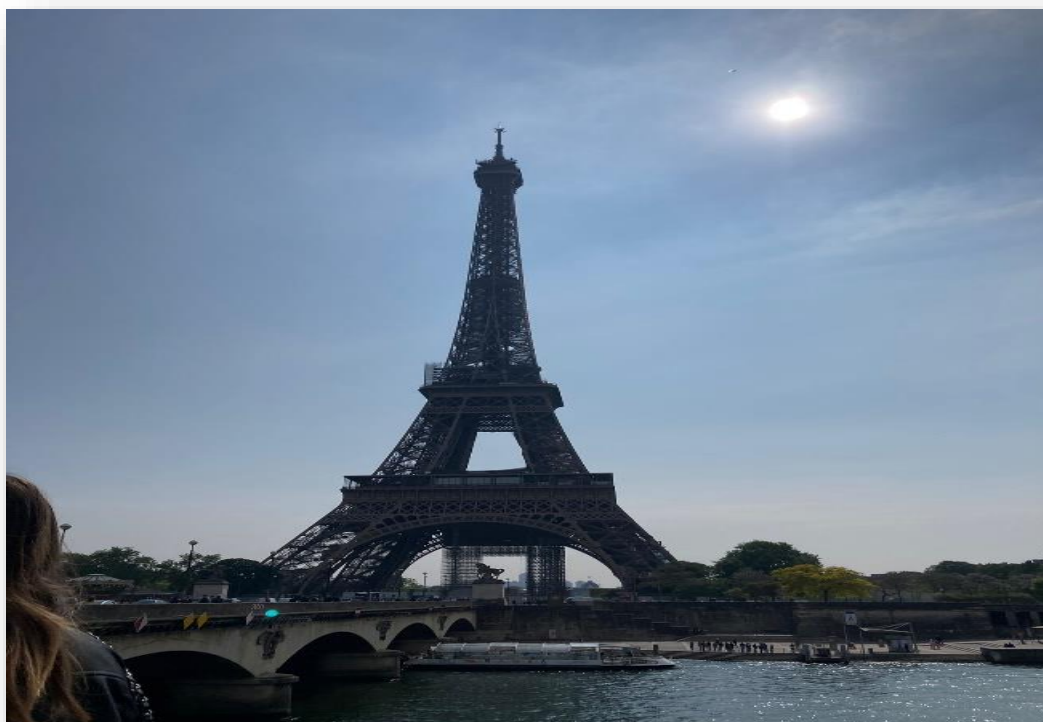
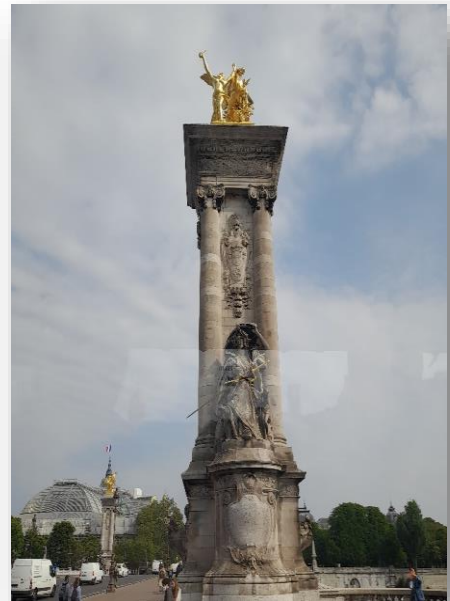
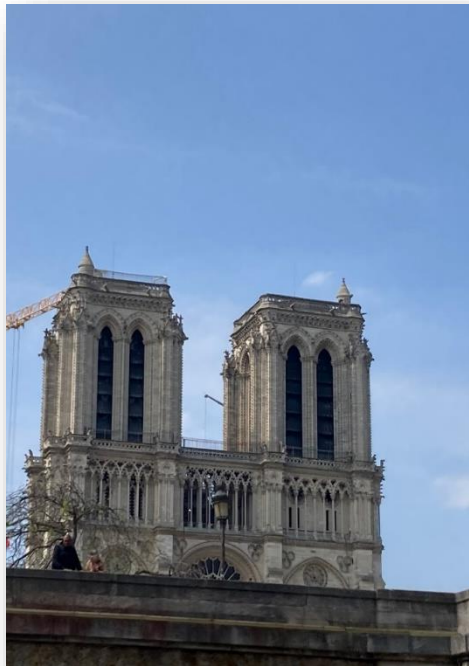




On the second day, we travelled to Paris, that was a must, of course, as everyone had heard about and read about it before but experiencing it in real is a different story. We enjoyed the Eiffel Tower, took plenty of pictures and were amazed by the hugeness of the monument. It certainly was an experience to remember, to be there in presence. We had packed lunches nearby the Eiffel Tower and then we all went for a boat ride with a commentary on the River Seine. It was a fantastic experience with stunning views of the Tower, The Louvre, The Notre Dame and a number of other sights. After that we walked to the city centre and enjoyed the Champs Elisee in real life. We had some time to enjoy the place the way we wanted and then we travelled back to Chalons.









Day 3 was marked by creativity and health. Students, again in mixed teams, had the task to create a portrait from either only fruit, or only vegetables or only kitchen utensils, cutlery and crockery, or combinations of them, according to what they had drawn. They, despite the fact, that they were in groups of mixed nationalities, tastes, opinions, did very well. The French colleagues created an opinion poll and we all sent the link to our schools where all students, parents and teachers voted for the best creation. This way, also students not present at the mobility, were able to cooperate. While the students were in the process of their creation, Julien, Luigi and me, Martina, had a meeting together with several French teachers of English, to make sure about what we had to complete and fulfil before we start the process of finalizing the project with the final report. That meeting was very important and useful as we knew exactly what was expected from us to complete our work.

















Day 4 – we left Chalons for Rheims, another famous city. On the way there, we all stopped at the vineyards of Verzenay, where French students gave a speech about the place and its history. Then we went to POMMERY cave, which was really interesting. We could say we had never seen anything like that before and being there and listening to the information about the history of the company, and champagne making we felt fascinated. We had lunch at the application restaurant where we were served tasty lunch by students of the catering branches. After that we visited a beautiful Cathedral of Reims and then all the participants enjoyed free time in the city doing what they wanted, exploring what they felt was interesting.



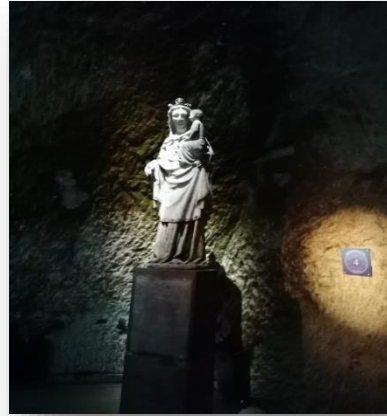














The fifth day was the most active, as far as the team work is concerned. Students were in three teams of mixed nationalities, and they had three different activities to accomplish. A sensory analysis, which was something most of them had never experienced, was very interesting as the participants were involved in the analysis of smell, taste, touch, hearing and sight...they analysed samples of food and drinks and they found the activity great and educative. The other task involved a bit of sports, miming, balance and a lot of fun. Students drew a kitchen utensil written on a piece of paper, had to mime it to their partner, who, after guessing what it was, had to run with glasses filled with water to a table, take the utensil and bring it back to the group. Needless to say, that many of the participants got wet and laughed a lot. Activity 3 was very useful, even for the teachers, as the students were supposed to make one of the typical desserts of the region, or France. So they were divided into groups of three and they really physically made the dough, portioned it on the tin, learnt the tips and tricks necessary for this kind of dessert and for baking and they really baked it. Then it was offered at the afternoon party after distributing the certificates. During that party, we all thanked each other for the participation and hard work at the project and we all had fun eating, dancing and entertaining ourselves. Sadness was already present on that day.

















The participants spent Saturday in their families who made programme for them, teachers went to explore Troyes, an amazing city of history and culture, with its stunning historical corn filled fifth restaurants, cafes and shops. We had crepes in a restaurant and we must



say they were delicious. The students were, during the whole day, sending us pictures and videos from the activities they were doing with their hosting families and we knew they were happy and safe.

During this meeting, all students were accommodated in families, so they were very lucky. We are very thankful to the French for being able to find enough families to host. That way, all students without an exception, were able to experience the way of life first hand in France, their culture, attitudes, hospitality and homemade dishes. Yes, they especially appreciated the typically French homemade dishes offered to them daily. Even though the families took care of them as of their own children, students knew that their teachers were available to them at any time, they were able to communicate any problems with them. The language barrier between the French families and the participants was solved by using translators and by the end of the week, all participants had learnt basic phrases from every language they encountered during their stay.

Again, some of Slovak participants were students from disadvantaged social backgrounds, some had never flown before or never been so far from home, some of them suffer from kind of discomfort of being in the company of many people, preferring to be on their own.... Thanks to this project, they got the opportunity to travel and to rely on themselves and on people they had never met before. It was amazing how well they got on, thanks to the care of their hosting families, and their openness and love. Even though they were certainly out of their comfort zones, and there was the initial fear in their eyes when meeting their families for the first time.

Three times during this week, the participants had the chance to have lunch in the school canteen, which they appreciated, because we had no canteen at our school and also it is unusual in a Slovak school canteen to be able to choose from several different dishes. That was a new experience for them then. Teachers had the opportunity to have lunches at the school restaurant, where the chef and cooks are school teachers and students, but the restaurant is open to the public, as well. We found this a very great opportunity to promote the work of students to people outside the school and a very good idea. Also, we had to admit, that the food was delicious and the styling on the plates was remarkable.



What is more, during so many activities carried out by teams composed of mixed nationalities, the participants, again, had to use English as the target language, thus realizing how important it is when cooperating with people whose language you do not speak. They themselves told us that from then on, they were going to spend more time learning and practising English once back at home. They understood, that we were part of the European Union as a proper member, whose citizens could really travel anywhere within the Union, settle down and work there. That we are treated as equals, despite the fact that we had joined later than the others and had been under communist influence before. They were appreciated as individuals during the activities, as every one of them had their own task and that way their self-esteem grew. They knew they did it well because the others in the team relied on them. Otherwise the team would not have succeeded. Thanks to spending the whole week in the company of people not speaking their own language, their English language competences have improved and they admitted they were more communicative at the end of the mobility as compared to its beginning.

Being part of teams, they had to cooperate in the company of people speaking different languages, having various attitudes, opinions, ideas....in case of problems with the target language, they used the language translators, and as time passed by, they learnt a lot of phrases from each other in different languages, so they were able to communicate better. Anyway, they all were very happy when as a team, they achieved the desired goal, because they knew that them, as individuals, supported the team and contributed.

The visits to Paris and Reims was a great experience for the participants. Everyone, or almost everyone in Europe, wants once to visit Paris, the City of Love, with the iconic Eiffel Tower, The Louvre, The Notre Dame. And this dream was made come true for all our participants, also teachers. We finally saw in real life, what we only had heard about or read in books, or saw on TV. We learnt a lot about the French history and culture, and their interconnection. Some of our students already told us that they would return to Paris, and to France, as they had fallen in love with the culture and historical sights there. Rheims was also beautiful and memorable, as was Troyes, and we all have unforgettable memories of those places. And of the people, as all of them were so kind, caring and

reliable. We all want to thank you, Julien, Sophie, Jean – Marie, Vina, Estelle, Remy and many others for everything you have done to make us feel great, because we did.