

## QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1 Introduce yourself, please.
- 2 Can you compare our country with other post-communist countries or with old members of the European Union? Is this your first visit to the Czech Republic? What are your first impressions? What do you imagine when you hear the word Czech now and before your visit to our country? Were your ideas different from what you saw here? Countryside, cities, villages, transport, sights, school, and the way of life in general, teachers, students, fashion, ...
- 3 School, equipment, environment, the level of cooperation, behaviour of students...
- 4 What cultural differences did you notice during your stay here? Are they big or enriching, if there are any.
- 5 Did you see anything that is difficult to understand for you?
- 6 Your opinion on the European Union in general and from the point of view of our Comenius Project.
- 7 Are your teachers and students interested in exchanges with our school? Are there any countries where people do not want to go? You do not have to name them but...
- 8 Please answer the question I forgot to ask you..

### Cinzia dall'Asta



1. I teach French in an Italian high school. My name is Cinzia dall'Asta and I am 45 years old.
2. When coming to the Czech Republic, I found a very clean country, not so different from other countries of the EU. It was my third visit, the first one was in 2002, but the impression has always been positive. My expectations were not so high and positive, so it was a very pleasant surprise! Landscapes are nice, towns are of great historical interest, people are very kind and sociable. We found nice people and colleagues, students are motivated and kind. If you ask me to compare my students with yours, well.. young people are young people all over the world... they socialize easily, they often wear the same clothes, listen to the same music!
3. I love your school organization, because schools in Italy don't have individual offices that teachers share with other colleagues, but just a big noisy teachers' room with 30 people at a time and only three computers... Your students are polite and certainly not so noisy as ours...!
4. Differences in culture and civilization are always positive, because you get to know another lifestyle, another mentality and you learn to appreciate it, you learn there something different from what you know. Anyway, I could not see important differences.
5. No, I don't think so.
6. It is a very positive opinion, because the E.U. Comenius programme has allowed different students and teachers from my school to study and improve their knowledge on different subjects in both English and French to travel all over Europe, and to create links with European students and teachers.
7. It is easier to find students willing to travel than teachers, probably because they don't speak foreign languages and are afraid of the impact. Yes, there are some countries where people don't want to go, but I can assure you that your country is not in the list!
8. The question you did not ask me is: Would you like to come back? .. and the answer is: Oh, yes, I'd really love it.

## Mónica de Oliveira Geraldo

1. My name is Mónica de Oliveira Geraldo, I'm 17 years and I study at Escola Profissional de Aveiro, in Portugal. I'm studying Computer Sciences and Management.

2. Yes, I can do a comparison because some countries are different from each other in several things, such as cultural things. But I could also find some similarities, such as in young people's garments, fashion and relationships.

It was the first time I visited the Czech Republic. I think the country has got many green spaces and agriculture is still quite active in certain areas, which I think is favourable for the country.

3. From what I've seen, it seemed to be a very organized school, the teachers and students were very friendly. In terms of technology, compared with Portugal, I think the school could be a little more developed.

4. I saw some differences in culture. I found a bigger difference in food. Lunch and dinner were all based on meat and think Czech people use a lot of sauces.

5. No, I found

6. I think that there are good Projects like this one, because it motivates the students and opens doors to meet other EU countries. It is also very good to practice the universal language, English, and also friendly relationships with people from other countries.

7. Yes, the Czech Republic is an interesting and beautiful country. I can't see any reason for not wanting to go to the Czech Republic. I loved it!

**Pedro José**



**Santos**

**Miguel dos**

1. My name is Pedro José Miguel dos Santos, I'm 19 years old and I study in Aveiro (Escola Profissional de Aveiro).

2. It is difficult for me to talk about other countries, because I only know about what I read and nothing more than that, nothing better than to visit the country to really get to know it. This was my first trip to the Czech Republic. I really enjoyed this trip because it is a beautiful country, nice, friendly and I liked the architecture of the houses. To me, the Czech Republic now means sympathy, joy, and nature. I loved the landscape.

3. My school is very different from Olomouc's school. The level of architecture and technology is very different but the students and teachers are very friendly in both schools.

4. I believe different cultures are good, they allow a person to understand the differences between the countries and, therefore, understand each culture and its traditions.

5. No, I think everything was easy to understand as we are not that different from each other!

6. These European projects are very good for all of us. They allow us to understand new cultures and new ways of work and ideas. The Projects even allow us to improve the way we work and we see the world.

7. I think people would be interested in travelling to the Czech Republic because they would love to get to know a new culture and also because the teachers and students I know love to travel and meet new people.

## **Carlos Manuel de Oliveira Almeida**

1. My name is Carlos Almeida and I'm 20 years old. Now, I'm studying Computer Sciences and Management Student at Escola Profissional de Aveiro. I live in a village called Ouca, 20 Km away from Aveiro. In my free time, I play trumpet and I teach this instrument too.

2. Yes, this trip was my first visit to the Czech Republic. Before going, I thought that this country was less developed than in reality is. The country has a normal standard of living and it has a big internal transport network. I knew little about this country. I only knew its location and the name of its capital. So, before, the word Czech didn't mean much to me. But now, this word means some very good things, such as great moments, sympathy, kindness, culture, friendships and nostalgia. About the city, I think it is a very calm city, fine and organized. We can do a lot of things in this city, like visiting all the churches, chapels, museums, castles, and others monuments. We can also see beautiful landscapes, green spaces. And it isn't hard to see all the things that I said because this city has a big internal transport network that is accessible to everyone and it's cheap. In general, all the people that I had the opportunity to meet were very kind, very friendly with a nice spirit of hospitality.

3. The school has got normal conditions in relation to other schools. In terms of technological equipment, the school still has a lot to grow. The students of this school are well behaved and they respect each others' work. This school seems to me that has a satisfactory level of organization and discipline.

4. Yes, I think there are some differences. There are differences in the alphabet or in the symbols that transform the way the sounds are pronounced; the food is very different from the Portuguese one and many other things but I think these differences are very enriching and bring some individuality in a global world.

5. Yes, there is. I don't understand why the salesperson in the shopping centre take off their shoes. Is that a tradition? Even at your school, I saw some students wearing slippers.

6. I think that these Projects are very important to the students that participate in them. These are a unique opportunity to know other countries, other people, to make friendships in other countries and this is a good opportunity to practice a foreign language, in this case, English.

7. Yes, I think both students and teachers would like to visit the Czech Republic because it is a very beautiful country and the people are very friendly and warming.

## **Tiago Filipe Pires Nolasco**

1. My name is Tiago Nolasco, I'm eighteen years old and I study at Escola Profissional de Aveiro! I like technology, swimming, listening to music, playing saxophone...

2. This was my first trip to Czech Republic, and I loved it. If I could I would stay one or two more weeks! Before this trip I didn't have many things to say about Czech Republic. I knew that it belongs to the European Union but nothing more! After this trip I can say where the country is in the map, I can talk about it and about the population! I liked a lot of the young people's education; they respect a lot the elder people and each other. I loved the monuments and the green spaces there!

3. Well I must be sincere! I wasn't very impressed with the equipment because, in Portugal, our school has a lot of new technologies.

4. Yes, of course. I can see differences in the language, the food, the times of the meals and other things. These differences are very good because it would be boring to have all the European countries doing the same things. If everything was the same, there would be no point in travelling to other countries.

5. Yes. Why don't you join the European Currency, the Euro (€)?

6. I think these Projects are very important! The students can communicate with others cultures and develop their communicative skills.

7. Yes, I believe everyone would be interested in visiting the Czech Republic because it is a very beautiful country with a different culture. I also consider that it is very good to go out of our own country to broaden our horizons.