

STUDY TRIP

ECPM Strasbourg

[Slovenia 2008]



STUDY TRIP - VE 2008 - ECPM
25 rue Becquerel
BP 08
67087 Strasbourg Cedex 2
France

Contact :

+33 (0)6 63 56 71 21 (C. Vogt)
+33 (0)6 43 42 11 93 (C. Petermann)
Fax : + 33 (0)3 90 24 26 55

ve2008@ecpm.u-strasbg.fr

After a three year study at the European School of Chemistry, Polymer and Materials Science, the students who are going to graduate in 2008 plan to spend the last week of their studies together in Slovenia – this little country that joined the European Union recently. They will discover its companies, research centres, cities and landscapes.



ÉCOLE EUROPÉENNE DE CHIMIE, POLYMÈRES ET MATÉRIAUX
ÉCOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE D'INGÉNIEURS
STRASBOURG



THE ENGINEERING SCHOOL

The European School of Chemistry, Polymer and Materials Science (ECPM) offers a varied instruction and a trilingual (French, English and German) training course completed by compulsory work experience schemes abroad and by a close collaboration with various European Union firms, institutes and universities.

The school is located in Strasbourg in the heart of Louis Pasteur University, one of the main centres of the world scientific research. It belongs to the ENSI (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Ingénieurs / National High School of Engineers) as well as to the Gay Lussac Federation which gathers 18 French schools specializing in chemistry and chemical engineering.



OUR WISHES

Future European engineers on the way to beginning their working life, the ECPM students want to be confronted with other industrial cultures. Therefore, every year a study trip is organized. It includes local and international firms' visits as well as the discovery of a big foreign scientific university.

In this prospect, the students of the Year 2008 will go to Slovenia for a week to see this country and its industrial culture. We will see the outstanding cultural and national heritage of this nice Central Europe country. This study trip will take place from March 22nd to 29th. It will also bring up the students together for a last time before the beginning of their final year projects as well as open their mind to other traditions.

THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES

This association is dedicated to the organization of the study trip.

Six students are part of it:

Magali Rompais, president
Claire Petermann, treasurer
Clotilde Missiaen, secretary
Sarah Boulineau, active member
Alice Perrot, active member
Cédric Vogt, active member

Other students who want to help for a particular task are also welcome. Therefore, we would like to thank especially Elodie Champarnaud, Emilie Hachet and Frederic Terrade for the help they gave us this year.

The aims of the association:

The association aims at organizing a trip in which as many students as possible could take part.

This year, 521€ per student are to be paid to the travel agency. Our main activity has been to collect money to reduce the price – through various events for more than a year – so that almost all the students could afford this trip.

Thus, our work within this association has been divided into two parts:

- Search for financing (since September 2006)
- Organization of the Trip itself (mainly since June 2007)

Our initiatives were a good means to collect money as well as to promote the Study Trip in the School:

- Sale of chocolate croissants: every morning at School
- Organization of breakfasts: the association has organized breakfasts in the school on several occasions (first aid course, party on graduation day).
- Parties: the Study Trip Team has organized several parties during the school year 2006/2007 – at School or in some bars in the centre of Strasbourg.
- Sale of Chocolates: Easter time.

The School gives us a subsidy which amounts to 13500€. Another students' association – the one which organizes the Party on graduation day – also helps us financially (1800€) as we helped them during the Party. Then, we expect the Former Students' Association to support our project.

PARTNERSHIP WITH COMPANIES

Partnerships with companies and with local authorities are essential so as to reduce the price of the trip – which currently amounts to 220€ per student.

If you want to help us financially, please contact us. We can advertise for your firm/association through our blog, and on the T-shirt the students will wear during the trip.

SLOVENIA

This little country – formerly part of Yugoslavia – joined the European Union in 2004 and is going to take up its presidency between January and June 2008.

Slovenia traded the tolar for euro on January 1st, 2007 and joined Schengen Space last January.

Like Croatia, Slovenia has succeeded in taking up the challenge of the transition from a state economy towards a free-market model. Indeed, Slovenia is an economically-stable-country, whose PIB amounts to 19 343 \$/inhabitant – the highest in all the Central Europe countries. It is also to be noticed that its growth rate is rather high – 3,8 % at the end of the year 2005.

Nevertheless, many economic sectors are still state-run and foreign investments are still low. However, the setting up in Slovenia of international companies – like Renault – is to be pointed out. Slovenia can also rely on big national companies – like Krka, specialized in the production of chemicals and pharmaceutical products.

OUR ROUTE IN SLOVENIA



Sunday 23rd: Bled

- Island and Castle of Bled :



The lake of Bled is probably the most lovely and romantic one in the Alps. One can find there a wide range of colours: the blue waters of the lake surrounded by the green forests, these one overhung by the white tops of the Julian Alps...

A dream place! It had been chosen as place of rest by the Austrian and Hungarian courts and aristocracies during the Empire. Its medieval castle at the top of a dizzy cliff offers a nice view onto the lake and the town.



- Bohinj Lake :

The Bohinj Lake offers a wilder beauty – in the heart of the Triglav national park.

- Kranjska Gora :

It is a town located in the Julian Alps, at the northwest of the country. Kranjska Gora is particularly famous for its ski-resort.

From Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th: region of Ljubljana

- Guided Tour of Ljubljana :



Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, is a dynamic Central European city lying at an altitude of 298 m above sea level in a broad basin between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea. It is often said that it is big enough to offer all the advantages of a capital while being small enough so that everyone could preserve its personality. This city has a soul notably shown by its old baroque centre surrounded by the verdant slopes of the hill of the castle, by its Art Nouveau residences as well as by the famous architect Jože Plečnik's chefs-d'oeuvre.

- Guided Tour of Škofja Loka:

Škofja Loka is a town located at 22 km northwest of Ljubljana. It is one of the oldest towns in Slovenia – it was founded in 973! The visit of the castle is also included.



Tuesday 27th and Friday 28th: Piran

- Lipica Stud Farm



Lipica is a hamlet located in the Karst plain, south from Sežana. Its Stud Farm is internationally renowned for the training of Lipizzaner horses, whose name come from Lipica – which means “small lime” in Slovenian.

Lipica Stud Farm is the unique example of intact medieval rural estate in Slovenia.

- Guided Tour of Piran :

Piran is a small museum–town dominated by a baroque campanile, with the famous Tartini Place, Benecanka Palace, Saint Peter’s Church and lots of other historical monuments.

Piran was, to a great extent, influenced by the nearby Italy.

One can stroll through its narrow streets and admire its Venetian palaces. Piran’s fishing port is very lively – as well as its taverns and its fish restaurants.



- Caves of Postojna:



The Caves of Postojna are located in the south of Ljubljana. With their 27-km-length they are one of the biggest in Europe. Most of the distance is travelled by small train.

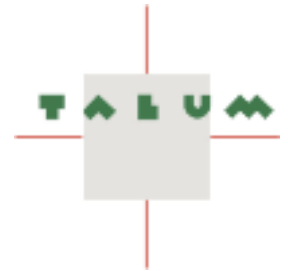
VISITS OF INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES AND RESEARCH CENTRES

Industrial Companies

The companies we are to visit mirror the dynamism of the Slovenian Industry. Thanks to these visits, we will discover two very different sectors – metallurgy and the food-processing industry. However, we regret that Krka and Pliva – two of the biggest pharmaceuticals groups in central Europe – cannot welcome us on their sites.

Talum:

Located in Kidričevo, Talum is one of the biggest companies in Slovenia. Its specialization is alumina and aluminium processing. 156 000 tonnes are produced every year.



The company was founded in 1942 by the German firm Vereinigte Aluminium Werke and enjoyed a significant expansion during World War Two, which enabled them, in particular, to sign contracts with the French Pechiney group since 1957. Today Talum employs nearly one thousand people and continues its massive modernization programme that began in 2004.

More on: <http://www.talum.si/en/home.php>

Pivovarna Laško:

Lasko is the oldest brewery in Slovenia. Since 1825 it has conveyed an image of quality beer. More recently, the Group Pivovarna Lasko extended its activities to other kinds of drinks like mineral water or soda.

Lasko produces more than 5 million hectoliters drinks and employs more than 1800 people.



More on: <http://www.pivo-lasko.si/eng/index.html>

Research Centres

Jožef Stefan Institute:

The Jožef Stefan Institute is the leading Slovenian scientific research institute, covering a broad spectrum of basic and applied research. The staff –about 820 people– specializes in natural sciences, life sciences and engineering.

The subjects concern production and control technologies, communication and computer technologies, knowledge technologies, biotechnologies, new materials, environmental technologies, nanotechnologies, and nuclear engineering.



The mission of the Jožef Stefan Institute is the accumulation – and dissemination – of knowledge at the frontiers of natural science and technology to the benefit of society at large through the pursuit of education, learning, research, and development of high technology at the highest international levels of excellence.

More on: http://www.ijs.si/ijsw/Research_departments