THE GUIDEBOOK ON LIVING, STUDYING AND WORKING IN SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
Foreword

During the period October 2009 - June 2011 students from Madrid in Spain, Lüneburg in Germany, Hlohovec in Slovakia and Mariestad in Sweden have been working on the project Being Young in Europe (B.Y.E.)

This guidebook will give a short presentation of the different speeches the students have prepared for each we have met in our respective countries.

We have enjoyed working with the project and getting to know each other. This has given us a lot of experience and will be the beginning of new and lasting friendships.

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Comenius Project: Being Young in Europe

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### AIMS OF THE PROJECT

- Enhance the use of ICT and multimedia to bridge distances between young people and improve IT literacy.
- Develop practical language competence and increase foreign language confidence.
- Increase awareness of diversity in lives and cultures of participating Europeans.
- Promote mobilities among young Europeans.
- Inform about future possibilities of studying and working in the European Union.
- Establish sustainable friendship and contact between young Europeans.
- Exchange and share experiences and ideas among the teachers in the partner schools.
- Obtain an overview of working and studying possibilities by the students, which will make their transition from school to work easier.
- Think and feel like a European, not only locally or nationally. We are all part of Europe.
- Get informed about studying and working in the participating European countries
- Language competence and the use of ICT
- Sustainable friendship
- Learn about opportunities, studies and work in Europe.
- During the visits the students get in touch with other languages e.g. Swedish, Slovak, Spanish and German.

**To fulfil these objectives students:**

1. Wrote a profile.
2. Created a Logo, a website and blogs to communicate.
3. Prepared pp presentations, for international meetings about their school, area, country, education and job possibilities to find a job after school.
4. After the project had been completed the students have learnt about educational systems, working conditions and possibilities of spending free time in the participating countries.

### ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/09</td>
<td>Introduction and life. The students were introduced to the project and start writing their presentations of themselves, their school and hometown. The presentations are to be sent to the other participating school via e-mail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/09</td>
<td>The students started working on their own profiles and nicknames which were distributed by the coordinator of the school for the website. Established e-contact among the students eg e-twinning and blog. Created a logo for the website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/09</td>
<td>Preparation of the project notice board at school and started the website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/10</td>
<td>The students were preparing the first chapter about the countries which are part of the final product, the Guide book. This was also the material they brought to their first mobility. The students also prepared pp presentations for the first visit which was in Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/10</td>
<td>First mobility to Madrid, Spain. European fair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/10</td>
<td>Evaluation together with the teacher. Summarized the visit and presented to the class at home. Wrote a summary for the website. Continuous work on the final product the Guide Book and the website and continuously were having contact with the partner schools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/10</td>
<td>Second mobility to Mariestad, Sweden - Young people's lives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/10</td>
<td>Evaluation as above (03/10) and continuous work on the Guide Book, website and contact.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/10</td>
<td>The students resume, contact with each other after the summer holidays and start working on the third chapter of the Guide Book - Education. Preparations for the next mobility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Mobility to Hlohovec, Slovakia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Evaluation, continuous work on the Guide Book; website and contact as above (03/10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/11</td>
<td>Preparation for the fourth mobility as above. The fourth chapter in the Guide Book - Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/11</td>
<td>Fourth mobility to Lüneberg, Germany Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/11</td>
<td>Evaluation, continuous work on the Guide Book; website and contact as above (03/10)</td>
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Home countries and home towns

Spain

SPANISH HISTORY - FIRST INVADERS:
- **Celts:** they arrived to Spain in the 6th century BC. Their arrival inaugurates the Iron Age in these regions.
- **Romans:** they were in Spain from the 3rd to the 5th century.
- **Moors:** they came to Spain in 711 and they stayed till 1492. They developed the culture, the architecture, the agriculture and the administration of the Peninsula.

SPANISH DINASTIES:
- **The Habsburgs:** they came in 1516. The Habsburg brothers were Charles and Ferdinand.
- **The Bourbon Kings:** the dynasty started in 1700 with Philip V. The Spanish influence all over Europe was less important and there was a peninsular war in 1808.
- **Juan Carlos I:** he is the king of Spain and he belongs to the Bourbon dynasty.

SPANISH CLIMATE:
- Mediterranean: very sunny and it doesn’t rain often.
- Central: summers are generally hot and winters are mild.
- North: the sunshine hours per day are few. Temperatures are lower and it usually rains or snows.

TYPICAL DANCES: Chotis from Madrid, Sevillanas from Andalucia.

Madrid

Tips to visit Madrid

About transport…
If you visit Madrid, the first thing you need to know is how to move in the city. If you don’t have your own transport, the public transport is very good here, so you can go by underground, bus or taxi. If you choose Metro (underground) or bus, you’ll just have to pay one euro and you can travel by the entire metro web or to the end of the bus line. Taxi is the fastest public transport, but also the most expensive. The price will change depending of the destiny.

Places to visit in Madrid:
There are a lot of interesting places to visit in Madrid. Maybe you won’t have time to visit all of them, so apart from Puerta del Sol here are the most important ones:

- **Retiro Park:** this is a beautiful big park near Puerta de Alcalá full of green zones. It also has a building in which painting exhibitions and theater plays are presented to de people, a big lake to sail on boats and cafes to have a break.
- **Opera:** here you can visit two important and beautiful places: the Royal Palace and the Opera House. The Royal Palace is not the official residence of the king of Spain, but it’s used for state ceremonies. The opera house is one of the most important and good places in Spain for watching operas or to hear music.
- **Almudena’s Cathedral:** it’s one of the most important religious places of Madrid. The princes of Spain got married there. It’s near the Royal Palace
- **“Las Ventas” Bullfighting Arena:** it’s a spectacular circular monument from the 20th century. Here takes place one of the most important Spanish typical festivals: bullfighting.

Top museums.
If you like painting and history you must visit the next museums in which there are a lot of great masterpieces:

- Museo del Prado
- Archeological Museum of Madrid
- Anthropological Museum of Madrid
- Reina Sofia Museum
- Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum

**Going Shopping**
If you want to take a break of museums and sightseeing, shopping can help you relax. Sol and Gran Via are places the full of shops in Madrid. If you want to go to a mall it’s better to go to Principe Pio or La Vaguada. Those malls have plenty of shops too. You can get in all these places by metro.

**Going out**
If you’ve come to Madrid looking for party, you’re right! There are lots of discos in Madrid: kapi, Joy, elite, Pacha… you can find them in Sol or Alonso Martinez (centre of Madrid). Maybe you just want to get dinner or lunch in a restaurant. You can choose between Café & Te, Ginos, Vips, Nebraska, Donner Kebab, Rodilla… you can also choose a fast food restaurant so you could do sightseeing while having lunch or a Spanish bar where you can eat Spanish omelette, stew, “croquetas” and more typical Spanish food.

**Sweden**

Sweden is an elongated country from north to south with a shifting environment. The northern part is mountainous and the temperature is very low. It also has a lot of snow which attracts many tourists to come here skiing.

The south is the opposite of the north because it has almost no mountains at all. Instead there is a flat landscape with a lot of fields that we use for our agriculture. Another difference from the north is that it’s not that cold. The temperature hardly ever gets below 0 degrees, not even in the winter.

The Swedish landscape is covered with about 51% forest. Sweden is therefore sparsely populated. Only 20 persons/km². 85% live in cities or bigger villages.

In Sweden you can choose to quit studying after graduating from high school. Then you are about 18-19 years old. But you can also choose to keep studying at the university for several more years. Many people do this because they want to get a job well-paid enough to survive without ant financial problems. The most popular job for men is some kind of industrial work, and for women; health care.

We have a law which says that everyone has the right to walk in forests and fields and pick berries and mushrooms without asking for permission. Although, hunting and fishing aren’t allowed everywhere, this law is something that very few other countries have.

The capital is called Stockholm. It’s the largest city in Sweden, and the population is about 2 000 000 people, including the surrounding towns.

Sweden has got a royal family, but they have no power. We have been a democracy since 1974. Sweden is known for its religious diversity, even though only 17% of all Swedes think that religion is an important part of their lives. A research showed that Sweden ranks second on the bottom of the list of the most religious countries in the world. But yet we have many different religions here. One reason for that is because of the high immigration. When people come to Sweden they take their religions with them. Many are Christians, Catholic, Orthodox, Pentecostal, various free churches, Muslims and Buddhists.

One tradition that is unique for Sweden is Lucia. This tradition comes from a martyr called St Lucia of Syracuse who died in 304. Lucia is celebrated on the 13th of December. On this day many girls and boys like to dress up and sing. One girl is chosen to be Lucia and the rest are “Lucia’s handmaids”. The boys are usually “brownies” or “star boys” the Lucia has a wreath with burning candles in it on her head and the handmaids have candles in their hands.

**Mariestad**

Mariestad is a small town with about 24,000 inhabitants situated on the south-eastern shore of the largest lake of Sweden, the lake Vänern, between the two cities Stockholm and Gothenburg.
The centre of Mariestad is small but beautiful and here you can find almost everything you need; shops, cafés, restaurants, hotels, a theatre and a cinema. Wednesdays and Saturdays are market days, which means that local products such as flowers, vegetables, cheese are being sold in the stands on the market square.

The very oldest part of Mariestad, “the Old Town” with buildings dating back to the 16th century, is situated right in the centre. Most of the houses here were built of wood and they show in a very good way how people lived in those days. The narrow streets are covered with cobble stones, exactly as they were in the old days and living in this part is very popular but expensive.

Very close to “the Old Town” there is a small harbour for yachts. In the summer a lot of boats stop here on their way to the Göta Canal which goes right through Sweden and passes not very far from Mariestad. On summer evenings people like to go down to the harbour to stroll and watch the boats, buy an ice-cream or have something to eat at one of the restaurants there.

The impressive cathedral of Mariestad is situated in the middle of the Old Town and can be seen from very far when you arrive by boat. Actually, it is not a cathedral, but it is called so as it was meant to be one when they started to build it in 1625. Another old building which can be found in the centre of the town is our very small and charming theatre built in 1848. Down by the lake in the centre you also find a very old building which used to be the local prison. It has now been closed down but the building will be preserved and used for other purposes. The prison is now in premises located in the outskirts of the town.

As Mariestad is situated by the lake, the surroundings are very beautiful and offer many possibilities to practise outdoor activities. In the summer you can go to the island of Torsö to swim in the clear water at one of the beaches or you can go to the island of Brommö and hire an bike to cycle around the island on the small gravel roads. There are also other islands you can go to if you have boat. There are many friendly beaches around Mariestad which are good for children as the water is quite shallow here.

Mariestad has a lot of schools, such as several day-care centres, primary schools, secondary schools and two upper-secondary schools, one of which is our school, Vadsbogymnasiet, with about 1000 students studying both theoretical and vocational programmes. Students from both the town and the surrounding villages come here to study.

Major companies in Mariestad are Electrolux which manufactures refrigerators and freezers. Today the company employs about 550 people. Another major company is Metsä Tissue- manufacturers of tissue paper – with about 750 employees. People of Mariestad are very proud of their own ice-cream factory, Klings, whose ice-creams are delicious and almost “world famous” in the whole of Sweden.

The most popular sports in Mariestad are football with four big teams in the town, ice hockey with one team playing in the 3rd division and of course floorball which is very big and popular here.

There aren’t so many festivals in our town, but every year on May 30th we celebrate the arrival of spring by lighting bonfires and listening to a choir and a brass band playing music.

Not every year but regularly we also have a small carnaval with celebrations in the centre.

Slovakia

‘Slovensko’ is the Slovak name of Slovakia, a small country in Central Europe. Slovakia (Slovak Republic) has common borders with the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Austria. It has no access to the sea, but its mountains, plains and rivers make it a place well worth the visit. Slovak Republic is a member of the European Union since May 2004.

Country: The peak of Krahule hill, not far from the historic town of Kremnica in middle Slovakia, lies at the geographical centre of Europe. The relief of the country shows great height differences, ranging from 95 m above sea level in eastern Slovakia - Streda nad Bodrogom, to 2,655 m above sea level - Gerlach Peak in the High Tatras. The land in north and central Slovakia is hilly - it is covered by the Carpathian mountain range. In the south it slopes down to the Poddunajkska and the Vychodoslovenska plains, which are important agricultural regions.
The most important river is the Danube (Dunaj), the river route connecting Slovakia with the harbours of the Black Sea and, through the Rhine Main-Danube waterway, with west European harbours. In the past, two significant trade arteries led through Slovakia - the Amber (Jantarova) and Czech routes, along which not only goods (gold, amber, fur) used to flow, but also information, which enabled mutual knowledge of, and understanding between, particular peoples and countries. Today, Slovakia is becoming an important junction of economic and commercial relations between eastern and western Europe.

**Climate:** Slovakia is situated in the temperate climatic zone with a regular changing of yearly seasons. The coldest month is January with night temperatures of -10°C to -15°C, the hottest is July with a daily maximum around 32°C. Often in winter, temperature differences arise when in the mountain hollows the temperatures are lower than on the surrounding higher hills. In the high mountains snow remains for 130 days of the year.

**State organization:** A Parliamentary democracy with a 150-membered uni-cameral parliament (the National Council of the Slovak Republic). The head of state is the President, elected in a free and fair presidential election by universal suffrage. The National Council of the Slovak Republic is the highest legislative body.

**The History of Slovakia:** The history of Slovakia is that of a European country, which, although never placed at the centre, took part in all the important movements in the framework of European history. Because Slovakia, with the exception of short periods, was not an independent state, knowledge of Slovak participation in history is less familiar. It seems to be concealed in the history of Hungary (Uhorsko) (until 1918) and later, of Czechoslovakia. In accordance with democratic changes in the former CSFR a state administrative process began, this leading to the decision to split the CSFR by constitutional means into two independent sovereign states. From 1. January 1993 the newly formed sovereign Slovak Republic came into being.

**Capital city:** Bratislava (452 053 inhabitants)

It is situated in the foothills of the Little Carpathians at the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers, directly at the junction of the borders with Austria and Hungary. It is the residence of the President of Slovak Republic and of the central administrative, political, economical, social and scientific bodies and institutions, Regional and Administrative Organization of Slovakia

**Superlatives in Slovakia**

- The highest place: Gerlach peak, 2,655 m above sea level
- The lowest place: surface of the river Bodrog, 95 m above sea level
- The oldest glacial cave in Europe: Dobinska glacial cave
- The highest church tower: Spisska Nova Ves, 87 m
- The largest of the 170 castles and chateaux: Spis castle
- The plant protected for the longest time: edelweis
- The longest Slovak river: The Vah (403 km)
- The highest village: Strbske Pleso, 1,355 m above sea level
- The highest hotel: Encian at Skalnate Pleso, 1,761 m above sea level
- The highest post office: at the top of Lomnicky stit, 2,634 m above sea level
- The biggest river island in Europe: Zitny island in southern Slovakia, 123,612 hectares
- The largest nature reservation: National park of the Low Tatras, 81 000 hectares
- The first printed book: Latin textbook by Lucas Fabinus, 1573 in Presov
- The first newspaper: Presporske News, July 1783 in Presporok (Bratislava)
- The biggest wooden altar in the world: height 18, bm and width 6,3m - Levoca, St.Jacob’s church. The carpenter was Master Pavol from Levoca, (beginning of 16th century)
- The oldest continuously working enterprise: The state mint in Kremnica, founded in 1328

**Hlohovec**

Hlohovec /about 23 thousands inhabitants/ ranks among the most beautifully situated towns in West Slovakia. Its situation at the river Váh surrounded by the hills of the Považský Inovec and Nitrianska pahorkatina is really picturesque. The town forms a connection between the world-famous spa town of Piešťany and the ancient towns of Nitra, Bojnice and Bratislava. It is less than hour’s drive to Bratislava, capital of Slovak Republic, on the motorway.
The first recorded mention of the city is from 1113, but the territory of Hlohovec was settled already in Stone Age times. The town has interesting historical buildings and wonderful natural places, which attracts visitors of Hlohovec for a walk. One of them is a castle park with its French terraces and scarce planes. There is a castle, which was rebuilt from a medieval stronghold in 18th and 19th century, in the park. In the vicinity of the castle there is Empire theatre, a unique example of this type in central Europe. Equally important from a historical point of view is also the Saint Michael Square with a Baroque Church of Saint Michael and a burial chapel of Saint Ann, the memorial building of Little Church of the Holly Spirit and Little Hospital from the second half of the 14th century, monastery of the Franciscan order, built in 1492, and many others.

There are some industrial enterprises in Hlohovec, the significant agricultural branch of Hlohovec and surroundings is a grape-growing. It was also known as "The City of the Roses" for its beautiful rose gardens near the castle.

Germany

General Information
The Federal Republic of Germany is a federal parliamentary republic of 16 states,. It is located in the western part of Europe and covers a total area of 357,021 km². About 81 million people are living in Germany. The neighbouring countries are the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic and Denmark. In the north of Germany there are the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

The largest cities in Germany are Berlin (3,383,782.00 inhabitants), Hamburg (1,739,117.00 inhabitants), München (1,260,391.00 inhabitants), Köln (963,395.00 inhabitants) and Frankfurt (667,598.00 inhabitants).

The main rivers are the Rhein, the Main, the Elbe and the Donau. The highest Mountain is the Zugspitze (2,962 m).

Almost 80% of the German people live in cities or towns. The most heavily populated areas are in the west and central Germany, particularly along the Rhein. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, G8, G20, OECD, and the WTO. Angela Merkel is the Chancellor of Germany and Guido Westerwelle is the Foreign Minister.

History
The nation that we informally call Germany is much younger than the United States of America! Even if we go back to Prussia and the first German unification of 1871, that makes Germany as a nation almost a century younger than the U.S. (Constitution ratified in 1789).

The Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), the current German government and constitution, was established on May 23, 1949. But from the very beginning, in the aftermath of World War II, Germany was divided into eastern and western halves. The Soviet occupation zone in eastern Germany became the German Democratic Republic on October 7, 1949. East Germany had a much more centralized, communist government. Until the infamous Berlin Wall was built in August 1961, Germans could travel freely back and forth between East and West Germany. The Wall would become a stark symbol of both the Cold War and a divided Germany until its amazing collapse in November 1989. Berlin (East and West) was a hotbed for espionage and Cold War intrigue.

Although most Germans believed it would never happen, German reunification arrived with little warning in 1990. The collapse of the Soviet Union and other historical events led to rapid changes in the world map and the political landscape. West German chancellor Helmut Kohl presided over bringing East Germany back into the fold, even though some argued that it was too much, too soon.

Industries
Germany is a major industrial centre in Europe. It is well known for its automobile manufacturing including the luxury Mercedes, the sporty Porsche and BMW, and Volkswagen. Germany also manufactures other machinery, electronics equipment, transportation equipment and chemicals.

Germany also has considerable farming including grain crops and grapes, along with pig and cattle ranching. Germany is well known for its wine production.
Lüneburg

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANSEATIC CITY:
- is a town in the German state of Lower Saxony.
- It is located about 45 km (30 miles) — a thirty-minute train ride — southeast of fellow Hanseatic city Hamburg.
- The capital of the district of Lüneburg, it has a population of around 72,000.
- the historical Hanseatic city of salt and the manifold landscapes contained in the "Elbtalaue" (Elbe river floodplain).

EDUCATION:
- the town has one university, the Leuphana Universität Lüneburg.
- there are 14 high schools in the town: 5 Gymnasien, 4 Realschulen, and 5 Hauptschulen; there are no Gesamtschulen.
- there are 6 vocational schools, 3 special schools, 3 private schools, and 12 elementary schools.

TOURISM, NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THE SERVICE SECTOR:
- has got a parc named Kurzentrum.
- Hospitals: Städtisches Krankenhaus Lüneburg, The "Landeskranchenhaus Lüneburg" is now known as the Psychiatrische Klinik Lüneburg (Psychiatric Hospital Lüneburg).
- Theatres: Theater Lüneburg.
- Cinemas: Cinestar, Scala Kino.
- Hotels: 8.
- Museums: 8.
- Transport: Lüneburg is part of the transportation company Hamburger Verkehrsverbund.
- the town has a main railway station.
- the nearest cities within easy reach by rail are Hamburg, Hannover, Lübeck, Lauenburg, Uelzen and Winsen.

Free time activities

Teenager's Free Time
Our presentation was about the Spanish teenagers' free time. We talked about the sports they practise and also about how they spend their holidays and their likes and dislikes.

1. Free Time
People go out with their friends, go shopping and go to discos. Also some people prefer going to the parks to practise sports, walk around or relax and talk with their friends. Foreign people visit our most important buildings and museums.

2. Sports
The most important sports are football, basketball and tennis. Football is the most popular and one example of this is that everybody is looking forward to watch the Football World Cup. Most teenagers practise it. There are some important football teams in Spain which are well known all over the world such as "Real Madrid" and "Barcelona.
Basketball: There are several Spanish players playing in the NBA league such as Pau and Marc Gasol.
Tennis: There are some important tennis players in Spain too such as Rafael Nadal or Verdasco.

3. Holidays
In summer, in Madrid, teenagers like going to the swimming-pools and to the terraces. While other people prefer...
travelling to other countries or visiting our beaches because the weather is very good. On Easter holidays, people can participate or just watch some religious processions in every town. You can eat some special sweets like "torrijas" (fried bread with sugar and cinnamon), Easter cakes and chocolate eggs too.

4. Likes and Dislikes

We like having fun with our friends, going to the cinema, to the disos and to the parks as the Retiro.

: TV PROGRAMMES AND MUSIC SPANISH TEENAGERS LIKE

We made a presentation in our second movility in Sweden, about the programmes that we, Spanish teenagers, watch on TV and the music groups we listen to.

We talked about some music groups we like in Spain that are also very well known all over the world, such as David Guetta in house music, Green Day in pop-rock music, Eminem in rap, and Metalica in heavy metal music. The TV programmes we watch in Spain are Lost, House, El Hormiguero (the Ant-hill), and Física o Química (Phisics or Chemistry).

Young People’s Lives

Spare time

The youth of Sweden do different things in their spare time. All of us always have something to do after school. Here are some examples of what we do.

Sports and other spare time activities: The most common sports are football, ice hockey, floorball and other physical activities such as swimming, gym and dancing. In Mariestad we have about five football teams and one ice hockey team. In team sports you have to practise 4-6 times a week plus play matches. You can swim, dance and work out in a gym any time you want.

Young people in Sweden also like to spend time with their friends. We usually go home to each other to chat, watch films or play computer/TV games. Going out for walks is also quite common. While walking you can enjoy the beautiful scenery and get some fresh air.

Many young people like to listen to music, such as hiphop, pop, rock, and rnb. There is also a “Swedish genre” called dance band, which is some kind of soft rock music. Many young people also play an instrument. We have a very good music school in Mariestad, where it is possible to play all kinds of instruments, from wind instruments to string instruments. You can start at the music school at the age of eight.

Travel: During our holidays we like to travel with our families, often to some resort along the coasts or by one of our many lakes. There we go swimming, hiking or see places of interest. We also visit Stockholm, our capital or Gothenburg, our second largest city, where we can go to amusement parks or do som shopping.

Family/friends

Swedish families often have two children and normally both parents work outside the home. Sweden is one of the countries with the highest percentage of divorces. Approx. 55% of all the marriages end up in a divorce. Kids with divorced parents often live one week with their mom and one week with their dad. Festivals and birthdays are celebrated together with the family. Other family activities are going on holiday together or having excursions at weekends.

Most youngsters have 1-3 close friends and also a number of other friends they hang out with sometimes.

If we have a boy/girlfriend we spend a lot of time with him/her doing various things together. Our parents are not very strict and most of us are allowed to spend the night with our boy/girlfriend. Many young couples are even allowed to travel together.

Most young people move out after leaving Upper Secondary School. Some move to places where they can get a job, others move away to study.

School/work

Swedish school is compulsory for nine years. Upper Secondary School is optional but in reality everyone goes there, since it is very hard to get a job otherwise. After leaving Upper Secondary School, those who have studied a vocational programme often start to work and those who have studied a theoretical programme decide to continue studying at university to get a good education.

Swedish parents get a child benefit of about 108€ per month for each child. Teenagers often get part of or the whole child benefit to buy their own clothes. Many teenagers have a summer job or work at nights and weekends to get some more money to spend on things they really like. Some save the money to finance their driver’s licence.
Young People’s free time

Favorite Slovak sports are hockey and football. If you visit Slovakia - our country, you can try water skiing in Ratnovska bay which is located near Piešťany. It is great for relaxation and it is great fun......or you can sit into a kayak and fight with water 😊

If you do not like water sports then you can stay inside......for example in a bowling centre or go to play squash. Bowling is super fun (only if you win of course) but during playing squash you also work to get nice figure 😊

We are very lively nation and we like dancing and best place to dance is night club Nucleon in Leopoldov, which is located near Hlohovec. It is a very famous and popular disco club. In Piešťany you find Indian’s Pub. This disco have its own fame and tradition and it has been there for a long time. You can go to a disco club and dance all night when you are sixteen. Another disco in Piešťany is Cotton club. This club is famous for two steel bars in front of a DJ 😊.

Most famous festivals in western Slovakia are those which are on the lake Horna Streda. There are thousands of people who are looking forward to Hip-Hop or “Bee free” festivals every summer. Teenagers from all pars of Slovakia are coming here to have fun and they leave with memorable experiences for all life. I do not know anybody who was not there at least once.

And now some outdoors activities...
For people interested in sightseeing there are many cultural and historical facilities. People who are not lazy and are keen on hiking can enjoy nice weather in the countryside with there family and friends 😊. Roller-skaters and cyclists can have a good time on cycling pathes by the river Vah. Romantic souls can visit observatory and see their favourite stars, moons, planets, galaxies, the Milky Way or comets. If you are looking for relax, you can go to world famous spa Piestany...😊.

Music and dance in Slovakia

Historical dance of Slovakia was folklore dancing and songs...people were wearing national costumes. In Slovakia we have many traditional festivals of folk-role dancing which were danced many many years ago. Slovak folklore is one of the most traditional folklore in the whole Europe. Slovak traditional music has no authors, only names of songs and the region, where the song comes from (e.g. Abov, Záhorie, Liptov, Orava, Šariš, Kysuce).

Free time activities

Famous German hobbies are horse riding, playing tennis, soccer, handball, listen to music, meet friends, shopping or going out in the night.

The majority of the german youth goes to discos or bars.

There are a few discos in Lüneburg:

And there are many bars in Lüneburg because Lüneburg has the 2nd largest bar intesity in Europe.

Famous German Festivals are the Carneval and the Oktoberfest
Education

Education in Spain

There are three types of schools: Public schools, Semiprivate schools (most of them are catholic), Private schools.

• Kindergarten, this is for children under three years and it isn’t obligatory.

Compulsory education

• Infant- it is between three to five years

• Primary- It is between six to eleven
  * E.S.O (Secondary Education)-It is from eleven to sixteen, and in the last level you can choose from Science or Letters and there is another alternative but this is for people who want to take vocational studies. There are four years of Secondary Education
  
  Bachillerato
  - You can study Bachillerato when you are Graduated in ESO(CompulsorySecondary Education)
  - The Bachillerato is composed of 2 years and you can only be studying it for 4 years. There are three kinds of Bachillerato: Health Science and Technology, Humanities and Social Science and Art, Music and Dance.

When you finish Bachillerato

• You can go to: University or Upper High Vocational School.
  If you want to go to the University you have to do a special exam when you finish second of Bachillerato

Types of Universities in Spain: In Spain you have two different types of universities: State universities and Private universities. The oldest university in Spain is Salamanca university, this university was built in 1218. Santiago de Compostela University was created in 1495. It was the second university after Salamanca university which was created in Spain. Nowadays this city is well known because of the way that is called “Camino de Santiago”.

VOCATIONAL STUDIES IN SPAIN

• Vocational Schools:
  • There are two types of programs:
    1 Middle grade school cycle: The ESO diploma is a requirement
    2 Superior-level school cycle: Post compulsory diploma (bachillerato) is a requirement

• Organization:
  • The cycles are organized in Professional Families. Each family has different cycles that correspond with professions. These cycles are organised in modules, which have the equivalent structure to subjects.

• You can do vocational studies at high degree level:
  • You can access after obtaining the Bachillerato degree or doing a specific test. For this test you have to:
    1 Be at least 18 years old
    2 Study a previous course of the same professional family

There are lots of things that you can do in vocational studies. We will explain one of the options.

• Vocational studies (medium degree):
  • You can start vocational studies at 16 after graduating in ESO (Compulsory Secondary Education). You can choose a cycle from different families. You study for two years, part of them taking part in practical classes outside school (At different firms). When you finish you can continue studying a high degree course of the same professional family.

• An example of a high degree vocational studies is Administration of Computer Systems or Mechanics:
  1 Theory classes - 1st year:
    - Computer Systems: Class of different operating systems
    - Programming: Teaching the "c" language
- Local area networks: How to put a network in an enterprise
- Training and career guidance: Laws, rights...

2 Theory classes - 2nd year:
- Databases: How to organize the information into a database
- Programming: More advanced than in the 1st year

Practical Classes:
- The practical classes are the same subjects as the theoretical classes
- Then, in the second year, you go to companies to do training
- You have to be in the company for 3 months

• Some examples of the programmes that you can do in different families:
- Mechanic Manufacture Design
- Travel Agency and Events Management
- Restaurant Industry

Education System in Sweden

Pre-school (Day Care Center)
Pre-school is a kind of day care center that is attended by children, ages 1-5, usually if both parents are at work. The task the day care center is to undertake is making the kids feel comfortable, at home, and also have an environment that promotes creativity.

Primary school and lower secondary school
Between ages 7 and 16 children attend mandatory school divided into three stages. The first stage – primary school – implies basic reading, spelling and maths. The second stage deals with a wider range of subjects such as History, Geography and English. The final stage of mandatory school (lower secondary school) takes more advanced studies within the subjects previously mentioned. New subjects are added, such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology and a Foreign Language (other than English).

In the earliest stage of primary school the working hours are few and a lot of time is set aside for recess. The academic work is often not strenuous and most kids keep up. Marks are not introduced until the students reach the 8th and 9th grades when they are 14-15 years old. The marks lay the grounds for what program the students can choose in upper secondary school.

Upper secondary school
The upper secondary education is from the ages 16 to 19. Before you start, you choose your own program and you study there for three years.

At the upper secondary school of Mariestad – Vadsbogymnasiet – there are 14 different programs to choose between, one of which is the Natural Sciences Program where the students work with academic subjects such as Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Social Sciences Program concentrates on subjects such as Economics, Human Universal Culture, Modern Languages, Latin and Social Sciences. There are also vocational programs such as The Construction Program, The Marine Technology Program, and the Business and Tourism Program among others. Also the vocational program prepares the students for academic studies so that these students can go on to university, if they wish to.

Communal Adult Education
The local government is responsible for making sure that all the inhabitants can acquire good education, if needed. Therefore, adults above the age of 20 are entitled to attend basic adult education, if they don’t have these qualifications previously.

Secondary adult education, which is similar to the upper secondary education for youngsters, is also provided for those who need these qualifications.

Free schools
Parallel to the State School System there are also Free Schools. These are run privately and provide the same education as the state schools. All these schools have national recruitment and are financed by contributions from the local governments. The students do not pay any fees to study here.
Education System in Slovakia

‘Education is what remains after one has forgotten Everything he learned in school.’

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

**Education** is any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual, it is the process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skill and values from one generation to another.

**Teachers** in educational institutions direct the education of students and might draw on many subjects, including reading, writing, mathematics, science and history. This process is sometimes called **schooling**.

**Education in Slovakia**

It is a free education system based on 10 years of compulsory school attendance. Students go to school five days a week, summer break is from the 1st of July until the end of August. Classes last for 45 minutes. A school year consists of two semesters. The first one ends at the end of January in all schools, the second one before the beginning of the summer holidays.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

School is not only about learning, but also some fun:

- **SCHOOL ATHLETICS**, **FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL AND HANDBALL TEAMS**
- **CHEERLEADERS & DANCE GROUPS**
- **DRAMA, ART, CHESS CLUBS**
- **SCHOOL CHOIRS AND BANDS**
- **COMPETITITIONS OF ALL KINDS, CULTURAL EVENTS, GRADUATION BALLS**

**SCHOOL RULES**

Each school has its own rules students have to follow:

- You are not allowed to smoke, drink alcohol...at school!
- You mustn’t cheat!
- After the bell rings you have to go to your classroom!
- You need to have your homeworks done
- You should change your shoes to slippers
- NO mobile phones!

**STAGES OF EDUCATION**

1. **Nursery & Kindergarten**: children go to the nursery from 6 months to 3 years and to the kindergarten from 3 years to 6 years. In most cases, parents give to nurseries child when their family budget is not sufficient and they need to go back to work.

2. **Primary education** starts at the age of 6. First stage lasts for 4 years, the second stage lasts for 5 years.

3. **Secondary education**: after primary school graduation students continue their study at secondary schools in which they were accepted, based on study results or entrance tests.
   - Secondary Vocational School
   - Hotel Academy
   - Business Academy
   - Grammar Schools
   - Conservatories
   - Secondary School of nursing
   - Secondary Industrial Schools
   - Secondary Art School

4. **Higher education**: University is an institution of higher education that grants degrees in different subjects. The first university on the territory of Slovakia was the Universitas Istropolitana founded in 1465. Studies at the state and public universities is available free of charge for residents of Slovakia and of the EU. The studies are organized within the following study programmes and stages.

Each school must provide at least Stage 1 - Bachelor study programme 3–4 years - Bachelor degree (Bc).
Stage 2 lasts 1–3 years:
- Master’s programme – title Master (Mgr.), Engineer programme – title Engineer (Ing.), Doctor programme
Stage 3 - Doctorant study programme last 3–4 years
  - basic title - Philosophiae Doctor (PhD.), in art studies - Doctor of Arts (ArtD.)

5. **University of the Third Age** - whose aims are the education and stimulation of retired members of the community - those in the third 'age' of life, in accordance with the concept of lifelong learning in the Slovak Republic.
Education system in Germany

In Germany every state is responsible for his own education system. The federal government only plays a minor role. The system varies throughout each state and usually it starts with the kindergarten.

Kids of the age from 3 to 6 years learn how to communicate and interact with other kids with the aid of creative play and social interaction. Basically it's an early childhood education. The kindergarten is open from 7 am till 5 pm. As well the kindergartens are private institutions so the parents have to pay for their kids to attend the kindergarten.

After kindergarten at the age of 6 or 7 have to visit the elementary school from the 1st to the 4th grade. They learn the basics of reading, calculating and writing. The elementary school is not private and every child has to attend the school. The school starts at 8 am and usually ends at 1.20 pm. The kids get taught in the subjects of german, math, english, physical education, geography, religion and art.

Depending on the grades of the kids they can choose between three different school options. First of all is there the secondary modern school which is only for the pupils with low grades. It's the lowest education level with easy understanding from the 5th to 9th grade. After the graduation they have the possibility to visit the 10th grade of the higher secondary school or to apply to an apprenticeship.

Pupils with a usual GPA (Grade Point Average) go right after the elementary school to the higher secondary school. This school starts at the 5th grade and ends at the 10th grade. Subjects are sport, english, biologie, german, math, history, chemistry, politics and french (optional). Most of the schools start at 8 am till 1.30 pm but at some schools are longer days until 3 pm. When the students graduate successfully they have the possibility to attend to a grammar school or to apply to a company for an apprenticeship. The certification of the higher secondary school has a higher reputation and therefore an advantage opposite to the regular secondary school.

The school with the highest education level is the grammar school from the 5th to the 12th grade. The students who are in the 10th grade and higher can choose from a sortiment of classes like psychology, spanish, physical education etc. When the students reach the very difficult certificate of the grammar school which is called "Abitur" they have the possibility to attend a university.

As well students from the higher secondary school have the option to visit a vocational grammar school. There are three types of this school:

- Catering, Physical Health and Educational Science
- Technology
- Business.

The vocational grammar school starts at the 11th grade and ends at the 13th grade. The youngest age is 15 and goes up to students in the 20s and 30s. We are on the school specialized on business. Our subjects are business administration, english, spanish, math, biologie and national economy. After our graduation we have the possibility to study at a university as well.

Work

Work and study in Spain

We started this topic by preparing a questionnaire to make to students in their last two years at our school. The first question we proposed was what their plans for the future were. 37% of students didn’t really know what to do. The rest said: 11% engineer, 10% business, 8% Journalism, 5% Join the Army…

62% of the students asked want to go to the university, 21% vocational training and 17% didn’t know what they wanted to do in the future.

The most requested university degrees in Spain are: Business, Architecture, Arts, Biology, Science and Technology, Environmental Sciences, Administration and Political Sciences, Audio-visual Communication,
Law, Economy, Nursing and Statistics. But with these degrees it is easier to find a job as soon as you finish university: Administration, Economics, Architecture, Engineers, Medicine and Law.

To enter university you need:
1. High School Degree
2. University Entrance Test: “Selectividad”

Depending on the University and the Degree you want to study you need a certain mark:
- Biochemistry - 11.2
- Medicine - 12
- Teaching – 7.2

The most well known State Universities in Madrid are: Complutense, Autonoma, and Alcalá de Henares Universities, The Politécnica University is also very popular for Engineering students. There are also many private universities.

As an example of a study that you can do at university we have chosen Medicine. Medicine is one of the most popular degree in Spain because it gives a lot of social prestige and excellent revenue. With technological advances in medicine, the profession has evolved rapidly, and it offers a high number of specializations. In Spain to practice as a doctor you have to study six courses in degree and then you have to do the MIR.

MIR - (Internal Medical Resident): It is a kind of training course for medical graduates and you work at a hospital with supervision to ensure your training. You have to do an exam to enter.

The most requested vocational training degrees in Spain are: Mechanical engineering, Electricity and electronics, Maintenance and Production Facilities and Business Administration. 88 percent of people who graduated in these vocational training degrees get a job in less than a month. After studying vocational training you can start work or continue studying a higher education (university, high school, Advanced Level Training Course) or complementary (other vocational training courses or higher level).

20% of students that we have interviewed want to work in the Spanish Army. In Spain 30% of students want to work in the Army.

The Spanish Army is divided in three levels, if you have more studies, you can choose more rank positions:

**Level 1:**
You must have a Primary Education Certificate

**Level 2:**
You must have a Secondary Education Certificate.

**Level 3:**
You must have a Bachillerato Education Certificate

When you achieve one of these levels, you have to do two exams:

**First Exam:**
You will also have two exams: an aptitude exam and a personality exam.

**Second Exam:**
You will have a medical examination and you will have some physical fitness tests.

If you pass these two exams, you can enter in the Spanish Army Academy, and you will be there for at least two years.

When you finish the two years in the Academy, you can do many things: stay in the Spanish Academy (to achieve more rank), start working in the Army in any specialization, or go to another NATO country to work.

To end up our study we proposed the following question: Do you want to study or work abroad? 60% of the students from our survey answered positively, 19% answered negatively and 21% said that they didn’t know.

We also wanted to know in which country they would like to work, 44% wanted to stay in Spain. Many wanted to go to English speaking countries: 25% to the U.S.A, and 8% to England, 11% to France and 6% to Germany, among others.
Working, Studying and Traveling in Sweden

We have done some research on what Swedish youths do after graduating from high school. The majority of the students continue with their studies on a higher level to reach their Dreams. The exception is the ones that has attended a vocational preparatory in high school. They usually have a good chance to get employed directly after graduation. Some programs guarantee their students a job. One example is Volvo. In Sweden, it is possible to take a small job for a while. Ex: work in a store, at a café or take jobs as a substitute teacher in primary school. In this way they gather experience as well as some money. Many youths also choose to take a year off and do some traveling after graduation. A popular destination is Norway, where many start working in the fishing industry.

Money and grants
The national board of student aid, in Swedish CSN which is an abbreviation for Central Studiestödsnämnden, they are working to determine and pay the Swedish student financial aid, that is grants and loans for those who study in Sweden and abroad. They also handle the repayment of the loans. Thanks to the ability to get financial support everyone in Sweden should get the opportunity to study after upper secondary school. Therefore it does not matter which social, economical or geographical background a person has, or if the person has some kind of disability. Every year, CSN pays out about 23 billion to nearly 900 000 people who study. You can apply for different types of grants. One is for scholarship, study loan and housing loan also.

Distance learning and summer courses
Studying at distance is the new way to study. It opens new possibilities for people who want to study a special education without having to move to a new city or don’t have the time because of work or family or want to combine work with studies. Most universities and colleges offer online studies, both entire courses and short courses. The only two requirements are that you must have a computer and the Internet. You can study law school, technical science, economics and management, art and language for example on distance. It has the same quality grade as studying at a typical university.

Work and employment in Slovakia

Working possibilities in Slovakia
After the students graduate from High school:
- University (3 – 5 years)
- Find a job (employee): full time / part time
- Run our own business (employer)
- Go abroad (to study or work)
- Become unemployed 😊

Unemployment in Slovakia
With over 13% of unemployment rate Slovakia is one of the worst countries in the European Union. However, this rate is much lower in capital city of Bratislava and some other larger towns, which make it still possible to find a job.

Average salary
- The average salary in Slovakia is about 750 €.
- The best paid jobs are in managerial positions, logistics, lawyers, IT staff, engineers
- The least attractive and worst paid jobs are: a worker, a janitor, a butcher, a nurse, a farmer and .... a teacher 😊

Do you know how many Slovaks work and/or study abroad?
According to our Ministry of Employment it is more than 300 000 Slovaks.

How can you find a job in Slovakia?
Private service www.profesia.sk
- the largest online Internet job market in Slovakia
The national Labour Office www.nup.sk - a database of available jobs

Want to work in Slovakia?
Being Young in Europe

• EU citizens may work immediately (employer arranges all paperwork)
• Others need the work permit (contact your Embassy)

Slovakia’s Future steps
• Strong relationship building with European market
• Development of tourism
• Attraction of foreign investors
• Need to increase attractiveness of Slovakia to its younger generations to alleviate stress of “brain drain”
• ....and never forget to think positive: ‘Keep Smiling 😊’

Work and employment in Germany

The three most favored jobs

- **men**
  - management consultant
  - mechanician
  - electrician

- **women**
  - flight attendant
  - social worker
  - nurse

The most favored jobs of young persons

1. doctor / veterinary surgeon
2. manager / businessman
3. lawyer
4. teacher
5. natural scientist
6. engineer
7. architect
8. psychologist
9. actor / artist / model

The well-paid jobs

- Bank assistant
- musician
- manager
- professional sportsman
- chemist
- lawyer
- insurance broker
Photogallery - Mobility in Madrid
Photogallery - Mobility in Mariestad
Photogallery - Mobility in Hlohovec
Photogallery – Mobility in Lüneburg
Participating schools

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