Day 2 in Slovenia (05.10.2024)

The Erasmus project enabled us to travel to Slovenia from the 4th October to the 10th October 2024. We were able to visit significant places which brought us closer to the historical culture and the different kinds of borders in this country. During the Erasmus project we lived together with our host families in Koper. After introduction workshops, on the second day, our exchange partners showed us around their city and explained us the most important historical aspects in relation to the borders. In the following we will share what we have learned.

The previous day in Slovenia we had already visited our partner school "Gimnazija Koper High School", which is located in the old city center of Koper.
The Gimnazija Koper is one of Slovenia's oldest secondary schools, with a long history dating back to the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. From the 13th to 18th century, the building used to be a monastery and was only used for school purposes from 1806 until today. A sign of this time period is the assembly hall of the school
where you can see a notable ceiling fresco.

Picture 1

We met the other students in the Atrium, the most important place in the building. In monastery times the Atrium was used for praying, which illustrates the importance of community and solidarity. Today the atrium is still the center of the school and is important to socialize with other students in the breaks.

Picture 2

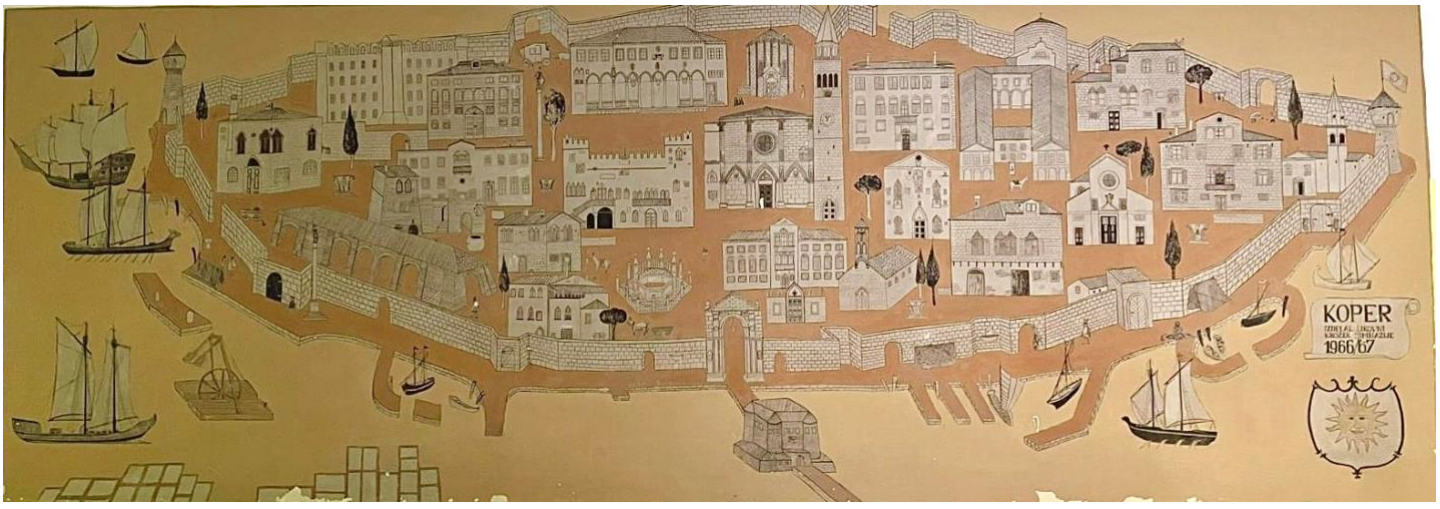
After we were shown around the school, we learned something about Slovenias history. For that we prepared some short presentations about each episode of the history.

Slovenia has a long history shaped by its neighboring regions. In the Middle Ages, the area was part of various empires, including the Holy Roman Empire and the Habsburg Monarchy. After World War I and the fall of Austria-Hungary, Slovenia became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, which later became Yugoslavia. During World War II, it was occupied by Germany and Italy.

After the war, Slovenia was a republic within socialist Yugoslavia. In 1991, Slovenia was the first Yugoslav republic to declare independence, leading to a brief independence war. Since then, it has been an independent country and became a member of the EU and NATO in 2004.

In the afternoon we attended a guided tour with our exchange partners. They showed us Koper and informed us about the most important aspects of the city as well as it’s history. Koper used to be an island and is now a port city located on Slovenia's Adriatic coast. It is the largest city in the coastal region and an important economic hub due to its port.

Picture 3



Picture 4

In the center of the city there is a large square (Titov Trg) surrounded by buildings which represent the Venetian-style architecture. Two of the most important landmarks are the Praetorian Palace and the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The Praetorian Palace was built in the 15th century, it once served as the administrative center of the city.

Picture 5

Today, it houses Koper's city offices and is used for cultural events and weddings. It remains a key symbol of the city's rich history and Venetian influence.

Next to the Palace is the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. It has a bell tower which offers a good view of the city and the Adriatic Sea.

Picture 6

Picture 7

Another important landmark we visited is the Da-Ponte fountain. The shape of the fountain reminds us of the famous Rialto Bridge in Venice. In former times the fountain played an important role for the water supply in Koper.

When you cross the square you reach one of twelve city gates called the Muda-Gate. The Muda-Gate was part of the outer wall but there was also a inner wall. These protected the island in the 15h century from enemies and environmental catastrophes. The wall was built when Koper was under the republic of Venice to restrict the citizens of Koper, to improve the image of the city and to have a better control. Today the remains of the city wall have an touristic and historic meaning. After the city tour we noticed that there are still many signs which emphasize the influence Venice had on Koper.

Picture 1: The assembly hall of the Gymnasium Koper
Picture 2: The atrium of the school
Picture 3: The port of Koper with its economic and touristic side
Picture 4: A map in the school which shows Koper as an island with the sourrounding walls and their gates
Picture 5: The Praetorian Palace of Koper
Picture 6: The cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on the large city square

Picture 7: The Da-Ponte fountain

Sources: https://visitkoper.si/de/koper/

Information from our exchange partners

Our own knowledge

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