

First week of November I spend in preparing for my presentation on 6th of November in Hiša mladih. I prepared presentation, some decorations and the also a lot of food (some traditional Latvian, f.ex., bacon rolls, desert from rye bread, grey peas, and some not so traditional but the one which we usually make in this kind of events – different kinds of salad, desert with cottage cheese, cake with honey etc. Everybody liked it a lot, I was so glad; because of I wasn't sure if someone will eat at all something. Presentation went on well. I think I will make some more evenings like this a bit later.

On 7th and 8th of November I was in Ljubljana and Laško – I spent some time together with other EVS volunteers; saw a place where one of them is working etc.

On 7th and 14th of November we organized two workshops in MDPM. These were drawing workshops about some special topics. First was – ‘what my mom is doing when she doesn't do anything’ and other was ‘oktober je dober’ for one competition in Nova KBM.

On November I also had several workshops in PUM – we were making necklaces from felt and other day we were baking Latvian traditional bacon rolls.

On 18th of November was Latvia's birthday and I had presentation in MC Hiša mladih for youngsters there – I think they were actually enjoying and interested.

On Friday evening I went to Ljubljana again to meet with other volunteers – we met in one's apartment, made dinner, talked etc. Was really nice, because of came people from different countries and it was really international meeting. On Saturday I met with Barbara and on Sunday I went together with her to Vrtovče pot. I haven't been in event like that before, so I was enjoying a lot. I like walking in nature. And there was also small market at the end of the road.

On the last week of November I had two presentations in OŠ Danila Lokarja – they are participating in project ‘European village’ and decided to make it about Latvia. Now I had only small presentations, but later after New Year we will start with some workshops and deeper presentations so that they can prepare everything till May – day of Europe.

Mainly at the end of November we prepared and planned December – all activities, workshops, events. It took a lot of work and energy.

In November begun Studying Circles – we are doing different things there from different kind of materials. ☺

December, as usually, is busy month – different kind of activities, workshops and plans + everyone also wants to prepare something nice for their families and friends. In MDPM we started Veseli December with different workshops – every Friday afternoon we

offered children to learn how to make nice Christmas greeting cards, Christmas decorations and small hand-made presents for their families or friends. On 5th of December we also participated in Miklavževanje – in the workshop children were making greeting cards with finger prints and stamps. At first I thought that none is going to come there but some hour before main event – čarovnik and st. Miklavž there came a lot of children who wanted to participate in all workshops.

We made three workshops also in schools – in Vipavski Križ and Budanje we were making 3-dimensional greeting cards. We prepared also some examples to show to children before workshop but when we saw how beautiful and creative they are working, we understood that there are no needs for showing some examples before. I really enjoyed these two workshops because of there were lots of children and all of them wanted to do as good as possible. We had workshop also in Skrilje where came children together with their parents, so there were a lot of people (nearly hundred, I guess), but I didn't go because of I had caught some cold and didn't want to go in school like this. They were making very beautiful Christmas decorations.

In December I had also two sweet workshops – I was preparing mash for ginger breads before and then one time we were baking and decorating them in MDPM with children and other – in PUM. I think this was once of the best workshops, because of children really enjoyed – they were making ginger bread hearts for their families and friends, decorating them and till the end everybody had a lot of beautiful cookies! ☺

Every Wednesday I also participated in Študijski krožki where we were also making some Christmas decorations like balloons, Christmas flowers (stars) etc. For later I have decided to crochet – I would like to make a dress for spring or summer, so this studying circle will be a good place where to do that and I will also receive some help if needed.

To get some Christmas feeling I went also several times to Ljubljana – just to walk in nicely decorated old town and Christmas markets. For me it was a bit strange, because of in Latvia it is usually cold and snowy around Christmas, but here was still +5 and I felt more like in autumn than winter. Just the wind was awfully strong some days.

Early in the morning on 19th of December I was heading home – at first to Gorizia, then with train to Venice. Weather was awful – snowing and strong wind...one moment I thought that I am not going anywhere. Also when I got till Venice's train station and wanted to buy ticket to airport, they said that airport is closed since 6 a.m. But I didn't know what else to do so I just bought that ticket and went to airport. Was great view – airport was full of people – they are just sitting on the ground, on their luggage and waiting – watching in the

table and waiting for some information. I was doing the same. Almost all flights were cancelled but to Riga was still empty – no information. After more than hour I got nervous so I went to information center and asked them if they have some news. No. Maybe after 2 p.m. when airport will be opened again they will know something more. They said just to wait. Well...later it was crazy – plain which I needed to take was coming from Riga, but as airport in Venice was closed, they went to Veron. Story is long and crazy, but at the end we took plane from Veron to Riga, I got home 7 hours later than planned...but was still happy, because of lots of flights were cancelled and people couldn't get home for Christmas.

Days in Latvia run away fast – from one meeting to another, from one event to another...and after 10 days I found myself again in the airport, now already heading back to Venice, then taking bus to train station in Venice...train to Gorizia and then I was already back. And feeling strange – like I never was away. Just the snow was gone somewhere... So I keep wondering where that white color stays when snow melts?!

On 30th of December we had New Years party with children in MDPM. We were dancing, making decorations for our Christmas tree, eating, drinking, playing games and musical instruments. Oh, and also singing 'Jingle bells' in Slovene – which was first time for me of course. ☺ For New Year I was going to Ljubljana – stayed with some other volunteers and New Years night waited with a lot of people in the main square in Ljubljana. After 11.00 p.m. my friends and family started to call from Latvia – they congratulated me with New Year, some were making fun that we are now in different years – in Slovenia is still the old one, but in Latvia – New one. That is strange feeling – when you know that you are in their past year, but they – in my future one ☺ ok, just a joke.