

DAY 3: LESSONS ATTENDANCE AND SOCIAL WORKER

One again I was picked up by Katerina Jagič at 8:45 a.m. and we went to the "Solski Centre". I was introduced to the English teacher, Meta Arnež, and we went to an English lesson with seventeen-year-old mechatronics students. I introduced myself, explained. I explained where I am from, my school and what I teach. Then, the teacher, I and the students began a conversation about different subjects.

After that, I went with the Chemistry teacher, Klavdija Stropnik, to her lesson with sixteen-year-old computing students. There, I was introduced to the students, and I sat down to listen to the lesson.



When we finished, I had a meeting with the social worker, Mirjana Erlah Košnik. Her job as social worker consists in talking to the students and their parents when there are problems, and to the Police in serious cases.



Firstly, I explained her the differences between the Spanish and the Slovenian systems, specially in relation with the age of the Compulsory Education. Students in Slovenia are only obligated to go to school until the age of 15, when they finish the Primary School. Therefore, they have fewer problems in Secondary Schools than we have. Here the students come to school because they want to, or because their parents want. As a consequence, here in Slovenia, the major problem with students is located in Primary School, where they come in a compulsory way.

When she was asked about absenteeism, she said that when a student has been absent during 35 hours without justifying, first they call their parents with a letter telling them that this absence implies that the student must leave school. If the student comes back, she makes a plan in order to get the marks. And if not, he or she is expelled from school. She

says that parents don't usually want their children to be outside school because this has bad consequences for them, like losing the social aids or benefits.

Talking about foreigner students that can't speak Slovenian, she says that there are usually no problems with students from the ancient Yugoslavia because the languages are similar and it is easy for them to learn it. It is different when we talk about students from Kosovo or Albania. Usually, those students don't want to learn Slovenian and, in addition, their language is completely different. In those cases, they study only the Slovenian language just in school. They don't have other subjects at school time, and in addition, they have to study Slovenian two hours a week in the evenings.

When we finished, I went to have lunch with Nataša Kristan and after that, she encouraged me to visit Ljubljana.



The capital is a friendly city, but it was raining most of the time.

