



Going to Zagreb again

TWIN Greece - Croatia

Idea of having Twin with Greece, in one of the many conversations on *Skype* between Samy Jebrini (CPSA President), Maja Lisjak Besedic, Tina Putnik and me, came on our minds. Why with Greeks? The main reasons for us were next: Greece - Mediterranean country such as Croatia, a similar mentality, relative closeness, and a visit to Greece seemed to us very interesting. We quickly agreed that Twin with Greeks must be carried out. The day after, I contacted Harry Nakos (LS for Greece) and proposed him a Twin.

Conversation went like this:

Dina: Hey Harry! How do you like the idea of making Twin with us?

Nakos: Great. Let`s do it.

Dina: Deal!

The first problem that set in front of us was arranging the date of their arrival in Zagreb. Since we are all acquainted with the fact that Greeks spend more time in planes, i.e on travelling then in their home towns, finding the date that suits for all of us showed incredibly complicated. On the way were standing: DIA Symposium in Berlin, GPSF local elections, AC in Reims, GPSF project in Santorini, exams dates, etc. The only available date that was left was between 5th and 11th of March. We were in a kind of unfavourable situation because we were not sure whether we are capable, in so short time, to organize everything in the way we wanted, especially since beginning of March is time when many of students are busy with their exams. It was now or never.

Our response was of course: Let`s do it! All obligations which were not related for Twin were left on the side. The result of our work was the following:

5th March, 2009 (Thursday)

For the time of their arrival we were familiarized one hour before they came. We realized then that with Greeks everything will not run smoothly as we thought and that we have to be prepared on everything. We realized that we need to cool down and switch on the new tempo and Greek lifestyle.

After placing them in the dorm, short break and a dinner, we all went together in the club Gjuro 2 to celebrate the beginning of Twin between Greece and Croatia.

6th march, 2009 (Friday)

After a long sleep, Croatian hosting team together with nine Greeks began a tour around the centre of the city of Zagreb and the old historic part of town- Upper Town. But, before that in the most frequently visited and most popular destination in Zagreb- Bogovičeva Street, so called Špica we had to drink first coffee to wake the Greeks up. We started our tour with the cathedral, from the 17th century, and continued with visiting the largest and most popular bazaar –Dolac, going to the old Upper Town (historic part of town where is located the largest number of Zagreb museums and galleries. There is also chaired Croatian Parliament and the Council) We had taken our guests to the Historical Museum of the City of Zagreb, which provided them insight into the historical and cultural development of Zagreb from prehistoric times until today. We also showed them the Greek embassy which is located near the museum what rejoiced them so much.

We took them to the oldest pharmacy in the city of Zagreb, which is at the service of citizens from Zagreb from the 16th century. The cultural and historical education we end up going in the Hemingway bar and club Sokol, in the evening. Great surprise for all of us was the arrival of a couple of colleagues from Serbia, led by the only and unique Marija Marić or as we like to call her Big Mamma.

Slogan of the evening was: Balkans rules. That night in club Croats were the loudest, Big Mamma was the highest as always and the Greeks were profligated. Vodka was flowing, and the voices were slowly but safely disappearing and for some of us (exactly for me) the voice was lost completely.

7th March, 2009 (Saturday)

With a lot of motivation to lead our fellow Greeks in recreational and sports centre Jarun, which is popular place with its 2 large artificial lakes where sporting events happening, this time it was absent from my list of plans. Specifically, I spent half of my day in hospital because of inflammation of my voices as I couldn't say aloud a word. How this happened to me? Probably because of singing loudly, in a club the night before, when the Croats were emphasized. In the beginning I tried to communicate with the Greeks writing them everything on the piece of paper. This kind of communication wasn't the kind of best so I decided to go the emergency. After getting the injection and prescribed antibiotics, I had to go further. Greeks were waiting. My duties for the day took my dear colleagues, while I was "sparing" my voice and drinking every little warm tea. The devil didn't give me the peace, and I went out again with everyone else in one of the best and most famous clubs in the city of Zagreb - Club Shamballa. End of party was at 6am and awaking at 7am, couldn't be avoided.

8th March, 2009 (Sunday)

After only 50 minutes of sleep, the time for getting up came very soon. The plan for Sunday was visiting the baroque town of Varaždin and the castle Trakošćan that are both an hour away from Zagreb and are located in the northern part of the country near the border. Trakošćan Castle dates back to the 13th century as a small fortress, and it was completed fully in the 19th century. Within the castle is a museum with a permanent exhibition, where we had a chance to see the rooms and interiors that date from the 15th to 19th century. After a short and pleasant walk through the park which is located besides the castle, we headed further to the north, in the city of Varaždin. Varaždin is a medieval city that is characterized by its rich baroque architecture. Since the year 1767 until 1776 Varaždin was the capital city of Croatia. During the short sightseeing we had visited the Church of Saint Nikola, Varaždin Cathedral, Herzer Palace, and other sights. Tired from trip and sightseeing we were all eagerly waiting lunch at the restaurant Zlatne Gorice. Enjoying 4 types of traditional dishes of the region in the winter garden, and surrounded by the beauty of the vineyard, we showed to our guests rich

Croatian gastronomy. With Croatian folk music, performed by local band whole day was rounded. In the evening we went to a bar to play a billiard.

9th March, 2009 (Monday)

Tired of yesterday's trips, Monday was passed as a day for relaxing. The day was spent by going in pastry shops, cafes and pubs. At the end of the day the guests got the strength for going to the largest park in Zagreb-Maksimir, which was the first established park in the south-eastern Europe. Within it is located also the ZOO. We all had there great fun as many had found the common lines and characters with the animals. The evening, we spent in a room, having pizzas and drinks and celebrating a birthday from Nicholas.

10th March, 2009 (Tuesday)

Tuesday was a working day for workshops and lectures on the topic of "Obesity". Lectures, in the premises of the Faculty, were held by pharmaceutical experts from Atlantic Group and associates of the Faculty of pharmacy and medical biochemistry in Zagreb. The emphasis was on the lifestyle of today's society. We discussed about the causes (physical and psychological) and the consequences of obesity, preventions, treatments, and what is offered on the market in terms of "complete" curing.

Our last night of Twin and previous five unforgettable days we decided to celebrate in the club Gjuro2 where we began our parties. In the background of funk music we said goodbye to each others with the desire to meet very soon again. In the early morning (5 am) with our last forces we accompanied our Greek colleagues and friends to the main city railway station and wished all Malakas bon voyage. We also wished to ourselves soon arrival in Greece, but this time in different roles. Greeks were gone, and in 6 am general cleaning and getting everything in order in the dorm's rooms were waiting Croatian hosting team, still.

Because of the privacy of participants a part of the report is reviewed. I thank you all for that understanding.

Dina Cvijetic

LS for CPSA (Croatian Pharmacy and Medical biochemistry Students' Association) 08/09