ERASMUS+ NETHERLANDS – WATER: FRIEND OR FOE?

From the 3rd October to 10th October 2026 we took part in an Erasmus+ project and travelled to Maassluis, the Netherlands, where we visited Reviuslyceum/Lentiz secondary school. The main theme of our project was Water.

We explored the question of whether water is our friend or our enemy. Besides workshops about water, the week was marked by water sports activities, discovering Dutch culture, visiting beautiful cities, and making new friendships. We gained a deeper understanding of the importance of water in both the history and modern-day life of the Netherlands.



Our adventure began when we arrived in Maassluis and met our host families. Staying with local families allowed us to experience Dutch life from a different perspective. We learned about their customs, food, and daily routines in a way that would not have been possible if we were just tourists. We formed stronger connections with our peers and improved our English skills through everyday conversations as well as schoolwork.





This reminded us of the enormous threat that water can pose. We also discovered how the Dutch developed innovative technological solutions in the past through the use of windmills, while today their flood protection system includes some of the world's most impressive engineering achievements. At the same time, we learned about the positive side of water. In the Netherlands, water has enabled the development of tourism, agriculture, water transport, and the economy. For the Dutch, water is therefore not only a threat but also a precious resource.

One of the most interesting parts of the project was learning about the Netherlands and its people's relationship with water. Since a large part of the country lies below sea level, water management is of crucial importance in this country. During workshops we learned how the Dutch use canals and dikes and how they have been reclaiming land from the sea to protect their country from flooding and also creating new areas for settlement and agriculture.





In Maassluis, we participated in various activities related to the project theme. Together with our Dutch friends, we took part in workshops, explored Dutch history and water management, and compared the Netherlands with Slovenia, including the role and perception of water in both countries. One of the workshops was designed as an escape room focused on water systems in Slovenia and the Netherlands. The task required teamwork, cooperation, the application of knowledge from different school subjects, and mutual support in order to achieve our goals.



The activities covered topics such as water systems, the sea, transport, and other aspects of life in both countries. To solve the puzzles, we had to use mathematical skills, knowledge of chemistry and physics, geographical information, biological concepts, and much more. We had to find the solutions without using mobile phones or the internet; instead, we relied on school textbooks, atlases, and other sources. Working together made learning enjoyable and also helped us feel more connected to our Dutch friends.



We did not learn about water only in the classroom; we experienced it firsthand as well. Near the school, we went canoeing along the traditional Dutch canals, which gave us a better understanding of the country's waterways. We also enjoyed an unforgettable surfing lesson at the beach. These water-based sports activities showed us that water can also be a source of relaxation, health, and enjoyment.





Our journey also took us beyond Maassluis. In Amsterdam, we visited the This is Holland museum, where we learned about Dutch history and landscapes in an interactive and engaging way and saw how closely the Netherlands is connected to water. We then explored Delft, a charming city known for its beautiful architecture and historic streets. In Rotterdam, we visited one of the largest ports in the world. From the Euromast observation tower, we enjoyed spectacular views of the port city and admired its impressive skyline. Walking through Rotterdam also showed us how modern architecture and historical heritage can successfully coexist side by side.







To conclude our visit, we attended a farewell gathering and enjoyed traditional Dutch food.



However, we have not yet fully answered the question of whether water is our friend or our enemy. We will continue our research and discoveries at the beginning of June, when it will be our turn to host our Dutch partners.



VEČ UTRINKOV: Instagram Gimnazija Koper

https://www.instagram.com/p/DfXJn6Sgu9s/?rpxt=NTFuZ2FvMGdnOXQ3