



# Group Mobility BELGIUM 11-2024

## Summary – what remains?

The Erasmus+ exchange in Belgium left a lasting impression on the participating students and teachers from BHAK Voitsberg. After a week of intercultural learning, shared activities, and insights into school and everyday life in Belgium, the students reflected on their experiences in a final questionnaire. Their answers provide a vivid picture of what they learned, enjoyed, and will carry forward.

### Highlights and Memorable Experiences

When asked about their **most memorable experience**, the students' responses revealed a clear pattern:

- **Brussels excursions** (Grand Place, Atomium, cultural landmarks): **3 mentions**
- **Chocolate-related activities** (Choco-Story Museum, tasting Belgian chocolate): **2 mentions**
- **Social activities with peers** (Bowling, Farewell Day): **2 mentions**
- **Belgian food** (especially waffles): **1 mention**

**Overall, Brussels itself and its landmarks stood out as the most memorable part of the exchange, complemented by strong impressions from cultural activities such as the chocolate museum and local cuisine.**

*"The Atomium, because it was so big and impressive."* (Leonie H.)

*"The waffles – simply unforgettable."* (Anonymous student)

### Cooperation with Exchange Partners

The survey showed a consistently positive experience in terms of cooperation with Belgian students:

- **"Very good" / "Excellent" cooperation: 5 students**
- **"Critical at first, but improved": 1 student**

This indicates that while some participants initially faced challenges, all eventually experienced strong bonds with their Belgian buddies.

*"The cooperation worked very well – we understood each other perfectly."* (Carina R.)

*"At first I was critical, but it got better every day."* (Anonymous student)

### Personal Learning and Development

The Erasmus week was also a valuable **learning experience**:

- **Improvement in English skills**: mentioned by **4 students**
- **Intercultural understanding (traditions, school system, daily life differences)**: mentioned by **3 students**
- **Broader personal growth (meeting new people, building friendships)**: mentioned by **2 students**

*"I improved my English, learned many traditions, and saw a lot of new things."* (Luca G.)

*"I met many new people and gained important experiences."* (Leonie H.)





## Favorite Activities

Students were asked which activity they enjoyed most:

- **Brussels trip & sightseeing: 3 votes**
- **Atomium visit: 1 vote**
- **Choco-Story Museum: 1 vote**
- **Farewell Day with bowling and group fun: 1 vote**

*"The last day, because we were all together and had fun."* (Luca G.)

*"The chocolate museum – very interesting."* (Anonymous student)

## Observations in Belgian Schools

One of the main goals of Erasmus is to discover differences in education systems. Students noted:

- **Use of large screens/TVs in classrooms**
- **Different school structure** (two cycles of six years, broader timetable differences)
- **Perceived differences in discipline and classroom atmosphere**
- **School buildings sometimes felt less modern compared to Austria**

*"They have large TVs in every classroom."* (Marc G.)

*"The students seemed both more familiar and more disruptive."* (Luca G.)

## Surprises in Belgium

Some of the aspects that surprised the Austrian students were:

- **Climate:** Several mentioned the colder weather compared to Austria
- **High English proficiency** of Belgian peers
- **Differences in school culture and daily life**

*"I was surprised how well they all spoke English."* (Luca G.)

## Evaluation of the Exchange

The Erasmus project received **outstanding ratings**:

- **5 stars:** 5 students
- **4 stars:** 1 student

**Average rating: 4.8 / 5 stars**

All students unanimously stated that their classmates at home **missed out on a great opportunity** and that they would **definitely participate again** if given the chance.

*"Absolutely – opportunities like this don't come often."* (multiple responses)

## Conclusion

The Erasmus exchange to Belgium proved to be a remarkable experience for all involved. Students gained not only **linguistic confidence** and **intercultural understanding**, but also built **friendships across borders**. The overwhelmingly positive feedback, high ratings, and unanimous willingness to join again underline the long-term value of such projects.

As one student summarized:

*"It was a lot of fun, the host families were very kind, and I would absolutely do it again."*

