



# BiSo-Student Excursion



a photo documentary



to Tallinn, Estonia  
June 18th to 22nd, 2016

**educational and social management**  
**BiSo**  
**international studies II**  
**Prof. Dr. D. Braun**

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under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Daniela Braun  
our group of students voted to travel to  
**Tallinn, Estonia**



responsible for organizing the journey were the students:  
Tom Ehrich, Karin Jirasek, Michael Kircher, Angelika Milde,  
Adrian Ruschel

# Travel-Preparations by the organizing team

flights

accomodation

programme

supporting programme

general information

presents for the estonian hosts

- flights were booked by students themselves as the organizing team provided information on different fares and possibilities to get to Tallinn
- the organizing team presented their research concerning accomodation in Tallinn. The students choice was: Fat Margarets Hostel
- the organizing team took care of putting together a schedule for the group and provided general information about the country and on the Estonian educational system
- naturally the organization team planned and booked all the group events

# Official Agenda Tallinn

**Saturday,  
June 18th**

- arrival
- transfer to hostel
- **19:00** dinner at Vanaema Juures (Grandmas place)

**Sunday,  
June 19th**

- breakfast at hostel
- **13:00** walking city tour

**Monday,  
June 20th**

- **11:30 – 13:00** Tallinn, University, faculty: Education and Educational Science:
- **15:00** Kadroru Sadsa Gümnaasium, German school Tallinn

**Tuesday,  
June 21st**

- **10.00 – 12:00** Naba Lastaed Kindergarten
- 10:00 – 12:00 Tallinn Suitsupääsupesä Preschool
- exchange and reflection about the institutions

**Wednesday,  
June 22nd**

- departure

Saturday,  
June 18th

# Frankfurt Rhein-Main Airport



BiSo goes east...



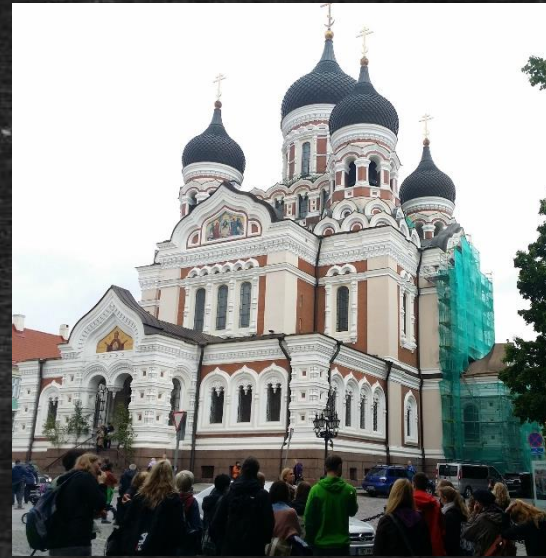
...arriving in Tallinn...



Fat Margaret's Hostel



Tallinn definitely has got a lot to offer...



we all got together for dinner at  
„Grandma´s Place“ (Vanaema Juures)



We enjoyed an estonian (vegan) meal:  
salad, fried pumkin and a baked apple for desert





Sunday,  
June 19th

one of our „highlights“:  
...the walking city-tour ...



with our fantastic tour-guide:

Arielle

Arielle led us through the troublesome history of Estonia:  
Over the centuries, Estonia was taken over by many  
countries like Russia, Sweden, Denmark and Germany...  
just to name a few...



## Bombing in March 1944

The houses that had been situated here, on historical Harju Street, were destroyed in a Soviet air raid. The bombing of Tallinn began in the evening on 9 March, 1944, conducted by approximately 280 military aircraft of the Red Army. Mostly civilian buildings were affected. At least 554 city residents and 171 soldiers and prisoners of war were killed. The centre of the Estonian capital sustained severe damage, with a total of over 5,100 buildings pulverised immediately or subsequently demolished. More than 20,000 people became homeless overnight. For the next fifty years the Soviet authorities denied participation of Red Army aircraft in the bombing of civilian targets in Tallinn.



finally in 1994 the Russians withdrew...

...and in 2004 Estonia became a member of the EU



## some interesting facts about Estonia

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### Distances from Tallinn to:

- |                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| - Helsinki (Finland):      | 85 km  |
| - Riga (Latvia):           | 310 km |
| - St. Petersburg (Russia): | 350 km |
| - Stockholm (Sweden):      | 375 km |



### Largest ethnic groups:

Estonians (69%), Russians (26%), Ukrainians (2%), Belarussians (1%) and Finns (1%)



Estonia.eu  
Positively surprising

## ...more interesting facts about Estonia

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The capital of Estonia is [Tallinn](#)  
with 439 517 inhabitants  
(32% of the total population)



Taxes:  
20% flat income tax, reinvested corporate profit is tax free; 20% VAT



Education:  
compulsory school attendance in Estonia begins at the age of 7  
it lasts until completion of basic education, which covers the grades 1-9  
basic education is funded by the state budget and the local government.



Estonia.eu  
Positively surprising

## ...and even more interesting facts about Estonia

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Language:

official language is **Estonian** (Finno-Ugric language family),  
which is closely related to Finnish

Also Finnish, English, Russian and German are widely spoken and understood



Internet:

since 2005 Estonians are provided with free internet at public places



one of the founders of SKYPE is Sten Tamkivi,  
an Estonian It-star

Monday,  
June 20th

University of Tallinn  
faculty of education and educational science  
"Early Childhood Education and preschool teacher education in Estonia"



We were greeted by Tija Öun



Tiia Öun,  
Associate Professor  
of Early Childhood  
Education



Kerstin Kööp



Head of the faculty



at Tallinn University we got to witness the graduation ceremonies



we were invited to listen to the lecturers in an airconditioned auditorium





the head of the faculty gave us an impressive overview of the numerous publications of the university...



...while Tiia Õun lectured about: "Early Childhood Education in Tallinn University" and Kerstin Kööp informed us about an essential part of the education system in Estonia: the kindergarten





# Our visit to the German high school in Tallinn



the German high school was founded in 1980

there are about 1000 pupils and 100 staff

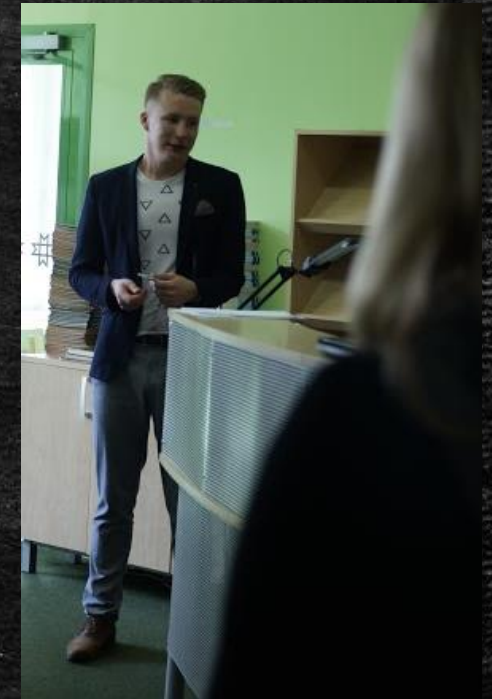
German is taught as first foreign language

pupils get the German „Abitur“ as well as the estonian equivalent

the school has got an excellent reputation

children being accepted at the school have to pass tests and an interview

Mihkel Körbe,  
our wonderful host at the  
German high school in Tallinn



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Naba Lastaed Kindergarten

- ➔ childcare and basic education for children (ages 1 to 7)
- ➔ projects and learning activities in Estonian and English language to support language skills
- ➔ learning activities focused on project work
- ➔ activities realized in mixed groups (age)
- ➔ pedagogic concept is competence oriented
- ➔ pedagogic concept is based on an experience-oriented programme

Tuesday,  
June 21st

## Naba Lastaed Kindergarten

- ➔ everyday learning activities planned by a team of 3 educators
- ➔ planned learning activities are based on concept and “National Curriculum” for Estonian preschool educational institutions
- ➔ main focus is on school preparation and skills
- ➔ educators implementing new technologies in learning activities
- ➔ financing of kindergarten is based on parent fee

Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Naba Lastaed Kindergarten



transparency  
and  
cooperation  
with parents

competence  
related work  
and project  
work



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Naba Lastaed Kindergarten

- parents are allowed to use facilities of kindergarten for activities after pick up time
- Indoor-swimming pool may also be used by parents with their kids
- transparency is considered of great importance, so for educators, parents are more than welcome to get an impression of their pedagogic work.



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Naba Lastaed Kindergarten

big parts of the learning activities are integrated in project and special thematic units like recycling or ecosystem forest



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Naba Lastaed Kindergarten

impressions...





Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Naba Lastaed Kindergarten

even more  
impressions....



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Tallinn Suitsupääsüpesa Preschool

- ➔ childcare and basic education for children of ages 1-7
- ➔ language of teaching and instruction is Estonian
- ➔ opening hours: 7AM to 7PM
- ➔ curriculum in accordance to Government's order no 87 of 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2008 (National Curriculum for Preschool Educational Institutions)
- ➔ 6 groups arranged by age of children
- ➔ two teachers and an additional assisting teacher per group
- ➔ musical activities and physical education activities conducted by specialized teachers

Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Tallinn Suitsupääsupesa Preschool



bullyfree  
programme

persona dolls  
methodology



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Tallinn Suitsupääsupesa Preschool

## bullyfree programme

The Mary Foundation and Save the Children Denmark have joined forces with Estonia to introduce the bullyfree programme.

Free of Bullying has been developed to prevent bullying among 3-8 year-olds. It consists of a suitcase with pedagogical tools such as Buddy Bear, conversation boards and the use of rhythm. These tools enable teachers to talk to the children with ease about an otherwise abstract subject such as bullying.



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Tallinn Suitsupääsupesa Preschool

## persona dolls methodology

The methodology was founded in the U.S. (~1950), as there was very little material to teach children about ethnic diversity.

Every doll has its own profile, personality and story which is based on children's experience. Dolls and their stories develop children's empathy and encourage them to react and stand for themselves whenever they witness injustice or prejudice attitudes.



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Tallinn Suitsupääsupesa Preschool



Tuesday,  
June 21st

# Tallinn Suitsupääsüpesa Preschool



Tuesday,  
June 21st

in the afternoon, time has come to talk...



...and share our thoughts...





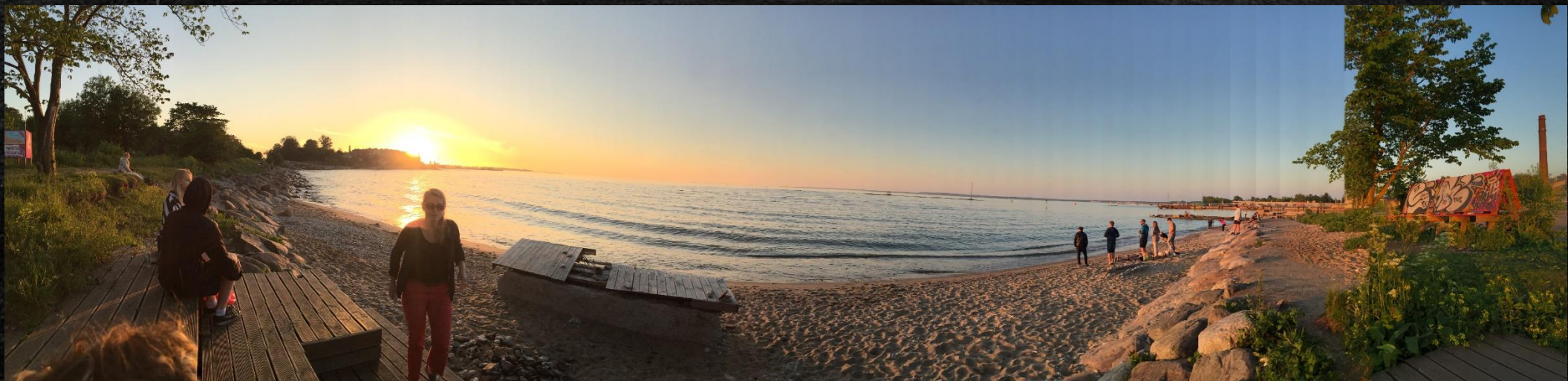
Wednesday,  
June 22nd

... after four days of collecting countless  
new impressions ...



...it's time to say goodbye...

it's been an extraordinary experience  
to get different point of views and an  
overview about pedagogic work in Estonia



# last but definitely not least: we´d like to express our deepest thanks

- to the **HOCHSCHULE KOBLENZ**, for giving us this wonderful possibility to broaden our horizon
- to the hostel-staff, who was very helpful in so many ways
- to the staff of „Grandma´s Place“ for arranging everything so beautifully
- to Arielle – not the mermaid – but a terrific tourguide
- to the Tallinn University, the German high-school, the Naba Lasted Kindergarden and the Tallinn Suitsupääsupesa Preschool for being such wonderful hosts

and

to our fellow students who have always been and always will be an outstanding group of people!

**the organizing team**