

Diakonia Seminar in Konin

These last days, from the 23th of May until the 26th we met the volunteers from Diakonia that are all over Poland in Konin so that we had the last occasion to meet all of us in one place and at one time.

Before the start of our seminar we decided that four days were not enough to enjoy each other so we agreed about getting together the weekend before. Thanks to that we showed up in the beautiful Polish city Toruń which is considered as one of the most beautiful places in Poland. After a two days long stay we had to agree and appreciate visiting the city with a lot of sights, cozy coffee shops, restaurants and gingerbread manufactories. Eventually, we had to move on to Konin on Monday afternoon so as not to miss the start of our seminar.



After everyone arrived at our accomodation the seminar could start. Konin is a town located in central Poland close to Poznań which is a capital city of Wielkopolska voivodeship. Thanks to Konin's central location everyone had the same long journey. The town is divided into two parts, the old one and the new one. The old one lies on the left bank of the river Warta and includes the old town with the main square, townhall, park and two churches, one of which is an Evangelical church that belongs to Diakonia. Next to the church you can find a rectory house with a large garden and a guest house in the middle. The guest house was a place where our seminar took place.



We started the seminar with a short meeting after which we went for dinner to the restaurant. On the first full day of the seminar, all of us first gave presentations about our projects to the other volunteers as an introduction. Ewa presented her region of Poland to us as well. The main topics of the seminar were the evaluation of our projects and administrative issues. Us and the other volunteers wrote a final report for Ewa, we learned about what to do at the end of our voluntary service like closing our bank account and what to write in the Annex for our Youth Pass. However it was also part of the programme to learn about our surroundings. We went to a museum to see an exhibition about a dinosaur fossil found close to Konin, and after we had a lecture in the museum about Polish patriotic jewelry. At the end, all of us got to try our hands at pottery.

A lot of our free time was spent talking, taking walks and playing games with the other volunteers from the project which was a lot of fun. On Thursday morning, when the seminar was over, we went our separate ways with most of the others. For how long, time will tell.



Laura, María and Milan ;-)