

Dear SCI-Team,

I have been to the workcamp "WE CAN DANCE 2" in Szklarska Poręba in Poland. It was my first workcamp I joined and I have mainly only good impressions and memories of it. I think it has influenced my life quite heavily, because this surely wasn't the last workcamp I have taken part in my life. The workcamps will be something that walk along with me my whole life. It is amazing how nice the people have been and everyone was accepted just like he/ she is.

Before the camp there was a good information net, above all because Anna Winkelkotte was really concerned about us and looked after that everyone was informed about everything.

The main aim of the camp, the integration of wheelchair-people and people who can walk, was achieved. The problems we had with that, for example that the wheelchair-people couldn't go to every walk, showed us the barriers they have, but also made us think about how we could overcome these barriers (e.g.: going by a chair lift up the hill). The wheelchair people themselves told that they have never imagined such a good integration, so for me, this was the point, when I thought we made it!!!

To this issue belongs also the dancing workshop. It was interesting to see how you can dance with the people in the wheelchair even with a partner. I wouldn't have believed, what some people can do with their wheelchairs before I went there. Also the dancing teacher was very competent and I have the feeling I really learned something about how to dance with a wheelchair person.

The Art Workshops were okay, too! I am just not that interested in arts, so it was sometimes a little exhausting for me, also because they were always in Polish and someone had to translate.

About languages I want to say something, anyway. When the German group arrived, we thought the Polish people can't speak any English, but we were wrong, it just took them some time to get used to it. So in the end we recognized that only Mariola, the organiser couldn't speak any and the art teacher. It was sometimes a little bit hard, that Mariola couldn't speak any English or German, but usually we found someone, who could translate (at last there were eleven people, who could speak English and Polish). So for me there wasn't really a language problem, it was more a problem, if the people dare to speak a foreign language, but in the end I couldn't see any problems anymore.

But sometimes, of course there have been some misunderstandings. But it wasn't always the language, often it was that there didn't take place enough evaluation during the camp. So some people were upset, but didn't have really the chance to tell. But anyway Mariola did everything, what was in her power to make the camp being successful. She put everything she has got into it and you felt this.

Accommodation and meals were great, we stayed in something like an hostel, the rooms were okay, because you only had to sleep in them, then we had three, like assembly rooms, and the dining hall. So we had a lot of space and also for the wheelchair people it was good. The meals were great, there always was a mass of food and it was really good. The Germans, usually have been the ones, who sat

there for ages and ages and couldn't stop, because it was just great. I think we all won weight during these two weeks.

In conclusion I wanted to say, that this was a great experience for me and I hope that this workcamp will continue the next years.

Josephine Geipel, Germany