

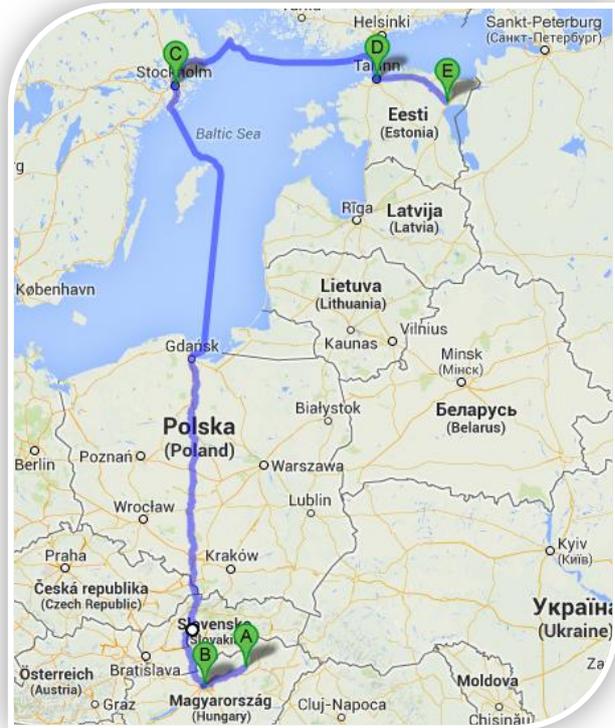
My 5 months in Estonia

In last September after a very long day, travelling 2280 km by train, metro, bus, plain, car, I finally arrived to Tudulinna. Or better to say „we” as I was supposed to spend my next 9 month here with my lovely four-legged friend, Robin. We were ready for a whole new adventure in my life. But, well, not so fast!

Everything started in August, or a little before... with a last minute EVS vacancy. Do you know why I quit my job, my hobby, why I left my ordinary surroundings, friends and family? Sounds scary, but to come to the end of the world for an EVS and have a big rest!!! Well, this big rest turned to be a big rush, but in a very good way. In contrast, I got a lot of new experiences, friends and way more possibilities that I expected. My prior ideas about EVS were totally wrong, but what they turned out is totally worth the sacrifice and the effort.

After spending 5 months here, in a very little place in North-East Estonia I feel that I can write a proper invitation for EVS. Tudulinna, the sleeping city or rather village, with its 200 inhabitants is not always sleeping and hides a lot of potentials. The calmness of this place gives you a chance to rethink your life and start those things what you always wanted.

After get acquainted in Children’s House, I have been invited to the local Elementary School,



the nearby Kindergarden, and I could start my own lessons with my dog, Robin. In Children’s House there is always a lot of work so boredom is excluded. Working with children with different backgrounds with an age scale from 8 months to 16 years is always a challenge and every day brings a new to task to solve.

Playing with children and also teach them not directly but through your behaviour and personal examples makes you fel useful and the

compliments and feedbacks they give you every day means more than anything. Cooking a good national food of yours or make a well enjoyed handicraft session develop and rich not just them but you! You start to value little things again.

The beautiful surrounding gives you a perfect appetite to have long walks in the forest and to explore every bit of this area.

You can also think about serious life questions between -25 and +115 Celsius, outside and in sauna. Both relaxing in their own way! ;)

After ups and downs of the culture shock, dilemmas around potato, difficulties with Estonian language, confused by totally friendly estonians, you will feel that you are a new person, who became more mature or at least got older a little bit. 😊 Change is necessary so let it be!

I am very glad that I made my decision and come to Estonia, and i don't regret a moment of it.

These were my impressions of the first half of my EVS, and it can be yours too!

Zsófia Baglyas and Robin 😊

