

Reflections: Participation at the Post-arrival evaluation meeting 2025

Date: 26 – 28 September 2025

Location: Kaprálův Mlýn, Ochoz u Brna, Czech Republic

Organizer: INEX-SDA, supported by Erasmus+ KA1 accreditation and the Visegrad Fund



From **26 to 28 September 2025**, our team had the privilege to take part in the **Post-arrival evaluation meeting for volunteers and campleaders**, organized by INEX-SDA and supported by Erasmus+ and the Visegrad Fund. The event was hosted at **Kaprálův Mlýn**, a former watermill turned into a modern ecological scout base, situated in the peaceful and protected Moravian Karst landscape near Brno, Czech Republic. The aim of the meeting was to reflect on the volunteering season, exchange experiences, and deepen our understanding of global and intercultural education, while at the same time celebrating the spirit of international volunteering.

The journey to Kaprálův Mlýn itself set the tone for what was to come. After arriving in Brno and taking a short bus ride, participants walked along a scenic forest trail that led to the venue. The eco-friendly approach to travel, encouraged by the organizers, reminded us of the importance of sustainability in all aspects of international cooperation. Upon arrival, we were welcomed with warmth by the INEX team and other participants from across Europe. The atmosphere was vibrant yet relaxed, and from the very beginning, it was clear that this would be not only a reflective meeting but also a celebration of community, shared values, and cultural diversity.



Programme Highlights

The programme was carefully designed to combine structured reflection with interactive learning, creativity, and outdoor experiences.

- **Reflection sessions:** The meeting began with separate reflection sessions for volunteers and campleaders. These sessions created a safe space to share stories, challenges, and successes from the summer workcamps. Hearing different perspectives was enriching and helped us better understand the broader impact of our collective efforts.
- **Workshops:** On Saturday, participants engaged in a variety of workshops on selected topics. These workshops were interactive and practical, encouraging us to think critically, develop new ideas, and strengthen our communication and teamwork skills.
- **Outdoor activities:** A highlight of the programme was the excursion into the surrounding forest and caves. Walking through nature together gave us the chance to connect informally, discover the unique beauty of the Moravian Karst, and reflect on the importance of protecting our environment.
- **Pecha Kucha night:** On Saturday evening, the group gathered for a creative and inspiring Pecha Kucha session. Each participant had the chance to present their volunteering story in a visual and dynamic format, using 12 photos and four minutes of storytelling. These short presentations brought laughter, emotion, and a strong sense of solidarity, as we realized how diverse yet connected our experiences were.
- **Global education focus:** On the final day, the programme shifted toward global education, with a “deep dive” into intercultural topics. This session highlighted the importance of understanding diversity, inclusion, and global challenges, equipping participants with new perspectives to bring back to their communities.



Key achievements and learnings

Participating in the Post-Arrival Evaluation Meeting brought several valuable outcomes for us:

1. **Stronger reflection and evaluation** – We were able to look back at our volunteering activities in a structured way, identifying both achievements and areas for growth.
2. **Skill development** – Through the workshops and activities, we strengthened our leadership, facilitation, and intercultural communication skills.
3. **Networking and partnerships** – The meeting created opportunities to connect with volunteers, trainers, and organizations from different countries. These contacts are a valuable resource for future cooperation and project development.
4. **Commitment to sustainability** – The emphasis on green travel and eco-friendly practices inspired us to adopt and promote similar approaches in our own activities.
5. **Celebration of community** – Beyond the formal sessions, the informal moments—shared meals, conversations, games, and cultural exchanges—reminded us that international volunteering is as much about building friendships as it is about project outcomes.



Personal and organizational significance

For our organization, being present at this meeting was both meaningful and strategic. On a personal level, it allowed our representatives to connect with peers, reflect on their volunteering journeys, and gain motivation for future activities. On an organizational level, the meeting strengthened our ties with INEX-SDA and other European partners, reaffirming our role in international volunteering networks. Moreover, the focus on **global education and sustainability** aligns perfectly with our mission and ongoing projects. The insights gained will be

directly integrated into our future initiatives, especially those involving young people, community engagement, and environmental responsibility. The **Post-Arrival Evaluation Meeting 2025** was much more than just a training. It was a journey of reflection, learning, and connection. It reminded us of the transformative power of volunteering and international cooperation. We return from Kaprálův Mlýn with new knowledge, renewed enthusiasm, and stronger partnerships. Most importantly, we carry with us the shared belief that through volunteering, intercultural learning, and sustainability, we can continue to shape a better future together.

