

GEOGRAPHICAL FIELD TRIPS BY STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE OF J. E. PURKYNĚ UNIVERSITY (CZECH)

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SUMMARY

The article provides a review of the pedagogical and didactic significance of geographical field trips. During the trips, students are given a real possibility to have a look at geographical features, therefore, motivation of studies is increased and versatile professional competences are trained. Although geographical field trips were included in the education programmes of secondary school a long time ago, they are still not widely used. Thus, encouragement of students to travel later makes a positive influence on organisation of the training process at school. Today, we may maintain that our students have visited 2/3 European countries as well as Turkey. An additional opportunity to travel is also provided by Erasmus Programme.

The present article introduces the programme and content of a particular field trip.

Keywords: geographical field trip, J.E. Purkyně University (Czechia).

It is sure of matter, that people by traveling fuller educate and sleek their behaviour, because the world is as a book. Every locality, community and man is one page of this book and looking in this one is possible something get. That to continue, promote unison and unanimous between nearby or far-away nations, it is necessary to send people to journeys and they has to bring after their comeback his travel diaries.

Jan Amos Komensky

INTRODUCTION

Field trips are one of form of geographical education and their value is by pedagogical didactic acknowledged without reservation. Goal of field trip consist in conveying of curriculum content in immediate contact with object of teaching at real surroundings. By many authors is higher motivation reported as positive effect of the underlying field trips. Higher motivation to learn as a result is awaiting growth of newly acquired volume of curriculum complex disposition

and longer time of her remembers. Diverse forms of geographical field trips and methods their realisation allows obtaining of versatile competence of students (Neeb, 2012).

Field trip it is latin word *exkursio – exit*, english – *field trip*, german – *fachexkursion*, france – *excursion* or *visite commentée*, russian – *naucnaja ekskursija*. Our scientific literature comment this term follows:

- in education it is a form of organized visit of place, where in real background are things, phenomenon's and activity which have correlativity with object of education or schooling tour, visit, expedition usually with education or identification object;
- one of organisations form of study (schooling) carried in form of walk, visit, expedition etc. which is in service to bigger clearness of study and to connecting by practice (Tour, 1985).

The aim of the present article is to review the experience of geographical field trips gained by students of the Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, J. E. Purkyně University.

POSITION OF FIELD TRIPS AT TEACHING PLAN OF OUR SCHOOLS

Teaching plan of our schools of all types contents this organisation form already long time. Lately however is not so oft used. Schoolchild of ground schools meet the field trip rather exceptionally, secondary school students, they are in this teach method not better. It depends of concrete situation and conditions anyone school. As very good example in organisation of field trips I would like to give ground school at Bakov nad Jizerou (small town in central Czechia). The pupils go to abroad field trip every year. This year it was Berlin and second group Leipzig in Germany. They have opportunity to test their knowledge of German language; by the way they get much new information of surrounding area.

Our University in Ústí prepares not only geographers but teachers too. All students have in their teaching plan minimal one field trip every year. History of field trips has been connected with schooling already sins beginning of geography department, it means yet from time of separate Education faculty so about 60 years.

After the year 1989 are our possibility more vide. It remained one-day and weekend field trips bud it opened the possibility to more-days field trips to fara-

way abroad. First of this type be realized in the year 1992 to Austria sees in Salzkammergut. Main goal, besides other things, was problematic of mountain icebergs and all what is connected. Next years it has been countries as Spain, France, Albania, Sweden, Denmark, two times to Lithuania with cooperation of Kiveda travel agency, etc.

Today we can to say, that our students visited practically 2/3 of Europa countries and Turkey. Extra possibility to getting to know is program ERASMUS. This program has full backing of our department.

In current study plan are organised two one-day field trips in Saxony border region (Dresden, Zittau, Muskau, Freiberg, Chemnitz...) every semester. They are hold as lesson at bus, than with practical application after finish on place of interest. One-day field trip is visit by trade show of travelling (Holliday in Prague, February, earlier Go Brno and now sins 2011 two-day fair exhibition in Berlin). 2-3-day field trip with study of physical geographic problematic is organised as study and practical or research field trip. We have not a study basis as some other UNI in Czechia, so we must order accommodation in the neighbour of Ústí and the best landscape they are border mountains (Lužické, České Švýcarsko etc.). Two-days is already mentioned field trip to Berlin. We start on Saturday morning and all day is on program visit of town centre. Second day are two possibilities. At first it is all day by trade exhibition or individual visit of sight-seeing's. Evening is come back to Ústí. This field trip is organised as cooperation with Economical University in Prague. Separate field trip is visit of Slovakia. It is 5-days journey every 5 years with way out to Hungary. Within 5-days trips through Czechia are out ways to border areas in Bavaria, Poland or Austria.

The most interesting for students is "Big field trip to abroad". This year (2014) it was already the twenty-second in ranking. Today's trip was organised by project MEVAPOX. This trip was 29.9. – 2.10. and for all students was it free of charge. All other field trips are financed by students ourselves. Main goal of this trip was memorials in List of World heritage. First day, by morning start in Usti, was the visit in Munich, than rococo style church in Wies and accommodation in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Next day short visit Ga-Pa (the Olympics) and visit of highest mountain in Germany Zugspitze (2962). Downhill way was by cable car to Austria than come after visit of St. Galen (in Schwyz). Way over Alpine pass led to Vist (accommodation). Following day the way contents by train to Zermatt and Gornergrat with show of Matterhorn. We went other Alpine pass through and accommodation was in Lungern. This Alp's region is very interest-

ing for study of iceberg forms. From Lungern students went to mountain train to Jungfrauoch. By very clear weather was range about more than 200 km. After Jungfrau trip continued the way through Bern, Basel to Colmar and Strasbourg. To Strasbourg we arrived later in night. Next-to-last day was on programme visit in Strasbourg (UNESCO buldings) and Nancy town. Last day was short stop by church in Speyer than Wuerzburg and at night return to Usti. Every student must give travel diaries with way comments, itinerary than get credit.

In the year 2013 were two field trips. First was visit to region of south Poland and second to Salzburg region. Big problem is that the students have not so much money and so these field trips were only for 20 persons. In the year 2015 will by planed big abroad field trip as in this year (2014) and in this some route UNESCO (paid by project) and route through Poland (Wroclaw, Poznan, Gdansk, Szczecin, Rugen in Germany). Merit of field trips: students visit places of interest, which are mentioned as an example in lessons physical or human geography and tourism geography. As for instants: the student can see continental iceberg and his activity, it is no to see in our geographical conditions. Activity of mountain icebergs too or places from List of world heritage, historical places connected with our history. Student of Geography of tourism can as training prepare itinerary and practical it verify with their colleagues.

ILLUSTRATION OF FIELD TRIP (AUTUMN, 2014)

Procedure of rendering

Prepare of field trip:

- assessment of field trips goals;
- assessment suitable draft of field trip (degree of students activity, relationship to study subject, possible visual aids...);
- visual aids – maps, regional publications, GPS, compass...;
- choosing of suitable goals and routes;
- itinerary of field trip;
- funding;
- communication of organisation instruction to students;
- work instruction to students;

Realisation of field trip

Evaluation of field trip:

- time process, compliance of budget, evaluation of students works and questionnaire.

One day field trip to East Krusne Mountains (KH):

- for students of course Cultural landscape of Czechia;
- multispecialty programme;
- 12 localities;
- in every locality is spatial program and tasks;
- this tasks are prepared field trip before;

List of localities:

- Telnice - extinct sights, historical floods;
- Habartice – extinct settlement, settlement geographical structure, change of land use after 1945, Nature park East Krusne Mountains (typical ecosystems, protected plants...);
- Komari vizka – view point, fault slope of KH, history of minerals mining, anthropogenic forms of relief and development of tourism...;
- Cinovec – history of mining community, moos, pond as e relict after mining and ore processing;
- Moldava – example of former Sudety area with adverse demographical development, replica of medieval glassworks, sacral sights;
- Moldava mountains railway – cultural and technical sight, exceptional technical parameters, document of export of coal from North Bohemia to Saxony;
- Flaje dam – exceptional construction (piling dam) protected monument, supply by drink water to Most region;
- Fláje – settlement place defunct after Flaje dam construction, church displacement, former typical architecture;
- Flaje – navigation channel (technical monument of 17th century, wood exporting to Saxony prosperous town Freiberg);
- Cerný rybník – nature reserve, any ecosystems of typical moor plants, Black grouse;
- Hora Svaté Kateriny – example as mining town with regular plan wives, any monuments and after mining time development of other branches.

Example of tasks for students:

- searching of maximal of the total rainfall, they were as a cause of floods in the years 1897, 1927, 2002, 2013 and comparison with average rain-falls in this area;
- comparison of historical and contemporary aerial photograph landscape and settlement places with goal evaluate development of landscape in 20th century;
- study of category protected areas by Europa's classification and search it in study area;
- construction of transverse profile of KH by using of topographical map;
- calculation of middle life Expectancy population in 19th century and first half of 20th century after data from cemetery tombstone;
- calculation of runoff height (mm/year), runoff volume (cubic meter by year), specific runoff etc.;
- study of typical flora in region, moor flora and ask why is this plant on this post;
- calculation of middle slope of Moldava railway after topographical map;
- analysis of development number of residents, houses after Historical lexicon of communities in Czech Republic 1896-2005. Comment found demographical changes.

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J. E. PURKYNĚ UNIVERSITO (ČEKIJA) GAMTOS MOKSLŲ FAKULTETO STUDENTŲ GEOGRAFINĖS IŠVYKOS

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Santrauka

Straipsnyje yra apžvelgiama geografinių išvykų pedagoginė ir didaktinė reikšmė. Jų metu studentai gali realiai susipažinti su geografiniais objektais, sustiprėja studijų motyvacija, ugdomos universalios profesinės kompetencijos. Vidurinės ugdymo mokyklos plane seniai yra numatytos geografinės išvykos, tačiau jos vis dar retai taikomos. Todėl studentų skatinimas keliauti vėliau turi teigiamos įtakos organizuojant ugdymo procesą mokykloje. Šiandien galime teigti, kad mūsų studentai yra apilankę 2/3 Europos šalių, taip pat Turkiją. Papildomą galimybę keliauti suteikia *Erasmus* programa.

Straipsnyje pateikiamas konkrečios išvykos planas ir turinys.

Reikšminiai žodžiai: geografinės ekskursijos, J. E. Purkyně universitetas (Čekija).