

Manuscript
Student exchange
TVP Białystok, Poland

Presenter: More and more Eastern European teenagers have found out, that it is very important to be able to speak more than Polish and Russian. That is why they are joining a student exchange programme – to learn to speak German

Participants:

0'02

Lene Krüger
reporter, TVSYD

0'49

Lucyna Lewczuk
teacher, Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących in Hajnowka (high school in Hajnowka)

1'37

Diana Dymińska

2'00

Mike Meto Mettke
teacher, Fritz Reuter Oberschule w Berlinie

2'13

Alexandra Seidel
student

2'27

Vanessa Malende
student

Reporter: Katarzyna Dziędzik
Camera: Sebastian Arndt

Duration: 2'59

Translation

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Today more young Poles understand that knowledge of foreign languages is a key to success in the uniting Europe. And the best way of learning a language is by speaking it. That is the reason behind the student exchange programme in a small town of Hajnówka where secondary school students invited over their German colleagues from Berlin.

They party, go sight-seeing together and learn from one another a lot. Most of the German youngsters haven't been to Poland before. For them this trip is mostly a holiday.

Efekt - A tourist guide is telling about the region in German.

The young Germans are staying at their Polish friends for whom this is a very important lesson.

A teacher

They have an opportunity to brush up on their German and most importantly use it in practice. Besides, a few of them are planning to go to university to study German philology. I guess for them the opportunity to speak with native speakers and to be in a direct contact with them is a great help.

The effects are apparent after only two days spent together.

Diana

Even now I'm thinking in German! It's hard to switch back to Polish after using a foreign language for 24 hours a day. I'm with my German friends all the time, so even this interview is difficult for me!

And how are the German students doing with their Polish?

(Efekt – a German girl tries to speak Polish)

Can you say 'It's really nice here'? It's really nice here. Ja!! Super!!

However, the young Germans have not come here to learn Polish. Their supervisors have been to Poland before and believe that the youth should see and get to know the countries to the east of the border.

German teacher (translation)

After the unification of Germany most of the people from the former eastern bloc, young as well as the older, were like under the spell of the West – they could finally explore the western countries and were desperate to visit Italy, Spain or Sweden.

But the thing is that Poland is also fascinating.

Alexandra (translation)

I wasn't afraid of coming here. I was actually quite curious to see how things are in Poland and what I can experience here.

And the first impression has been really good. The young Germans got to like the nature (efekt z tarpanem) as well as their new Polish friends.

Vanessa

Today young people look basically the same all over Europe. But more important is not how people look but what they are. And the Poles are really nice.

Alexandra

I am really happy to come here. People are very hospitable here and they have catered for everything we need.

In return students of the secondary school in Hajnówka will go to Berlin next spring. The trip will be sponsored by the Polish – German Student Fund.