

Cultural program June 29th

This morning we visited the **Barge Chamber (Lodjakoda)**



We could see how a historic ship is being built – a 24 m long two-masted Emajõgi-Peipsi barge. They started building last year and they wanted to finish it in 2024 when Tartu is European Capital of Culture.

The construction is financed by renting the locations for festivities and with the proceeds of the entrance tickets.





600 years ago they used barges for cargo transport. It was a sailing boat with a draft of only 4 meters, so it was suitable for sailing at the river. Barges were owned by families and they lived on the boat.

We made a trip on the river on the only barge in the world. There were no building plans available, only a few old pictures, when they start building this barge. It took 10 people and a lot of volunteers two years to build the ship.



Unfortunately it rained, but we had a roof above our heads and plastic capes, and blankets to keep us warm. Siem and Anna were our guides on the water. Anna told



us a lot about the history of sailing the barges. The Emajõgi river is one of the most important symbols of Tartu. It makes its way from Lake Võrtsjärv to Lake Peipsi, was a major trade route in medieval times, used to trade with Hanseatic cities to the west and the cities of Pihkva and Novgorod to the east. As the river lost depth, the river route also lost its relevance. The Emajõgi River is the only fully navigable river in Estonia.

In the afternoon most of the chess players and spouses participated the cultural program, guided tours in Peipsiveere cultural space.

The museum of old believers showed us how the people used to live in their community and how they maintain their way of life.

The building used to be an old postal office. The lady of the museum is born in the village and she takes care of the museum for 21 years.



The old believers live with strict rules. They have a strong Religion. For example they pray 109 times a day and have a lot of icons in the room.



The women did and do make handcraft work. The man are fishing in the lake.



TV is seen as devilish. The modern time although has influenced their lives. Young people are going to live somewhere else and are now allowed to marry someone they like outside the community.

The old believers have a different calendar, 13 days different with ours. They don't celebrate New Year.

It belongs to their life to be kind for guests and so they are very friendly people. They respect their parents. They have a good social system and they take good care for the older people in their community.



Next stop was at **Peipsimaa Külustuskeskus**, a house build in 1893 were you could see different types of hand craftwork.

The hand printing of textile with handmade templates in indigo blue.





And the woodcarving of icons.



In the basement there was a small chicory fabric.



We had a short stop at a fish shop to buy smoked fish.



After a stop at Alatskivi Castle, where we could look around, we drove back to the EMA.



At 18:40 we walked to the Gunpowder Cellar where we had dinner.



It was a nice evening, full of good food, fun and even singing.