Even before my school announced the Erasmus+ mobility programme I was interested in studying abroad, so once I had the opportunity to apply, I took it. To my surprise, I passed and alongside fourteen other students from my school was set to travel to Maribor, Slovenia in early September.
The entire programme was organised well, I had time to prepare for the trip but despite all the preparations, I did not really have any expectations for the mobility.

Finally, the day arrived, 4th September 2022. The trip was short, and we arrived in Maribor early in the evening. On the first day of the mobility, we did not have anything planned so after getting settled into our hotel, I had time to familiarize myself with the town centre. The next day we went to the MARS institution where we met our mentors and thus began my two weeks of broadening my knowledge of art techniques. There were four groups in total and each one was tasked with using different art techniques. I was introduced to fractal drawings which were something foreign to me. I have heard of fractals before when it was briefly mentioned in school and had not thought much of it but as it turns out fractal drawings are something fascinating. I have learned how to draw them and how to analyse them as well. You see, we would make the drawings by closing our eyes and drawing a single line across the paper for a minute. Once we were done, we would randomly pick colouring pencils or markers we would then use to colour in the spaces created by the line. It sounds simple enough, but what fascinates me is the way we can analyse the drawing. Each colour we pick and the type of lines we use to subconsciously create the drawing says something about our person. I have also had the opportunity to learn how to animate using the stop-motion technique which was something I probably never would have done myself because it seemed too complicated and time-consuming. I can say my communication skills have also improved and I no longer struggle with expressing my opinion when it comes to work-related topics. This programme gave me an opportunity to be independent which was a bit scary at first. Being in a country whose language is quite similar to my own, one would assume that communicating would be easy, and to be fair to an extent it was but there were times when things got a bit awkward.
Besides working with our mentors and trying to communicate with the locals, we spent a fair amount of time exploring the town. During our stay, there was a music festival as well so for a few days, walking around Maribor was filled with live performances that I had a pleasant time listening to.

Soon enough, the end of the trip was approaching which meant we had to finish our projects and set up an exhibition. After we finished with our exhibition, had some delicious desserts, and said our final goodbyes to our mentors, we celebrated further by going out, or staying in, for the night. The very next day we were up early and, on our way, back home. The entire Erasmus+ mobility programme was such an amazing experience, and I will always have fond memories looking back on it.