

International HARP WS by DONE Mission 1

"Change Now: Stepping Forward for Myself and Others"

Luzna, Slovakia, 29. April – 1. May 2016



Members of the DONE Mission 1 team coordinated an international HARP workshop primarily focused on Eastern Europe.

Although the workshop was shorter than usual - a total of three days - we intended to provide an environment for a rich learning experience as well as a place in which memories can be made. We could welcome nearly 50 participants and spent great time together!

To get an understanding of everyone's background, we introduced ourselves to the group; quickly we learned that, among the participants, six countries were being represented: Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia, and Serbia. Soon after, we distributed among our teams for the workshop. Teams were divided among two groups - junior and senior teams.

Introducing this year's workshop theme of: "Change Now: Stepping Forward for Myself and Others" – the goal was

to initiate a positive change in our own personal lives that affect us, but also have a natural effect on those around us, the ones we love and care for.

The educational content was given by members of the DONE Mission 1 programme with a support from Sean and Patrick (ESGD staff). Most talks included a personal story in which the participant could connect to on a realistic level. Testimonies were given that evening by some of the staff members; similar in style, the staff members expressed their experiences to the participants conveying a message in regards to the workshop theme.

Challenge afternoon was an anticipated event held by the sports coordinators. Activities were held among teams to build unity and challenge each other positively. Events were divided up among junior and senior teams, ultimately leading to one winner from both sides. Among the events was football, ultimate frisbee, human

pyramids, and capture the flag. Following the physical activities, the teams were asked to coordinate a unified team chant to present.

Concluding the day, the senior members met and discussed topics ranging from life after high school to the matching and Blessing. Creating an atmosphere of openness and the sense of support for one and another.

The idea of changing now for yourself and those around you is to give the participants the knowledge of being able to look beyond themselves.

The friendships created here we hope can continue through communication and initiative. Creating an environment for Eastern European HARPies to come together and feel united.

Thank you to all participants and staff for contributing to the WS! We hope to see many of you at ESGD summer 2016!

