

I am Sajad and 24. I come from Iran and studying MSc in mechanical engineering, major in design and manufacturing at Lappeenranta University of Technology (LUT) since September 2014. I decided to do a volunteer job in summer 2015 and among those internships that I have been accepted, I chose AIESEC World Talks project in Gdansk, Poland, because I always wanted to work for a NGO.

AIESEC is a global platform for young people to explore and develop their leadership potential. It is a non-political, independent, not-for-profit organization run by students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education. It focuses on world issues, leadership and management.

Aim of World Talks workshop was to break students speaking barrier and to provide them with interactive, cross-cultural trainings. During the project, students developed their language skills in the active way and my task was to provide students with basic information, history about my origin country and its culture.

The project started on May 12th and finished on June 6th. I went to 3 different primary schools and taught English to 6-12 year old Polish students. Every day, 5 classes, from 8 am till 2 pm and each session took 45 minutes.

In the first day in each class, I introduced myself and allowed the participants to introduce themselves. I explained the goals of the project and demonstrated the various roles that we have during class and discussion. Also, at the beginning of each class, I tried to break their ice!

In the second session, I had a presentation about country of origin (Iran). Then, asking questions about the presentation and involving students with questions were the other part of the session. Afterward, I asked the students to express their feelings and let them to ask questions. Sometimes, we played a game together in order to have fun and learning some new words.

In the third session, I gave them a topic to write one paragraph and have a short presentation about it. Making group discussion was another plan in order to have a team work.

In the fourth session, I showed them some pictures and asked some questions regarding to those pictures and tried to involve students with discussion and encourage them to speak.

In the fifth session, I showed them a video in order to work on their listening and asked a couple of questions and getting some feedback. During teaching, a Polish teacher was in the classes and sometimes translated the words and sentences for the students.

I got the results that I expected from students such as upgrading of communication skills of the students and motivate them to learn and practice more especially in their pronunciation. The students improved their ability to practice creating written forms and learned how to use language skills in life.

I had a chance to develop my teaching and presenting skills and improved my ability to communicate with children and teenagers. It was a great experience for me in different atmosphere with different culture.