

The MAMBO Post

"No, I mean... I was supposed to go downhill... but at some point, I realized I was going uphill." – Boris Juras, contestant

The grand finale

We heard "you are all winners" many times, in various more or less grammatically incorrect forms. Now, we're all very logical people here - we know that the claim that everyone's a winner is untrue. Not all are winners. (At least, that option is highly unlikely.)

Also, my grandmother often quotes that the most important thing is not to win but to take part. While maybe correct, we've all been winners at some point and we know victory tastes good. Everyone (I hope) here enjoys that taste but, naturally, some get to win this time, some don't. Otherwise wouldn't be much of a competition, eh?

But let's not forget one thing: when you win at MEMO, your life doesn't materially change much. Winning here is almost a private thing, sort of a self-confirmation of all the work put into this, all the miles travelled and all the fun had. But that's also true for everyone here: everyone has hopefully had fun competing all the way to Varaždin and also here. We slid down the waterslides, we had ice cream, we went to the embassy to report a lost ID card, we're going to do more stuff and that's what's most important.

As I said, mathematically speaking, not everyone is a winner. But I think it's important to recognize the value of why we're all here - without fun, there's nothing here. Smoke and mirrors.

IMPRESSUM:

The man with the hat: Mario Berljafa
Cashier: Jelena Gusić
Ph.D. student: Sara Muhvić
Slovenian guide: Melkior Ornik
Little guy: Ana Šušnjara



Taking advantage of unexpectedly good weather, yesterday's excursion began with a visit to a smelly, but intriguing town of Varaždinske toplice.

After a short visit to the old Roman site, traditional Central European insanity took over as contestants and guides alike started racing down the slides and sliding in every possible manner. At some point the, now almost legendary, concrete-jumping Croatian contestant decided to test whether a living person sinks or floats on water. It turns out he sinks.

PLAN FOR TODAY

The second day of rest just began. Today we are visiting the most beautiful and the most romantic Croatian castle, Trakošćan. We'll have the opportunity to see it from the outside, as well from as the inside. After this ecstatic event, our journey continues in Krapina, where we'll hang out with a tribe of Neanderthal people. ☺

The excursion will end in late afternoon, since the evening is reserved for the moment we were all waiting for - the award ceremony. Afterwards, the farewell dinner will take place in the Park restaurant at 20:30.

**INTERVIEW with contestants
Dominik Steinhauser (CZE), Aidas
Kilda (LTU), Dekai Dong (AUT)**

The competition is finally over. How do you feel about that?

Dominik: It was very good. We solved all the problems but we aren't sure what the coordinators have to say about it.

Aidas: I think I feel OK. Everything was great.

Dekai: There is a huge chance that I may not be satisfied about my results.

Did you have fun at the Varaždinske toplice? Can you describe today's trip in three words?

Dominik: It was good but it could have lasted for a shorter time, we got bored at the end. Stench, sun, funny.

Aidas: Yes, I liked it. Smell, heat, race.

Dekai: Yes, I guess I did. I don't know.

Compare Croatian capital Zagreb with the city you live in.

Dominik: In Prague, there are more historical buildings, more cultural happenings. Besides, it's too hot in Zagreb.

Aidas: I live in Kaunas and it's quite difficult to compare those two cities, because I was in Zagreb for just two hours. I can only say that Zagreb is bigger and I think it's a beautiful city.

Dekai: Zagreb is larger than Salzburg.



top left: Dominik Steinhauser, top right: Dekai Dong, bottom left: Mea Bombardelli, bottom right: Aidas Kilda

INTERVIEW with Mea Bombardelli, organiser

The end is getting closer, but when did it all actually start?

In 2008 Croatia was chosen as the host of this year's MEMO and in the following year Croatian Mathematical Society decided that it will take place in the town of Varaždin.

*Are you satisfied with guides?
Of course!*

Has the winning team made a huge advantage in front of the second ranked team?

I'd rather not answer this question. It's a secret until the closing ceremony.

Do you have anything to add?

I hope everyone has had a good time, that they liked the town and that they are satisfied with the organization. If anyone has any complaints, we apologize – it's our first time.



Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia and an archetype of Austro-Hungarian provincial cities is one of the prime tourist destination in the continental part of the country. Our brave expedition visited it yesterday, albeit only for a couple of hours.

After the obligatory short tour of the Upper Town, guides led their teams to wherever they wanted to go. Most ended up in one of Zagreb's many cafes and ice cream parlors, while some ended up buying souvenirs of slightly dubious esthetic appearance, but of clear practical use (mini baseball bat – bottle opener?!).