



Frans Hike Aug2018

Brandenburg- Neuruppin/Lindow



Introduction:

We hiked successfully between the 3rd and the 8th of August in the region of Brandenburg (Neuruppin/Lindow). In this report, we would like to present and share memories and activities, we lived during the hike day by day; but before we start, we would like to take the opportunity to thank the kind and generous people who supported and trusted our mission. We may also not forget the significant hospitality of the locals of Brandenburg.

With 170 participants, we experienced many deep moments, which allowed us to connect as humans with complete soul transparency.

Briefly, who is Frans?

Fr. Frans was a Jesuit priest, who lived in Syria for 40 years. During his stay in Syria he initiated many activities, one of them was the hike “Al Masseer”, which started in Syria in the beginning of the 80’s and aimed to raise social and environmental awareness.

The hike gathered Syrian people from all the different religions, ages and regions. And many Europeans and people from other parts of the world joined. Fr. Frans’s ministry in Syria changed the lives of many people by introducing them to a new way of life.





For many, their experiences with him were vital in becoming who they are now. Through Frans' hike in Syria, they found a way to truly integrate with their own people. Fr. Frans remained faithful to the Syrian people, whom he loved deeply, right up to his assassination in the Jesuit convent in Homs in 2014.

The team!

Rabee Khuzam established the Frans' hike (hiking group) to continue his initiative and to pass on what they learned from him to people in other countries "***Father Frans gave us his life ..We had to give something back***".

The hike is an activity, that is beyond politics and religion and it is open to people of all religions, nationalities and ages.

Thus, different cultures and nationalities enrich the hike and contribute to breaking down prejudices.

Rim Darwish, Hadi Alwani and Yara Khalil believe in Frans vision as well, even though they never got the honour of meeting him. They got engaged in organising and supporting the hike in different departments and ways.

Hadi is the official administrator for all the vehicles we use for transportation during the hike, Rim is responsible for finance, discipline in general, Social Media and teams leading and Yara is the official logistical and media communication administrator.

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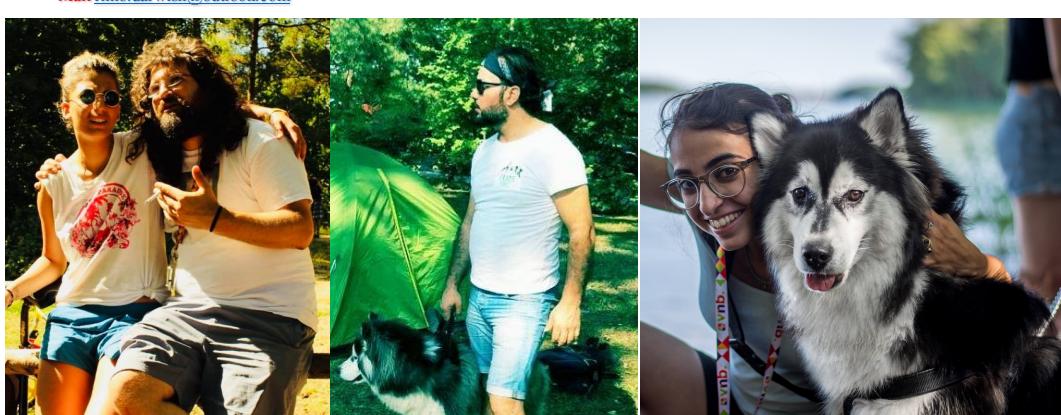
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Rim Darwish, Rabee Khuzam

Hadi Alwani

Yara Khalil



Brandenburg Hike Day by Day



Arriving Day:

In the afternoon, the participants arrived at (Die Evangelische Gymnasium) Neuruppin. They started registering themselves and gathering in order for them to take their places in school rooms. Around 170 hikers came from different origins and countries.

By then, people had already started meeting each other and making new friends. Some hikers were ecstatic and excited to meet their friends again, who they met in the last hike after a long break.

Stories and achievements were being told in small talks till 9 PM, when we announced the first main meeting. Everyone gathered and attended, so that they listen to what the organisers have to say about the rules and the program for the following days.

The team members and leaders have been published and hikers started meeting in groups. Some groups already started small introduction games to break the ice and get to know each other faster.

Before the small party began at night, participants had the opportunity to have a small snack from the open Buffet, parallel a small DJ has been mastered.

Before sleeping, team leaders were called by the organiser Rim Darwish. They had a meeting together, for them to know their duties and missions. They got their folders and their nameplates and started supporting us immediately cooperating to keep the discipline in the hike from the very first night.



Day one 4th August (30KM):



The day started at 7 Am. The responsible group for the breakfast woke up earlier than others. They prepared breakfast boxes for each group. While everyone else started waking up and getting ready.

They gathered at 7:30 in the square of the school.



The mayor of Neuruppin was already there. He came and held a discourse. In the short speech, he welcomed us and expressed his fascination of Frans hike. After breakfast and the Mayor's speech we sang hike's songs together in Arabic and German.

Till Rabee whistled loudly announcing the walking hour. Everyone started walking at 8 AM accept the lunch group. They stayed to prepare the lunch and joined the rest on 14 PM. Hikers walked for almost 30 KM on the first day. The lunch break was beside a lake. Some hikers used the beautiful opportunity to swim.

Around 15:30 we continued hiking together, while the dinner group went back to prepare dinner for the rest.

The first day ended as planned, in the destination (Evangelische Schule). The dinner was provided and ready (Soup) and school was also cleaned too.

Day two 5th August (24KM):

The following day started at 7 am as usual. Breakfast was ready just like the first day. Hikers started at 8 AM walking from Neuruppin to Lindow. Some exceptional changes were decided due to the hard weather and because of the previous long hiking day. Therefore, we walked 24 km only instead of the planned 27 and we did more breaks than planned.



The Lunch Break was in Zippelfoerte in the forest. To continue walk to our destination Lindow.

Before ending the day and reach Lindow, Kinda Kreidi prepared a game for the hikers. She divided us in different groups according the month we were born in. We continued walking in groups, and hikers started exploring new people, till we arrived Lindow.

We had a small logistic introduction for the new school in Lindow. People had small showers till the dinner arrived from the Kitchen, since our kitchen staff stayed in Neuruppin. The day has been ended with a small party.

Day three 6th August (Break Day):

The day started later than usual, since it was a break day. Breakfast arrived around 10 am. Hikers started have their breakfast and preparing themselves for the full planned program.

After breakfast workshops topics have been presented and Telematch games started.

At 11 am people started choosing a workshop due to their interests.

We have arranged four different workshops:

- **Assyrians cultural dance.**

This workshop has been prepared and organised by Kinda Kreidi. Participants in this workshop had the opportunity to learn the Assyrians dance and preformed it at night in the big party.

- **Suwaidian cultural dance.**

Nader Amer is from Suwaida and demonstrated his cultural dance and thought his group how to dance a very famous Suwaidian cultural dance.



Both dancing groups, Assyrians and Suwaids, trained and performed together in one show at night in the big party.

They composed a song about living together and peace.



- Gender

Sabiha Khalil is a Syrian feminist and politician. She prepared an intellectual workshop about gender. Participant got the opportunity to play some games and explore more in men a women world.

- Theatre

Fadi Al Sabagh is an experienced director and theatre player. He prepared a theatre piece and practiced it with 30 participants. They all had a long day embodying and surfing in acting and rehearsals. The piece called CHAIR, they performed wonderful play at the night big show.



Tele match Games:



After the successful workshops time. Merelle Said, a very old experienced participant and hiker demonstrated and clarified the tele match games. Merelle and her team from Holland prepared games with puzzles.

Merelle Said and Iyad Mkh Telematch organizers.



The games have been structured in station and each Puzzle was placed in one of them. Hikers were divided in groups. They had to name themselves and prepare a small show as a slogan for them. People played for more than 3 hours and eventually a team won and solved the puzzle. Which was Frans picture

At night, the puzzle was shown to everyone and the winner team has been awarded with a small present, which was a candy purse.



Some picture of the games.

Night's Performance:

At night, a big party has been prepared. The workshop's results have been presented and hikers enjoyed the theatre piece, in addition to the DJ. Participants danced and sang all together.

The day was successfully ended after dinner was served.





Day four 4th of Aug (15KM):

An easy walk in the forest near Lindow started. The hikers divided in two group. A fast loud group hiked firstly into the woods. After a while the second group followed. Because some hikers decided to walk slowly in silent.

Both groups remet during break time, where a game was prepared called Photolongage. Hikers separeated to their initial teams. Team leaders were provided with 12 Photos. Those photos have been exhibited by the leaders and hikers were asked to tell, in which picture they find themselves.

In this game, a lot of emotional moments were lived. Hikers shared very personal and intimate stories with each other's. The nature of Brandenburg was so inspiring for a lot of deep experiences.



After the photo break, we continued walking together in one group and had another break in one hour.

During the following break, we had lunch break and the free panel was mastered by Yara Khalil. The topic was an exercise to build an imaginary stage with an audience.



People were supposed to perform their feelings and share deep feelings with everyone. Some beautiful experiences have been told. And hikers lived very overwhelming moments.

By the end of the day and after arriving Lindow we had a big feedback round. Hikers shared their positives and negatives thought. Organisers also shared some experiences. Every opinion has been taken in consideration. The round has been closed and ended with signing Salam's song and having the memorial picture in a big group.





Media exposure:

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On the 31st of July we had a press conference in the city council of Neuruppin. The mayor gave us the opportunity to state to the local magazines and newspaper. The purpose of the press conference was mainly to introduce us to the local people and tell them who were and use the opportunity to invite local people to hike with us.



It was very helpful indeed. Some villagers came and hiked with us and were overwhelmed by the atmosphere. They were super grateful for the opportunity to meet us and get the chance to know people from different international backgrounds. We also prepared a press report and distributed it and published it. Which allowed a lot of resources reach us to brand about the hike.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsmScYP4eJ4>

During the hike, many newspapers came and covered the event. A journalist accompanied us once on the very first day and also on the second day. On the break day, on Monday, also the activities have been covered and beautifully filmed. A small video has been edited and made by Erzbistum Berlin and published.





Conclusion:

On Wednesday hikers woke up at 8 AM. Breakfast was ready and served. After breakfast, everyone started packing their own stuff and they cleaned all together. Trash has been separated and the big sport hole was also cleaned.

At 12 PM a bus arrived to pick up some hikers, who organised it to drive them back to Berlin. Since there has been some construction's works and public train's transportation have been stopped.

The hike was successfully ended. People from different backgrounds managed to come together through the hike and lived spectacular days together.

Around 170 hikers left Lindow being sad for leaving and said goodbye waiting for the next hike.

By the end of this report we would like to use this opportunity again and thank **WALTER PAULY**, who helped us gorgeously organising and supporting us logistically and emotionally.

Also, **KLAUDIA HOEFIG** and **MICHEAL HAAS**, two beautiful friends of Frans Hike, who supported us in fund process.

We can't forget the unimaginable support we got from Neuruppin team:

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