



ARABIC- POLISH EVENING – REPORT

28.11.2016
PIREUS

We will be honest with You - the evening was absolutely magical for us! Guests turned up (about 120 people came to Pireus this evening!), specialties of three cuisines (Libyan, Moroccan and Polish) stimulated our taste buds and the sounds of trumpets and drums invited to common dancing. From reliable sources we know that during this evening Pireus was visited by representatives of at least 15 countries: Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, Armenia, Ukraine, Palestine, Libya, Algeria, Lebanon, Germany, Spain, Latvia, France and of course Poland. We believe that such meetings help to build intercultural dialogue and understanding between people regardless of their country of origin, culture or religion.

But let's start from scratch. We'd started punctually at 18.00. For all guests was waiting the Moroccan tea with mint and plenty of sugar - perfect to stimulate and provide energy for the entire evening. From the very beginning there was a great playing duet - Maciej Mustafa Giżejowski (drums) and Kacper Grzanka (trumpet). After the official welcome, we started the presentation about the diversity of Arab countries prepared by Mohamed Abouzid. In addition to the curiosities and several important facts, there was a time for reflection about the current situation of refugees escaping from areas affected by the war.

After the feast for the spirit there was a moment for a feast for the body. Guests had the opportunity to try the Libyan hummus served with the local bread, classic tabbouleh and Polish accent in the form of the well-known „ruskie” [transl. russian] dumplings (yes, we know this name sounds crazy, but what to do - the tradition does not choose;)). Our brave team of volunteers deftly maneuvered between guests, who tightly filled Pireus.

In the next part - a lot of attractions. Participants could participate in three types of workshops - painting henna (which led a specialist in this topic - Klaudyna), learning calligraphy (the teacher was Montaser - lecturer of this subject at UAM) and creating folk paper-cut (led by Mrs. Grażyna- champion of handicrafts). In addition, our brave volunteers of Arabic Studies - Kasia and Asia, taught the basics of the Arabic language. Each table was tightly surrounded by people, so we are convinced that classes were very popular. =)

After the workshops it was time for something sweet. We had the opportunity to taste the pastries from Moroccan cuisine (date-cookies and "cat feet") and also the Libyan cake - basbousa. Delicious complement of the tasting was the ritual of making Moroccan tea presented by Samir, who stressed the importance of this drink for his compatriots, calling it "Berber whiskey".

With exceptionally warm reception met music proposition performed by a duet: Estera (vocals and guitar) and Ida (violin). Ladies presented us two Arabic songs, which conjured a magical atmosphere.

Nothing brings people together like interaction. That is why we decided to crown the evening by dancing together. Classical, Polish Polonaise taught us a great person- ex-dancer from Polish Dance Theatre – 88-year-old Mrs. Krystyna. Her warmth and energy, and also the knowledge of foreign languages, enchanted everyone. On the other hand, extremely bouncy dance from Yemen was presented by the Polish-Yemeni couple - Albaraa and Dorota. The braver guests moved to dance and in the same time the other ones were observing the dancers and barely holding back before entering the dance floor. ;)

We want to say thank You to everyone who persevered with us till the end, and those who found time to take even a few moments to join us this evening. Thank you also for the power of the warm words that only make us sure that such meetings are important and necessary for residents of Poznań. We hope to see you soon.

Maybe you have any ideas to which part of the world we can move the next time? =)

Best regards!

Arabic-polish evening organizational Team