

Time in Heppenheim

European Youth Weeks

26.07.2014—09.08.2014



**Europe's influence on me -
my impact on Europe**

European Youth Weeks 2014



The European Youth Weeks in Haus am Maiberg, center for civic and social education is an multinational youth encounter. EYW is a non-formal education project intended for young people, realized in the last 21 years in cooperation with organizations from 10 European countries and supported by the European Program Erasmus Plus and the state of Hessen, Germany. This year, there were participants and teamers from ten European countries, respectively, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Spain.

The seminar provided 43 young people with the opportunity to experience personal and cultural diversity in Europe and to share their values, interests in politics, as well as to discuss in an international environment and to exchange ideas on current issues with regard to the European Union and European Affairs.

This year the topic of the youth exchange was "Europe's influence on me - my impact on Europe", focusing on the reciprocal influence between the European Union and especially the influence that individuals, respectively citizens have on the European Union in daily life and the way in which these influences manifest themselves at personal, local, regional, national and European level. The project aims to raise awareness with regard to European citizenship, European values and diversity.

The seminar included a trip and visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg where participants had the opportunity to meet members of the European Parliament and discuss on topics such as European citizenship, voting rights and other relevant issues.

Promoting a learning based on self-reflection and self-expression, the seminar will also offer participants the opportunity to take part in workshops on journalism, theatre, music, different forms of art as well as the opportunity to explore Heppenheim and to discover the multiculturalism of cities like Heidelberg.



Begegnung: 42 Jugendliche aus zehn EU-Ländern sind in Heppenheim eingetroffen. Im Haus am Maiberg verbringen sie gemeinsam die Europäische Jugendwoche. FOTO: GABRIEL SCHNEIDER

Heppenheim ist Mittelpunkt Europas

JUGEND Akademie Haus am Maiberg führt 42 Teilnehmer aus zehn EU-Ländern zusammen

HEPPENHEIM. Am Samstag sind 42 junge Leute aus zehn EU-Ländern in Heppenheim eingetroffen. Bis zum 8. August leben sie im Haus am Maiberg zusammen, der Akademie für politische und soziale Bildung der Diözese Main.

Seit mehr als 20 Jahren organisiert das Haus am Maiberg jeden Sommer die Europäische Jugendwoche (EYW). 42 junge Erwachsene aus zehn europäischen Ländern sind am Maiberg eingetroffen, um über politische Fragen zu diskutieren und miteinander Europa zu erleben. Aus

allen Himmelsrichtungen waren sie mit Flugzeug oder Bahn angereist.

In diesem Jahr greifen die Jugendlichen die historische Gedenkstätte 2014 auf. Die Teilnehmer sind eingeladen, ihre Geschichtsbilder zu teilen und ihre (nationalen) Erinnerungskulturen neu zu bewerten. „Ziel ist die Stärkung des europäischen Bewusstseins“, heißt es im Programmheft.

Kooperationspartner im Haus am Maiberg sind die Friedensschule Monte Sole in Marzabotto in Hessens italienischer Partnerregion Emilia Romagna, das Cen-

tre Europeen Robert Schuman in Metz (Frankreich), Jedyn Swiat, Poznan (Polen) und der Verein für demokratische Bildung in Burgas/Bulgarien.

Im Haus am Maiberg sind die Jugendbildungsreferenten Stephan Schwieren und Hanne Klein-Schmalz für die EYW verantwortlich. Nach Austausch von Schwieren gab es eine Diskussion mit der hessischen Staatsministerin Lucia Pattnich (CDU) sowie ein Besuch des Europaparlaments in Strasbourg zu den Höhepunkten im Programm.

Lucia Pattnich ist in der hessischen Landesregierung für Europapflichten zuständig. Sie nimmt am Dienstag nach Heppenheim. Das Haus am Maiberg pflegt im Auftrag der Landesregierung die Kontakte zu Jugendorganisationen in den Partnerregionen.

Laut Schwieren sind die Gastgeber zwischen 18 und 25 Jahre alt. Sie werden von zehn Gruppenleitern betreut. Zum ersten Mal sind Teilnehmer aus der Republik Slowenien dabei. Die Kontakte nach Slowenien vertieft die Beziehung, die das Haus am Maiberg mit Direktor Beateklid Widmann und dessen Stellvertreterin Tina Klotzsch aufgebaut hat. Zuletzt war die Gruppe „Stipula“ aktiv an der Bergstraße“ mit Studierenden im Land zwischen Aljepe und Adria.

Nach der Ankunft in Heppenheim verbrachten die Teilnehmer das Wochenende damit, sich kennenzulernen. Verständigungsprobleme gibt es nicht. Umgangssprache im Haus am Maiberg ist in den nächsten Tagen Englisch.

Hintergrund: Die 42 Teilnehmer an der Europäischen Jugendwoche in Heppenheim kommen aus Frankreich, Deutschland, Italien, Slowenien, Spanien, Rumänien, Bulgarien, Tschechien, Kroatien und Polen.

European Youth Weeks' 2014 Faces





MEMORY



Recuerdo histórico y compromiso por la paz

The first evening was very special for all of us, because of the perfect opportunity to see a presentation of a Peace Research Centre, Gernika Gogoratz.

President of the Association Osaginez-Creer en Salud and member of KEM/MOC, responsible for the area of Peace and Everyday Life, Andreas Schäfter presented the work of a Gernika Gogoratz and showed us a film about the bombing of Gernika. Gernika develops its work in the fields of research, training, and community work through its main working areas: Peace Simbology and Everyday Life and Peace.

We all were touched by the conversation about living in Piece. We asked participants about their expressions about the meeting:

Cora: "I found it very interesting. It was new to me because we didn't learn about this at school".

Katerina: "I liked it because apart from the Picasso painting I didn't know anything about it. It's kind of sad that we knew so little about these events. It was nice that the man shared his experience with us".

Urska: "I knew what happened there. I loved the artistic touch and how they mixed different important scenes so that at the end everything came to end in the same Picasso painting".

Tereza: "I liked the short movie, I have never heard about this event so it was all new to me. It was nice how the guy told us that we have to learn from history to understand the future".

Emma, Roxana

POLITICS TIME



Minister for Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Protection of Customers in Hessen, Lucia Puttrich visited our project and talked to the participants.

I think it was a big opportunity for us to show our work and our program, concerning to the project of the European youth week. We spoke about Europe and the values of European Countries, about our dreams and possibilities to achieve them.

As usually, politics are coming with journalists. From my point of view, it was a good thing, because it gave us visibility in the newspaper worlds, but it was a bad thing because probably she went only for politic questions and not for her interest to know us.

We could enjoy this time speaking about not only our activities but also about important issues. There were a lot of questions concerning Russia and Ukraine. We were also interested in her private life, how she decided to be a minister and what is it for her.

Unfortunately, we did not have much time to discuss everything, but all of us are very grateful to have such a big opportunity to meet a politician.

Matilde



History Timeline

We did a lot of different very interesting activities during time in Heppenheim. The first one was the history Timeline, where we tried to remember the most important days in our lives and try to analyze how the history of Europe influenced on our lives. We were interested in some opinions. So, here they are!

Vesi: Well, maybe it was interesting, but it wasn't easy for me to decide, which ideas are the most important for me

Zvezdana: I learnt about history of other countries and main events that affected their lives and how they feel about them and their opinions of other countries and their events

Jure: The most important event for me was the Croatian war for independence. It was from 1991 till 1995.

Amelia: I think the Timeline was good and it was important to put in the timeline the Invention of Facebook, because it's one of the important facts of new internet technology

Let the Games begin

Different Perceptions. Part 1



It was the second day of the project, we were still foreigners to each other, didn't know the names. That's why, probably, we got a task to go to the Rally.

We were divided into several groups according to different types of animals and got the papers with a task and five paper clips which we should exchange for anything that the inhabitants are willing to give us. Mia and I exchanged the paper clips for three cookies that the waiters in a café gave us.

After that we gave one cookie to a kid, whose parents helped us to answer some questions about Heppenheim and we exchanged the other cookie for a napkin. Later we exchanged the third cookie and a napkin. Two really friendly guys gave us an emergency blanket.

We also met two guys from Kosovo, which were really interesting, because they knew how to speak Croatian language, so we were able to communicate in our native language in the middle of Germany.

I found it really interesting that we asked about twenty people, what does the name Heppenheim mean and nobody knew. That's why we still don't know the meaning of the name. The other problem was that many people (mainly older) don't know how to speak English and our German isn't really good.

Different Perceptions. Part 2

I really enjoyed the Rally. In our group were five people, that's why it was easy to divide into two groups in order to save time. First we colored the flag, we knew almost all of them. Later we went to the center of Heppenheim, for asking to native people something about the history of the city, come curiosities and translation of their dialect.

The most funny time was when we have to reply at some questions of teamer's life! We interviewed all of them but it wasn't so easy because before we had to pass a challenge, like contest where is the moon for us, take us a funny selfie, make a Brazilian dance. During this activity the participants had great experiences that gave them the chance to find out more about the city, not only from people who live in Heppenheim, but also from foreign people they interacted with. After this challenge, there were so many interesting stories which we heard from other groups.



Different Perceptions. Part 3

According the participants' statements, they met people who spent time helping them to accomplish the tasks, in a really nice and kind manner.

So, what could the groups learn from people they met during this activity? Apart from useful information about Heppenheim and the specific dialect from this area, they shared some of the following stories that impressed them. The Bubble Sea group met some Spanish people who planned to travel around Europe by bike, but the most impressive fact was that, actually, it was the wish of one of them who had mobility problems, but ready to discover the surroundings, so the group was able to learn that the energetic attitude of discovering new cultures and places is beyond our possibilities. Let's just remind Andre's Malraux quote "Often the difference between a successful person and a failure is not one has better abilities or ideas, but the courage that one has to bet on one's ideas, to take a calculated risk - and to act."

The Octopus Group, had the chance to meet Lauren, who lives in Heppenheim. She was so nice to show them the city and actually was interested to find out what the EYW is about, so Yahia, one of the participants from France, invited her to the Superhero Motto evening party. As she acted like a hero in challenging the city rally questions, she had the chance to become one that evening.

There were so many other stories that probably each of us will always remember, but definitely this activity was the best way to get in touch with local people and share a bit from their own culture and time as well.



Sara, Matilde, Roxana

WHS



Gender Theatre



Art workshop



Newspaper workshop



Music workshop



Outdoor workshop



Dance workshop

Motto evenings

The motto evenings events have been, without a doubt, one of the main highlights of the program at Haus am Maiberg. All we've heard about those three parties beforehand is that the evenings would be organized entirely by the participants, with little or no assistance given by the trainers. Planning, organization, and logistics were left entirely up to us, the EY-W2014 attendees. The twist, and arguably most fun thing about these evenings, however, was told to us last: we will need to have a specific theme and, subsequently, a lot of fun.

First night: Oktoberfest night

For a few hours, the first team that organized the party brought in Haus am Maiberg the Oktoberfest's atmosphere, very much keeping up with German 'tradition.' We had at our disposal all the necessities for a good time: Bavarian sausages, beer kegs, and good music. We all walked into the story wearing traditional wear, and living in the German spirit for several hours. Given that this was within the first week that we arrived, it was a fitting start to our entire program.

Second night: Superhero Party

For the second motto evenings, the cafeteria was transported into a world where everything imaginable was possible. We embraced the fact and truth that each of us possesses a superpower, and all were capable of anything. From the evil characters, to the wacky ones, everything was there. No one could crash this party, because we were well protected by our wide array of powers.... And also, sangria!

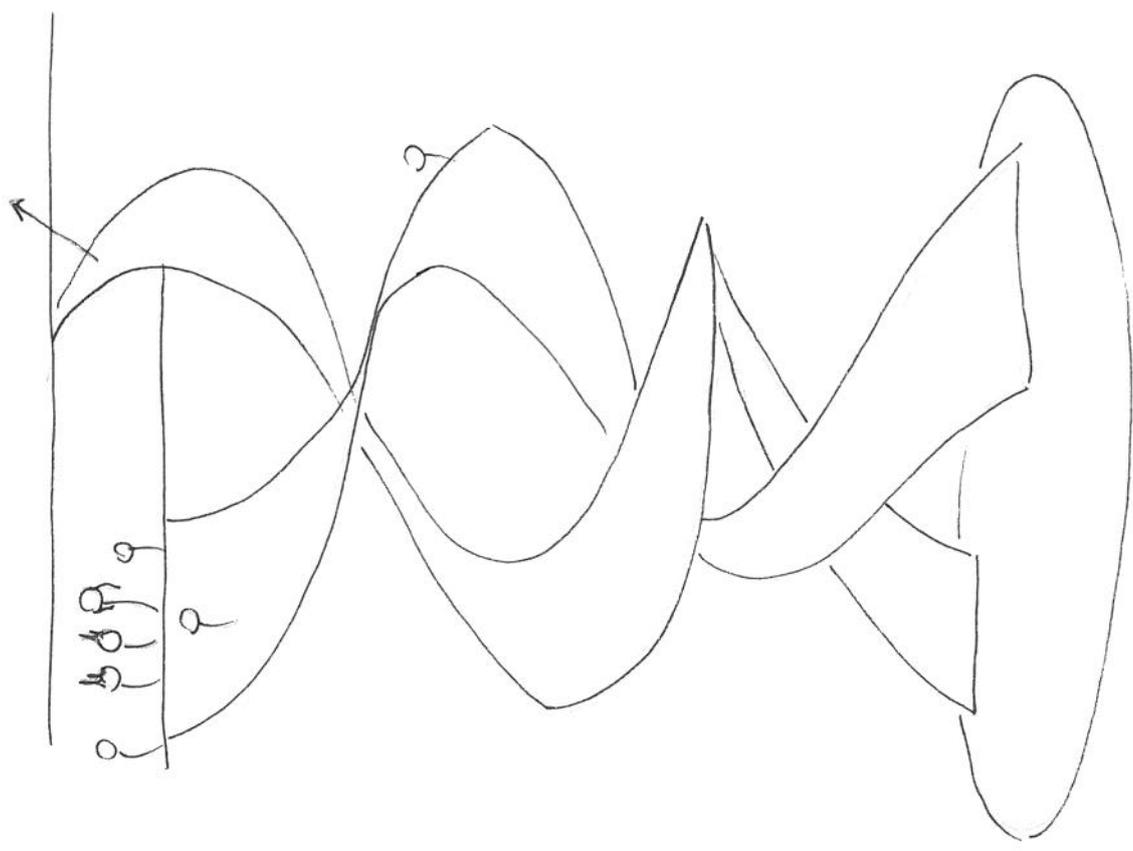
Last night: Cross-dress Party

The third and final night was dubbed the transgender party. Boys dressed as girls, and... well you get the point: Girls dressed as boys! The night started off fun, with everyone having a good time. But given that this has been a program full of lively debate, exchange of ideas, and pushing of boundaries, some controversy could not be absent. As the night progressed the theme moved away from a simple cross-dressing evening, to an overly sexualized one, with raunchy jokes in abundance. Some, with good reason, found this quite offensive. While it is all fun and games, there are limits within which we should have fun, and it is important to realize that crossing these limits can sometimes offend those around us. In the end, however, I believe everyone did manage to enjoy themselves, and some maybe even learn something new about intercultural interactions.

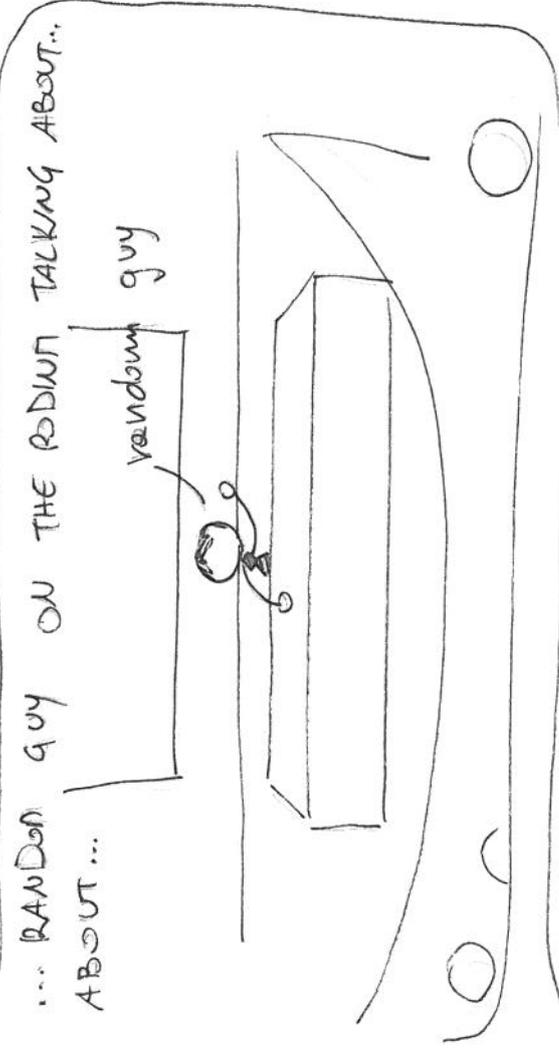
Dodo



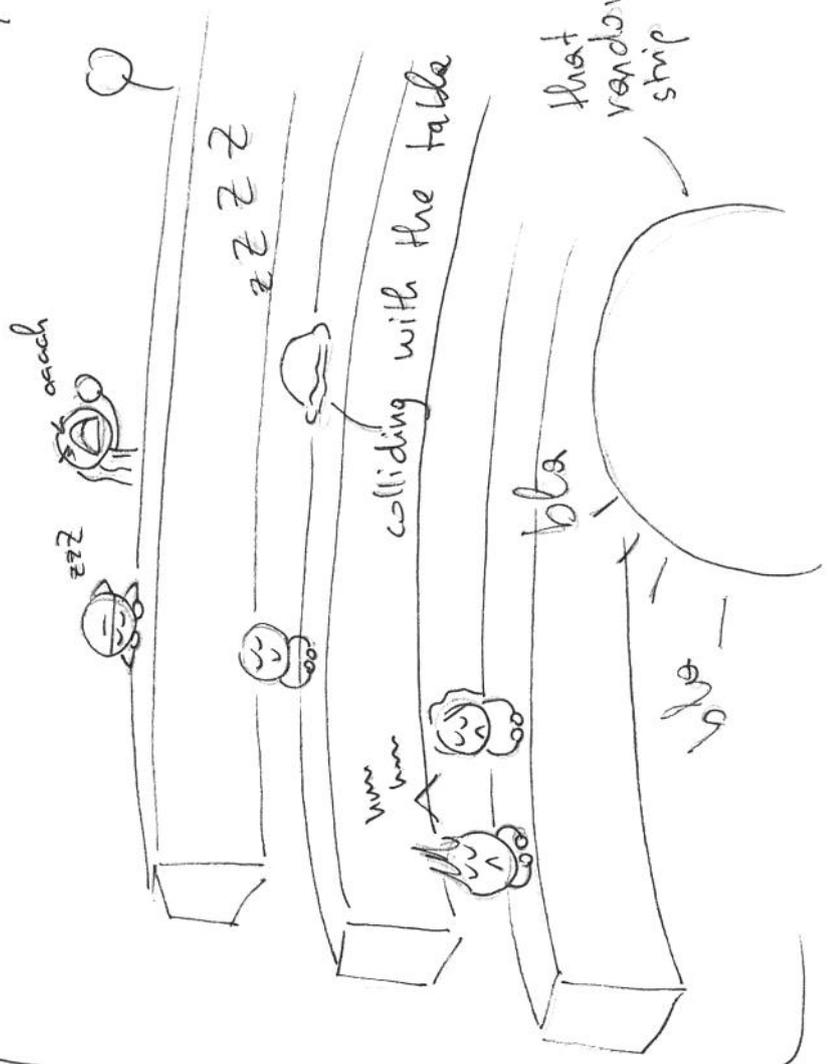
the DNA stairs

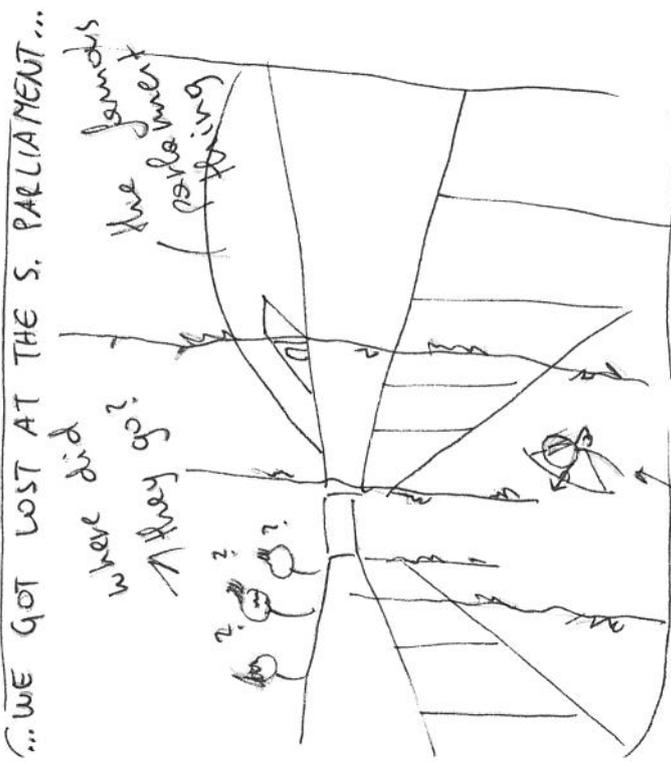


Neza hates the DNA stairs -
 that much about her future
 workplace.



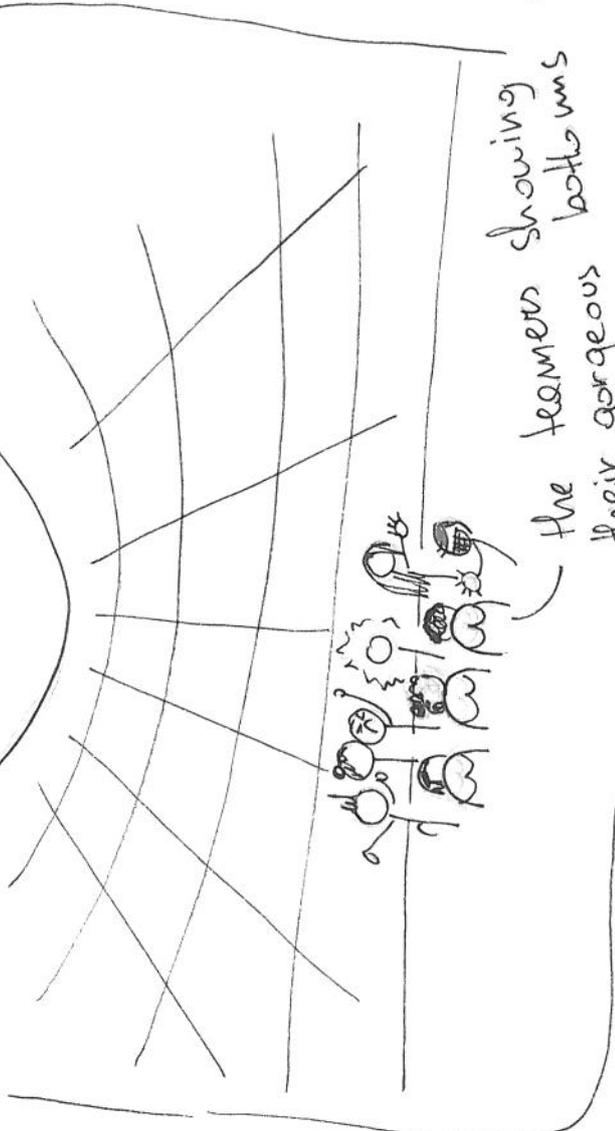
... ABOUT... ABOUT... EEEE WELL ABOUT SOMETHING.



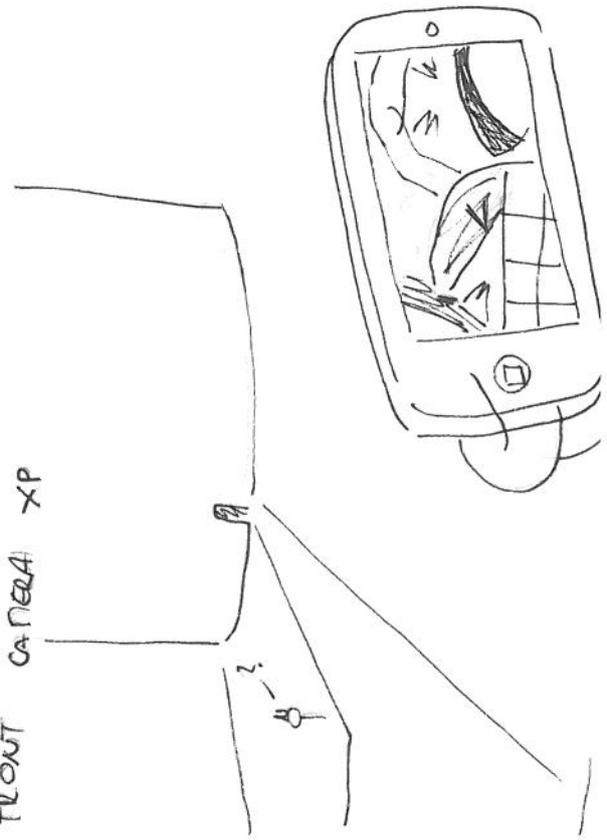


* Dr. look is Katrina Everdeen

... PHOTO BOMBING THE TEENERS PHOTOSHOOTING...



... TRYING TO TAKE A PICTURE OF AWEZA IN FRONT OF THE PARLIAMENT... WITH THE FRONT CAMERA XP



... AT THE TAKEAWAY.

BEFORE => AFTER

FP: sticks or pork



THE DAY CONTINUED BY RANDOMLY RUNNING INTO THE "FLOOR FOUNTAIN"



need to carry 2
bags, my backpack,
a sack + film them...

things we
bought



Going Back
Home :3

Play Dayth

CHALLENGE YOUR PREJUDICES

Mannheim. Part 1. Mosque

Mannheim. Part 2. Plus Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					

The visit to Mosque was a great opportunity to have an open talk with a Turkish Muslim and definitely made us reflect and change our prejudices regarding this religion.

Firstly, he showed us how they prepare themselves before the prayer by cleaning their whole body. We had to take our shoes off in order to respect the cleanliness in the Mosque, as Muslims have to put their forehead on the carpet when they pray.

We have expected some barriers in order to ask our doubts due to the fact that it is a quite sensitive topic, but we felt really surprised and impressed by how this person was so open minded to answer any type of questions. He even had to answer how many wives he has, so he told us that he has just one, and if he had more, his wife would definitely kill him. Apart from this, he tried to make us understand that there are different interpretations of Koran, and some people take advantage of it for conflictive purposes.

We also discussed about other interesting aspects, for example about the architecture of the Mosque, differences between the Mosque and catholic churches and about media influences in people's perceptions and prejudices about Muslims.

It can definitely be said, that it was one of the most enriching experiences during this project and made us feel more comprehensive regarding other types of beliefs.

Michaela: "I was surprised because the atmosphere was really good; I liked everything. The person who talked about the culture was really open-minded and we could ask him everything".

Emma: "I attend catholic school and we have a subject where we learn about different religions, so I knew what to expect in the mosque. I also know quite a lot about Islam, but I was still impressed by the personality of the man who we met. He was one of the most peaceful people that we ever met".

We were first asked to write on a moderation card our stereotypes and prejudices about the LGBT community. Some of us had "strong" ideas about what means for them to be part of the community, considering that all the lesbians are hot, or that they tend to act more manly, and all the men tend to be girlish. I saw that there were both bad and good feelings regarding the community. After we concluded this first exercise, we entered what could best be described as a Q&A forum. We asked about what it means to be gay in a world that does not accept this as a total fact, what obstacles they encounter throughout life and also what type of discrimination they face when it comes to their acceptance in public places.



One of the most common questions was about the idea of having a baby. Even if some of them are not interested in having children, they explain to us that as someone that is not a heterosexual it is very hard to adopt. In most of those cases, adoption centers do not accept same-sex couples to raise a child, believing that he/she will not grow in an environment proper for a normal development, an idea which runs contrary to the most recent scientific studies conducted on this top-

ic. In this case, the adoption for a gay couple is almost impossible.

Despite all these challenges, however, the representatives of Plus Center told us that even if they face a lot of discrimination every day, they are happy. As long as members of our society continue to look down on these people not only as minorities, but also as inferiors, they will never be able to lead a full and happy live. It should not be up to us to decide how others live their lives, especially when their lifestyle has no impact on ours. In a free world everyone should be able to have a relationship, sleep with, or marry whomever they like. Until we give members of the LGBT community the same rights that all other citizens enjoy in front of the law, we do not have the right to refer to ourselves as members of a free society.

Sara, Roxana, Dodo



Spaceship

The planet is going to explode due to an impact with a comet. Unfortunately, there's only one spaceship that has only 5 seats and food for 5 persons. There's a list of candidates. We were suppose to decide who would be safe. We asked if participants liked this activity.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
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Urška: It was really interesting to see how we would react and decide if put in a position or such and how the stereotypes affect our decisions; how we worked together to make the best combination possible, the dynamic at the beginning and the conclusion and how it changed trough three steps of the decisions.

Paia: For me it was very interesting to do this activity because I saw a film (The philosophers) which was almost about the same as we did and while I was watching the film I was thinking about that I would never want to do such hard decisions. But it was really useful to show us our stereotypes and that we can't avoid them.

Martin: I think that this is an important activity. We could see the stereotypes that usually the majority part of people have in their life, and maybe the people that participated in this activity will think more about this topic.

ADVENTURE TIME



After one week of a hard work during European youth weeks we were finally allowed to decide what we are going to do in our free day. Some of us decided to discover other german cities, some preferred to stay at haus am Maiberg and relax and some went shopping.

Part 1: Frankfurt

It was a hard choice between staying at Haus am Maiberg and visiting Frankfurt. I was doubting till the end, but finally decided to be a part of wonderful trip to a new place.

There were 13 of us, who left HaM very early in order to catch the right train on time. In Frankfurt we divided into two groups, then went to the tourist's information point for a map and later did the route of the city.

I personally found the City Centre amazing. Most of all, I enjoyed the houses built in German style. There are a lot of skyscrapers around the City Centre, which are quite big and totally fascinating. After lunch we finally separated and went to zoo and Chinese garden. I was in the second Team.

In the garden was very peaceful, beautiful and far from noisy city Centre and crowds of people. If you want to relax, just go there. The other one, went to a Chinese garden, it was very beautiful and strange because it's a quite place for spending time in a crowded and noisy city.

Our group enjoyed the time in Frankfurt and hope that there will be another opportunity to come back.

Matilde



Part 2: Lake (THE BEST DAY EVER)

On Saturday we had a free day so we decided to visit the artificial lake near Heppenheim, which is called Erlache. After a four minute train drive we arrived to a city called Bensheim. First we went to the store and bought some food and drinks for the "picnic" (such as grapes, Toffifee, juice).

After that we walked to the lake where we really enjoyed ourselves. At first the weather was good, so we were relaxing laying on the blankets and playing some games. Some of us went swimming and the others were just sunbathing. Then it started raining but fortunately not for a long time, so we were able to swim and relax some more time.

We spent the whole free day at the lake and in my opinion it was really splendid, because we got the opportunity to relax, to observe the nature and to know each other a little bit closer.

Sara



TRIP TO HEIDELBERG



When I'm travelling with a group I never pay attention at how we arrive to places. And this was no exception. I was sitting on a train for good 40 minutes and then someone yelled to step off and I did. That's how I trust people.

The moment we got off the train it started raining. It felt like we're carrying rainclouds with us. That is maybe good if you're trying to show off your new umbrella but I feel like no one had this intention. Everyone just muttered something like: "Stupid rain..." under their breath and we took off to explore the city. I don't know why it always happens but I ended up beside Urska and Neza only this time, Anja has joined us.

We all thought the best way not to stand in the rain is shopping. But the shops were closing and the lady that was vacuum cleaning was looking at us weirdly for

trying on ridiculous clothes mere minutes before the shop closes. Of course I still managed to buy myself a lovely T-shirt. I always manage that. Actually I have a bit of a weak spot for T-shirts. My wardrobe consists of two pairs of jeans, 2 pairs of shorts, a collection of leggings and sweatpants, few hoodies and flannels and T-shirts. Lots of T-shirts. I always try to remind myself that I really don't need another one but my subconscious slaps me in the face and I buy it anyway. After the shops closed, we had nothing to do. And that usually means food. We got some ice cream and I realized that I might have a serious obsession over lemon flavor.

When we finished eating and others stopped



Creating a Monument

We should think about a monument which could present the most important event in our countries. So, we asked participants if it was hard to find the representative monument?

Tereza: There were just two of us and it wasn't too hard. We had two ideas. One was the beginning of freedom in our country but we've decided for Lidice which we actually showed.

Cora: No, for Germans it was very easy because the fall of Berlin wall was essential for our history.

laughing at me for always choosing lemon ice cream we photo bombed some pictures other EYW participants were taking on the street. Then we headed for the Greek place where we got a delicious dinner (I won't forget that yummy salad for a long time).

Thankfully we had some free time after that. Of course I wanted to visit the castle. Other people wanted to see it too but we needed to know how much time it takes to get there. We spoke with a nice old man from Netherlands who lives in Germany for 30 years. He told us that young



people like us should get to the fort in 15 minutes. I feel like Urska and I barely needed 10 minutes because we were so eager to explore. We felt like knights coming through a series of stone arches. We were in the total awe. I can't even explain the feeling I got exploring ancient beauty. It felt like a mix of pride and fuzziness in my chest. I won't even start describing it be-

cause I will end up looking like Victor Hugo with his 10 page descriptions.

We met Anja again and took some very princess like selfies that we casually named Princesses #1, #2, #3 etc. Soon it was time to go. We sadly returned to the meeting point deciding we will surely come back some day and take some more time to visit the castle again.

Obviously that was a day for hideous selfies and pulling faces in front of cameras because from visiting the old bridge and the train ride home I only remember embarrassing photos.

Emma



Katerina: Well I wanted to show tower of Pisa, but maybe it was too modern... It didn't represent Italy like Coloseo but that again, would be too obvious. So we chose Panteon.

Urska: No, because we chose the most visible and noticeable person there is. He was very important for Slovenian history and our art which helped us become independent.

Selfie obSESSION



Meet the teamers

Find 10 differences!)



Stefano: I think he is the best teamer because he is funny and knows how to entertain people. You can tell him everything and he understands.

Vassa: I like to talk to her in Russian. She is always nice and smiling. It's always a pleasure spending time with her.

Kasia: She's very cool dudette, she is funny, super friendly... She got on my personal side. Sometimes she is mean but never to me. We have common things to talk about.

Laia: She is a very smart person, sometimes a bit too enthusiastic... She knows how to find something positive in every situation so she's always happy.

Stephan is one of my favorite teamers, even though he is not present as much as others. He manages to establish a personal contact with participants just by making a small talk. When you talk to him you always have an impression that he genuinely wants to know who you are.

Dominika is a really wise person, brave and active. She loves travelling, she lived in different countries. She is ambitious, polite and nice. I like to talk with her.

I think that **Valentina** is quite effective because she can combine her work at the medical university with leisure activities (her work as a teacher building young characters). She is funny, smart and much closer to our age. Because of that you can talk with her about everything. She is also a great dancer.

Galya is an insightful teamer. She tries to go with the flow of the group dynamic and at the same time to improve the coherence between the participants by encouraging speaking up for themselves. She also understands and respects different opinions. She is cool!

Neza: She's always incredibly helpful. She's amusing, sunny and has the special skill to cook anywhere at any time. If you feel the need to get annoyed you can just ask her to share the "Peaches game" with you.

Irina is a very kind person, reliable, full of energy and she was always willing to take part in any type of activity, and made us reflect on deeply matters in our discussions during the project. She transmitted me a lot of confidence.

Jana is a very energetic person, she is always polite and peaceful. I adore her energizers, because they are very useful.

Actually, we are very serious!)

And we have a superpower to become whoever you want



