

Youth for Europe - YOUP

Erasmus+ YOUP is a project of the EU, in which pupils of the seven participating countries Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Spain and Slovakia meet every half year, work on projects and interchange to create an open-minded contact with different and foreign countries and cultures.

About the project

The purpose of the project follows the fundamental principles and values of the „Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education”, as proposed by the European Union Education Ministers during their informal meeting in Paris on 17 March 2015: “Respect for human dignity, freedom (including freedom of expression) democracy, equality the rule of law and respect for human rights.”

Thus the project aims at strengthening the cohesion and solidarity among different cultures, religions, gender and age groups, social classes and minorities of all kinds within the EU as well as strengthening mutual interest and respect for each other. As a result diversity of any kind is not seen as a threat or burden but rather as a source of enrichment and unique opportunity. This attitude is of particular importance for European citizens when confronted with the challenge of integrating large groups of immigrants from a non-European background.

The focus of the project is therefore on the acquisition of cross-cultural competence and interpersonal skills both in theory and practice with a particular emphasis on mobility in an increasingly international labor market.

Participants

The principal target group are 16/17 year old students of upper secondary schools who are preparing themselves to start a career or further academic education. They are expected to have a large degree of flexibility and international mobility when facing the effects of an increasing globalization in all spheres of life. The projects gives them the opportunity to gain both theoretical and practical experience in this field thus making them more aware of the value and importance of cultural diversity both abroad and at home.

Activities

The activities of the projects focus on the following subjects: how to become more aware of and sensitive to the Importance and value of diversity in general in an EU context, how to deal with cultural fears, how to become more aware of and sensitive to cultural differences, how to deal with conflicts, How to express yourself appropriately in everyday life in international context, how to express yourself appropriately in the world of work in an international context.,

Method

Most of the above mentioned topics will be dealt with by applying the method of “cooperative learning “, which involves students more actively in the learning process and has proved to be very effective. Thus the project will be more student centered than previous project carried out by our school. As a result students of the host schools will actively participate in the planning as well as in the supervision and evaluation of their respective projects.

Expected results

The participants will benefit from a deeper understanding of the importance and value of cultural, religious, social, linguistic or other diversity in a EU context. They become more aware of their own prejudices and preconceived ideas and are therefore less exposed to respective manipulation.

In particular they will acquire competence in the following fields: Improvement language skills in English, Acquisition of basic knowledge of language items in the language of a given linguistic context other than English, practical knowledge of how to communicate successfully in a different cultural context by being aware of cultural differences, , further strengthening of the intercultural and interreligious competence.

Evaluation

Various instruments of evaluation will be applied to the project both during its process and its end (cf..). The true value of the project, however, can only be seen from its long term effects on the students as well as on the schools and their respective social context. Due to previous experiences we are confident that the result of the project will have an effective and sustainable impact on both our students and various exciting and future school activities and projects.