

**Be active youth+
Frankfurt, Germany, 1-9th of November, 2017**

**Frankfurt is welcoming young people from 6 European countries for the
Youth exchange “Be active youth+”**

In these days, the European Union has a poor reputation – many see the EU as still being too distant, too bureaucratic and having too little influence in terms of solving “real” problems. Negative events such as the disagreement about dealing with refugees seeking asylum in Europe, economic and financial crises, inability to take action in foreign policy or the Brexit determine the negative news. The student initiative “Intercultural Club – Goethe Uni”, located in Frankfurt, decided to address these challenges and organized the youth exchange “Be Active Youth+”

The project “Be Active Youth+” took place in Walldorf (Frankfurt) on 1st – 9th of November 2017. 32 youngsters between 17 and 27 years old from six European countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Poland, Turkey and United Kingdom) participated in the Youth exchange. It was financially supported by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union. The objectives of the project were getting to know the concept of active citizenship, defining the main challenges for Europe and for young people in Europe, understanding the values and the scope of the European Union and apply the concept of active citizenship.

Over the course of the last week, the group used non-formal learning methods, experienced learning by doing and intercultural dialogue. Activities included, among others, an Oxford Debate about the refugee crisis and a simulation session of the European Parliament. Each participant represented a politician from a different nationality and with different political views. By discussing law proposals of the European Commission, participants found out how the European Institutions work.

On 5. of November the group participated in the last “Pulse of Europe” event this year. Pulse of Europe is a pro-European citizen initiative founded in Frankfurt end of 2016. On 7. of November the group visited the Hesse Parliament as well as the “Staatskanzlei” (government) in Wiesbaden. At the Staatskanzlei, the participants had the opportunity to exchange views with State Secretary Mark Weinmeister.

Moreover, the motivated participants created a video where they explain what Europe means to them:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aomCitEYsyM&feature=youtu.be>

“Intercultural Club – Goethe Uni” is a student initiative at Goethe University Frankfurt, founded in 2015. The goal of the initiative is to connect students with different backgrounds, to learn from each other and to promote cultural dialogue. The initiative has great experience in Youth work.

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However, the project was the first Youth exchange was the first project realized in the scope of the Erasmus+ program.

The Erasmus+ program is program supported by the European Commission and the German National Agency JUGEND für Europa. Erasmus+ is open to all young people, not just those involved in education or training. With Erasmus+, youngsters can volunteer in Europe or outside of Europe or participate in a youth exchange abroad. Youth exchanges allow groups of young people from different countries to meet and live together for up to 21 days. On a youth exchange, they can expect to participate in activities such as workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, outdoor activities, etc.

Intercultural Club is very satisfied with the outcomes of the youth exchange and with the active participation of the youngsters. We aspire to spread the values of Erasmus+ and implement more youth exchanges in Südhessen.

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