

Transforming Europe



Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

International IB World Schools aus Dänemark, Kroatien, Polen und den Niederlanden führen seit September 2015 mit unserer Schule das Projekt „Transforming Europe“ durch und beschäftigen sich mit den Folgen des Ersten Weltkriegs.

Jedes Halbjahr treffen sich Schülerinnen und Schüler aus allen Ländern zu einer gemeinsamen, von der EU finanzierten Projektwoche.

Auftakt in der Goetheschule

Im Januar 2016 fand die erste Projektwoche in Essen statt. Schülerinnen und Schüler der Klassen 8 bis 12, die über Monate Geschichte in englischer Sprache gelernt hatten, übernahmen die Rollen von Diplomaten im Jahr 1919 und handelten einen Friedensschluss aus, der aus ihrer Sicht eine gerechtere Alternative zum Versailler Vertrag darstellte. Weitere Schülergruppen übernahmen die Vorbereitung und Begleitung der Woche, indem sie Gastfamilien suchten, Willkommensmappen gestalteten, Ausflüge und Klassenbesuche vorbereiteten, einen Partyabend und einen Flashmob organisierten, die Konferenz filmten, den „Erasmus Explorer“ herausgaben, Kunstprojekte erstellten und die Abschlussfeier musikalisch gestalteten. Sie alle haben gemeinsam mit dem Lehrerkollegium die Erasmuswoche zu einem großen Ereignis gemacht. Für die vielfältige Unterstützung, Geduld, Spontaneität, gute Laune und den spürbaren Spaß an der Sache allen Beteiligten ein herzliches Dankeschön!

Zu Gast in Dänemark

Im September 2016 war Dänemark Gastgeber der zweiten Erasmuswoche. Diesmal hatten die Schülerinnen und Schüler sich mit Gedichten auseinandergesetzt, die in Schützengräben und Lazeretten entstanden waren. Ihr Projektziel war es, diese Gedichte auf die moderne Theaterbühne zu holen.

Victoria von Nathusius (Q2) erzählt: „Six students from Year 9, 10 and 12 travelled with their teacher, Mrs Heup, to Denmark to participate in the final



Arie Boergen, der die Essener Schüler auf die Geschichtskonferenz vorbereitet hat, zeigt eine Granathülse aus dem Ersten Weltkrieg.



Die Teilnehmer des Erasmus-Treffens in der Goetheschule.





Bunker aus dem Zweiten Weltkrieg besuchten die Schülerinnen und Schüler in Dänemark.

theatre week of the Erasmus+ literature module. The students had been preparing this week for a long time and now the aim was to put some of the poems we had studied on stage. After a long journey of 10 hours by train the exhausted German delegation arrived at Ikast station, where our host families were already waiting to pick us up. We enjoyed a warm welcome and a nice meal – and then just went straight to bed.

The next morning the programme started at 8.15am. In the assembly hall of Ikast-Brande Gymnasium, the students got together in groups of different nationalities and – as a warm-up – played some games to get to know each other. The first challenge was to interact with each other without talking, just with the help of eye-contact, while throwing around a glass. This was pretty scary, because you always feared to break the glass if you did not catch it, but we made it! (OK, two or three glasses fell down and shattered to pieces, but apart from that we did a great job ;-)

After lunch break 5-6 students each came together in their international groups and were given a poem. The task of this afternoon was to brainstorm ideas about how to perform the poem on stage. We imagined we had \$1.000.000 for the realisation and the different ideas were presented by

each group at the end of the day.

On Tuesday, we started with another funny warm-up game. The task was to build letters or well-known buildings like the Statue of Liberty – just out of people. That caused much laughter and sometimes also a bit of confusion about what the buildings were supposed to be. Then we were offered two acting workshops by professionals. The first one was about different ways of how to perform on stage. The second workshop was about the different steps to consider while planning a play. We were told how to write a script and then started writing it together.

The third day meant practice, practice, practice. The groups started rehearsing and the professional tutors gave really good advice. Every performance took shape and we enjoyed working together with students from different countries. It also became easier and easier to overcome the language barrier.

On Thursday, the whole group went by coach to a little town called Thyborøn on the West Coast of Denmark. Here the Erasmus group visited a sea war museum and learned about the Battle of Jutland, which was very interesting. Afterwards, we defied the wind and went out to have a look at the WWI memorial on the beach. Unfortunately, the weather was too

cold and the sea was too stormy to take a bath. After lunch in a little fish restaurant, the WWII bunkers were also visited and many climbed on top of them. When the group was seated again in the bus, we all had a Danish souvenir to take home: lots of sand in our shoes and our hair.

On the last day, most students were pretty nervous about their performance, but everyone was very professional. The performance in front of 100 students went well and the applause was extensive. In the evening there was a school party for the Erasmus students and after a big cake, some funny games and a huge buffet, the atmosphere was cool and relaxed and some students started to sing and play the guitar. Everyone was happy because of the great performance and the experiences we were allowed to make during this week, but also a little sad that it was nearly over now. The memory of this week, however, will stay with us and the intercultural experiences we made will be indispensable.“ (Victoria von Nathusius, Year 12)

Mehr Fotos, Berichte und Schülerarbeiten rund um das Erasmusprojekt gibt es unter <http://goetheschule-ib.de/international-learning/erasmus-plus2018/>.

*Karmen Heup und
Victoria von Nathusius (Q2)*