**Erasmusplus Project short survey**

**“Democracy and Its Endangerment”**

**Would you evaluate your experience on this project in a positive or negative way? Give reasons for your answer, please.**

Stud 1: This project was a very positive experience, because we had the possibility to speak about an important topic with students from other countries.

Stud 2: Positive, through the Erasmusplus project I have learned much about politics and rhetoric. Many of my international friendships started during the meetings in Thessaloniki and Bolzano.

Stud. 3: I would describe this experience as very positive, because you have the opportunity to meet so many new people and to visit new places.

Stud 4: Personally, I would say that the whole project was a very positive experience, because we got the opportunity to talk with people (mostly) of our age about problems/advantages of the European Union, a bond which holds us together, and its threats.

Stud 5: Yes, I would because I could hear about new points of view, I had fun, got to knew new people and had a rather good time in an awesome place.

Stud 6: The experiences were positive because I got to know a lot of new people from different countries.

Stud 7: In my opinion it was a quite positive experience, I enjoyed myself discussing with others about democratic issues and other subjects we talked about. Listen to different opinions and points of view helps to understand things better and solve problems in a smoother way.

Stud 8: I would most definitely describe it in a positive way. It was an amazing experience since I got to know many people from other countries and with other cultures, with whom I still keep in touch today. Furthermore, I enjoyed the activities and the discussions with experts but also the ones with other students. We got to hear many different and interesting opinions, but we agreed on the fact that democracy needs to be protected at all costs.

**How would you describe the general mood during the project?**

Stud 1: The atmosphere was positive and relaxing and everyone was motivated to contribute.

Stud 2: The atmosphere was always very friendly and warm. We could discuss political ideas and concepts without getting in confrontations with each other’s. Teachers and students were always polite and helpful.

Stud 3: The atmosphere during the project was relaxed and funny, the people were motivated and concentrated, so it was very nice

Stud 4: The atmosphere was relaxed, and we got easily in touch which each other (after some starting problems).

Stud 5: The atmosphere was, I may call it, hysterical. The teacher that led the project was extremely stressed, unorganised and let that out on us and the co-leaders from other schools.

Stud 6: It was positive, because there were lots of different activities and the people were friendly.

Stud 7: I liked the working atmosphere we had while doing our tasks, most of the other participants were much younger than us so socializing looked somehow awkward and had sometimes difficult.

Stud 8: All the teachers and students were overly welcoming and friendly. I think everyone had a great time and a lot of fun!

**If possible (given the actual circumstances), would you still take part in a meeting in Crete?**

Stud 1: Yes, I would participate with pleasure.

Stud 2: I would love to go, to see all of my international friends again, to discuss with them and to learn and discuss again about democracy and the importance of the European idea. I’ve always had a great time during the project.

Stud 3: Yes, I would.

Stud 4: Probably yes.

Stud 5: Absolutely, I love to learn new things and have memorable experiences.

Stud 6: I definitely would.

Stud 7: Yes, I would love to.

Stud 8: Yes, I would love to!

**Did the communication language correspond to your linguistic level? Did you have difficulties at expressing your opinions and ideas during the project?**

Stud 1: The level was adequate. I had no difficulties at expressing myself.

Stud 2: No not really, all the students more or less shared the same level of knowledge of the English language so communication was pretty easy.

Stud 3: In my opinion the English level was alright, everyone spoke a good and understandable English, so I had no problems understanding and speaking.

Stud 4: As I said before, it was easily to get in touch with the others.

Stud 5: The language was appropriate, and I think everybody understood, but there was too much stress and no place for new and unique ideas, not even from the side of other teachers.

Stud 6: I haven’t had any difficulties at all.

Stud 7: No, not at all, I liked the fact that we came from different countries and had the chance to get to know our fellow students’ opinions and way of thinking.

Stud 8: The fact that everything was in English was perfectly fine. In fact, I think the project was a great opportunity to improve our English skills.

**Did you feel free to express your opinion? Or did you feel anyhow limited by the atmosphere and/or by any other participant at the meetings?**

Stud 1: I was able to give my personal contribution expressing my own ideaswithout restrictions.

Stud 2: No, not at all. At the beginning of the project we had to introduce ourselves to the other students and teachers, and I grabbed that opportunity to hold a speech about my dream of a united Europe holding up the European flag. I was pretty nervous because I did not know if everyone would agree with me, but it turned out pretty well. Everybody was supportive and even after Thessaloniki I still got messages of approval via e-mail and Instagram.

Stud 3: Yes, I had no problems sharing my opinions with the others, because the atmosphere and the people there were welcoming.

Stud 4: The other participants were very patient, and I was able to express my point of view without problems.

Stud 5: As I said there was no room for other ideas, but it´s understandable, in a big group that is rehearsing a theatre performance you don't start new ideas. And everything was just too stressful and not prepared at all.

Stud 6: I could express my opinion whenever I wanted.

Stud 7: No, I didn’t, just once our “Italy-group” was taken seriously by a teacher. We talked about the school system and described Italy as a very bad organised country, it was just one episode, but I felt slightly attacked.

Stud 8: Yes, I felt free to express my opinion at any time. As far as I remember everybody had really good points which led to great discussions.

**Did you build up a good relationship to the fellow students? Have YOU built up any deeper relationship to anyone?**

Stud 1: Maybe it was a little bit inconvenient that the other students were younger than us, nevertheless we built a friendship with nearly all of them.

Stud 2: Still today I have contact with many people from all over Europe. Many international friendships were born during this project.

Stud 3: Yes, most of them were very nice and friendly, and I was able to connect with some people, who I am still in contact today.

Stud 4: Personally, I think that we built a casual acquaintance with the others, even if in the beginning I was a bit shocked by the age gap.

Stud 5: The students talked a lot and we started short lasting friendships there, but we didn't have a lot of contact, we didn't take the opportunity and let students’ families host us. For that reason, we were alone during the free time, because the groups were either separated or had lesson at school.

Stud 6: I got to know some people who share the same interests as me, so we had lots of topics to discuss and I still keep in touch with some of them via Instagram.

Stud 7: They were all quite young, and even though I liked talking and discussing with them, I felt the age differences a lot. Some of them were really mature, so I could easily socialize with them, but with others sadly I couldn’t.

Stud 8: Yes! I met new people from my own school who are now some of my closest friends as well as people from the other schools, with whom I still text occasionally.

**Would you like to change anything in the project? What could be improved? What did you like the most/the least?**

Stud 1: To be honest, I wouldn’t change anything. It was the best school project I’ve ever taken part in and I don’t remember any negative aspects.

Stud 2: I liked it as it was. It would be even better to do more international projects.

Stud 3: Personally, I don’t think there is so much that should be changed, I really liked it *as* it was. The only thing maybe would be a little bit more time to get to know one another better.

Stud 4: I wouldn´t really change anything at all, except the age differences. All in all, it was a very successful event and I liked it a lot.

Stud 5: Well, the idea of a theatre project is really cool, actually awesome, but it should be well prepared before, where people know their text, the director has clear ideas and opens up for help. Moreover, I would have liked to host some fellow students, and to be hosted myself. I did not like the fact that we never got informed about the fact that hosting people was an option. This could have opened up a chance to know people better and spend more time with the other students.

Stud 6: I’d prefer having more time in between the different activities because it was a bit stressful to rush from one activity to the other.

Stud 7: If I have to change something it would probably be the age gap between the participants, but as for the rest I really liked and enjoyed it.

Stud 8: I liked the discussions and the excursions the most. I didn’t like the presentations by some of the experts too much since they were very long and probably too explicit, which made it hard to not lose the attention at a certain point.

**Do you remember any image/speech/quotation which deeply attracted your attention/stimulated your reflections? Do you sometimes think about the topic of democracy (and its endangerment)? Do you ever discuss the issue with other people?**

Stud 1: I remember a very interesting quote byMark Twain:

“If voting made any difference, they wouldn't let us do it.”

I often speak about democracy with my friends, parents and schoolmates.

Stud 2: Yes, the project empowered me even more to believe in a strong, united and democratic Europe.

Stud 3: I really liked the day we talked about political speeches; it was very interesting. And yes, I often think about Democracy because nowadays we get confronted with many different forms of government, and we often talk about that in class.

Stud 4: The report of a contemporary witness at the Jewish Museum in Graz hit me the most and I still rethink of that. Today I still mention that experience in many discussions with friends and family.

Stud 5: Well, the play could have been a picture I like to remember, if the actors had actually known their scripty. I surely did. I think and discuss about democracy, but sometimes I don't recognise it instantly.

Stud 6: I don’t really remember anything specific but I started to discuss the topic more often with some of my friends.

Stud 7: When we went to the Jewish Museum in Graz to talk about the Holocaust and the holocaust, I think it was really impressive and interesting. I have talked about that experience with my friends and family.

Stud 8: Yes, we still talk about the topic of democracy in class but also at home, especially in the last few weeks as the US Presidential Elections were under way.

Thank you for taking part in the survey.

The survey and your opinion are important, because the European Union needed a feedback.