

Youth exchange



CLOSER TO EUROPE

6th - 15th November 2017

Puente Genil, Spain



Co-funded by the
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Promoter:



Partners:



RESULTS GUIDE

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1. INTRODUCTION

"**CLOSER TO EUROPE**" is a **youth exchange** framed within the KA1 of the Erasmus + program and took place from **16th to 25th October 2017 in Puente Genil** (Córdoba, Spain) and organized by Asociación Europa 2020 from Puente Genil and as partners Youthfully Yours (France), Eurocircle (France), Associazione di Promozione Sociale Joint (Italy) and Udruga Zmergo (Croatia).

This project has been aimed at young people between 18 and 30 years old from these countries. There have been a total of 30 participants (6 for each country).

The main topics of this youth exchange are European *citizenship, interculturality and active participation in society*.

The purpose of this exchange is to make society better acquainted with the EU and the possibilities it offers, as well as to create an intercultural dialogue breaking stereotypes and promoting intercultural cooperation.

The main **objectives** of this project were:

- Bringing young people and society to the concepts of European citizenship, cultural diversity and interculturality
- To raise awareness among young people about personal identity and how society influences the formation of this
- Breaking prejudices and stereotypes
- Encourage intercultural cooperation
- Analyze the brakes and accelerators of cultural diversity
- Raise awareness about how our cultures affect our lives
- Increase the participation of young people in society in an active way
- Improve the skills and abilities of young people in the personal, social and professional spheres (ability to lead groups, teamwork, public speaking, initiative and entrepreneurship, problem solving, creativity, management of new technologies ...)

The **methodology** of the youth exchange activities has been based on: constructive debates, role playing, peer learning, presentations, active participation, learning through experiences, cooperation and group dynamics, artistic creation, theater forum, etc ...

The kind of **activities** carried out during this activity were:

- Activities of knowledge and disinhibition.
- Dynamics to wake up and get energy.
- Dynamics to strengthen the group.

- Introductory activities and location in the project.
- Evaluation activities.
- Activities on European citizenship, cultural diversity and interculturality.
- Activities for the understanding and elimination of prejudices and stereotypes.
- Dissemination activities.
- Visits
- Travels
- Activities to share experiences
- Outdoor activities
- Activities for the development of creativity
- Activities for entrepreneurship and active life

2. DAILY PROGRAMME

Day 1

Afternoon

All the participants arrived at the venue. Facilitators introduced the organization's team and the project support staff as well as the main rules in the accommodation. Afterwards, facilitators carried out the process of getting to know one another with the following energizer:

Name, and gestures: In order to learn each other's names, participants were asked to form a circle. Everyone had to say their names and add a particular gesture (moving hands, touch their nose, lift their foot,...).

Day 2

Morning

The morning was focused about Erasmus +, getting to know each other, group building and fears, hopes and contributions of the participants.

The facilitators introduced themselves. Then the rules of the venue and the main topics of the youth exchange were explained.

After, the participants, sitting in circle had the chance to know more about:

- Erasmus+ programme
- Youthpass

The participants were informed about the different kinds of education: Formal, non-formal and informal.

The differences about the three key actions and the different kinds of project of the key action 1 were clarified to the group

Information about how to make the youthpass were provided, remembering the group the difference between Skills, Knowledge and Attitude and the eight key competences useful for preparing the youthpass.



After that, the group was told about the activity programme, explaining the general structure of the programme (food, rest, compulsory and optional activities, free time, visits, energizers, reflection groups and intercultural nights), and then the activities to do in that day. About the energizers the facilitators asked each national group to choose a day to show the whole group an energizer.

As last information, the participants knew of details about practical issues.

The second part of the morning was dedicated to create a good group for working effectively the next days. To reach this aim some ice breakings were proposed:

- Bingo Intercultural: Every participant receives a sheet where they can read, on a table, several personal experiences. The aim of the game is finding the person that has realized one of the experiences described on the paper. The winners are: the first person that completes a line, and the first person that completes the whole table.



- Orange, lemon, banana, apple melon and fruit salad: Each participant sits in a circle and says the name of the fruit represented in order to have five different group, each one with a fruit name. Then one of the participants goes in the middle and its chair is removed. When he says the name of a fruit, all the participants with that fruit need to change chair, the one who remains standing goes in the middle. When who is in the middle shouts "fruit salad, all the participants need to change chair.

After these short ice breakings, some longer activities for creating the group during the whole week were introduced:

- The secret friend: Each participant gets a post-it with the name of another person and he/she should take care of this person for the whole duration of the project, without revealing its identity with some positive notes or gifts.
- Kiss killer: Each participant gets a post-it with the name of another person, that will be its victim. The goal is “killing” in sequence as much people as possible and the weapons are kisses. You can only kill the victim when it’s alone.
- Personal and creative passport: Everyone exchange while dancing on the music a sheet of paper with its name. When the music stops, everyone has to add a piece of information and draw a physical feature about the person whose he/she got its sheet. When the music restarts, each participant exchanges the paper in creative ways, and every time the music stops, they write and draw something else about the participant whose they have the “passport”.



As last activity of the morning, participants shared their fears, hopes and contributions with post-it to stick on three different flipcharts. Some of them were:

Fears	Misunderstanding; Fear of fear; Language; Lack of cooperation and group; Communication; Dissatisfied participants; Food and accommodation; Conflicts; Speaking in public; Not learning anything of new; To be judged;
Expectations	Friendship; Exploring new social dimensions; Fun; Knowledge; Activities; Acceptations; Improve team competences; Travel to many cities
Contributions	Good atmosphere; Smile; Opinion; Diversity; Teamwork; Love; Sport; Energy; More organization with the cleaning

Afternoon



The first part of the afternoon was focused about the activity of the learning river: every participant drew a river symbolizing its learning process, representing the main educative moments experienced during its life. At the end, they were fostered to reflect on new discovers.

This activity was followed by the first workshop of the project: Elevator pitch. Cultural diversity and European citizenship: the aim was advertising in five minutes the cultural diversity, showing the benefits of the European citizenship.



Night



At night there was the intercultural evening of Croatia and Greece: the participants were involved in activities that let them knowing more about these two countries and could enjoy typical food and dances.

Day 3

Morning

The objective of the morning was giving the young people the chance to know Puente Genil and its inhabitants, spreading news about the project among the local people. They were divided in four groups and had to complete a secret mission around the town, taking photos and videos as proofs of the realization of the tasks.

Here you can find the results of this activity in each group:

Secret mission group 1: <https://youtu.be/UX5CLiyqhps>

Secret mission group 2: https://youtu.be/5_DzYFI-B4E

Secret mission group 3: <https://youtu.be/BwU0FIK3odk>

Secret mission group 4: <https://youtu.be/jQNOicxVjlg>

During the morning, participants were also asked to present their respective organizations:

Country (Participants)	Organization	Objective	Target	Web
Spain	Asociacion Europa 2020	Informing youngsters about their possibilities in Europe	Youth	www.aeuropa2020.com
Croatia	Udruga Zmergo	Protecting the local environment	Youth	www.zmergo.hr
France	Eurocircle	Education and employment	Youth	www.eurocircle.info
Greece	Youthfully Yours	Arts, Environment, Democracy, Unemployment, Sustainability, Creativity and Entrepreneurship, Volunteering	Youth	www.youthfullyyours.gr
Italy	Associazione Di Promozione Sociale Joint	Providing non formal education for young people in international contexts	Youth	www.associazionejoint.org

Afternoon

The activity during the afternoon was “Come to European Union”.

As first, the participants split in five groups and each group had to work in a different topics (political issues, gastronomy, Scrabble, surprise and general issues) of 28 EU countries. Then they thought some questions to ask to the youngsters about the European countries and the European Union.



Here you can find a link with the main questions prepared by the participants: [Document 1](#)



After the preparation, in collaboration with the languages local school GET BRIT, the youth exchange participants, carried out this activity with the young participants of this school. They were invited to split in group and choose a name for each group which was provided of a table for taking note of all the right questions. The first group to answer all the questions on European countries and EU won.

Night

At night there was the intercultural evening of Italy and France: the participants were involved in activities that let them know more about these two countries and could enjoy typical food.



Day 4

Morning

During the morning there was the third workshop: guessing the words

The activity was based on the famous game “Pictionary”, representing some words such as:

- Interculturalism,
- Diversity,
- Participation,
- Migrant,
- Roma people,
- Homosexual,
- Politician,
- Football player,
- Babysitter,
- Richness,
- Conflict.



The participants were split in group and a group leader was selected. The participants had the role to ignore the leader, who was completely unaware of this. The main goals were: making people reflecting about the feelings to ignore and to be ignored, and comparing the different stereotypes used to draw the words.

At the end there was a reflection where all the people were asked about their feelings during the activity

In the second part of the morning, “Facing Identity” workshop was developed.

During this activity each participant was asked to think about some identifiers (features) about themselves. After, they had to think in some situation when they have been identified with some of these identifiers that they were proud and something they are hurtful. Then every participant communicated to the rest of the group what it didn't like to be associated to and broke the stereotype.



Here you can find a link with the worksheet model of this activity: [document 2](#)

Afternoon

It was also time for the fifth workshop: Intercultural games



In the first part of the afternoon the participants prepared some flipcharts explaining the rules of games they brought from their countries for the children of Puente Genil (also in collaboration with GET BRIT). The flipcharts were decorated with photos and pictures and colored in a very creative way.

Then, the participants met the children outside where the kids enjoyed the activities prepared.

Night

At night there was the intercultural evening of Spain: the participants were involved in activities that let them knowing more about these two countries and could enjoy typical food.



Day 5

At that day, the activities took place in Cordoba

The participants visited the office of Europe Direct and the palace of provincial government of Córdoba. They were explained about the work and the projects made for young people.

Then they went around the city for disseminating the project and knowing more about the local culture.



Day 6

Morning

The 6th workshop was “Break the brakes!”



In this activity the participants analyzed the strengths and weakness of cultural diversity according five roles in the society (enterprises, decision makers, social organizations, national people and migrants). They were divided in five group, each representing a different social actor. Here the results: [Document 3](#)

After exposing the results, each group had to prepare a performance to represent the situation. The scenes were represented as theatre of oppressed, and the audience could propose solutions in order to solve the problems, specifying what should change and what shouldn't and a final reflection.



Afternoon

There was the 7th workshop: My action plan

By analogy with the activity of the “Learning river”, previously described, the participants, after being split in pairs, had to write down five personal wishes for the future (even involving its professional area) , including an intercultural, participative and European dimension.

Then, one of the couple was asking to read the action plan of the mate, while the second moved close to the reader as much soon as he wanted to realize that wish in its life.



At the end the pairs were asked to represent their action plans on flipcharts as roads with obstacles, curves and goals for presenting to the whole group and adding steps shapes with the “steps” they were going to follow to get them.

Day 7

Morning

During the morning, the workshop our participants held was “Designing a short film”.

After we provided a brief explanation about how to realize a short film, we talked about the main idea: to realize a short film focused on European citizenship and cultural diversity.

The activity was made in five groups, everyone developing a different task in its group.



Afternoon

The participants had time for editing the movie



Here you can find the links with the final created videos:

Spread the love: https://youtu.be/p3ca_whDhTw

One man, one map: <https://youtu.be/4sUtFY2VdWs>

Breaking the borders: <https://youtu.be/Aqkw33fxOvg>

Para que siempre te acuerdes de mí:
https://youtu.be/9616OmO1_cA

Day 8

This day the activities took place in Malaga

Then they went around the city for disseminating the project and knowing more about the local culture.



Day 9

Morning

This day was dedicated to the evaluation and the proposals for the future.



For fostering a reflection about what learnt and the methodology used, some papers with questions were put in the venue and around the park where the activity room takes place. Here you can find an example of the questions proposed:

- What else would you like to learn about European citizenship and diversity? How will you learn that?
- Do you learn better alone or in group?
- Were your main principles and beliefs questioned in any moment of the week? When? How did you deal that?
- What was a food experience for you during this week?
- Who, which person did support your learning during this activity?

Then, the participants were invited to share their own ideas for realizing a future youth exchange project, encouraging them to make some flipcharts for advertising their ideas and thinking about topic, place, participating countries, target group, main goals, main activities...



Here you can find the link with the projects ideas: [document 4](#)

Afternoon

We concluded the activities reflecting about the fears, hopes and contributions on the second day: every participant took the post-it with the overcome fears and the achieved expectations.

After that, the participants reflected about the acquired competences during this youth exchange to complete their youthpass. Here you can see the results of acquired competences by the participants ([document 5](#)). And we finished the day with the delivery of youthpass certificates to the participants.



Night



During the activity “Cinema night” the short films realized during the 7th day were shown to the whole group which voted for the best movie, the best actor and the best actress.

3. LINKS

Here you can find some links about the project results:

Videos: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMfIWQ_P6_Jsa4CWqevrghDyzAr4gmexQ

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ClosetoEurope/>

Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/847151945453096/?ref=br_rs

Project hastag: #closetoeurope2017

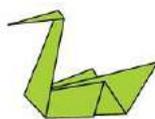


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