

**EU(nited)for Climate Action
Mörfelden-Walldorf, Germany, 12-19th of March, 2018**

**South Hesse is welcoming young people from seven European countries for the
Youth exchange “EU(nited) for Climate Action”**

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges humanity is currently facing. Human behavior has a direct impact on our climate and climate protection is a cross-border issue that does not stop at national borders. It is therefore necessary for people from different countries to come together and tackle this challenge together. The student initiative "Intercultural Club - Goethe Uni" has decided to take on this challenge and created the youth exchange "EU(nited) for Climate Action".

The project "EU (nited) for Climate Action" took place from 12th to 19th March 2018 in Mörfelden-Walldorf (Frankfurt). Young adults from seven different European countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Spain, Romania, Estonia, Czech Republic and Turkey) participated in the youth exchange, which was supported by the Erasmus + program of the European Union.

The group used informal learning and learning-by-doing methods and promoted intercultural dialogue. Various methods were used and the participants learned how climate protection and climate policy work on different levels. Initially, the group focused on what each of us can do to reduce our environmental footprints. They interviewed pedestrians in the streets and asked about their "best practice" experiences, participated in an Oxford debate, and presented climate and environmental policies in their home countries. On March 15, the group, in cooperation with Andreas Froeb, energy representative of the city Mörfelden-Walldorf, made a Renewable Energy City Tour and got to know the exemplary climate protection concept of the city. The participants were particularly interested in the city's new car sharing and electromobility concept. On March 16, the group visited the Hesse Landtag (parliament) in Wiesbaden. One day later, the participants simulated the European Parliament and got to know the legislative process of the EU. They discussed the topics meat consumption, renewable energies and a European wide plastic tax. On March 18, the group had the opportunity to visit the Walldorf concentration camp, which is located in the immediate vicinity of the property. In addition, the young people got to know the peculiarities of the different cultures and presented traditional dances and traditional cuisine during so-called "intercultural evenings".

"Intercultural Club - Goethe Uni" is a student initiative of Goethe University Frankfurt, which was founded in 2015. The objectives of the initiative are to connect students with different backgrounds, to learn from each other and to strengthen the cultural dialogue. The initiative has a lot of experience in youth work. The Youth Exchange was the second youth exchange organized under the Erasmus + program. In November 2017, the project “Be Active Youth Plus”, where participants got to know how the European Union works, took place.

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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.

The Intercultural Club is very satisfied with the results of the youth exchange and the active participation of the young people. We aim to spread the values of Erasmus + and to organize further youth exchanges in South Hesse.

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