

Welcome to E-Magazine no.4

Dear Yc³ friends!

In this fourth edition of the Yc³ E-Magazine you can read about the meeting in Klaipeda, where democracy and equality were discussed. Project coordinator Lisa Andersson shares her experience from the successful day and Anton Holmgren, the new Youth Board member from Kalmar, reports from the study visit to a youth centre where young teaches young.

Baltic Q-Day in Klaipeda

The day started off with a visit from the ERB Board, Arūnas Burkšas wished all of us welcome to Klaipeda and hoped for a fruitful meeting discussing democracy and equality. After introductions all participants wrote down 4 questions of what they wanted to know about the other participants and we started speed dating! It was a great way of getting to know each other.

The day proceeded with a lecture from the National Social Integration Institute, www.zmogui.lt. They told us about their exciting project "Living library". A Living library is designed to promote dialogue, reduce prejudices and encourage understanding.

In its basic form the Living Library is a mobile library set up as a space for dialogue and interaction. Visitors are then given the opportunity to speak informally with "people on loan", people with varying cultural backgrounds, of different ages and sex. A Living Library Book is a person that has chosen to be a public representative of a certain group.

After the presentation the group had a workshop on equality. The workshop was a form of a role playing game where all the participants were assigned a character, e.g. a HIV positive woman working with children in France. The participants were then asked to react to different situations that can happen in life.

For example that you want to go away on vacation, change work or buy a house. If you believed that your character had the possibility to do that, without objection from the society the character lives in, you took a step forward.

In the end everyone was standing on different places on the line and "in life". We discussed why we have different possibilities in life. Some things you can change, some you can't and the important question to ask is "what can you do about it?"



The next lecture was given by Kęstutis Gabšys (Lecturer, Youngest member of Klaipeda Municipality) about Youth democracy. The participants asked him interesting questions about what he did for improving the conditions for young people in Klaipeda.

The second workshop of the day was about democracy and one of the issues discussed was the EU citizen's initiative. This means that thanks to the EU Lisbon treaty, people can get the European Commission to discuss a specific issue if 1 million signatures have been gathered. EU has had an open consultation about this and we discussed some of the questions, for example how old you should be to be able to write and sign such a proposal to the Commission.

The Baltic Q-Day was very productive and I am looking forward for the next seminar!



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Study visit to youth centre where young teaches young

When Yc³ visited Klaipeda, the Baltic Q-Day ended with a visit to a youth centre. The Youth Centre is funded by EU money and the basic idea of the centre is that young people can share their creativity and teach other young people.

People aged 14 to 29 regularly get together to dance, to paint and to play musical instruments. The centre itself consists of five rooms, which set the stage for the activities.

Three recreation leaders work at the centre to support the young visitors.

The Youth Centre is located in a troubled neighborhood and the activities have become very meaningful for those who take part. Since the start of the centre it has had several hundred visitors.

The centre is open from Tuesday to Saturday and a strict zero tolerance policy against alcohol and drugs is in place.

The walls in the centre are decorated by the young visitors themselves. A number of the graffiti paintings that cover the walls have been submitted to the European Championships in graffiti, and they are spellbinding.

If you ever visit Klaipeda, a visit to the Youth Centre is a must. The recreation leaders all have stories to tell, stories most definitely worth hearing!



Yc³ (Youth Cross-border Cooperation and Communication) is a project aiming to give young people around the South Baltic Sea an opportunity to influence politicians on subjects that they are interested in. The project is also aiming to be a platform for networking where young people can meet to exchange ideas and cooperate with other young people in the area. The project is started by Youth Board that consists of youngsters from Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Russia and Lithuania. www.youthboard.eu/yc3
Youth Board is a part of the political organisation Euroregion Baltic (ERB) and has therefore the opportunity to influence political issues that are important to young people. To find out what is important, the project will form an arena for participation, influence, intercultural dialogue and cross border cooperation.



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