



### **Virtual mobility 2019-2020**

During our corona-related online program, we wanted to focus on the problems, that have arisen in a situation, in which a pandemic disease like corona nullified 'normal' possibilities to round up our project. Our focus was a thorough research in our schools on what connects people and which particular values can help us in difficult times. Since the new rules during corona allow a broadening of the number of participants, we strived to have the widest possible impact. In our alternate program, personal values were at the center; this time, however, they were not linked to the culture of the participants, but we consciously placed them in the context of social isolation and disruption of public life. In addition, we particularly discussed the negative consequences for young people and possibly develop strategies to deal with this. On 3 different days (28<sup>th</sup> of May, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June) the students of our internationalization class got in touch with their partners from the mentioned countries. In total, more than 100 students and teachers participated in this alternative program. In the online conversations we concentrated on personal stories, and especially the question of what connects us together in order to make social isolation a little more bearable. The search for shared values ultimately ended in a so-called Wall of Wishes, a virtual representation of what occupies and connects young people. A few wishes appear in all stories in this virtual exploration round: the need for social contact, the desire to return to school normally and more movement in the outdoor area. In one chat group, the time in social isolation was even experienced as traumatic by most participants. Strikingly enough, many young people associated the idea that restrictive measures are in the public interest. When asked what we can do for each other, a majority found it responsible to apply restrictive measures. The consequences of corona for young people may not be directly measurable, but the conversations that have taken place show that negative emotions also arise, such as fear and uncertainty about the future. 6 core values were ranked in international groups, which turned out to be the most important for our students in times of social isolation. The ranking was as follows: family and friendship were considered the most important (both received one third of the votes). This is followed by freedom (15%), hope (7%), courage (7%) and faith (4%). To gain more insight into the well-being of young people during the pandemic, our internationalization class also conducted a survey among the participating countries for the project. With the results of this

survey we looked at possible differences and similarities between the partner countries; we also looked at the extent to which students agreed with the measures taken regarding corona. Finally, the survey provided an insight into the wishes of the participants with regarding to the future.