



Exchange in Brussels

This exchange was not so much an exchange in the traditional sense, as the students stayed in a hotel rather than in host families. Despite this difference with the other meetings, the consequences of ever-increasing European cooperation were now also reflected in international groups. Initially, we would visit the European Parliament to share the results of our project with representatives of our countries in the EU Parliament. But due to all the lockdowns and corona restrictions, this turned out to be unfeasible. In mid-October 2021, the EU Parliament was also closed to visitors, so that we presented the results of the Shared identity project to the day-to-day management of all Erasmus+ programs in Brussels. The tangible results of our project were twofold: first, we handed over a manifesto, advocating a discussion on shared values within Europe. This "manifest for shared values" contains an overview of all activities before and during corona. While the effects of the pandemic caused a lot of unrest – for example, we had to move the last two exchanges for a year – we were nevertheless able to use the results of our virtual activities during the lockdowns to underline the importance of shared values. During corona, the students of our schools named six core values that provide some guidance in times of social restrictions and therefore transcend purely personal or national interest. A second result was a logo designed by the technasium of the Dalton Lyceum. This logo contained not only the flags of the participating countries but also the wishes of our students regarding those core values. The delay we experienced ultimately had a positive effect on the end result, because the core values and wishes mentioned underline the necessity of further cooperation based upon similar views on living together in Europe. From the outset, the visit to Brussels was conceived as an attempt to underline the common interests we all share. That is why we visited the Parliamentarium and the House of Europe to illustrate the importance and genesis of the EU for students. The interactive and multimedia program in both exhibitions allowed each participant to experience in a very direct way the benefits European countries derive from European cooperation. The knowledge acquired during these exhibitions could immediately be used on the last day to play 'Europoly' during a visit to Mini-Europe. All in all, this last meeting was all about sharing results (our logo and manifesto); It has also been agreed - in accordance with the original plan - to organize a virtual conference in the short term, in which, as with the other exchanges, politicians will also be invited to participate. This conference is now scheduled for March 2022.