

## Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

After my exchange partner from Estonia had arrived on Thursday evening, we went to school for the first time today. It was great to meet all the other students and to quickly talk with them, before our headmaster and Mrs Einhoff welcomed us to the Erasmus-project.

To get a sense of what the final goal of the project meeting in Germany was, we watched a model debate, presented by students of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade of our school, who had also participated in the Erasmus-project two years ago.

Then we formed the project groups, in which we were going to work for the next week and then finally debate on Tuesday. My group was going to act as the opposition for the motion “This house believes that fresh air is a human right”.

In several workshops, also lead by the 12<sup>th</sup> graders, we later trained how to discuss a topic, find the right words and to think quickly. After a strengthening lunch break we released our energy in a sports session, directed by the Sports and English teacher of our school.

During the little bit of time we had now, we got together in our group and quickly started to do the basic preparation for the following days, for example we set the definitions we wanted to use in our debate. Unfortunately we could not really build a proper team line yet, because we had not really acquired enough information on our motion. Thus we decided for everybody to do research over the weekend. In the afternoon we listened to a talk from a deputy of the OK Lab about air pollution in big cities and their innovative method to record and publish it.

In the evening I took my partner student to the Trainee-programme from our local parish, in which I participate in. In this programme, other teens and I learn how to lead a Christian youth group. On this evening we learned about the situation with rights and how to cope with law problems.



Erasmus+ “Work in progress – My logbook“

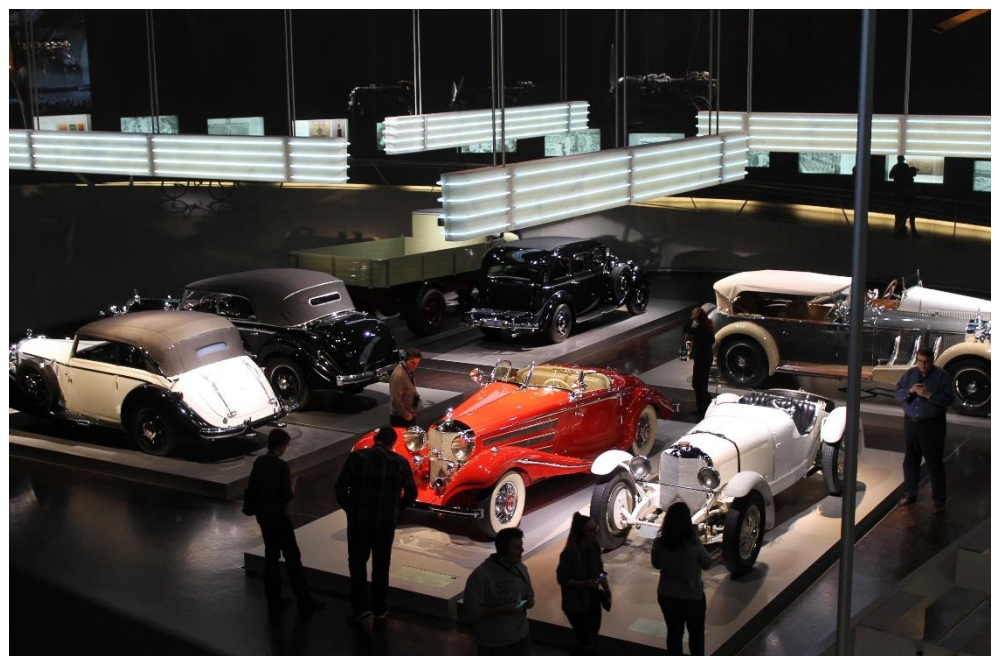
Lennart Ruhrmann

## Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017

On Saturday morning we visited the Daimler museum in Stuttgart. There we learned a great deal about the history of the car industry in Stuttgart and we got a sense of how difficult it is going to be to shrink the use of cars, what was the motion for the second debate, with such great traditions on the other side.

Afterwards, my partner and I headed straight home because of my grandmother’s birthday, which we attended to later. She lives near the city of Mannheim, so we directly departed again. After a two hour drive we met my cousins, my uncle and aunt and my grandparents. Together we celebrated cheerfully and had a very fun evening.

On this day I did not do a lot of work together with the group though, but I had more time to do research alone and gather some more information about our topic.





## Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Still at my grandparent’s place we spend time with my family, went on a walk and played a few games. In the afternoon I then focused more on the debate again and worked on arguments and other things to state for our side, but did not really communicate with my group members.

Gathering information is an important part for preparing a debate though and must be done at some point. Still, we could have been more effective as a group if we for example had arranged different tasks for the research.

In the evening, when we had gotten home again, we met with most of the other students to go bowling in Esslingen. There we could get our minds off the work and just have a happy end of the weekend with the other kids.



## Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

On Monday morning for all German students the only thing on schedule was school. Sometimes it was really frustrating to sit in a boring lesson while thinking about all the useful preparation that could be done for the debate. But it is also an important aspect of group projects, that despite the relevant work or current issues you still have other duties like school.

In the afternoon we then finally met up in our group and combined all the information we had collected over the past days. We created our team line, from which we planned on winning the debate. Also we arranged the speaking order of our group for the debate on Tuesday

In my opinion we worked together very well and were really productive, for we had mostly similar thoughts and thus did not need to discuss a lot.

Afterwards we could enjoy baking cookies, which was great to relax after the stressful day. It was a lot of fun to share one of the best things about Christmas with people from other countries. While talking about each own's special traditions we successfully baked several typical Christmas cookies and gifted them to the happy exchange students.

In the evening my partner and I then met up with some of the participants of the Erasmus-project and just had a nice time playing games and talking to each other, before most of us had to work on their part for the debate on the following day.





## Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The first hour back in school together consisted of stressful group work in which we discussed last issues and final points for the debate. Fortunately no big problems occurred so we could, somewhat relaxed actually, hold the first debate as the opposition of the motion “This house believes that fresh air is a human right”.

Looking back I can say that we can be quite satisfied with our performance. I think we presented our arguments very clearly and maybe even managed to convince most parts of the audience. That perhaps resulted out of our good coordination beforehand, in which we ordered the arguments very effective to weaken the side of the proposition.

Afterwards we listened to the other, very well executed, debate and watched how the brochure about the whole Erasmus programme had turned out. Then we evaluated the past time and came to the conclusion that it had been a significant week with great experiences, particularly getting to know so many people from around Europe.

During the lunchtime I then had a lot of fun just talking to some of those people, until we left for the Christmas market in Esslingen. There we watched at nearly all of the attractions and bought quite a lot of stuff. In the evening, when everybody was freezing, we finally went home.

Since it was the last evening, before the exchange students were going to leave Germany, we decided to meet up again in a group of eight people and had a great evening with a lot of laughter, but also some tears. After exchanging all necessary information to stay in touch, we said goodbye for good and headed home, hoping to see each other again some time.

