



During the week from 25. to 29.01.2016, the **Erasmus+ Project** – a project devised by the European Union – will take place at Goetheschule. The aim of the project is to make European countries – in particular their young people – grow closer together.

A good opportunity to achieve this is of course to look together at shared history, so this time the meeting will broach the issue of World War I. Therefore, students from Goetheschule and our four partner schools in Denmark, Poland, Croatia and the Netherlands will meet up during the **“Erasmus Peace Week”** in order to recreate and renew the Peace Conference of Versailles 1918.

True to original, several debates and lobbying will take place every day and a new, different and better peace treaty may be elaborated and signed by all parties. The students will associate themselves with topics from history, literature, arts,

GOETHESCHULE ESSEN
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philosophy, science and politics, and will thereby advance their development as members of global society.

The development of new communities is also particularly important. **Erasmus+** is intended to develop historical comprehension as well as a new European identity: Bridges should be built, bridges to other cultures and new friends.

At the end of the week, a new peace treaty will be declared. Every six months another conference will take place; each time with another topic and at another partner school. We are looking forward to welcoming our guests here in Essen and having interesting debates!

Timon Urs Knapp, Year 11

Interview with Mr Boergen about the Erasmus+ project

Student: How would you describe our Erasmus project in just a few words?

Mr.B: I hate this kind of question. (laughs) Well, maybe "international" and "new world order".

S: How would you describe Erasmus to someone who has never heard about it?

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Mr.B: It's basically simulating the historical peace conference in 1919 in Paris that led to a new world order using the "MUN debating system", in which students are delegates from participating countries to reach their pre-war goals.

S: Whose idea was this whole thing?

Mr.B: Since we've been taking part in MUNs in a number of years, pupils kept asking me when our school would organize a conference, so when we had the chance to participate in a large-scale Erasmus+ project, it was only natural that I came up with the idea of "building up a mountain of peace" (laughs) which is a huge monument. Seriously!

But to get there we wanted to take the students on a historical journey from World War One to the present and fathom the consequences of World War One so we obviously needed to start with the Paris Peace Conference. So I combined the students' desire and this idea of the consequences and I drafted the conference-module, "MUN-style", because we all love the debate, don't we?

S: And now last but not least: what are you most looking forward to?

Mr.B: The debate, definitely, because it's always great to see the students putting into practice what they've acquired since they've started to learn English.

S: Thank you for your time!

Mr.B: You're welcome.

Felix Weimer, Year 11



Getting to Know the German Way of Life

Welcome to our beautiful country!! – Here are some facts about Germany:

- the official name for Germany is *Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BRD)* or in English *Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)*
- since 2005 the chancellor has been *Angela Merkel*
Fun Fact: as the first female chancellor she has her own Barbie doll
- Germany has an area of *357.021 km² (137,847 sq mi)*
Fun Fact: It is slightly smaller than Montana (USA) but still one of the biggest countries in Europe
- with over *82 million* inhabitants, Germany has one of the largest populations in Europe
Fun Fact: it is also one of Europe's leading beer consumer nations
- the capital city has shifted around all over the country, but since 1990 it has been *Berlin* in the North-East

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The most (un)important facts!

- Germans are punctual – the German railway just never heard about that :o
- Germans are direct – “thanks“ means “no” and “please“ means “yes” (if you ever ask someone for a drink... good luck!)
- never wish someone “Happy Birthday“ in advance – this is bad luck
- Germany is “the land of poets and thinkers“ – they also invented gummy bears
- Germans make cake with Fanta (tasty)
- there are over 800 million Currywursts eaten in Germany every year
- with 300 kinds of breads it appeared very relevant for Germany to open bread museums
- Germans know how to celebrate folk festivals – but the one known worldwide as “Oktoberfest“ actually starts in September.... confusing
- Hamburgers got their name from the German city Hamburg
- white tennis socks worn with sandals and leather shorts are not just stereotypes (unfortunately)

Victoria von Nathusius,

Year 11



The Partner Schools

Prva gimnazija Varazdin Varazdin, Croatia



The Prva gimnazija Varazdin was founded 379 years ago at the time of the Counter Reformation. From its very outset and throughout the centuries it became the centre of cultural and educational activity and influenced the development of culture and science in both the town of Varazdin and Croatia. Always upholding the humanistic ideas of its founders.

Today, PGV offers three national programmes (general, scientific and foreign languages), a bilingual programme in English and Croatian and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It also offers the German language diploma exam as well as the ECDL and OSD exams.

Its students have achieved excellent results in the regular programmes, national and international sports, scientific competitions, mathematics, physics, informatics, chemistry and German.

The school offers multiple extra-curricular activities which help to foster the individual talents and creativity of its student body.

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From left to right:
Mia, Franjo, Ema,
Lorena and Sonja
(not in the picture)
from Croatia.



The German delegates:
Claudius, Alexander,
Nikolas, Ekin, Philip,
Robert, Dominique
plus
Harriet, Jakob, Kim,
Patrick and Pia
(not in the picture)

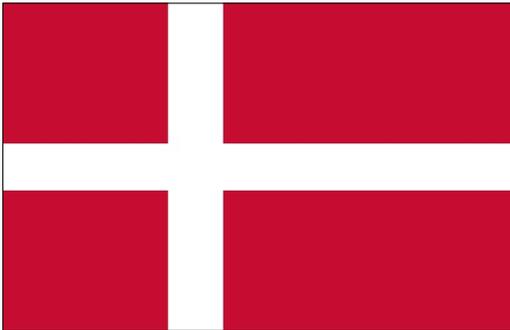


Front row from
left to right:
Victoria, Nicole,
Laura and Signe;
back row from
left to right:
Joseph and
Oliver from
Denmark

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The school has been involved in a number of projects of the Council of Europe and European Commission and is a member of UNESCO's Associated Schools, working on projects of promotion and protection of national, global, cultural and natural heritage, as well as on projects of intercultural education.

Ikast-Brande Gymnasium **Ikast, Denmark**



The Ikast-Brande is an academically-oriented school with a tradition of excellence in academics, music and sports.

Special attention is given to intellectual development, citizenship, communication, teamwork, and social/interpersonal skills. Its aim is to enable its students to become well-rounded individuals who care and understand about all of the world around them.

Students follow a complete academic programme and can choose from a variety of academic courses in many subject areas. They participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities through which they learn self-discipline and experience the value of team spirit.

The IBG offers gifted programmes in music, mathematics and sports.

Ikast-Brande Gymnasium offers three different school graduation qualifications: The IB Diploma Programme, the normal High School Diploma and the HF-Exam which is equivalent to the German "Fachhochschulreife" Diploma.

Goetheschule **Essen, Germany**



Goetheschule, a co-educational school founded in 1899, has through its multi-faceted cultural tradition influenced for many years the cultural life in Essen. Through the participation of many of its students in the school choirs and school orchestras it boasts of a particularly tight-knitted and culturally active student body.

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Goetheschule, as an IB World School places a strong emphasis on International Learning, Natural Sciences and Music as well as on the acquisition of language skills enabling many of its students to learn up to four foreign languages in the course of their studies.

As a MINT school, Goetheschule offers a particularly strong programme in Mathematics, Science, Computer Science and Technology. Through various partnerships with local businesses, the school enjoys a well-established profile in the local economy. In addition it also offers a solid sports programme, with highly successful teams in many different disciplines. The school places particular attention to the promotion of girls and of gifted students. In addition, its students can choose from a wide variety of extra curricular activities.

One interesting fact is the continuity of its students body across many generations. Three of its most famous former students are Gustav Heinemann (former president of the Federal Republic of Germany), the industrialist Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and Alfred Müller-Armack, the inventor of the social market economy.



Rotterdam International Secondary School, Rotterdam, The Netherlands



The RISS, located in Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, offers an exciting learning experience for students studying in their IGCSE and IBDP programmes. Its student body includes students from over 50 different countries. Their ages ranging between 11 and 18 years.

Although English is its working language, it also offers a strong "own language" programme which enables its students to continue to develop their own language skills as well.

RISS is a semi-private school, supported by the Dutch government as well as by fees paid by the parents and is an affiliate of the Wolfert van Borselen School Group thus offering its students the opportunity to study English while experiencing Dutch culture and language through social interaction with their Dutch peers.

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The Dutch delegation



Piotr, Sylwia, Marcin, Mikołaj, Anita, Natalia and Kajetan from Poland

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The school offers state of the art science labs, a media centre and a theatre. It also provides a dedicated EAL resource centre providing specialised training in language skills development and has a very active MUN and Human Rights Group. Many of its students excel at the extra-curricular level and on the national scale in areas such as music, sports and debate. RISS is known for its welcoming and very friendly environment in which the diversity of origin of their student and teaching bodies is celebrated.

Paderewski Private Secondary School Lublin, Poland



The Paderewski Private Grammar School is the oldest private school in Lublin, having been founded in 1993. It has offered the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme since 1999.

Its students consistently achieve the highest scores in the country and have won numerous awards and competitions. The main pride of the school is its choir Akademos and the theatre group. It has a developed CAS programme and organises

many events for students and local community. This project is the 5th they are engaged in.

The school is located in a modern, fully equipped building and boasts the largest sports hall among all the schools in Lublin. It is the only school in Lublin which introduced a modern ICT enhanced programme of learning.

Alexandra Link, Year 8

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