DISCOVERING Y(E)U

📍 **CANDRIAI**

28/11 > 04/12 2024

Where?

The meeting point was in Trento, a beautiful town with a population of about 120,000 inhabitants. Trento is situated in the north of Italy, near the border with Austria, and is known for its beautiful countryside, with **lovely mountains** and lakes. It is an excellent opportunity for hiking, sailing, and mountain bikes trips.

ACCOMODATION:

The house was located in **Candriai**, a mountain area nearby Trento. The house is a **self-management house** with a nice equipped kitchen, a common room and shared bedrooms for 3-4 people. There will be wi-fi, a projector for music and movie nights and a wide outdoor space for activities.

TReNTo 2024
Capitale Europea del Volontariato

The Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) launched the European Volunteering Capital Competition in 2013 **to strengthen, inspire and celebrate volunteering** and the impact made by volunteers at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen volunteering.

In 2024 Trento is also the Italian Capital of Volunteering!
The title is awarded by CSVnet, under the patronage of ANCI and with the involvement of the National Forum of the Third Sector and Caritas italiana.

CSV TRENTINO
ETS

Trento **European Volunteering Capital**

Co-funded by the European Union

TReNTo 2024
Capitale Europea del Volontariato

Partners

- Europa aquì
- CEV -Centre for European Volunteer
- Wolontariat Gdańsk
- Union Forum
- CSV Trentino

Local associations we met with

Fondazione Trentina Alcide De Gasperi

Fondazione Antonio Megalizzi

Forum Trentino per la pace e i diritti umani

Erasmus +

The project was funded by the European Union through the Erasmus + programme, which for the period 2021-2027 places a strong focus on **social inclusion**, the **green** and **digital transitions**, and promoting young people's **participation in democratic life.**
It supports priorities and activities set out in the European Education Area, Digital Education Action Plan and the European Skills Agenda.

For more information, see the following link:
https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/about-erasmus/what-is-erasmus

What is this project about?

Discovering y(e)u youth exchange is all about **understanding what EU citizenship means** today and what is its future. It is important to listen to what young people have to say about their vision on being "European": do they all share and agree on values that built the Union? Does being a good EU citizen mean for them to vote in local or European elections, to go out with "Fridays for Future", to know EU environmental or EU political agenda, to open EU borders to refugees? Let's find out together!

Participants

25 young people
between the ages of 18 and 30

Origin:
- Italy
- Belgium
- Ukraine
- Spain
- Poland

Schedule

28/11 > Arrival

29/11 > getting to know each other and participate in the **European Volunteering Capital closing ceremony in Trento**.

30/11 > learn about the origins of the citizenship and reflect together on **how we see the future of the European citizenship**, through workshops, role plays and group work, debates and open discussions

01/12 > visiting the **Museum** of one of the fathers of the Union, **Alcide De Gasperi** in Pieve Tesino.

02/12 > discovering Trento

03/12 > evaluating the activities of the youth exchange and offer space to the group to share their experience.

04/12 > departures

Topics

- Climate
- Democracy
- Education
- Migration
- Labour Market

Let's talk about them for each country!

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN...

CLIMATE CRISIS

WHAT are SOME PRACTICAL examples TO COMBAT...

HOW DOES your COUNTRY ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE?

IS THERE ANY COOPERATION BETWEEN YOUTH & AUTHORITIES?

HOW DO YOU THINK EUROPEAN COLLABORATION CAN IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION?

WHAT'S THE ROLE OF YOUTH in ...

HOW IS DEMOCR PERCIEVED AND VALUED IN your countr

DEMOCRACY

' CAN YOU BE A political CANDIDATE ?

WHAT IS THE Voting age IN YOUR COUNTRY ?

is IT MANDATORY ?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

ARE YOUTH COUNCILS ? IN YOUR COUNTRY

HOW ENGAGED ARE YOUNG PEOPLE ?

INSERTION TO THE...

& FIRST JOB
WHAT ARE THE main challenges?

WHAT IS THE LIVING COST in your COUNTRY?

LABOUR market

HOW DOES migration affect the labour market in your country?

What is the minimum wage? and the salary range.

HOW DOES THE GOVERMENT SUPPORT YOUNGSTERS IN ENTE THE LABOUR MARK

What are the challenges of migrants in your country?

added value of

MIGRATION

WHAT are some INTEGRATION policies OF MIGRANTS in your country?

What is the most spoken language in your countr (name top 3)

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION IN

is... ?

EDUCATION & A.I. ?

accessible to everyone?

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS in your COUNTRY?

What are some of the strenghts and weaknesses of your country's education system?

Climate crisis

- Climate activism and advocacy on the voluntering basis
: group claning of public places and nature
non-govermental animals shelters
Climate issues in Ukraine are not in priorities nowadays
  - reasons: lack of budget; war

- Grean Deal with EU by 2050
- EU4 Climate Package for Ukraine
-

Migration

— process of migration is not common, but instead process of immigration
— migrants in Ukraine are facing such challenges:
  • language barrier → lack of job oportunities
  • religion diversity is not widespread

Labour market

- 150 €
- mounthly expenses 150€ × 4
- Tuwga from Zelenskyy (joke)
- grands for opening small business
- requirements of higher education and experience for the 1st job

Ukraine

Education

- External examination (3HO)
- national multy subject test (HMT)

who passed these exams good

accessible ← yes

weaknesses
- coruption ↘ low level (exceptional case)
- outdated system
- strict rules
- dificulties in education and work balance

strengths
- european curriculum
- variety of elective subjects
- high-level of students knowledge and skills
- International collaboration and mobility opport
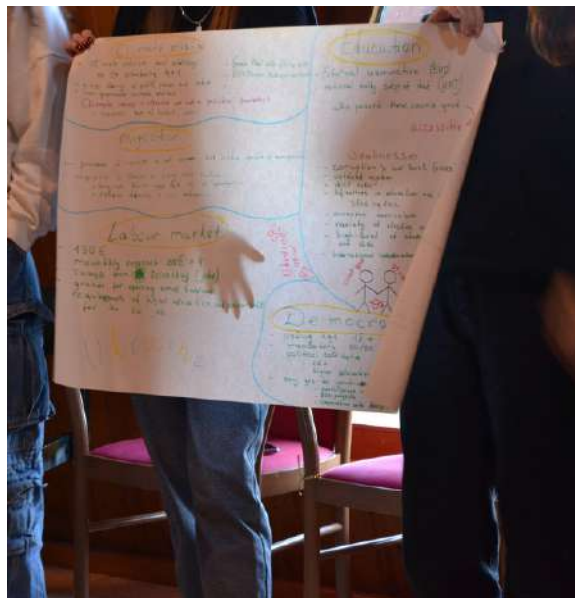
Ukraine now

chat gpt   student

Democracy
- is one of the values of Ukrain politics

- voting age 18+
- mandatory 50/50
- political candidates
  · 18+
  · higher education (optional, preferable
- say yes to youth council
  - participance in local governance
  - ESN projects
  - cooperation with foreign youth council

AND NOW LET'S FIND OUT THE

RESULTS

OF EACH GROUP!!

ITALY

Democracy

- young people **distrust** the political system, so they don't take part in it. They are not the priority for the political system due to the aging demographics
- youth councils are only related to schools and universities, just some municipalities have them
- voting from 18, not mandatory

Education

- support to students who play **sports** at competition level
- ERASMUS opportunities to **study abroad**, but the government does not cover all the expenses
- the system is divided into 3 levels, mainly in public schools

Strength:

- in uni low income, students receive **economical support** based on their income and their good grades

Weakness

- the system is old and it **should be renovated**
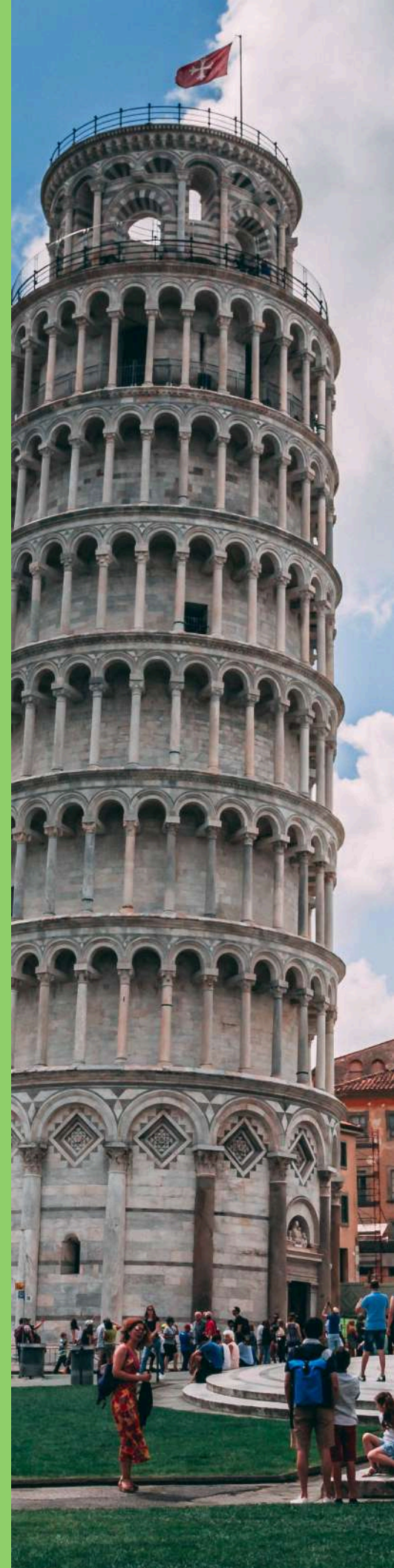
Migration
- due to the geographical position, Italy is the **first country of arrivals** for many people
- it is hard to get legal documents to enter Italy, therefore a lot of migrants enter the country illegally
- it's a big political topic, but the debates are **not solution-oriented**

Labour Market
- there is **no minimum wage** for everybody → some sectors have common contract agreed with the government → they are 20++ yo and workers **strike a lot**
- we have strong **industrial sector** and we export abroad a lot of handmade products → strong **craftsmanship**

Climate
- young people feel more **involved** than other generations
- it's not a big political issues
- **small initiatives** to protect and take care of the environment (ex. cleaning beaches and parks)

UKRAINE

Climate

- climate activism and advocacy on the volunteering basis
- group cleaning of public places and nature
- non-governmental animals shelters
- climate issues in Ukraine are **not priorities** → reasons: lack of budget, war
- Green Deal with EU by 2050
- EU4 Climate Package for Ukraine

Migration

- process of migration is not common, but instead process of **immigration**
- migrants in Ukraine are facing such challenges
- languages barrier → **lack of job opportunities**
- religion diversity is not widespread

Labour market
- 150 euro
- monthly expenses 150 euro x 4
- grands for opening small business
- requirements of higher education and experience for the 1st job

Education
- external examination (3HO)
- national multi subject test (HMT) → who passes these exams good → accessible yes

Weaknesses:
- **corruption** ↘ low levels (exceptional cases)
- outdated system
- **strict rules**
- difficulties in education and work balance

Strenghts
- european curriculum
- **variety of elective subjects**
- high-level of students knowledge and skills
- international collaboration and mobility opportunities

Democracy
- voting age 18+
- mandatory 50/50
- political candidates: 18+ and higher education
- say yes to youth council
- participant in local governance
- ESN projects
- **Cooperation with foreign youth council** is one of the values of ukrainian politic

SPAIN

Climate change
- We're more concerned of climate changes than previous generations
- Volunteering labour in natural spaces
- **Conferences** about the topic
- Recycling and upcycling
- Use of **apps** (Whatsapp, Vinted, Toogoodtogo)
- Use of **local resources**

Migration
- **Inclusive**: more foreign population than local
- **Spanish lessons** and intercultural activities
- Top 3 (local): Spanish, Catalan, Galician
- Top 3 (international): Spanish, English, Arabic

Democracy:
- Voting age: 18
- Not mandatory
- Youth councils exist, but no power
- People worried in difficult subjects only (when the politicians make huge mistakes)
- young people are disappointed: **demotivation**

Labour market
- Minimum wage: 1134 euro/month (but salary)
- No help from the government
- Living cost variety
- Foreigners fill unwanted jobs

Education
- Accessible to everyone
- Exchanges and Erasmus programmes in PF and university
- Not enough government funds. Frequent **strikes**
- Teachers must pass an exam to get a job in a public school
- **Fragmented system**: different measures depending on the region
- Narrow-minded opinions (some of the schools aren't opened to change)
- **AI** as a tool that helps in different activities

POLAND

Climate crisis
- Despite the implementation of multiple sustainable energy resources Poland still relies heavily on **coal and oil**
- A lot of youth protests about the climate crisis → **No government - youth collaboration**
- **Mandatory recycling**/ trash segregation
- 39,6% of Poland is covered by protected areas

Education
- accessible to everyone for **free,** also university
- primary school starts at 7 yo
- 46,3% polish people between age 25-34 finished university
- **Erasmus** - very popular - polish students benefit from EU scholarships and exchange opportunities, allowing them to study abroad at reduced or no cost
- Poland receives **substantial EU funds** to modernize schools, universities and training centres improving infrastructure and access to resources like new technology and digital tools
- general knowledge, more theoretical, less practical (-)
- **digital exclusion** (-)

Labour market
- Inflation → cost of living 700 euro
- Since joining EU(2004), **unemployment rate has dropped** significantly → 2004 = 20% vs 2024 = 4,9% ((under 25) = 10%)
- **Zero income tax** for young people (**under 26**) → exception: more than 2500 per month
- minimum wage 4300zł = 1000 euro (with tax)
- help with starting your own business
- **university support**
- it's harder to find a job due to migration
- skills mismatch

Democracy
- Vote > 18. Not mandatory - 50/70%
- Youth councils local
- Politics: for president > 35yo;
  for parlament > 21yo; for senate > 30 yo
- Y**oung people are more aware** nowadays

Migration:
- The most spoken language: Nacional: Polish (97%), Kashubian, Silesian
  Immigrant: Ukrainian, Russian, Vietnamese
- Around 1 million Ukrainians live in Poland - workers, students
- According to statistics, over 2 million Poles have migrated to other EU countries since Poland joined the EU, mostly to Germany and UK → but nowadays they are **coming back** to Poland, because the quality of living is getting better
- Access to social benefits for Ukrainian people (refugees)
- Free access to education (mostly in Polish)
- Free language courses

BELGIUM

Education
- Multidisciplinary-friendly school (diversity)
- funding for uni-degrees (study debt)
- international opportunity (erasmus, financial)
- kindergarten, highschool,... → free (social cohesion)
- disability → long waiting list → for older people (CVO)

Strengths and weaknesses
- regional differences (+/-)
- **financial aid** (+)
- **benefits for students** (ex. public transports) (+)
- high educational **quality** (+)
- too little teachers (-)
- pisa test → quality↘ (-)
- institutionalisation (too many deciding institutions)

Migration
Top 3 languages → Dutch, French, English
Current situation?

- **long waiting-time**
- inefficient
- poor living situation
- **slow bureaucracy**
- integration (language-barrere)
- polarisation
- different treatment (Ukraine vs Syria) → xenofobia (media)

Insertion to the LM. Challenges

- Network
- Job-platforms
- Diploma-inflation
- Discrimination

Government and youngsters?

- dual learning (practical + theoretical)
- financial support to motivate education

Democracy

- voting → Eu 16yo vs 18 yo → youth institution
- mandatory voting: (was) for all levels

Youth councils

- mandatory for consulting youth councils
- importance of collaboration
- youth washing
- **youth movements** → bridge makers with politicians + sport movements + tutoring
- engage the youth in translating their needs

Can you be a political candidate? YES!

- 18yo and no criminal record
- Belgian nationality
- everyone has chances
- a lot of power for a party-leader

EUROPEAN SUPERHERO

At the end of each presentation, the groups came together to exchange ideas about what an ideal Europe might look like, always addressing all the issues.

CLIMATE

- use more **public** transport
- use **renewable** energy
- converting **waste into useful resources**
- taking care of the environment
- introducing **laws for regulation of industry**
- combining entertainment with ecological volunteering
- encouraging consumption of **local** food to reduce exports
- teaching about the importance of respecting the environment
- **stop deforestation**
- ban the use of plastic bags and only use **cloth bags**
- reduce, reuse, recycle

DEMOCRACY

- vote: mandatory or not? → people feel pressure vs democratic relevance
- **educate** teenagers about politics from the age of 16, officially allowed to vote from the age of 18
- more influence of schools and youth councils → bring ideas to politicians
- higher level of well being (how? public services, better healthcare... public vs private) in a country. More interest in how a government works and provides for the people = more interest in politics.
- practical details:

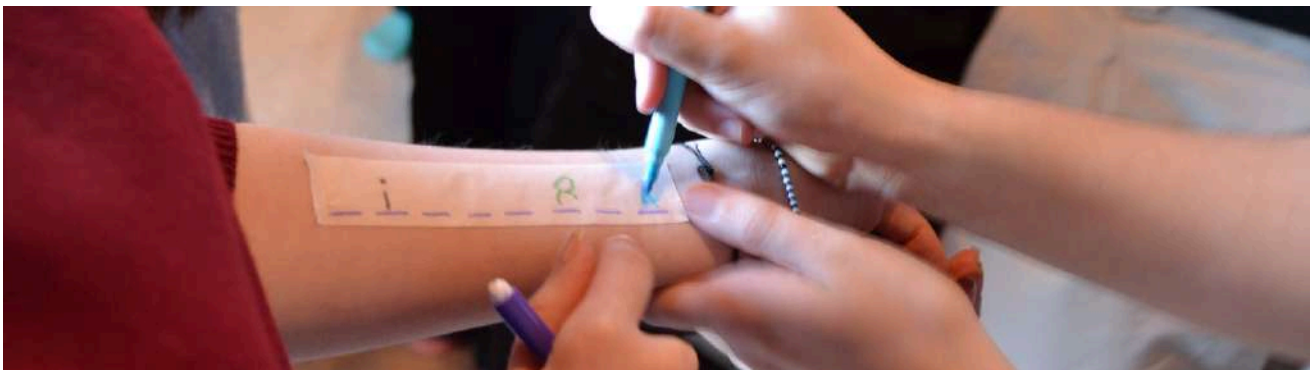when someone can be eligible for political representation? 18y, no criminal record

presidency or (monarchie with) parliament? and chambers with the same powers? → constitution!!

EDUCATION

- public universities must be **free**
- 16 years should be the minimum working age
- **opportunities abroad**
- money to be studying abroad
- pass all subject to do an erasmus
- use it properly
- be aware of social media platforms usage
- to cancel the national external exams

MIGRATION

- LEGAL PROTECTION → PROVIDING SHELTER FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM
- BUILD A PROTECTION SYSTEM
- SOLIDARITY
- CONTINUE EDUCATION
- OPTIONAL LANGUAGE CLASSES
- POSITIVE FRAMING
- INTERVIEW

LABOUR MARKET

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
WTH OPPENING THE BUISNESS

- INFO HOW TO DO IT
- MORE ACCESABLE
- CENTRES WITH INFO
- BE YOUR OHN BOSS

JOB OPPURTUNITIES

- DELIVER OPPURTUNITIES FOR RURAL AREA
- MORE MONEY FOR SMALLER CITIES AND DEVELOP JOB MARKET
- BUILD NEW FACILITIES IN SMALL CITIES
- CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

KEEP POTENTIAL IN THE COUNTRY

- BETTER ECONOMY

GENDER EQUALITY

- SALARY
- SAME AGE OF RETIRENMENT

START THE JOB WITH EXPERIENCE

- ↓ taxes for youth
- more practical skills
- paid internships
- adjust innovative education ideas
- enter the job market early !

SUPPORT YOUTH IN ECONOMICAL WAY

- ↓ RENT DURING STUDIES
- SUPPORTING FRESH GRADUATED

FAIR TAXES

- ACCORDING TO THE SALARY

EMMIGRANTS

- ACTIVATE THEM
- SPED UP BIUROCRACY
- USE THER SKILLS TO BUIL ECONOMY
- MAKE IT EASY TO START WORKING