

Young Activists for Peace

Youth Exchange:

“Young Activists for Peace – Welcome Refugees!”

Giessen

July 16-30, 2016



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Daily Reports
by Participants

Giessen

16.-30.07.2016

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weltweit e.V.

Contents

	Page
1. Introduction, Aims and Objectives	2
2. Program Overview	3-5
3. Daily Reports	6-22
4. Conclusions	22-23
5. Annex 1 Final evaluation by participants	23
6. Annex 2 Partner Organizations	24
7. Annex 4 Articles, Links and Social Media	24

The context of the “Young Activists for Peace –Welcome Refugees!” project:

War, poverty and desperate living conditions are forcing millions of people to leave their countries and too many of them risk/lose their lives in search of asylum in the EU. For too long, governments have denied to acknowledge the cruel reality of refugees dying in the Mediterranean Sea and are still not able to agree on common strategies to enable asylum seekers to find safer ways out of the civil war in Syria for example. EU governments are more divided than ever in the EU's history. Young people all over Europe are affected and worried about how this crisis will affect their own chances of living in a united and peaceful Europe. Welcoming refugees for many of them is a duty of active citizenship and solidarity, for others unfortunately it is a reason to express racism and hate, and even worse, to threaten those who help and welcome refugees. It is particularly disturbing that young people are easily influenced by nationalist and racist tendencies, discriminating and attacking refugees without ever having had a personal encounter with one of them. This was the main reason for carrying out a youth exchange project on this topic in summer 2016.

About this Youth Exchange activity:

This exchange activity lasted two weeks and was carried out in July 2016 in cooperation with a local protestant church community “Petrusgemeinde” which organizes counseling, educational and leisure time activities for groups of refugees who have just arrived in Germany. Most of the refugees are from countries such as Afghanistan, Syria and Pakistan. Local partner was also the “Reception Center for Refugees of the Federal State Hessen” (HEAE Hessische Erstaufnahme Einrichtung).

Groups of 5 young people from 5 countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece and Turkey) met and learnt about the concept “Friedensstifter” (young people as agents of peace)” and about methods of empowerment with sensitive groups. The concept is used in school and non-school educational institutions. The methodology is based on a set of exercises related to different aspects of violence, conflict and conflict resolution in groups.

Beside the pedagogical working units the participants were directly exposed to the situation of refugees in Germany. Under guidance and in agreement with the local partners they could visit refugees in their accommodation and organize leisure time activities with them – if there was enough interest for that which was the case. They could get in contact with the residents of the Refugee Reception Centre and learnt about their life stories, difficulties and perspectives. In addition the group made excursions to visit and learn from institutions that support and counsel refugees like the refugee law clinic and an institution for trauma therapy. Group and plenary discussions were held on immigration and asylum policies of the EU member states and Turkey and how these are affecting the situation of asylum seekers and peace and unity. Finally the group tried to find creative answers to the question “what does it mean to be a refugee welcoming society?” and made statements about their views in visual arts, photo, video, forum theatre, crafts and music workshops.

Program Overview

Day 1 Saturday, 16.07.2016

Welcome

Get to know each other, Orientation

Dinner

Day 2 -Sunday, 17.07.2016

Breakfast

Introduction to the topic, presentation of the program and of the participants.

Motivation, expectations, conference rules, clarifications of roles

(Participants, Group Leaders, Trainers, Facilitators).

Coffee break

Getting to know each other activities

Understanding the level of commitment on the topic by the participants

Lunch break

Presentations on the refugee situation in the participants home countries

Dinner

Day 3 Monday, 18.07.2016

Breakfast

Training with Christoph Pinkert on integration and values

Lunch break

Training with Christoph Pinkert on integration and values

Dinner

Day 4 Tuesday, 19.07.2016

Breakfast

Getting to know activities

Visit at the temporary refugee home in Giessen

Lunch break

Training with Christoph Pinkert on integration and values

Dinner

Day 5 Wednesday, 20.07.2016

Breakfast

Training with Christoph Pinkert on integration and values

Lunch break

Training with Christoph Pinkert on integration and values

Dinner

Day 6 Thursday, 21.07.2016

Breakfast

Preparation on the workshops for the refugee center

Lunch break

Training with Christoph Pinkert in Conflict Mapping

Dinner

Day 7 Friday, 22.07.2016

Breakfast

Planning for the week-end

Preparing the frame for the visibility activity of "Raising Peace Campaign"

Lunch Break

Free afternoon

Dinner

Day 8 Saturday, 23.07.2016

Breakfast

Excursion to Marburg

Day 9 Sunday, 24.07.2016

Breakfast

Free Day to explore the city

Day 10 Monday, 25.07.2016

Breakfast

Preparation of the subject offers for asylum seekers

Lunch Break

Workshops with asylum seekers in HEAE

Reflection Group

Dinner

Day 11 Tuesday, 26.07.2016

Breakfast

Workshops with Refugee Law Clinic

Lunch Break

Workshops with asylum seekers in HEAE

Reflection Group

Dinner

Day 12 Wednesday, 27.07.2016

Breakfast

Antiracist city tour in Frankfurt

Lunch Break

Workshops with asylum seekers in HEAE

Reflection Group

Dinner

Day 13 Thursday, 28.07.2016

Breakfast

Meeting with the Local Press

Presentation of ICJA e.V. by Nikolaus Ell

Lunch Break

Workshops with asylum seekers in HEAE

Reflection Group

Dinner

Day 14 Friday, 29.07.2016

Breakfast

Evaluation

Lunch Break

Cleaning Plan

Dinner

Farewell Party

Day 15 Saturday, 30.07.2016

Cleaning and Departure

Daily Reports

Day 1 - Saturday, July 16th

Today, 18 participants from France, Belgium, Germany and Greece arrived in Giessen for the youth exchange "Welcome Refugees". We were sorry to learn that the Turkish participants could not make today because of the problems their country is currently facing. However, all the participants really wish they will be able to join us in the coming days.

When we arrived, we were welcomed by the ICJA team waiting for us in the local church. We visited the venue as well as the local school that opened its doors for us and offered us a place to sleep. When we came back to the venue, a nice dinner was waiting for us and we enjoyed a quiet time to have some small talks.



After dinner, we had some ice-breakers and funny name games, so we could get to know each other. As always, remembering all the names is a big challenge but everyone is eager to try.

Another ritual when starting a youth exchange camp is to establish some rules to organize the community life. To do that, the leaders, who had already met in Berlin to

prepare this youth exchange explained to the group their specific role. For example, someone is responsible for the keys, someone else for the kitchen... All the tasks are shared but a person is in charge to make sure that all the participants actually participate to the community life.

We also had a quick overview of the coming two weeks and now everyone is looking forward to attend the trainings, work in the refugee camp and meet the refugees hosted there. As it was late and some participants had had a very long journey, the group split: some people went

to sleep while others enjoyed the evening discovering the city and getting to know the new comers.

Tomorrow is another day, probably full of new experiences and surprises!

Day 2 - Sunday, July 17th

Morning

On the first day of our workshop, we gathered all together in the meeting room, ready to officially start our workshop here. All teams introduced themselves and their team leaders. The facilitators spent some time to present us what the schedule will be in the following two weeks.



Starting from the everyday schedule that will be followed, which includes group meetings in certain hours of the day (for breakfast, lunch, breaks) and finalizing with the kind of activities that we are going to follow and the persons who will lead on those. Due to the schedule, the first week will mostly have learning – group activities and trainings for the refugees' situation, while the second one will have visits in the temporary house for refugees of Giessen, called HEAE.

After taking an idea of the two weeks that are about to follow, we started playing a few educative games. In the first one, we made a circle, divided in teams of two and trying to pass from one to another, a pen. The first team that would complete the circle, would be the winner. The scope of the game was to promote trust and cooperation within the team. The next games, were about "catching" the other, mostly playing them in a circle. After taking a break from games, we had a conversation about the things that we Do and Don't want to see, while living with each other in this youth exchange. This was actually an important session, as the purpose

was also to understand how each of us is different and has different needs and how important it is to respect each member of the groups.

The last and most important part of the activities, had to do with getting to know each other's country, geographically and explain in what ways each region is affected by the refugee crisis. Divided by country, trying to make a "Europe's human map", we present where our countries are and what route the refugees in our group were following, to get into their destination. Lastly, we shared our experiences and knowledge about the refugee and migrant crisis. Every person had the chance to express their feelings and volunteer or youth exchange projects, that might had participated in the past.

By noon, we were all a little bit more familiar with the other participants! And the day continues...

Afternoon

We have been starting the second part of the day with games to wake us up. Then, in order to keep a good time and keep a good atmosphere, we started the "secret friend" game, which will last until the end of the youth exchange; you pick up a name from one person to who you are then supposed to pay more attention (be pleasant, willing to help, etc...)

Then we gather into four groups for a quarter of an hour, with the aim of finding common points between us (in order to know each other better).



Last activity was to gather into country groups (German, Belgium, Greek, France) to share what everyone knew of the situation of refugees, so that we could then share it with the whole group.

Day 3 - Monday, July 18th

Morning

After breakfast, the participants met Christoph and the training "young people as agents of peace" which he carried out started. At first the trainer asked the participants how they feel, what they believe about the topic of the exchange and what they think about the specific moment. Each participant took turns and shared their thoughts.

Afterwards, we took part in an activity, in which we played as couples and the goal was to do a handshake with each other and try to make the other person lose their balance. It was a funny activity to attend to.

After the end of the activity, the trainer presented the structure of the program, which we have to follow. When the program's presentation was over, the participants started get-to-know activities. So, each participant had to write their name on the board, explain how they got it and what it means in their mother language. Furthermore, the game "zipp- zapp" began. One participant had to stand in the middle of the circle, which the participants have formed. That person pointed a member of the circle and simultaneously shouted "zipp" or "zapp" and the other person was supposed to tell the person's name sitting right or left to them respectively.



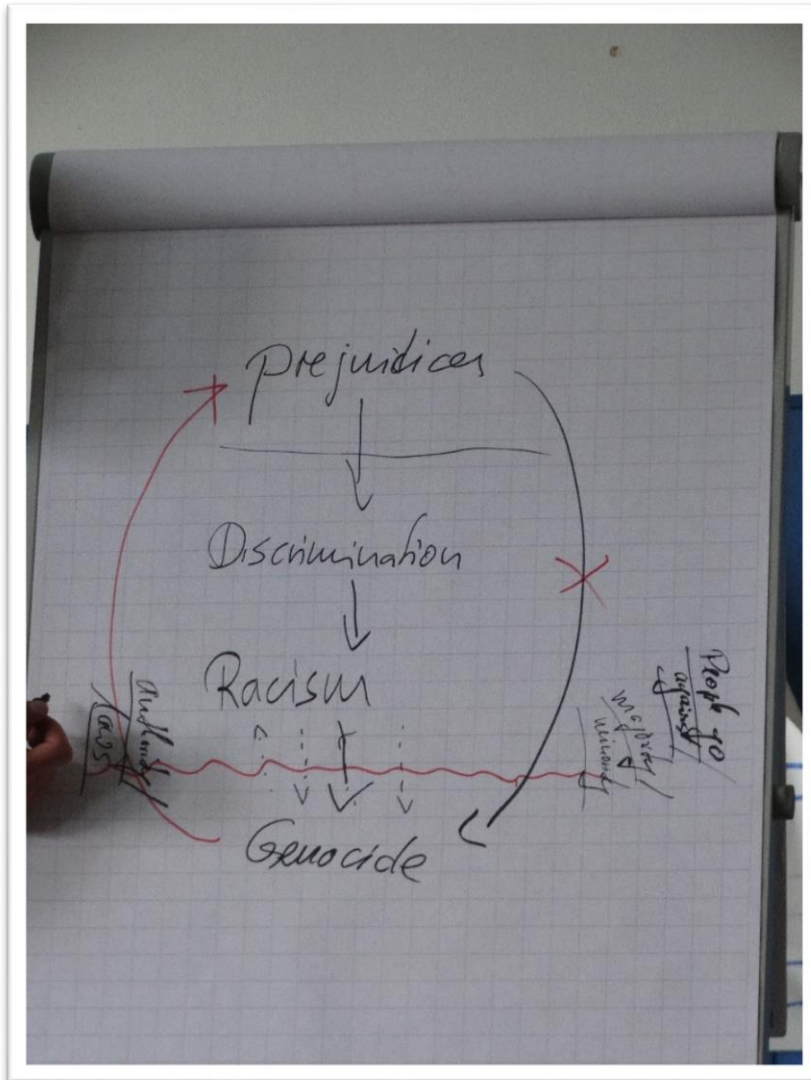
The most important activity of this morning was "biographical work". We had to write or draw some significant moments of our lives and explain how those moments led us to apply for and come to this youth exchange. We were divided in two groups of eleven members and presented our work to our group. The activity ended and then it was time for lunch.

Afternoon

Our afternoon activities started with a game, in which the participants formed couples and tried to push each other back with their palms on each other.

Then, Christoph gave red cards to one half of the group and green cards to the other half of

the group. On these cards were written opposite adjectives. Afterwards, we formed two circles based on the cards we had. The outer circle carried the green cards, that had adjectives with positive personality characteristics and the inner circle held the red cards with negative characteristics. From this game, the definitions of "prejudice", "discrimination", "racism" and "genocide" became clear to the participants. The trainer explained us how these phenomena are interconnected and we discussed a long time about them. Christoph, then, suggested that we give a hug or make a handshake with everyone from the group.



The training continued with the team discussing "othering". The trainer explained us the meaning of "othering" and let us make groups of three and share our experiences regarding to this matter.

Finally, Christoph told us a story and motivated us to connect this with the situation of refugee in Germany. Again, we discussed it in groups of three to four persons. When we finished our discussion, we concluded the day's training by saying how we felt about it. Then, we went for dinner.

Day 4 - Tuesday, July 19th

Morning

This morning, second day of the training with Christoph, we did a lot of games. It was a way to get to know the Turkish team that arrived last night. As always we started with an energizer: brothers and sisters' help. We all have a partner, a brother or a sister and there is a person that would catch any brother or sister that are alone and then, the one who is caught becomes that person.

After that we had played a second game about our personal motivations to attend this camp. By couples, we asked the other person "why are you here" and then, two more times, we asked "why", regarding to the answer that was given by the person.

The last game was with cards. Each participant chose a card that matched to some degree with his-her life and personality. It was really beautiful and colorful cards with landscape, characters... By couples, we tried to guess why the other person chose that specific card and each person explained the reasons of his – her choice. This game permitted us to get to know each other in a more original way.

Finally, we went by bus to visit a temporary refugee camp in Giessen. Workers from the camp told us a little bit about the history of the camp, a former US military base. At the moment, there are 1.100 refugees but it can host up to 10.000 persons. We had the opportunity to see the rooms where we are going to work.

Afternoon

The afternoon session started with a training about the different values.



Christoph put on the floor values like honor, freedom, faithfulness, health, beauty, truth and explained their universal meaning to the people who couldn't understand it. Then Christoph talked about the conflict that can come up through different values between people and we were separated in couples, took a paper and colors and without any other mean of communication we had to draw together the word faithfulness. Then we discussed in the circle how we felt with this activity. Was it easy to draw? Was it complicated to put on paper such a big meaning?

After that we had a small break. But before that Christoph asked us to write on moderation cards, conflicts and problems of the group and put them under the different kinds of values. After the break, the conflicts or problems written on the cards were discussed. Participants were invited to freely express their opinions and needs. Here we noticed that some of the participants who had already been to the Berlin training felt that the training methods were too similar to the ones used in Berlin, and also were not sure about their role as leaders. Some other participants couldn't find a connection between the training and our work that we were about to do next week with the refugees. The outcome of this discussion was that the needs of participants were included in the programme of the training for the coming days. It was agreed that participants would get more time to think about ethical questions and technical preparation for the next weeks' activities with refugees. The afternoon session closed with clouds of concern what the next days would bring. Then we had dinner.

Day 5 – Wednesday, July 20th

Morning

First, Christoph invited us to participate to an energizer called "Brother and sister help". Once we were warmed-up, we began by splitting in 4 groups to answer to 4 questions. The method is to take 4 large sheets of paper and write down one question in the middle of it. Each group wrote their thoughts on it. The 4 questions were;

1. What would you do with the refugees during the camp?
2. What is the main problem?
3. How could you describe the "perfect work-camp with refugees"?
4. What is the (my) meaning of this camp?

Once the exercise is done, each group summarizes one of the large sheets of paper and explains it to the all group.

We started to talk about the question 1. Lots of ideas were expressed. We grouped those ideas in 4 discussion groups;

1. Children (circus, constructions, games)
2. Voices project (record the stories of refugees and upload them on the online platform voices)

3. Pallet construction (with the help of two participants who made this project before we came up with this idea of making something sustainable for the refugee camps. The idea was to work with the people living there on how to build their own furniture, for outdoor use.)
4. Work with women (creating this group we gave the opportunity to women who maybe wouldn't want to participate in mixed groups with men, because of cultural reason, to make their own activities by constructing things useful for the every-day life in the camp)

The 4 groups had different size, from 3 to 10 participants gathered according to their interest and needs to discuss more in depth. Two leaders from each group were chosen as convenors.

After the group discussions everyone seemed to be happy and glad about the process of the activities carried out in the morning as participants had more time to prepare themselves for the activities with refugees.

Afternoon

The afternoon session included two classes referred to "Simulation-methods" and "Games-Methods". These two topics were analyzed in a way that they could be used in a refugee camp or in any other group work. The main goal of the simulation process was to understand the feeling or the thoughts of another person in a different way than asking the person directly.

After Christoph introduced us the main procedure of that method, we participated in an activity with emotion cards. We put some cards of a cartoon-creature with different expressions on the floor and after that Christoph asked us to stand above each card that was described our emotions at a certain time. The examples were how we were feeling at the particular moment, how we felt when we entered the refugee camp and how we would like to feel after finishing the youth exchange. That was a way to start a conversation about several feelings around these particular moments and see how it could work in the case of a refugee camp. We continued by learning some other methods and games that can reveal the emotions of the others about a certain point.

The next game was in a circle of chairs and one person in the middle was trying to catch a seat, while the others were changing chairs, trying to keep stand up the person in the middle. The conclusion of that game was that in such a situation somebody can feel exclusion. The last method that we learned was the "camera documentation" that can work also with refugees. The idea first was to split in pairs and set a question, such as 'What does this youth exchange mean for you personally?'. After that one had to close the eyes and the other had to lead the first person to some particular points inside the room and making him/her focus on a specific object or place, using his/her hands as binoculars and blinking for 2-3 seconds. At the end we sat down again in a circle and we discussed what were our impressions and feelings about that.

After a small break we watched two short films, which were recorded in a refugee camp where one of our participants lived as refugee from Iraq. The first one was a fast forward movie

showing several moments of the workcamp during the visit of a volunteer team. The second one was showing some interviews of refugees about their personal experience inside the camp. It was very interesting to have an idea of other activities which were carried out in a similar context in Belgium.

Day 6 - Thursday, July 21st

Morning

The morning started with the planning of the four different activity teams with Christoph's guidance. We made a concrete plan about activities, material, times, problems that may arise and responsible person for each activity. Then we came together with another group and we criticized each other's plan in order to find the weak points and help the group to make it better.

After the coffee break we started to make posters about the activities we are going to offer to the refugee camp. Then we gave our posters to the local partners of the church who gave them to HAEAE to put them around the camp and inform the people there.

Afternoon

In the afternoon Christoph offered an optional training about conflict mapping and moral courage in case of conflict situations. First of all, we made a circle and we drew the so called "pyramid of fear", putting on top our biggest fear in case of an attack, and on the bottom the thing we would fear less. Then we shared our fears with the group.

After that, we got in pairs and Christoph introduced us to a method of self-defense in case of an attack at the street. We discussed about how to avoid a conflict when we are alone at the street and how to defend ourselves in case we enter the conflict at the end.

The afternoon session closed with the evaluation of the training part which we had undergone during these four days and what we had learned.

In the evening, the whole group made a small excursion to the lake of Giessen.

Day 7 Friday, July 22nd

Morning

Our morning started with a small talk about our weekend plans. All together we discussed our options and then we organized the technical details about our day-trip to the beautiful city of Marburg! But first we were given some input about "The Raising Peace Campaign" of CCIIVS (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service) which is a networking initiative that aims to contribute to the construction of peace and the guarantee of human rights all over the world. Since our project is part of this campaign we decided to make some picture frames with some strong messages to promote our project!

So we spend all our morning making the frame, writing our messages and in the afternoon we did the photo shooting! So here it is the result!



Day 8 Saturday, July 23rd

The group decided to visit a nearby student city called Marburg. At 11:00 the whole group started off together. When we arrived in Marburg we split into smaller groups. We went up the hill to Marburg Castle and enjoyed strolling around in the Old Town of the beautiful Marburg. On the way back to Giessen one member of the group got unexpectedly involved in a situation of discrimination against other individuals in the train. A conflict raised through the way how the ticket master within the train used to treat three students who seemed to be from Arabic countries. The participants tried to enter the conflict peacefully and solve it sensitively. Even though they couldn't do a lot about this situation, they tried to show civil courage and listen carefully when the police recorded the whole situation and took one of the students with them to the police station. The participants seemed to be very disappointed by the way how they had to witness racial profiling within Germany and had a wild debate on civil courage within their own home countries afterwards.

Day 9 Sunday, July 24th

On Friday we decided together to make Sunday an 'off' day. Therefore there was no common meeting and everyone was able to do whatever they wanted to.

First of all everyone enjoyed a good long sleep. In the morning one group went for breakfast and to the river with the bikes, others were exploring the city and the "Mathematikum".

One great part was also that everyone could relax and be able to have conversations about many interesting topics without time pressure ☺

In conclusion it was an awesome day.

Day 10 Monday, July 25th

Morning

We started the day with an energizer, called: A- I – O – U. Participants stood in a circle. One of the volunteers started first and said one letter from his- her country alphabet. The letter turn around in the circle one by one. If you would like to make the game harder you can say more than one letter at the same time.

Then we continued with a distance activity, which we did in order to be prepared for our first visit in the refugee camp:

We split up in two parts. Each group needed to make a line opposite of the other group; participants should look face to face.

First round: One of the side start to come closer to his – her partner. When the partner felt uncomfortable s/he had to stop coming closer. (you can do this three times for both lines)

Second round: Participant did the same exercise but without any word and gesture.

Third round: Each group need to have three person. One person guided the other one who need to walk towards another person.

Each round participant should explain their emotion to other participant. This activity could be useful for social workers.

Questions of the activity:

Do you know your personal distance?

Can you say NO to others?

Did you think about cultural codes?

Which distance is too close for you?

Aim of the activity was to understand other participants' personal distance. Also participants should recognize every person has different personal distance. It is important to know your capacity; it is important to know your balance.

Energizer: Mole– Mole– Mole

Participant walk around the room they need to repeat moleeemoleeemollllee when facilitator said a number they had to form groups of this number of participants.

Afternoon

After lunch we went for the first time to the HEAE to start our workshops and activities with the refugees. We organized four teams, each one responsible for a different activity. So one team was responsible for the children, one for activities with women, one for the voices project and the last one for creative constructions with wooden pallets. We started by organizing our materials and the working space. After a while refugees started joining us, especially children, and we did together several workshops. The children team started with some getting-to-know games and then there were two different workshops, one for making juggling balls by balloons and lentils and one for constructing neckless of pasta. The voices team made some interesting conversations with some refugees from several countries and they recorded them. The building team constructed 2 chairs, 1 table and 3 flower shelves. The women team started with a workshop for making wallet bags from carton boxes and then they used the flower shelves of the building team to plant some flowers. At the end they went for a walk inside the camp with a woman that guided them. The day ended with a game for the children and with cleaning the room and the outer space.



Day 12 Wednesday, July 27th

Morning

We left Giessen before 8 in the morning to visit an antiracist city tour through Frankfurt's inner city. The three, who gave the tour were quite informed about the situation of refugees in Frankfurt. Also they have a political approach, which was quite refreshing. Interacting with the group they showed us symbolic places concerning living, mobility, chances and deportation of refugees. Especially the last station in a former deportation prison was quite shocking and worth to think about more. All in all the tour took us almost 4 hours, so we got back to Giessen quite late.



Afternoon

Because of our city tour in Frankfurt in the morning, we arrived at the refugee centre with almost one hour delay. People who were expecting us there were, for some, already gone. The container had been opened while we weren't there, so the kids had time to make it messy. Besides, the ones from construction group who wanted to renovate the room couldn't do so, as there actually was no proper painting. For all of these reasons, the group was a bit less motivated than the other days. However, the children group was better organized, so the activities went quite smoothly. As for the voice group, we went on talking and recording people, though wondering what to do with this information later: for us, ICJA, to be shared with more (to be uploaded). It is to noticed that it is often the same people coming every days,

which is at the same time a good thing since we can learn to know them better, and also a bit a shame because it remains a small minority of the refugees coming.

Day 13 Thursday, July 28th

Morning

Today we had a meeting with the local press: three journalists from the local media came to visit us at the church. They had the opportunity to see the work that has been accomplished by the builder's team as we brought a chair from the camp. It seemed that they were pretty amazed to learn about all the furniture that had been produced out of palettes.

Then, Nikolaus, representing ICJA, gave them a speech about the organization, the purpose and the content of our workcamp and the training we received. Finally, the journalists asked us some questions about our experience, they were mostly interested about the workshops that we organized for the refugees. Before leaving one journalist interviewed participants from each country. She focused mainly in the situation of refugees in our home countries and it was really interesting for her to get a different point of view than what is being said in the media.

Now, it is time for us to get prepared to go to the camp. Today is a special day as it is our last day and we need some time to prepare the farewell party.

Afternoon

This day is the last day of our activity in the camp. We decided to make a good bye party especially for children.

First we had started the day with activities with children. We had played football with them. After that we had played TREASURE HUNT (Children draw face of participant before; facilitator of game has shown the picture. Children try to find the correct person).

Musical instruments: Children made musical instrument with recycle materials. (cover of bottle ; wooden stick and wire)



Gym class with instruments: After making the instruments the children danced with participants and they made rhythm with their home made instrument.

The day closed with a waffle party, some people were dancing traditional Iraqi dances and some others were talking, saying goodbye, painting, playing football. When the

busses were there to pick us up the goodbye feeling became more emotional, people were hugging, exchanging contacts and shaking hands.

When we came back to the church we had our last evaluation according the last day in the camp. Only some people talk about their feelings while the majority of group stayed silent or wished that we would have more days in the camp.

Day 14 Friday, July 29th

Morning

First, we began the day with an interesting evaluation. Everyone, participated to an awesome energizer. First, Anna explained some details about the youth-pass certificate. Afterwards, we took our own expectation paper paste on the board. From the first day and we, one by one, explained to the group if we have reached them.

Secondly, Caro proposed us an interesting exercise. We all laid quietly on the floor and followed the sweet voice of Caro to a dream trip. She wanted us to remind, one by one, events we have been through during all the camp. She only asked questions in a positive way. One of the participants, suddenly, runs out of the room. This event explains how intense this exercise can be.

After this intense moment, we decided to stop there for the morning because the group really needed to have a break.

Afternoon

So that was it! The last afternoon session has arrived!

After lunch we gathered all together once again in the meeting room. We all stuck a piece of paper on our backs and we went around the room writing on other people papers, things we wanted to share , memories , comments and jokes. After everyone was done we had a look in our paper and we kept it as a nice souvenir of this experience! Later on this evening we played "secret Santa" and we exchanged the gifts that we brought from back home!

Day 15 Saturday, July 30th

Cleaning and Departure!

Conclusions (as mentioned by participants during the final evaluation round)

The results of the Youth Exchange in Giessen are very positive in terms of the experience gathered by the participants as well as by the organizers and local partners.




Participants were eager to get to know concepts of conflict resolution and peace building education such as "Friedensstifter" and apply them in workcamp activities as well as in their professional and personal lives. The practice transfer of the learning contents was particularly successful because the participants were at the same time in the role of learners and in the role of youth workers/leaders having to prepare methods and programs for the workshops conducted in the asylum seekers facility. Participants felt more and more responsible and motivated to be part of this experience and even developed a sense of ownership.

The visit to the HEAE for a whole week was a big learning experience also in terms of critical awareness about "helping" disadvantaged people. Participants exchanged opinions on the integration process of refugees in working groups. Particularly helpful was the exchange of experiences about the situations of young people and refugees in the countries of the participants and getting to know refugees, their daily life and situation in Germany. It was also interesting to share information about the problems faced in the countries of the participants and actions of local activists in supporting refugees.

The youth exchange was also a great opportunity to make new friends. Participants from so many different backgrounds were living and working together and it was hard to say good-bye after this intense experience.

We would like to thank all participants, partner organizations as well as supporters for their good cooperation and highly valued contributions!

Annex 1 – Final Evaluation by participants

	Points received				
	4	3	2	1	0
					
My learning growth	15%	54%	24%	7%	
Motivating atmosphere	27%	53%	20%		
My opportunities to participate	62%	15%	23%		
Opportunities for practical application of course's content	8%	69%	15%	8%	
Time management of a learning process	15%	78%	7%		
Topic selection of learning content	7%	78%	15%		
Methodical structure of the workshops	15%	54%	31%		
Materials (texts, presentations)	8%	54%	31%	7%	

Annex 2 – Participating Organisations

GREECE	ELIX	http://www.elix.org.gr/index.php/en/
FRANCE	CONCORDIA	https://www.concordia.fr/
BELGIUM	CBB	www.compagnonsbatisseurs.be
TURKEY	GENCTUR	www.genctur.com

Annex 3 – Articles, Links and Social Media

Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/142097429535683/>

Article in Giessener Anzeiger

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