

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world”

-Mahatma Gandhi

In multiple ninth grades we tried to give the students an understanding of the different problems in some participating countries of the European Youth Forum. Especially in Turkey, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine and Italy. The students were divided into five groups and had to do some online-research on one particular country of the five listed above. We hoped that by facing the problematic issues in those different countries. they would come up with ideas on how to solve them.



After half an hour of working in the teams, all groups reassembled in circle of chairs presented the information they had collected.

One of the problems that came up a lot was the freedom of press. In every one of those countries there were similar problems: Journalists are being arrested, assaulted and even assassinated. What makes this issue even more delicate is the fact that in most cases the assassins could get away without being convicted. Furthermore in some counties such as Hungary, Turkey and Ukraine major media sources were simply closed without any explanation.



Another issue that was mentioned multiple times was the lack of basic health care. Over all in Ukraine and Hungary it causes a lot of trouble. Whilst the problem in Ukraine are mostly the doctors, who violate medical guidance and the close-to-non-existent public health care system, that complicate medical treatments, the health care in Hungary is deficient mostly due to the poor labour conditions. This is also

the reason why the life expectancy in Hungary is quite low compared to other European countries.

Furthermore the students talked about how enforced prostitution caused a high HIV-infection rate, leading to many young girls being expelled from their families. But not only those are in dire need of help from their government. There are also lots of refugees in Hungary that don't receive any public support. Most of them either freeze to death or become illegal workers in Italy.

In Italy one of the major problems is the organized crime: The Mafia. Italy is nonetheless in a debt crisis that aggravates more and more as the mafia contributes to the illegal money market business.

In Turkey Erdogan makes the living condition hard to cope with for the Turkish inhabitant. He censors the press and manipulated politics and economy.

In Russia is the high rate of homeless children a big problem who will with a high possibility affected to drugs or alcohol.

I do not think that's those two hours will have a great effect on the way those students think. Although some may have been surprised how many European countries struggle in providing appropriate living conditions and how complex and profound those problems are, it won't make them go to Hungary tomorrow in order to fight some criminal.

But there is one thing I am quite certain all of those students understood. We have to be aware of our environment and the difficulties many European inhabitants face on a daily basis in order to understand our society.