Organizers: Aliona Kopyl, Olga Bondarenko, Anton Kokosha

Venue of the project: Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics

Date: the 27th of April

Participants: the students 18-19 years old

REPORT

Ukraine is one of many countries with a great cultural bright between borders. In Ukraine, the variety of cultures coexists in peace trying to respect diversity. In some ways, we succeed, but there are still some issues we need to overcome. Our team tried to combine three topics: Culture and me, Discrimination and Democracy. Ukraine has been fighting for democracy and struggling for the freedom for many years. That why, we have chosen these three cutting edge issues of the modern Ukraine.
INTRODUCTION
The presentation began with introducing ourselves and telling the story about our journey to Switzerland and Kinderdorf Pestalozzi and we also discovered the importance of the international exchange projects like that we have recently participated in.

DISCRIMINATION
By voting we decided to start with the topic - Discrimination. Discrimination is one of the most burning problems of the modern Ukraine. In our country people can be discriminated by different features, for instance: skin color, religion, ethnic origin, social status etc. Unfortunately, there are no real tools on the state level to be protect from discrimination. It seems like nobody cares about it. At least, our team attempted to change the attitude to discriminated citizens in this small group of students. Firstly, we had a short discussion, after that the students were given the task to remember a few groups of discriminated minority and stereotypes about them. We argued a little bit about the issue how to break the stereotypes, but then we quickly found the common ground.
IDENTITY AND CULTURE

The second topic we started with was Identity and Culture. Aliona provided it in a way of a casual face-to-face conversation. We’ve been talking about own family, friends, culture. We understood that we all are different people, we have different languages, religions, talents, but we have similar needs, values and feelings to share. Students suggested 3 points in order to avoid conflicts: 1. Respect to each other; 2. Looking for compromises; 3. Listening to other people and accept their views.

DEMOCRACY

Then Anton started with the brief explanation of the concept of democracy by SWOT – analysis. The audience was very excited and we started the scale game. The main question of our discussion was the voting age, if the 16 year-old age is the good one to be given rights for voting. We came up with the idea that the young people do not care enough about voting at so early age. Moreover, it’s reported that more and more of youth is bound to move abroad, that’s why the point is not to motivate them to vote but to make them to be interested in staying in Ukraine.
CONCLUSION

To sum it all up, we would like to say that we are very pleased with everything we’ve done and surprised with such passion students engaging with us. As for us, it was a real success. They were very interested Ion everything we were saying and tried to their best to do all we asked them to do. Our small team absolutely sure, that bit by bit we can make our country and even the world much better.

We brought only good memories from Switzerland. Ukrainian delegation is very grateful to The Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation for giving us a chance to participate in European Youth Forum, learning new skills and providing such an important business, because our future is in our hands.