

20.11.2019

Romania meets Germany: An international youth exchange strengthens the partnership

Fulda/Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

Due to the long tradition of youth exchanges between Fulda and Romania, different youth exchanges took place again in 2019. After a group of volunteers from Germany went to Romania in May, a Romanian group of students came to Germany in October the same year. Supported by „YouRoPa e.V.“, the „Youthwork of AWO Nordhessen“ and „Streetwork/Youthwork-Aschenberg“ this year again a week with different offers could be arranged. With the target to explore other cultures and lifestyles and to create a cooperative week based on democratic decisions, all participants were invited to share their wishes and ideas, which lead to a positive exchange and create a strong connection within the German/Romanian partnership.

In May 2019 a meeting of a German/Romanian-project-group took place parallel to an international student conference at the „Babes Bolya University“ in Cluj-Napoca/Romania. A delegation of the project group from Fulda/Germany worked together with the local project group in Cluj-Napoca on the next exchange measures and created the annual plan for 2019. Because our exchanges include the german side as well as the romanian side, we also change the target country every time. Therefore, the exchange in October took place in Fulda again. This time the visit of social facilities and institutions in Fulda and surroundings was the main goal.

In the beginning of the week, the romanian-exchange-group got in contact with the german-project-group "Fulda meets Cluj - international social work" in a conference house in Dalherda (near Fulda). The participants had the opportunity to get to know each other, make contacts and go through various workshops together. The workshop included the planning of the next exchange measures of the german-project-group and the romanian participants, as well as networking and cultural cooperation among each other. www.asmussenhaus.de

After two days in the conference house, the rest of the week was spent in Fulda and its surroundings. The first institution we visited was a specialised centre for young people in criminal proceedings within the youth-welfare-offices of the city of Fulda and their surroundings. There we got an interesting input about the areas of responsibility within the juvenile criminal proceedings. The youth welfare service in criminal proceedings is the contact for juveniles as well as their parents and young adults within a juvenile criminal proceeding. It advises



and supports young people and adolescents throughout the entire juvenile criminal proceedings. www.fulda.de/unsere-stadt/familie/hilfe-beratung-leistung.de

For the reason that we wanted to give an insight into the work in socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods of the city of Fulda, we visited the city office called: "Social City of Fulda", which is committed to improving the framework conditions for the social and cultural

development of various districts within the city. There we were given a presentation on the purpose of the institution and were then able to discuss its concepts. www.sozialestadt-fulda.de

The next institution we visited was the „Loheland Foundation“. The Loheland is a non-profit educational institution with different facilities and a special pedagogical and anthroposophical profile. There, we were given a guided tour of the whole area, from animal enclosures, which are used for educational purposes, to vegetable fields used by the community. We also saw the educational facilities in the form of a school and a kindergarten, which were built according to the principle of an anthropologist named Rudolf Steiner. One event of the day consisted of helping as an international group with the harvesting of vegetables in the fields to get an insight into the daily life on site. This encouraged a feeling of group solidarity and increased our ability to work in a team. www.loheland.de

Within this week we started another workshop with the target to discuss about the main topic of the next youth exchanges and the way of networking and working together. We also invited international students from the University in Fulda to help with the conceptual design of the network work. The workshop took place in the L14zwo, where we shared our ideas and experiences. www.awo-fulda.de/begegnungsstaetten/l14zwo/

As third institution we visited the “Lebensgemeinschaft e.V.” in Sassen. There we were given a tour around the whole area which gave us a very interesting insight into an anthroposophical institution which functions as a living community and workplace for people with disabilities. A memorable experience were the conversations with the local residents, who gave us a warm welcome and showed great interest in our international group. www.Lebensgemeinschaft.de

In the evening we visited a place for youth-culture, where we had dinner together. There we were able to offer an insight into open youth work, which indicates a dialogue regardless of gender, denomination, politics, origin or worldview. www.jugendkulturfabrik.de



The participants described our city trip to Frankfurt, as a special experience of the week. The joint city tour where we explored the city together, the shared meals and the encounters in the streets created interest in cultural similarities and differences. During this trip, the whole group was able to experience what terms such as "community" and "cooperation" can mean. On the last evening we went together to a restaurant, where we celebrated the week together and where we could reflect on what we had experienced in a variety of

conversations. An extremely positive aspect was the gratefulness and commitment of all participants, who were able to discuss the cultural similarities and differences at one table, while at the next table they spoke about the next exchanges. Due to the positive and motivating feedback of the participants we left the week strengthened and with hopeful expectations for the coming events!

Further information about this, as well as possibilities to donate, can be obtained directly from the organizers of the international youth meeting: YouRoPa e.V.: Manuel Lebek under manuel.lebek@youropa-fulda.de

Annex

Contact details: "Youth aid in Criminal proceedings"

Address: Leipziger Straße 6, 36037 Fulda

Phone: +49 661 102-1978

Email: info-juhis@fulda.de

Website: www.fulda.de/unsere-stadt/familie/hilfe-beratung-leistung.de

Contact details: "Loheland Foundation"

Address: Loheland 1, 36093 Künzell

Phone: +49 661-392-0

Email: info@loheland.de

Website: www.loheland.de

Contact details: "Social City"

Address: Dingelsted Straße 10, 36043 Fulda

Phone: +49 661 1023290

Email: sozialestadt@fulda.de

Website: www.sozialestadt-fulda.de

Contact details: "Lebensgemeinschaft e.V."

Address: Sassen 1, 36110 Slot

Phone: 06642-802-0

Email: info@lebensgemeinschaft.de

Website: www.Lebensgemeinschaft.de

Contact details: "Youth Culture Factory"

Address: Weimarer Straße 20, 36037 Fulda

Phone: No entry

Email: fabrik@fulda.de

Website: www.jugendkulturfabrik.de

Contact details: "L14zwo"

Address: Lindenstraße 2, 36037 Fulda

Phone: 0661 480045-90

Email: info@awo-fulda.de

Website: www.awo-fulda.de/begegnungsstaetten/l14zwo/

Contact details: "Hans-Asmussen-Haus"

Address: Gichenbacher Straße 9, 36129 Gersfeld-Dalherda

Phone: 0661-250 49 89

Email: hans-asmussen-haus@web.de

Website: www.asmussenhaus.de