

Report | YourEP – Erasmus+ KA2

2nd Blended Learning Mobility | Strasbourg, France | 29 May – 3 June 2018

Objectives

On 29 May -3 June in Strasbourg, the YourEP Project held its simulation involving all its participants, with a majority of young people experiencing one of their first trip abroad as well as their first Erasmus+ experience.

The CLIMAX of the project was to implement the simulation with the young participants.

- **In order to be inclusive, the simulation was designed with the young participants themselves**, choosing their own key elements and subjects after the learning phase to get basic knowledge on EU.
- **To make it accessible, the project was completely free of charge for participants**. There was no financial obstacle thanks to EU funds. **Support was also provided by youth workers** from their own organisation and from YES Forum.
- **To make it as fun as possible**, the project focused on informal learning with unrealistic and funny aspects such as a “Regulation of the Protection of European Fantastic Creatures”.

Activities

During the first 3 days, we focused our #YourEPsimulation of the European Parliament. Each young participant, supported by youth workers, roleplayed as Right-wing, Central-Liberal and Left-wing MEPs, Lobbyists or Journalists.

A wide variety of methods were used to make the participants comfortable. Energizers and ice-breakers created the **right atmosphere to interact** in such a social experience, followed by a **Session for each political group to define its position and strategy for the negotiations**.

Then, they **gathered in 2 Committees**. “ENVI”, specialised on Environment, examined a “Regulation of the Protection of European Fantastic Creatures”. CULT, on Culture & Education, focused on a “Resolution on True Equality in High School”. The main objective of these committees was **to propose amendments and find a compromise on what will be the text** to be voted at the Plenary Session.



“The simulation in the European Parliament was very nice because I felt as a real politician.”

“We never stop (role)playing”

During the whole three days, the simulation never stopped. They were MEPs, Lobbyists and Journalists even during breaks and lunch, and thanks to this, **they could interact with each other and try to convince** others (lobbyists and journalists in particular).

“I enjoyed speaking more English. And new friendships for life :)”





During the 2 first days, the young participants focused on the preparation of the Plenary Session that would be CLIMAX of the simulation. The goal of committees' was to teach them **the steps before a Plenary Session and to make them participate in all the process**. They also had to **vote for a President of the YourEP-Parliament to lead the Plenary Session**. The President was elected after 2 rounds **among four candidates** (N.B. The candidate elected was our youngest participant!).

Finally, on the 3rd day of the simulation, **we went to the European Parliament** in Strasbourg to do our Plenary Session where the lobbyists had a last opportunity to try to convince MEPs before the final vote. After hours of debates **thanks to the participation of the young MEPs**, and thanks to the proposed amendments on each text, the MEPs managed to find a compromise and **two proposals have been adopted!** We concluded the 3 days by letting them do a debriefing on what they have learned, about the EU, about politics and about intercultural aspects, and share all their ideas on how to improve the #YourEPsimulation of the European Parliament.



Thanks to their active participation, the project was a success and all participants, despite their different backgrounds and cultures, managed to interact and work together, and reach an impressive result embodying the EU motto **"United in Diversity"**.

It was of course only a simulation, but the YourEP project provided them **an informal participative learning** on how EU legislation works and an **encouragement to be involved in the European project as citizens**.

Don't forget to check the final, strong and daring texts adopted by our young MEPs on the next pages! ;)

And to have a look at the pictures taken during the whole week, just click [here!](#)

"It was like being a real MEP!"

Have your say! – European Youth Event 2018

As we were in Strasbourg, we also took part in the **European Youth Event 2018 on 1-2 June 2018 in the European Parliament itself!**

Participants were free to choose their own activities (workshops, debates, conferences, etc) on their favourite subjects. The youngsters were free to walk the Parliament, they could meet MEPs, and take part in the YO Fest, the young European festival to meet and exchange with the European youth.



YES Forum, with several partners and young participants, even had the exceptional opportunity to organise its **own EYE workshop "Why so serious? EU Politics can be fun!"** to show - and discuss - how it is possible to teach (and learn!) about the European Union in fun ways. More details – and pictures – [here!](#)

Some of our young participants gave a short testimony on their experience at the EYE2018. On Facebook, you can learn about [Giulia](#), [Elias](#) and [Laura](#).



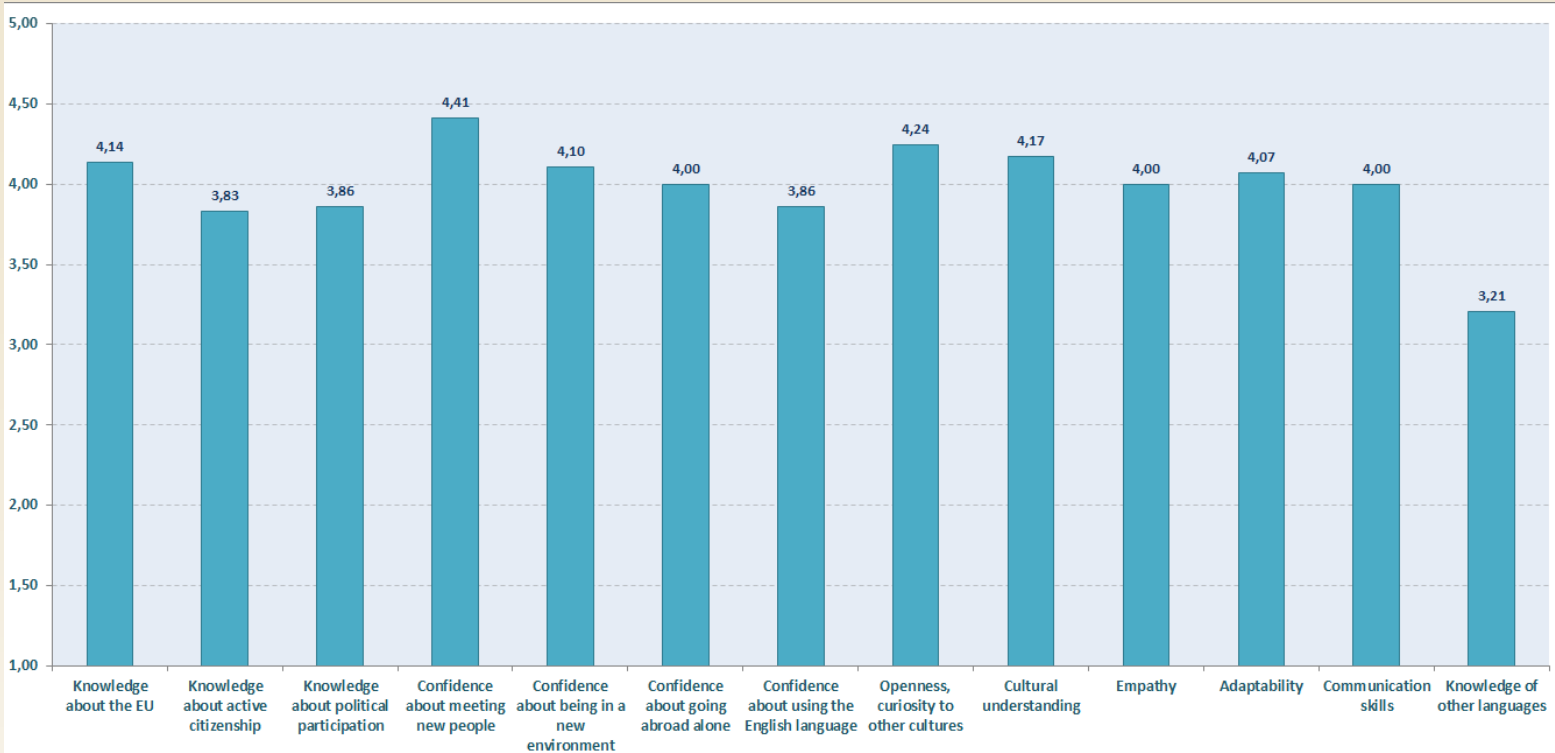
„ The whole week including the visit to the EYE was really well-prepared by the YES Forum: Great job guys!“

Evaluation of the 2nd Blended Learning Mobility

As shown below (Annex 2), participants report on average a significant improvement in many aspects, whether on EU and political knowledge or on more personal aspects (self-confidence, social & intercultural skills in particular). The **average improvement since the start of the project on all aspects is 3.99/5** (5 – “A lot” | 1 – “Not at all”)!

„ I enjoyed the Simulation of the European Parliament. I learnt a lot of things in very short time and I can now understand better what happens in the EP!“

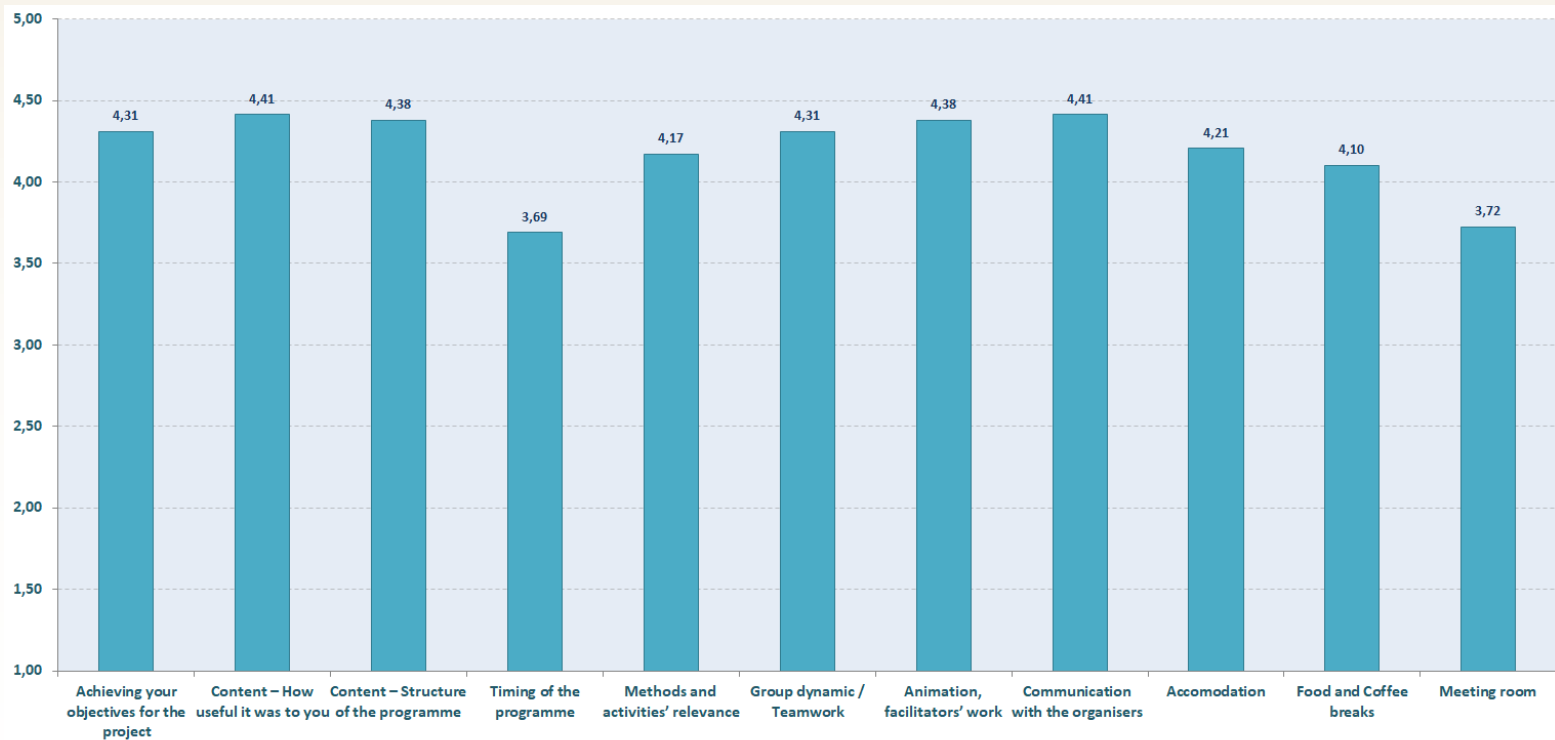
Annex 1. Results of the 2nd Blended Learning Mobility's evaluation by participants



Participants Knowledge and Skills Self-evaluation

Average, based on all participants self-evaluation forms at the end of the week, replying to the question "Compared to the project start, have you learnt about ... /are you now more confident about .../have you improved your...?"

(5 – A lot | 1 – Not at all)



Quality of the process

Organisation and Logistics

Average answers to the Evaluation - "Project Organisation"

(5 – Very good | 1 – Not good at all)



Annex 2. Programme of the 2nd Blended Learning Mobility

Tuesday 29 May	
Morning	Arrivals
Afternoon	Intro to the Week: Name Game, Reviewing the Simulation's Details, Reminders on the European Youth Event
Evening	"Election Night" – Voting for the President of the YourEP European Parliament
Wednesday 30 May	
9:30 – 13:00	YourEP Simulation – Political Groups' Session
15:00 – 18:30	YourEP Simulation – Parliamentary Committees' Session
Evening	Intercultural Activity
Thursday 31 May	
9:30 – 12:00	European Youth Event 2018 – Reminders
	YourEP Simulation – Preparation of the YourEP Plenary Session
14:00 – 18:30	YourEP Simulation – Plenary Session ... in the European Parliament itself!
	European Youth Event – Getting our accreditations for the next days
Evening	Free time
Friday 1 June	
Entire day	European Youth Event 2018 – Take part in EYE's activities
Evening	Dinner & Free time – "EYE Cultural evening activities" from 20:00 onwards
Saturday 2 June	
Entire day	European Youth Event 2018 – Take part in EYE's activities
	12:00 – 13:30 Implementing the "YourEP EYE Workshop" during the EYE with the volunteers in our group!
	17:30 – 18:30 "Closing session: Don't stop me now" for everybody
Evening	Dinner & Free time – "EYE Cultural evening activities" from 20:00 onwards
Sunday 3 June	
10:00 - 12:00	Final evaluation
Afternoon	Departures



Strasbourg, 31.05.18

Proposal for a
REGULATION OF THE YOUR EP EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL
on the Protection of the European Fantastic Creatures

As adopted by the YourEP European Parliament on 1st Reading on 31.05.18

In favour: 21 votes

Against: 0 votes

Abstention: 1 vote

Because:

(A) Climate change and overexploitation of Europe's magical resources have a dramatic impact on our fantastic wildlife. Many legendary creatures are now being threatened with extinction, for instance because of hunting.

(B) The biodiversity of Europe's fantastic ecosystems must be protected as Europe depends on these ecosystems for its Mana production. Mana is the magical energy sustaining the world.

The YourEP European Union decides:

(1) This text covers **all fantastic creatures. Fantastic creatures are defined by their mana production and magic powers.**

(2) EU Member States are required to create Magic Protection Areas covering 25% to 75% of their territory, depending on Member States .

(3) Hunting and fishing is forbidden in the Magic Protection Areas.

(4.1) **Outside of Magical Protection Areas, hunting is allowed in a given year when the population density is increased by more than 15%. Otherwise, hunting and fishing can be forbidden for a year or less to let the population grow.**

(4.2) When allowed, hunting and fishing in a given year must be limited to **30% of the total population of the covered fantastic creatures. But each Member State can decide for a smaller percentage.**

(5) It is forbidden to own fantastic creatures, for instance as pets. However, they can be placed in natural reserves with special permits only if the population of fantastic creatures decreases.

(This document is a fake created for the simulation of the European Parliament „YourEP“ on 29 May – 3 June 2018 in Strasbourg. It is of course not endorsed by the European Commission, European Parliament or any other official institution of the European Union)

* The parts in bold are the amendments to the original proposal adopted by the young participants during the final meeting of the YourEP simulation in Strasbourg on 29 May – 3 June 2018.

Brussels, 31.05.18

**RESOLUTION OF THE YOUREP EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
on the Promotion of True Equality in High School**

As adopted on 31.05.18 by the YourEP European Parliament

In favour: 15 votes

Against: 2 votes

Abstention: 5

Because:

(A) To have equal opportunities in their life, young people should not suffer from inequalities during their education.

(B) At school, inequalities take many forms: financial, social, or caused by discrimination. Because of such inequalities, young people don't receive the same quality of education, regardless of their merits and efforts.

The YourEP European Parliament calls EU Member States to apply these guidelines:

(1) The fight against inequalities must start in primary schools and be reinforced in high schools we call member states to have political education until they are 18 years old to prepare for adult and political life. That is why they should receive the same opportunities in order to start with equal chances.

(2) To limit inequalities, Member States should first pay attention **to the students background in order to provide equitable learning opportunities**

(3) Public school must be completely free. Member States must provide school material to all students **and provide access to computers if needed.**

- Public schools must provide free school meals for all. School buses, materials and uniforms should be provided if the household income is less than the national average income

- We want more teachers that are well qualified and access to all day school.

(4) Differences between public and private schools worsen inequalities. Only wealthy families can afford private schools, which provide better learning conditions.

- We call on Member States to fund public schools so the learning conditions become as good as in private schools.

- Member States must limit the maximum amount of fees in private schools.

- No public funding for private schools. Same pay for teachers in public and private schools at the same level.

- Member States must offer loans with 0% interest rates for students with financial difficulties.

- All private schools should adopt a common fee based on the GDP of the Member States so that the students can choose a school based on their competences, not the financial situation.

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