



EUROPA



KONZIL

.....
TOGETHER FOR
CLIMATE PROTECTION

THE EUROPAKONZIL
OF KONSTANZ
.....

26. – 28.09.2022



THE VISION OF THE EUROPAKONZIL

Fontainebleau



The Europakonzil is a format that brings together young people from Konstanz and the European twin cities Fontainebleau (France), Richmond (Great Britain), Tábor (Czech Republic) and Lodi (Italy). The idea is based on history. The Konzil of Konstanz took place from 1414 to 1418. For this purpose, ecclesiastical and secular decision-makers from all over Europe came together in Konstanz. Through the intensive joint discourse, it was possible to restore the unity of the church and thus of the Western world.

The fact that the city of Konstanz is building on this history is reflected in the design of the 600th anniversary of the Konzil of Konstanz, which was celebrated from 2014 to 2018 and aimed to create new encounters, enable dialogues and initiate impulses. The vision of the Europakonzil, which was held for the first time in 2017 as part of the Konzil anniversary, also corresponds to this. Young people from five European nations are invited to come together in the city of Konstanz to strengthen their regional and European identity through encounters with their peers and exchanges on future issues in order to get joint ideas off the ground.





GOALS OF THE EUROPAKONZIL 2022

Under the slogan “Together for Climate Protection” young people spent three project days this year considering what measures could be taken to promote climate protection in their own city. With the help of experts, the teenagers were asked to develop feasible proposals from their own ideas. The primary objective was to initiate realisable first measures in the hometowns as a follow-up. The involvement of representatives from politics and administration will on the one hand ensure sound feedback and on the other hand ensure a placement of the project ideas at higher levels.

“I found it impressive how much joy and enthusiasm went into the joint ideas for the climate issue and I am convinced that everyone will benefit from the Europakonzil”

Susanne Heiß, Councillor FWK, Konstanz

Apart from climate protection the unity and oneness of Europe is also a very important topic for the future. Therefore, the Europakonzil also pursues the goal of enabling international



dialogue with Europeans of the same age and inspiring young people to become active European citizens. At the same time, it is important to make the concept of town twinning attractive for young people. The Europakonzil may serve as a very suitable instrument for this because it creates closeness through encounters, it initiates new friendships and strengthens the common European idea. If this connection succeeds, it will ultimately also strengthen and further develop the town twinning arrangements in the long term.

“Our youth in Europe face the same issues and this is our aim as decision makers to associate them to build their future”.

Fanny Malvezin, Councillor Fontainebleau





CONCEPT OF THE EUROPAKONZIL 2022

In order to achieve the defined goals, strategic individual steps were developed and implemented:

- The moderation and implementation will be contracted out to a professional agency.
- Recruitment of schools in all five cities as project partners.
- Selection of a group of 10 to 15 committed and enthusiastic teenagers by the teachers of the partner schools.
- The teachers prepare the young people for the topic of climate protection and also work with them on a city presentation or a city rally through Konstanz.
- Already in the run-up we connect the young people through pen-pal projects.
- The teenagers are mainly accommodated in host families. Through the close personal contact, they gain an insight into the German everyday life and get to know the mentality.
- The host families are given the task of reflecting on national stereotypes with their host children in preparation for the cliché show.
- “Decision-makers” from politics and administration in all five cities are invited to contribute their expertise and help to implement the developed ideas at a higher political level.

“The cultural exchange and the communication in English were a very great and enriching European experience. For the young people, the Europakoncil and the stay in Konstanz seem to have been a real experience which has certainly shaped their last school year and will continue to do so”.

Simonetta Saccardi, teacher, Lodi





“The energy and creative richness of youth, so well shared thanks to the various dynamic tools deployed during this Europakonzil. It demonstrates the fertile interest for our territories of tomorrow, which need it so much.”

*Anne Ceconello,
Municipality of Fontainebleau*

- The envisioned ideas of the young people will be taken up as an approach for further development in mixed groups. With input and feedback from the representative for climate protection and the press office of the city of Konstanz, six feasible ideas for climate protection measures will be developed.
- In a big cliché show, the Improtheater Konstanz and other contributors take up national clichés and act them out in a humorous way. Aside from an entertaining component, prejudices are to be broken down in an inspiring way. The decision makers join the project for this evening. In addition, the host families are invited as an important pillar of the project and thus gain insight into the project.
- The six project ideas developed are presented by the young people in a large final workshop and evaluated by the decision-makers and experts for their feasibility. The top rated proposals will be highlighted.
- As a complementary input, the Jumpteam of the German Bundesjugendring presents the superordinate political youth goals of the EU.

- At a final party, the young people will be among themselves, celebrating, having fun and deepening their newly established friendships.
- A closing dinner with Mayor Uli Burchardt and all participating decision-makers and teachers will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and strengthen the twinning relationships.





COOPERATION PARTNERS OF THE EUROPAKONZIL

Conceptual support and moderation:

Harald Kühn, PR-agency Die Regionauten, Konstanz

The partner schools and their teachers:

- Lycee International Fontainebleau, Karin Peyer and Laure Saunier
- Teddington School Richmond, Peter Garrett and Marianne Vennema
- Táborské Soukromé Gymnázium, principal Markéta Švadlenová
- Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina Tábor, Petra Nagyová
- Istituto Tecnico "Agostino Bassi" Lodi, Simonetta Saccardi and Giusy Coscia
- Gemeinschaftsschule Gebhard Konstanz, Philipp Kirchenmaier, Jerome Zimmermann und Caroline Männle

The decision-makers:

Fontainebleau:

Fanny Malvezin, Councillor for Tourism and Partnerships

Anne Ceconello, Municipality of Fontainebleau, Director of Town Planning and Environmental Protection

Richmond:

Alan Mockford, Chairman of the Richmond in Europe Association

Francesca Batt, Nature Conservation Manager Habitats & Heritage East Twickenham

Virtually involved were:

Julia Neden-Watts, Councillor and Deputy Leader from Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee

Paul Chadwick, Municipality of Richmond, Director of Environment and Community Services

Tábor:

Participation prevented due to illness





2022

“I came back from the Europakoncil full of enthusiasm and positivity: seeing so many students from different countries keenly aware of the environmental challenge and all involved in improving the life quality of their town gave me really positive vibes. We, as decision makers, have the duty to live up to their expectations”

*Laura Tagliaferri,
Deputy Mayor, Lodi*

“We can learn so much from each other. We are stronger together”

*Alan Mockford, Chairman
Richmond in Europe Association*



Lodi:

Laura Tagliaferri, Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Town Twinning and Youth
Stefano Caserini, Councillor and Professor of Climate at the Polytechnic University of Milan
Mariapia Bellinzoni, President Twinning Association ARCIL

Konstanz:

Gisela Kusche, Councillor FGL
Nina Röckelein, Councillor FGL
Susanne Heiß, Councillor FWK
Gabriele Weiner, Councillor JFK
Thomas Racke, parliamentary party assistant CDU
Several members of the new Konstanz Youth representation committee
A representative of the Fridays for future movement Konstanz
Lorenz Heublein, Municipality of Konstanz, Head of the department for Climate Protection
Elena Oliveira, Municipality of Konstanz, Press office, responsible for climate communication

Øyunn Kåset, Jump-Team of the German Bundesjugendring, Berlin

The sponsors:

Erasmus+ within the framework of the EU Youth Dialogue
German-Czech Future Fund



PROGRAM SEQUENCE OF THE EUROPAKONZIL

Day 1 | 26.09.2022 |

Getting together and presentation of the hometowns

The young people met with moderator Harald Kühl and the preparation team for the first time at the University of Applied Sciences HTWG in Konstanz. Mayor Uli Burchardt warmly welcomed all participants in Konstanz and, in his impressive speech he addressed the issue of climate protection and the commitment of the young generation.

Afterwards, the young people got to know each other better during a round of speed dating and introduced their hometowns to each other.

The youth from Fontainebleau, Lodi and Tábör had each prepared an entertaining film showing what their cities have to offer in terms of culture, nature and events. The students from Richmond already addressed environmental problems and possible solutions in their interesting city presentation. An introduction to the Bohemian Polka Dance added to the great atmosphere. The young people from Konstanz led their guests during a city rally to their favourite places and finally to their school.

Day 2 | 27.09.2022 |

Development of the project ideas

After a short warm-up in the Wolkensteinsaal at the Kulturzentrum of Konstanz, Harald Kühl welcomed today's participants Lorenz Heublein, Head of the department for Climate Protection in Konstanz and Elena Oliveira from the Press Office. The two experts presented the current climate strategy of the city of Konstanz and gave input on climate communication.

Afterwards, the young people presented the ideas they had already developed in advance on the topic of climate protection and received tips and feedback from the two experts. In mixed groups, they further developed their ideas and finally put them down on paper.

The day ended with a highly entertaining and amusing cliché show. In addition to the young people, the host families, teachers and decision-makers, who had arrived in the late afternoon, were also invited. Before the show, the students were given the task to talk about clichés with their host families and to write down common clichés. The Improtheater Konstanz referred to these clichés in a humorous and musical way and skilfully translated the meaning and effect of such prejudices in a great and inspiring show.





“To me, the opportunity to take part in the Europakonzil means giving a chance to the young generation to listen to each other, compare each other’s views, and also get interested in the issues which will certainly persist in the future, too. Through events like this we can get young people to participate in public discourse and, hopefully, trigger some important changes for the future.”

Petra Nagyová, teacher, Tábor

Day 3 | 28.09.2022 | Presentations and evaluation of the projects and conclusion

Representatives from politics and administration as well as experts on climate protection from all participating cities were invited to the large final workshop with around 100 participants in the Konzil building of Konstanz. The young people presented their project ideas to the decision-makers at six theme stands. In a round robin, the experts could discuss with the teenagers and directly give their feedback on the proposals. The best suggestions were determined with a point evaluation.

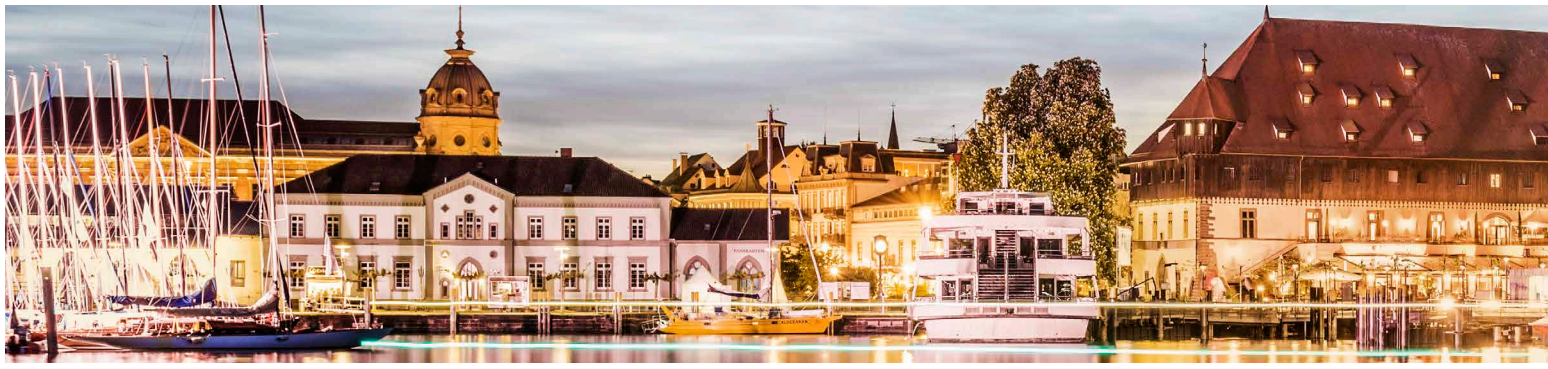
In the afternoon, a representative of the Jump-team of the Bundesjugendring presented the political EU youth goals and the possibility of participation via the EU Youth Dialogue. With a party at Orange X in Neuwerk and a dinner at Brauhaus, the Europakonzil 2022 found its appropriate conclusion for all participants.



“It was great to talk to so many young people and to learn that we want to tackle the same problems everywhere”

Gisela Kusche, Councillor FGL, Konstanz





RESULTS OF THE EUROPAKONZIL 2022

The young people developed project ideas on various aspects of climate protection and presented them under the catchy headlines:

- Sink don't Stink – the problem with bottled water
- No Waste in Public Space
- Drastic Plastic!
- The Fairy Garden
- Green Homes
- To the Future by Bus

The two project ideas “Fairy Garden” and “Green Homes” received the most support from the decision makers.

The Fairy Garden idea deals with the establishment of community gardens and combines the creation of more green spaces in the city with the promotion of growing local food. The idea is to create gardens that are open to the public with the help of a non-profit association and, among other things, lead to a reduction in packaging waste and long transport routes. The young people want to promote this with campaigns and provide information about more environmentally friendly consumption.

“The unity and oneness of Europe is an important project for the youth of Europe! Therefore, it is more than necessary that young people meet, get to know each other and know about their common grounds.”

Gaby Weiner, Councillor JFK, Konstanz

The Green Homes project would like to see the construction of climate-friendly homes promoted even more. The young people have lots of ideas for measures like better insulation, solar panels, small windmills, storage for green energy, collection of rainwater in tanks, etc. The goal of this project is both more climate-friendly housing and savings and better affordability for the residents.

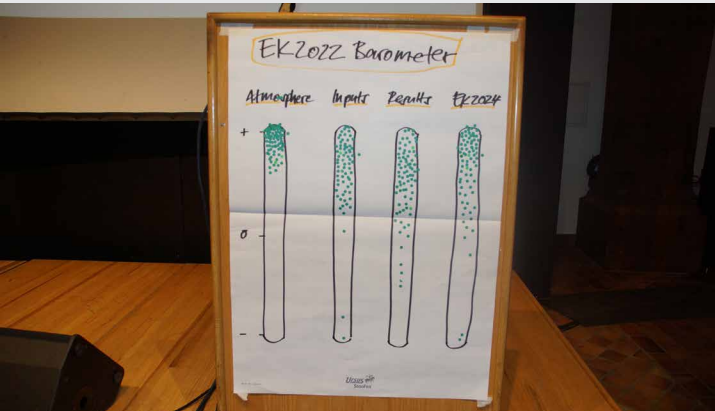
But not only these two ideas are worth following up. All the other suggestions also show the creativity of the young people and offer a lot of potential and starting points for more climate-friendly behaviour.

The young people worked on their future topic with a lot of enthusiasm and put their heart and soul into it. Through the exchange with the decision-makers, they felt taken seriously and understood with their concerns for the future. The decision-makers, in turn, gained valuable insights into what moves the young Europeans.





SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK



At the end of this thoroughly rounded event, the participants were asked to give their opinion in the mood barometer. It became clear that the event was very well received by almost all participants in terms of atmosphere, input and results. The young people got along excellently right from the first day and found a good working mode. They very much enjoyed meeting and interacting with their peers from other European countries and took great pleasure in working together on all days. They received well-founded input from the experts and shaped their own exciting ideas. The participating decision-makers from politics and administration also benefited from the direct encounters and intensive discussions with the young people. The exchange led to insightful discussions and results and set interesting impulses in all five participating cities. The superordinate goal of European encounters and town twinning networking was also fully achieved.

On 27.10.2022 the young people of Konstanz reported to the local council about their impressions and the results of the Europakoncil 2022. The follow-up of the project ideas in all participating cities was highly recommended to the decision makers. Thus, a follow-up by the teachers and another later exchange with the young people in the participating cities is also recommended. The project leader will try to initiate and pursue further impulses in Konstanz and the partner cities.

On a regional or national level, other cities that want to inspire young people for active European citizenship, especially in the context of town twinning, can use the Europakoncil as a model. The very positive impulse and benefit of this successful project on the town twinning activities of Konstanz is undisputed.



By involving the Jump Team of the German Bundesjugendring, it was ensured that the results of the Europakoncil flow into the EU Youth Dialogue and can also unfold their positive effects at the European level.

The next Europakoncil, together with the twin cities of Konstanz and the proven partners, will hopefully be able to take place in the time frame 2024/2025!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We sincerely thank all our approximately 100 participants from our twin towns Fontainebleau, Richmond, Tábor and Lodi, as well as from Konstanz for their participation! Thanks also to

- first and foremost the 67 young people for their passionate and inspiring work on the future topic of climate protection.
- the sponsors Erasmus+ and the German-Czech Future Fund.
- the experts and decision-makers from politics and administration for their expertise and for their further support in implementing the project ideas.

- the 6 partner schools and their teachers for their preparation and support.
- the 26 host families for their generous hospitality.
- Harald Köhl for his professional and great moderation.
- and last but not least, on our own behalf, to the project team: Slavica Stella, Maximilian Hecht, Charlott Wagner, Saskia Rossatti, Carolin Glaunsinger, Fabian Knisel and the project manager Antonie Langemann.

IMPRESSUM

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