



# Documentation of the first International Youth Conference 2016

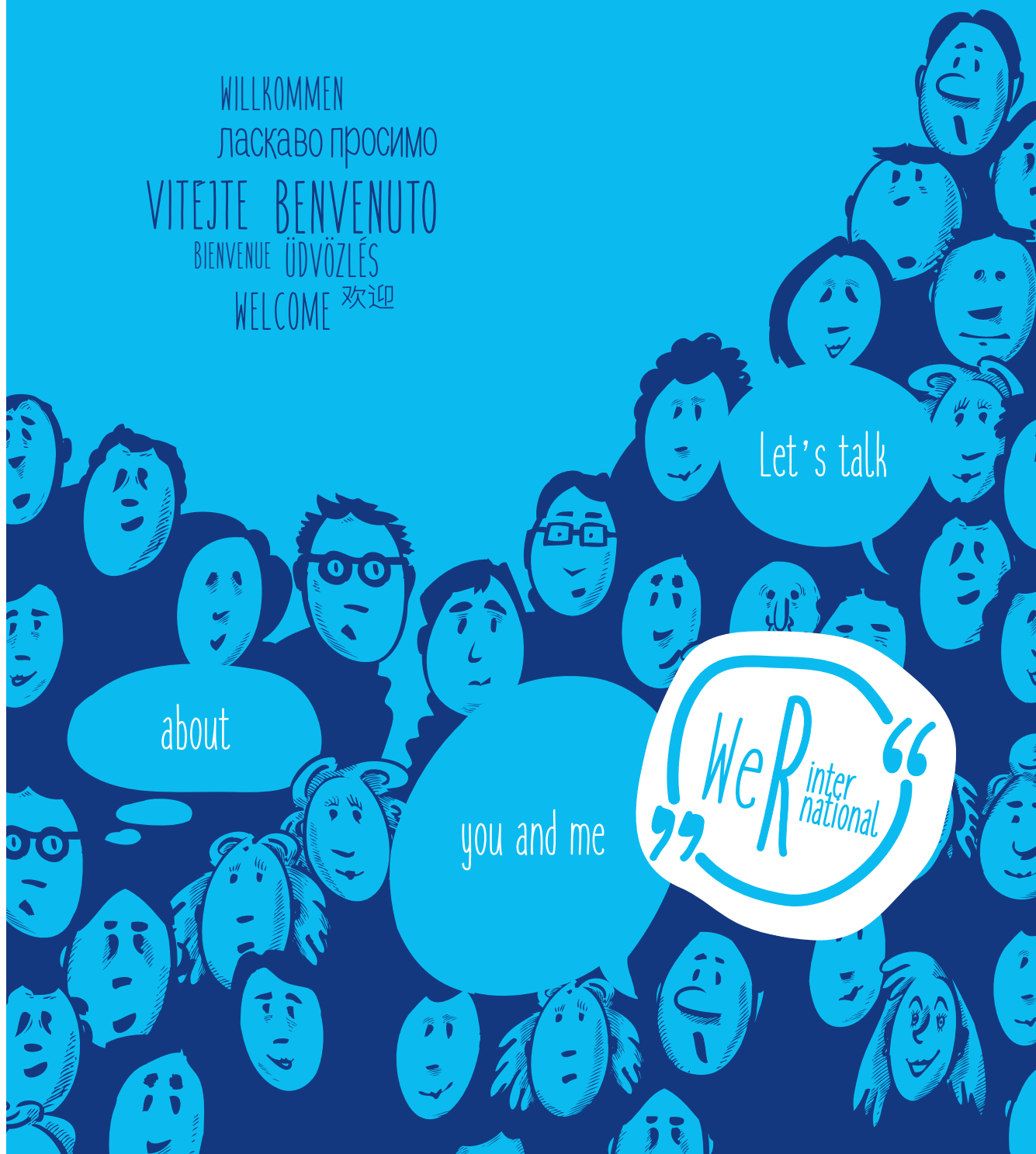
WILLKOMMEN  
ласкаво просимо  
VITEJTE BENVENUTO  
BIENVENUE ÜDVÖZLÉS  
WELCOME 欢迎

Let's talk

about

you and me

“WeR<sup>inter</sup>national”



## IMPRINT

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# Documentation of the first International Youth Conference 2016

31 July – 6 August 2016

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The first International Youth Conference „We R international – Let’s talk about you and me“ was a wonderful event and a complete success.

Adolescents of all of our sister cities had been invited: Three girls and three boys aged 16 - 18 of each of the cities and 20 youngsters from Regensburg. All in all around 70 adolescents have spent a week together.

Besides becoming acquainted with each other and presenting their respective cities the adolescents have discussed and worked together and learned about their various cultures.

For instance the German youngsters invited the foreign youngsters to their homes after showing them their city out of their own perspective.

Together they have worked in small groups on topics like coming of age, participation and human rights. Every now and then, during various days I was able to be a guest at the international youth conference. These adolescents have delighted me. Their commitment, their trouble-free and joyful interaction with each other, all this has impressed me very much.

On the last day the adolescents have presented me the wishes and requests they have for politicians. At that point also the political representatives of the cities Aberdeen, Brixen and Tempe were present. I was very impressed by the wide range of wishes, which extended to all areas of life. Besides requests for a strong welcoming culture, gender equality or free healthcare systems and free schooling, there were also requests to make alcohol and cigarettes more expensive.

You can read about all of this in the documentation. The photos show the joy with which the teenagers have worked at the conference and also have celebrated together; maybe they can even display the special atmosphere of this youth conference.

For me it became clear that no matter where they live on the world, they have common dreams and common hopes for their future.

This youth conference was a very special experience and I am already looking forward to the second international youth conference in the year 2018.

**Joachim Wolbergs**  
Lord Mayor



The first International Youth Conference Regensburg offered young people a great chance to develop their intercultural competence – one of the keys to success in life and understanding in the world.

Our research at the University of Regensburg on the “Long-term impact of international youth exchanges on the individual development of participants” (Thomas, A., Chang, C. & Abt, H.(2006): *Erlebnisse, die verändern: Langzeitwirkungen der Teilnahme an internationalen Jugendbegegnungen*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) shows surprising benefits, even in the case of short events such as the Youth Conference.

Going abroad on an international youth exchange does not only optimize language skills. It also strengthens self-confidence, openness, self-awareness, social skills and intercultural competence.

Last but not least, it fosters good relations with the host country (or town!), lasting years after the programme took place. But what do we mean by culture and intercultural competence? Culture is not a matter of nationality, or of ethnicity. As we understand it, culture is a system of rules set in a society and negotiated within a group. These rules are dynamic and variable. They ultimately create identity and solidarity. Intercultural competence involves being aware of one’s own cultural imprint (“wearing cultural glasses”); understanding the ways people from other cultures act and think; being able to change perspective and using different perspectives to access, understand and implement the ‘inner logic’ of a foreign culture. These are important abilities.

To quote the Dalai Lama: “There are no strangers, only friends you haven’t met yet.” We made these words come true. I’m convinced that the 1st International Youth Conference Regensburg left significant footprints on the biography of each participant, and that everyone went home after having met and made new friends from all over the world.

Heike Abt  
Regensburg, 30.08.16

Heike Abt works as a psychologist. She is a specialist for intercultural relations and studies and works for several years as coach and trainer. She spoke an opening report on the first conference day about “International successful”.



With this documentation we tried to capture the great, energetic and exuberant atmosphere of the 1st International Youth Conference “We R international – Let’s talk about you and me!”

Altogether it was designed very reader-friendly: As little text as necessary and as many expressive images as possible.

We hope very much, that this documentation will be for all participants a nice reminder of the international week we have spent together. It gives an impression of the fruitful intercultural collaboration of the youngsters. The documented results prove impressively how important it is to encourage young people in their ideas and wishes and how essential it should be to hear their opinions. Furthermore to help them gain political attention for their opinions and views about the intercultural cooperation of different nations.

I, the project manager, am strongly and positively surprised by the good standing and confidence the adolescents showed dealing with the assigned tasks and performing the presentations on stage or on the podium. The participants have been seeking intercultural encounters with an ease and joy that was contagious. Their fluent English skills were convincing as well.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to my colleagues, the women of the project-management team, all voluntary chaperons and all other supporters and collaborators. Without this outstanding team the realization of the 1st International

Youth Conference would not have been possible in such a short time.

If you don’t only want to read what happened during the week, but want to get a visual impression, then you should watch our documentation video, too. It is available on: [www.regensburg.de/youthconference](http://www.regensburg.de/youthconference).

I wish you great pleasure with this documentation while reading, discovering, remembering and smiling.

Michaela Schindler

Michaela Schindler  
Project management



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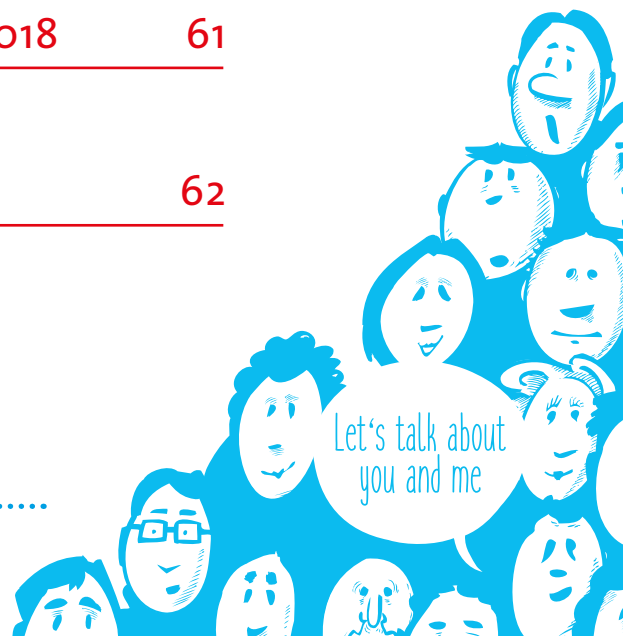
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## Have a look behind the scenes of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Youth Conference

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Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs had the wish to bring young people of the eight sister cities of Regensburg and young people of Regensburg together for an exchange meeting. He himself took part in exchange programmes as an adolescent and experienced great benefits of such meetings.

Within six months the Department of Municipal Youth Services (Amt für kommunale Jugendarbeit) and the Main Department – International Relations and Representation (Hauptamt – Internationale Beziehungen und Repräsentation) created a varied programme for the participants and tried to put the intention of a – in every way – profitable get together into practice.

For one week in August Regensburg should become international - as the motto was

„We R international“!

The subtitle of the first International Youth Conference “Let’s talk about you and me!” includes already the most important aim of this event. The youngsters should get together and have the chance to learn more about themselves and other cultures as well as experience similarities and differences in their everyday life.

**“Young people have common dreams, visions and ideas of what life should be. They want to live in peace, they want to have a good education and a good job.”**

(Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs; impression of his discussions with the participants)

The participants should discuss and exchange their points of view about different subjects and their ideas for our international future as well as their wishes addressed to local politicians.

Furthermore, We R international was supposed to give them the opportunity to make intercultural friendships.

**“We decided to start this project because we want adolescents of all sister cities of Regensburg and young people of Regensburg to get together and exchange their points of view. They are not only from different countries, they are even from different continents: Europe, America and Asia. We have planned a working programme as well as attractive leisure activities which will be fun and create good memories because when these young people are spending a good time with each other, they will not be enemies. The participants will remember their positive experiences and pass it on to our sister cities.”**

(Annerose Raith, Head of Department of Municipal Youth Services)

For the foreign teenagers the youth conference was supposed to offer a chance to get to know the World Heritage City of Regensburg. The youngsters from Regensburg could discover maybe new sides of their city and be a host for the guests.

The conference language was English, which gave all participants the opportunity to improve the foreign language skills – except the delegations from Aberdeen (Scotland) and Tempe (USA).

This project could only be realized because lots of employees and volunteers of the City of Regensburg invested a lot of working hours and much energy in this event.

The umbrella organisation of youth associations (Stadtjugendring) supported the planning, as well.



## We R international – Financing

The first International Youth Conference cost around 60.000 Euros for 7 days and around 70 participants. The event was supported with 25.000 Euros by the FIJR (Forum Internationaler Jugendaustausch Regensburg)



↓ press conference 19.07.16



↑ From left to the right: Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs, Michael Quast (Stadtmarketing Regensburg e. V.), Danuta Kessler-Zieroth (Krones AG), Michael Staab (Continental AG), Marcus Spangenberg (Infineon Technologies)

# What are you expecting?

## Expectations of the participants before the Youth Conference



“It’s a good chance to improve my skills in German, to meet my German friends and to get to know new friends.”

**Boiko, Anna**  
**Odessa**

“I am interested in meeting new people and learning about new cultures. I also look forward to sharing about life in Aberdeen.”

**Finnie, Olivia**  
**Aberdeen**

“I am interested in politics and I like travelling in different places. Moreover, I think this is a good opportunity to improve my English skills and get in touch with people from all over the world.”

**Rainer, Marlene**  
**Brixen**

“I think it is interesting to get to know other cultures and people. I like speaking with people of my age and discussing about our future.”

**Marcov, Blanka**  
**Budavár**

“Teenagers from all over the world will be blessed with the opportunities to mutually convey their individual points of view. The youths will find out a path to cope with the issues, overcome the barriers they are facing with, and make this world a better place.”

**Sun, Mingchen**  
**Qingdao**

“I want to get to know other cultures and ask people for their opinions, and I also want to meet new friends from the entire world.”

**Trkovsky, Krystof**  
**Pilsen**

“I want to share my ideas and my opinions with other youths from different origins, and I am also interested in their opinions.”

**Cakan, Olcay**  
**Regensburg**

“I believe that I will be a strong addition to the conference because of my passion for travel, and my open-mindedness.”

**Settles, Dorothy**  
**Tempe**

“I want to meet new teenagers from all Europe. I love European Union and I want to discover more about this purpose.”

**Cardon, Timothée**  
**Clermont-Ferrand**

“I really want to make a positive difference in the world and hope to achieve that through things like this congress.”

**Garlid, Michael  
Tempe**

“I’ve never done this kind of trip before and I’m very interested in international exchanges. Furthermore, I’ve only been once in Germany and I want to know more about this country.”

**Gonzalez-Thauvin, Milan  
Clermont-Ferrand**

“I think it is a great chance to meet new people and it will help me improving my English.”

**Pronk, Paul  
Budavár**

“I want to meet new people, to learn about other cultures and I could represent my city and my country as well. Also I wish I could see the Old Town of Regensburg,”

**Stepanek, Jakub  
Pilsen**

“During my several stays abroad, I noticed what wonderful new friendships are possible with open-mindedness and hospitality.”

**Schuck, Viktoria  
Regensburg**

“I would like to enrich my knowledge by getting acquainted with people from EU countries, exchanging skills and experiences.”

**Gribanov, Victor  
Odessa**

“I thought it was an experience I couldn’t not take part in! I hope to learn more about other people, develop my people skills and experience foreign cultures.”

**Murray, Kelsey  
Aberdeen**

“I want to share my ideas about how to make the world a better place and broaden my horizons.”

**Feng, Ruigo  
Qingdao**

“I am going to study teaching German at University and hope to work in Germany in the future.”

**Tylor, Kirsty  
Aberdeen**

“I want to change things and I think if we keep ourselves quiet, nothing will change so I won’t be silent anymore.”

**Demetz, Maximilian  
Brixen**

“Interactions with foreign youths will bring new views to highlight and challenge me to have a critical mind about cultures and politics of the world.”

**Savannah, Johnston  
Tempe**

## At a glance: These were the participants of We R international 2016

The city of Regensburg invited from each sister city six young people aged 16 - 18 and one chaperon.

The sister cities of Regensburg are:  
Aberdeen (Scotland), Budavár (Hungary)  
Clermont-Ferrand (France), Brixen (Italy),  
Odessa (Ukraine), Qingdao (China),  
Tempe (Arizona/USA), Pilsen (Czech Republic).

More information is available: [www.regensburg.de/rathaus/partnerstaedte](http://www.regensburg.de/rathaus/partnerstaedte)

Each sister city delegation was accompanied by a volunteer chaperon of the Department of municipal youth services, Regensburg.

The delegation of Regensburg was a group of twenty teenagers aged between 15 and 18 years. Some of them are members of the youth parliament (youth parliament) which had been elected in February 2016 ([www.youth-parliament-regensburg.de](http://www.youth-parliament-regensburg.de)). Others have signed up on the basis of a recommendation of their schools or got the information of the employees through the city youth centres of Regensburg.

These are the nine delegations at one glance:



### Delegation from Regensburg (Germany)

Cakan, Olcay (youth parliament)

Detterbeck, Theresia

Galli, Katharina

Heinrich, Sarah

Hopfner, Sarah

Kainz, Leoni

Kader, Paschew (youth parliament)

Kainz, Maja

Großkopf, Lea (youth parliament)

Moges, Makdes

Moravcik, Lisa-Sophie

Petri, Kevin

Preis, Jennifer

Schindler, Elias (youth parliament)

Schuck, Viktoria (youth parliament)

Shmucklerman, Ade

Sichelstiel, Franziska

Wagner, Dennis

Weinberger, Evelyn

Wittmann, Pamina



**Delegation from Aberdeen (Scotland)**

Webster, Kenneth (Chaperon)

Adams, Caitlin

Finnie, Olivia

Hadden, Joshua

Murray, Kelsey

Taylor, Kirsty



**Delegation from Budavár (Hungary)**

Penner, Orsolya (Chaperon)

Kátai-Pál, Levente

Lakos, Lia Dominika

Marcov, Blanka

Nemes, Kinga

Pronk, Alicia

Pronk, Paul



**Delegation from Clermont-Ferrand (France)**

Marguin, Philippa (Chaperon)

Cardon, Timothée

Garbe, Matéo

Garnier Bonnet, Chloé

Gonzalez-Thauvin, Milan

Heyraud, Mélodie

Laurens, Elna





#### Delegation from Brixen (Italy)

Iocolano, Gianluca (Chaperon)

Demetz, Maximilian

Dianese, Manuel

Messner, Johannes

Überbacher, Julian



#### Delegation from Odessa (Ukraine)

Shymko, Yuliya (Chaperon)

Boiko, Anna

Hrybanov, Victor

Lunhu, Anna

Shpylievyi, Daniil

Shymko, Danyił

Zakharova, Diana



#### Delegation from Qingdao (China)

Li, Ben (Chaperon)

Du, Nianyao

Feng, Ruigo

Liu, Haozheng

Sun, Mingchen

Wang, Yichun

Yu, Jiacheng





Delegation from Tempe (Arizona/USA)

Angie Taylor (Chaperon)

Cohen, Jamie

Garlid, Michael

Johnston, Savannah

Otis, Morgan

Schor, Spencer

Settles, Dorothy



Delegation from Pilsen (Czech Republic)

Lucie Štvánová (Chaperon)

Kopecká, Anna

Malina, Milan

Sabelová, Kateřina

Štěpánek, Jakub

Trkovský, Kryštof

Zelenková, Beáta



## At a glance: This was the staff of We R international 2016

We R international is the result of the outstanding team effort of professionals and volunteers, who devoted lots of work and commitment to the organisation of the cause.

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### The project management team:

.....



↑ From left to the right:  
Mélanie Hurteloup, Anja Spangel, Sandra Schneider (Main Department – International Relations and Representation),  
Michaela Schindler, Rosemarie Wöhr (Department for Municipal Youth Services)

### The first International Youth Conference was supported by a team of volunteer chaperons.

.....



↑ From left to the right:  
Back row: Sarah Segas, Sara Gschlößl, Marlene Haas, Nathalie Lange, Christian Strack,  
Front row: Verena Fischer, Max Röslmair, Max Wüsten, Franca Bongartz, Julia Christof, Lena Schneider, Jennifer Randall

.....



Each delegation of the sister cities was accompanied by a guest chaperon. The following picture shows the team of guest chaperons with the project management team.



Many professionals of the Department for Municipal Youth Services were involved in the implementation of the various programmes and planning:

Staff Department for Municipal Youth Services	Task during the Youth Conference
Raith, Annerose Head of Department for Municipal Youth services	representation, PR support project management
Wöhrl, Rosemarie Department management	project management contact person guest chaperons
Schindler, Michaela Vacation activities, International Relations	project management programme, PR, volunteers, contact participants from Regensburg
Schledorn, Anna Youth welfare planning	classification of the workshops consulting, interpreter
Graml, Marianne Financial planning	financial planning
Sipl, Barbara Administration	accounting
Stecher, Doris Administration	accounting
Lungauer, Margit Administration	accounting



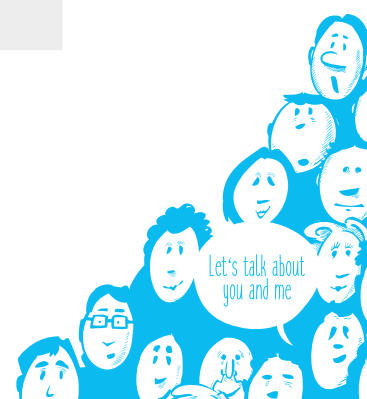
Staff Department for Municipal Youth Services	Task during the Youth Conference
Baumann, Stefanie project "Notinseln"	workshop management (human rights)
Bloch-Meilhammer, Dian youth centre Königswiesen	workshop management (human rights) delegation photos (Welcome Evening) admission control at the closing party
Günther, Esther youth centre Königswiesen	workshop management (Hip Hop)
Krummek, Lennart youth centre Königswiesen	workshop management (social media) International Bowling
Seeberger, Maximilian Youth centre Königswiesen	workshop management (social media) International Bowling
Bögendorfer, Iris youth centre Fantasy	workshop management (public rooms)
Pfreimer, Jakob Youth centre Fantasy	workshop management (sports & fitness)
Pöpping, Judith Youth centre Fantasy	workshop management (dance)
Jansen, Nico Youth centre Utopia	management Barbecue
Walden, Lisa Youth centre Utopia	management Barbecue & DJ
Müller, Julia Youth centre Arena	workshop Management (future prospects)
Lang, Elisabeth Youth centre Arena	video documentation cooperation with filmlook pictures
Schmitz, Hannes Youth centre Arena	technical support and organisation for the rehearsal and the presentations, closing party part I, management of the closing party part II (DJ & Visual Artist)
Vas, Markus Youth centre Arena	admission control at the closing party part II
Huber, Dominik W1 – Zentrum für junge Kultur	room management W1, technical support and organisation for the rehearsal and the presentations, closing party part I, photos W1



Staff Department for Municipal Youth Services	Task during the Youth Conference
Kurz, Bianca W1 – Zentrum für junge Kultur	workshop management (dance), catering W1
Segerer, Matthias W1 – Zentrum für junge Kultur	room management W1 music & band, concert W1
Joachim, Carina Volunteer (Bundesfreiwilligendienst) W1 – Zentrum für junge Kultur	“Kulturcafé” admission control that the closing party part II
Karle, Felix student trainee W1 – Zentrum für junge Kultur	admission control that the closing party part II
Albrecht, Andreas multigenerational house (MGH) - intergenerational projects	catering, room management MGH
Lippert, Silke MGH – projects for children (Spielhaus)	workshop management (coming of age; theatre)
Wild, Reiner Head of MGH	room & technique management MGH
Männer, Martin Janitor MGH	room & technique management MGH

The team of the employees of the Main Department are:

Staff Main Department – International Relations and Representation	Task during the Youth Conference
Kastenmeier, Bernadette Head of Main Department	representation, PR support Project management contact to Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs
Hurteloup, Mélanie Representation, sister city relations	organisation & management catering, PR
Schneider, Sandra Representation, sister city relations	organisation & management catering, PR programme for political guests invitations Closing Party



Staff Main Department – International Relations and Representation	Task during the Youth Conference
Spangel, Anja Representation, sister city relations	organisation & management catering, PR programme for political guests
Pötke, Uwe Janitor	room management “Historischer Reichssaal”
Samuel Chenaud Student trainee	support of project management

### More people or organisations who contributed to the success of We R international:

.....

Additional staff	Task during the Youth Conference
Phillip, Seitz Head of the umbrella organisation of youth associations (Stadtjugendring)	workshop management (Volunteering)
Effenhauser, Stefan Press photographer, city of Regensburg	documentation, photos
Peter, Ferstl Press photographer, city of Regensburg	documentation, photos
Rockinger, Stefan Online kommunikation, city of Regensburg	homepage
Satzinger, Andreas Prospective social worker	workshop management (public rooms)
Paukner, Katharina Prospective drama teacher	workshop management (coming of age; theatre)
Filmlook pictures	video documentation
Valentum Kommunikation	PR, conference material
Einhörn.media	video documentation

.....



Staff in action



## Overview programme & venues

### **SUNDAY, 31 July 2016** › 6 - 9 p.m., Kolpinghaus, Kolpingsaal **Welcome Evening**

First “get-together” with other conference participants! Various info points will provide you with initial orientation, you’ll get your conference ID card, decide on a workshop, and we’ll take photos of each group of cities. Of course, fine catering will be provided. Special guest: Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs.

### **MONDAY, 1 August 2016** › 9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mehrgenerationenhaus, Clermont-Ferrand-Saal **Arrive, meet and greet, orientation**

Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs will welcome participants and officially open the Youth Conference. The teenagers can get better acquainted and establish contacts.

### **3 - 6 p.m.** , Mehrgenerationenhaus **„We proudly present our home town“**

While the group of adolescents from Regensburg plan activities for Tuesday afternoon, you and the other youngsters from your city prepare a brief presentation of your city together with the chaperon from your city. Things from your hometown which you’ve brought along with you can be useful here.

### **TUESDAY, 2 August 2016** › 9.15 a.m., Altes Rathaus **„We proudly present our Regensburg!“**

**For guests from the twin cities:** you may look forward to a guided city tour in your native language! Afterwards there’s leisure time until lunch.

### **3 p.m.**, Mehrgenerationenhaus

In small groups, youths from Regensburg will show their favourite spots “very nice dressed” to the foreign participants. Private guided city tour meets creative photo project. You’ll be surprised!

And afterwards: teenagers from Regensburg will invite foreign guests home for dinner. Don’t worry: If that doesn’t work out we’ll find a solution.

### **9 p.m.**, Mehrgenerationenhaus **Come Together again**

Presentation of the results of the “favourite spots” photo project.  
Orientation and arrangement for the workshops.

### **WEDNESDAY, 3 August 2016 and** **THURSDAY, 4 August 2016**, (different locations) **9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.**

#### **Workshop-Time**

Various topics will be worked on in small multinational groups of 6-10 people. Every workshop group will prepare a brief, interesting presentation for the closing event on Friday evening. You can choose one workshop!

### **FRIDAY, 5 August 2016** › 9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mehrgenerationenhaus **Future Workshop**

We want to hear your ideas on the following topics:

- “What do we wish for our international future?”
- “Which wishes and demands do we have regarding the sphere of politics/politicians?”
- “What ideas do we have for future international youth conferences and twin city encounters with young people?”

Your answers and suggestions will be handed over to the Lord Mayor at the closing event.

### **Special guests from 12 noon: Mayor Wolbergs and other politicians from the twin cities.**

### **3 - 5.30 p.m.** , Altes Rathaus, Historischer Reichssaal **Rehearsal for the evening programme**

### **6.30 p.m.**, Altes Rathaus, Historischer Reichssaal **Closing Party, Part 1**

A unique final evening is waiting for you here. You help shape the programme. Your performance prepared together with the others in the workshop will be presented and the results of the Future Workshop will be announced.

Many prominent guests are invited to this event. The parents of the conference participants and other citizens from Regensburg are also invited.





## Entertainment and chill out programme

Monday, 1 August 2016, 7:30 p.m., Jugendzentrum Utopia  
**Barbecue is always great: grilling & chilling with music from DJ Sandro**

Wednesday, 3 August 2016, 7:30 p.m., Super Bowl Regensburg  
**Let's do international bowling**

Thursday, 4 August 2016, 9 p.m., Concert in the "W1 – Zentrum für junge Kultur" (Centre for Young Culture)

**You and your ears can be looking forward to:**

German singer/songwriter - „Ohrange“:

[www.ohrangemusic.blogspot.de](http://www.ohrangemusic.blogspot.de)

English-language „World Pop - Town & Ship“ (Look at facebook)

Friday, 5 August 2016, 9 p.m., Degginger

**Closing Party, Part 2**

To conclude the week there will be a large party featuring a great atmosphere with DJ, visual artist and fine catering. We'll celebrate our results and the newly created friendships!

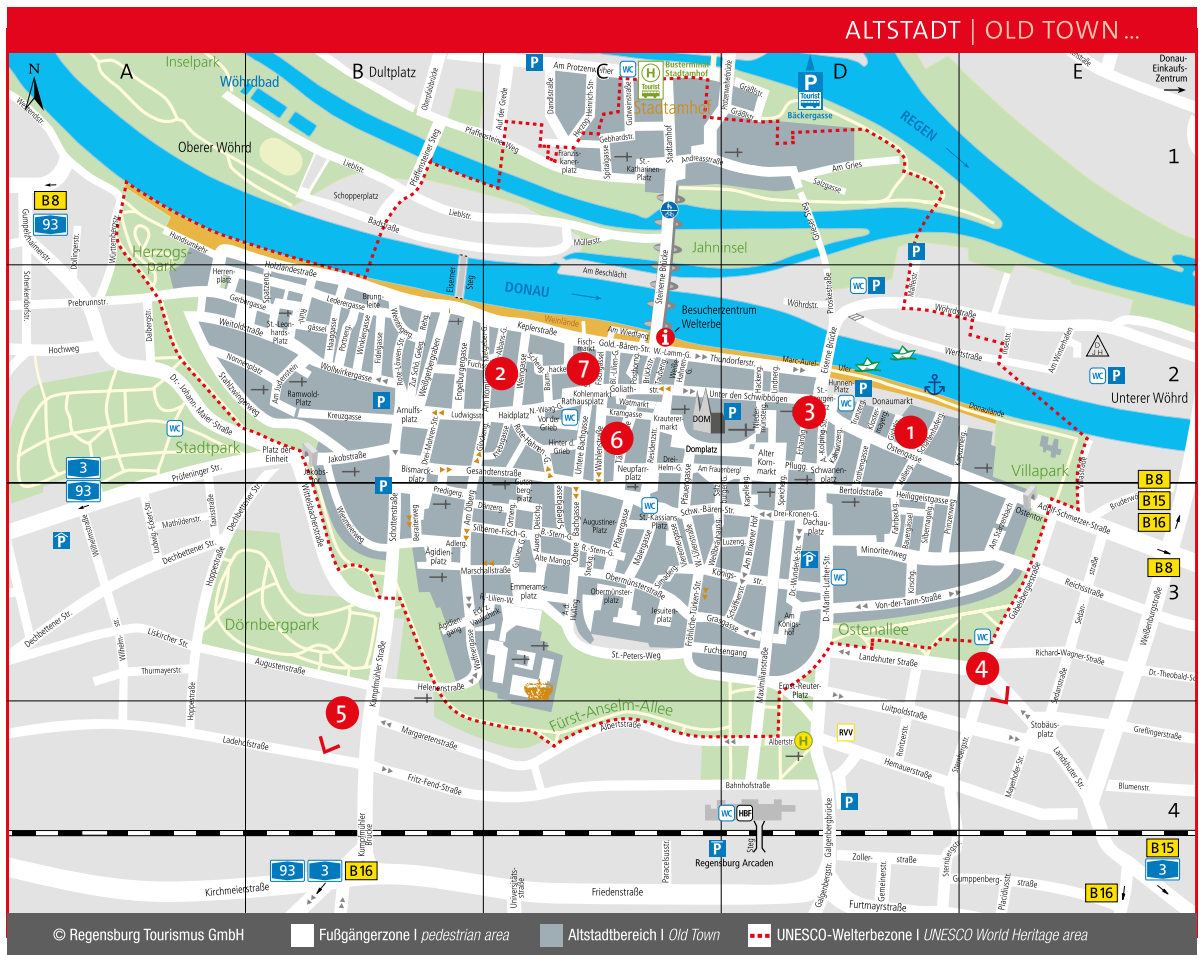
## The participants could choose between these workshop topics



## Let's talk, play, dance, sing ... about us and ...

- ... Youth and coming of age
- ... Youth and dance
- ... Youth and public rooms/places for adolescents
- ... Youth and fitness/sports
- ... Youth and youth rights/human rights
- ... Youth and media
- ... Youth and future prospects
- ... Youth and volunteering





## ➤ Venues

- 1** **Mehrgenerationenhaus Regensburg**  
 Ostengasse 29 | 93047 Regensburg  
[www.regensburg.de/mgh](http://www.regensburg.de/mgh)
- 5** **Jugendzentrum Königswiesen**  
 Dr.-Gessler-Straße 22 | 93051 Regensburg  
[www.regensburg.de/koewie](http://www.regensburg.de/koewie)
- 2** **W1-Zentrum für junge Kultur**  
 Weingasse 1 | 93047 Regensburg  
[www.regensburg.de/w1](http://www.regensburg.de/w1)
- 6** **Degginger**  
 Wahlenstraße 17 | 93047 Regensburg  
[www.facebook.com/degginger.regensburg](http://www.facebook.com/degginger.regensburg)
- 3** **Kolpinghaus Regensburg**  
 (Unterkunft Gastjugendliche & Welcome Abend)  
 Adolph-Kolping-Straße 1 | 93047 Regensburg  
[www.kolpinghaus-regensburg.de](http://www.kolpinghaus-regensburg.de)
- 7** **Altes Rathaus, Historischer Reichssaal**  
 Rathausplatz 1 | 93047 Regensburg
- 4** **Jugendzentrum Utopia**  
 Kirchfeldallee 2 | 93055 Regensburg  
[www.regensburg.de/utopia](http://www.regensburg.de/utopia)



## Welcome Evening, 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2016

WILLKOMMEN BIENVENUE  
 Ласкаво просимо VÍTEJTE ÜDVÖZLÉS 欢迎  
 BENVENUTO WELCOME

“It is wonderful that all the delegates for our 1<sup>st</sup> International Youth Conference are now meeting each other for the first time at this get-together this evening. If we were to award prizes for distances travelled, the first prize would surely go to the delegation from our American twin city Tempe and the second to Qingdao in China, with the group from Odessa in Ukraine in third place. Compared with these three cities, Aberdeen in Scotland, Bressanone in Italy, Budavár in Hungary, Clermont-Ferrand in France and Pilsen in the Czech Republic are almost local. Those with the shortest journey are – of course – our young delegates from Regensburg.”

With these words Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs started his welcoming speech on the first evening the participants spent together. His emotional and friendly words had an ice-breaking effect right away. And the second laugh was on his side as he continued:

“With nine delegations from nine different countries, this conference has certain similarities to the famous G9 summit of the world’s leading heads of state. You, however, are much luckier than the G9 leaders: you have the power to decide much of what happens at this conference yourselves.”





After a short introduction of the project management and within the following three hours all participants went to 3 different counters:

- Organisation counter, organized by the main department (conference ID-Card, registration and sign in, choice for the meals for the week)
- Photo counter, organized by Dian Bloch-Meilhammer (two pictures of every sister city delegation – serious and funny)
- Workshop counter, organized by Anna Schledorn (name three favourites as 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> choice)



Additionally the film team of *filmlook pictures* took interviews and began to film for the video-documentation.

**“However, the most important part of this first evening will be to get to know each other as you share a meal together.”**



As said by Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs said, Kolpinghaus Regensburg prepared a delicious buffet for all participants. He finished with the words:

**“Once again, a very warm welcome to you. I am happy that you are here in Regensburg!”**

The welcome evening fulfilled the aim of creating an open and pleasant atmosphere. A good start off before the official opening in the next morning.



## First conference day & Sister City presentations, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016

The first conference day started with an official opening speech of Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs. He gave some information about the world heritage city Regensburg and explained that Regensburg is already a very intercultural city.

**“I’ll say it like this: Regensburg is mega cool! (...) People from 150 nations live together peacefully in our city – Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and Hindus.”**



Furthermore he made clear that he was going to listen to the opinions of the participants because:

**“After all, today it is already concerning how you will live in the future. And that is why you should also speak up and make proposals! This all deals with the hope that you can do many things better in the future than we have managed up to now. The coming week belongs entirely to your wishes and dreams.”**

Second on the agenda was Ms. Heike Abt, a psychologist, who is running an institute for consulting and research of international human resources and management, called IKO (Institut für Kooperationsmanagement). She is well known as trainer and coach for intercultural meetings. In her opening report “International Successful” she presented how international youth exchange can change life and influence personality of the participants even when it is only a one-week meeting.



Afterwards the participants were informed about the programme of the week and expectations and rules were clarified. Typical methods and games for getting better acquainted followed. One of the most frequent expectations in regard to the inner attitude of the participants was phrased by the project manager Michaela Schindler as follows:

**“Try to be open-minded and open-hearted. Be not too shy to say your opinion but also listen carefully to the words of the others. Take care about yourselves, about the others and about the materials!”**

During this first morning every teenager received a conference bag with conference materials like writing pads, pens, sunglasses and coffee mugs.

In the afternoon the motto was “Let’s present our sister city”. After a short preparation time all participants met in the big group room and the presentations could start. Every delegation of every city explained in truly different ways how life in their hometown is and gave important facts about their city.





The delegation of Clermont-Ferrand performed a theatre play,



the delegation of Brixen did a short quiz with the participants.

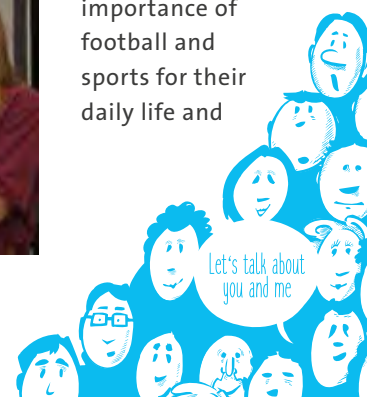
The delegation of Qingdao included a video they had shot by themselves of one typical day of a Chinese pupil



and the presentation of the delegation of Ukraine put a typical dance with traditional costumes on stage.



The presentation of Arizona showed the importance of football and sports for their daily life and





the presentation of Aberdeen gave an overview about the stormy weather and a traditional dish with meat "haggis".



The delegation of Pilsen explained the enormous technical industry of their city and informed about the youth parliament they have.

Last but not least the delegation of Budavár showed an impressive video about their city.



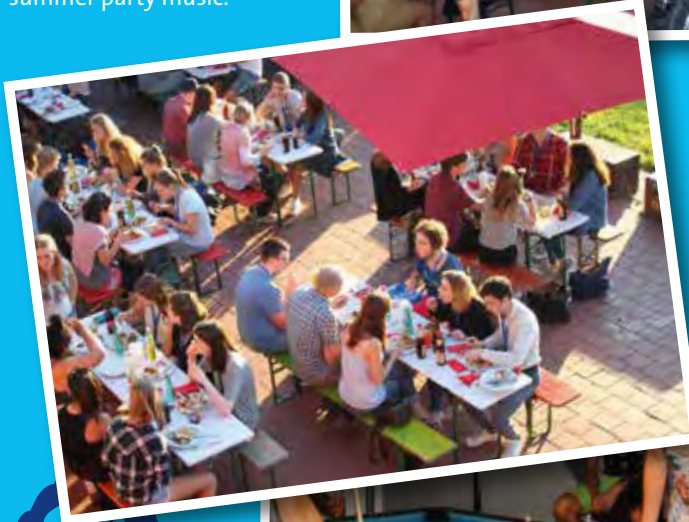
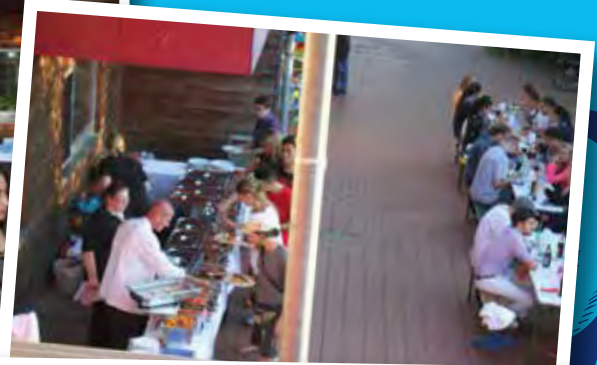
The delegation from Qingdao used the first conference day to hand over a chinese gift to the Lord Mayor.

Besides the interesting information about the hometowns of the foreign participants this presentation afternoon gave every participant an helpful overview about who is who and about who belonged to which sister city.





The first conference day ended with “Grilling & Chilling”, i.e. a tasty barbecue at the youth centre Utopia in Burgweinting. DJ Sandro enriched the event with good summer party music.



## Second conference day, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 “We proudly present our city of Regensburg”

The second day of the conference started for the foreign adolescents with a guided city tour in the native language and after that leisure time until lunch. In the meantime the participants of Regensburg were busy to prepare the afternoon for the guests.

In the afternoon the whole group was divided into several small intercultural groups. The youngsters of Regensburg prepared for the foreign teenagers private city tours. They took over the role of private city guides. During the city tour in the morning which was organised by the tourist office the guests of the sister cities got a lot of historical information about Regensburg. In contrast to this, the private tour showed them the favourite places of the young people of Regensburg.

But they did not only visit those favourite places. Additionally they dealt with a creative task: Every group received special accessories. With these accessories they were asked to decorate their favourite places and take a picture of them. That way the favourite places of the youngsters of Regensburg became “nicely dressed”. The results of this photo project are truly creative and funny as you can see.

Afterwards, as far as possible the youngsters of Regensburg invited some foreign youngsters to their own homes and shared a typical dinner with them.





## Workshop-Time

*A workshop is "a brief, intensive course of education for a small group, emphasizing interaction and practical problem solving." ([https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/workshop\\_definition\\_workshop](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/workshop_definition_workshop))*

Wednesday and Thursday of the conference week were workshop days. What does this mean?

The participants were supposed to work in small intercultural groups on certain topics about aspects of their daily life. They were supposed to meet and talk, dance, write, and even make short films about subjects which are important to them. Instead of sitting in front of a professional speaker who could inform them about a specific subject they were discussing. Instead of watching a movie they created films themselves. Instead of having a guided tour to important places of the city they created their own model of a city ....

The goal of We R international was to motivate all participants to share their views. We specifically selected topics for the workshops, which all youngsters could talk about and share their experiences. We wanted the adolescents to be able to take part in the workshops without much preparation. However we wanted to give them an opportunity to work on a subject, which they were truly interested in. Hence they were allowed to name three favourites as 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> choice at the welcome evening and were told on Tuesday, what workshop they were in.

The participants could choose between the following topics:

youth and coming-of-age; theatre  
youth and sports-fitness  
youth and dance  
youth and future prospects  
youth and human rights  
youth and media  
youth and public rooms  
youth and volunteering

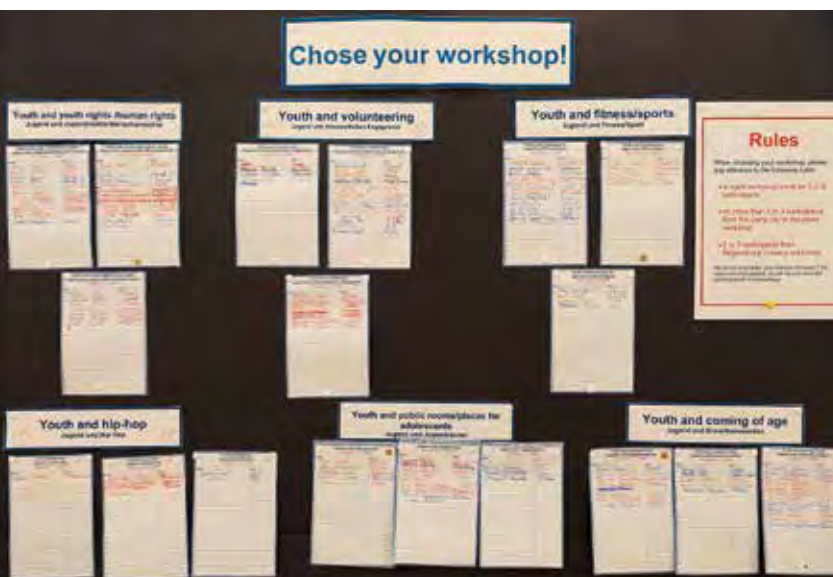
The intercultural and international exchange was deliberately encouraged by dividing the participants into intercultural working groups.

The aim of each working group was to examine their specific subject thoroughly and prepare a short presentation for the closing ceremony at the Historischer Reichssaal.

The method for the final presentation was given by the project management and the workshop instructors. However the contents were developed and creatively implemented by the adolescents themselves.

The final outcome was composed of eight very diverse presentations – dramatic and funny, quiet and loud – however always genuine and with a clear message. Despite cultural background and very diverse everyday life young people have very similar opinions and wishes about all of the topics. They want to be heard and asked. Participation is an important issue. The following pages you will read more about the particular workshops. The texts are written by the workshop managers, some of them during the workshops in collaboration with the participants.

The evening entertainment on Wednesday was "Let's do international bowling!" at the Super bowl Regensburg. On Thursday the whole group enjoyed a dinner at the Beer Garden "Alte Linde". So everybody tasted good Bavarian food. After that, the participants went to W1 – centre for youth culture: Open stage and a concert of the band Township followed.





Dinner at Beer Garden  
Alte Linde



## Youth and volunteering

Workshop management: Philipp Seitz (Stadtjugendring) & Julia Christof (volunteer)

The workshop „Let’s talk about youth and volunteering“ dealt with the questions of how volunteering is facilitated in the respective hometowns, how the hometowns support and promote voluntary commitment and what potential for improvement there could be regarding this topic. Furthermore the youngsters discussed the advantages and disadvantages of volunteering. In a video and photo project the participants from four different countries vividly portrayed what personal expectations they have about volunteering and how all cities could successfully provide further incentives for volunteering.

The knowledge sharing about the individual particularities of each country and cities was not missed out in the discussion. During the two day long workshop guests with experience in the field were available for interviews. Fascinating excursions to different youth and volunteering organisations as well as the opportunity for conversations with the police and political officeholders completed the workshop. The very motivated participants showed in a video clip which negative factors can limit voluntary commitment. They made suggestions on what changes could successfully motivate more young people to volunteer. Finally the nine young people captured the results they wanted to bring to their hometowns in a conclusion document.

### The following excursions took place during the workshop:

- Parkour association in Regensburg: We visited a young group in a gym during their practice. With financial support of the city of Regensburg the association is going to establish their own gym. “This is important in order to provide an appropriate training environment for the young members”, emphasized Max Rieder, the volunteer chairman of the association.
- FreiwilligenAgentur: Since 1998 the FreiwilligenAgentur Regensburg informs, consults and refers people, who want to commit themselves to volunteer work. This service is free of charge. The manager of the FreiwilligenAgentur presented various projects, like a reading mentoring programme for students and a computer class for elderly. All of their programmes are implemented by volunteers in order to support other people. We were especially interested in the project “Youngagement”, which the FreiwilligenAgentur offers in collaboration with the Stadtjugendring. It gives students from Regensburg a yearlong opportunity to try out volunteering. On a weekly basis the students volunteer at an assigned location which they have chosen previously. Many youngsters have stuck with their assigned location and kept assisting there even after their first committed year.
- Stadtjugendring: The Stadtjugendring is the umbrella association of the youth organisations of Regensburg. It represents the interests of the young people and of the youth associations towards local politics. Supplementing the services of the youth organisations the “Stadtjugendring” offers its own projects. During the workshop the participants visited a





couple of youth organisations or got to talk to representatives of them. That way they were able to get an idea about the responsibilities of the water rescue services ("Wasserwacht") and to find out about the sports association for youngsters ("Sportjugend"). We also talked to political officeholders and the police about what rules there are for volunteers and in what parts there would still be optimization needs in Regensburg.

## Our result

By creating a short video we have dealt with the factors that facilitate or negatively influence volunteering. As obstacles the young people defined that often volunteers are not valued enough for what they do. There are also too few opportunities, especially for people of young age who would like to dedicate themselves during their free time for the society. Another negative factor is sometimes the lack of leisure time after school or university. One who does not have time, cannot commit to volunteering. Furthermore it was important to the participants that young people should not have any additional costs because of their volunteering.



As solutions they suggested better and more targeted advertising for volunteering at the schools and information offices, which should offer counselling about volunteering and refer volunteers. It was very important to the participants, that young people are taken seriously and valued and included by associations and organisations. Working in good companionship fosters the fun element of volunteering and results in a long lasting bond. Incentives should be offered for taking over responsibility in society, such as certificates that are accepted by the schools or additional accredited credit points for college.

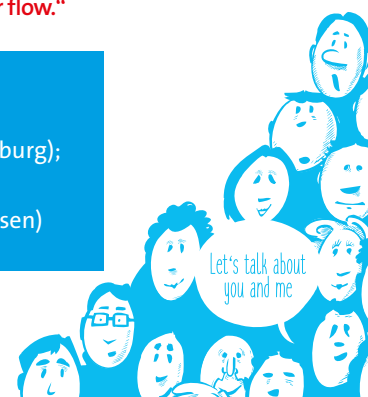
Generally the young participants of the workshop all considered volunteering as a reasonable commitment. Only one who contributes something for society can help change the world into a better place and at the same time takes on responsibility for him or herself and for other people. One participant wrote down the following points as reasons for how volunteering is important for personal character development: „**Learn life skills like communication, making decisions, working with others in a community, experiences.**“

In order to give at this point an authentic insight of participants' results there shall be quoted some thoughts of the finding documents:

**„I think that the way Regensburg (and Germany) runs their volunteer work is very interesting. I really like how there are specific organisations like the youth centre and the volunteerism center (FreiwilligenAgentur). It seems like it makes it very easy for anyone to get involved. In my country, there are opportunities available but you have to seek them out yourself. You can't really just go somewhere and have someone help you. I think in my country there should be a center of the city. It is also amazing that these volunteer organisations receive so much funding, from the government or the city because it is almost the opposite in my hometown. Charities are mainly privately funded or you have to pay to be a member of the charity organisation which is another major flow.“**

## Participants:

Viktoria Schuck & Elias Schindler (Regensburg);  
Morgan Otis & Jamie Cohen (Tempe);  
Du Nianyao (Qingdao); Anna Kopecka (Pilsen)



## Youth and coming of age

Workshop management: Silke Lippert, Katharina Paukner

Eight people from three different countries, Italy, Ukraine and Germany met for the first time in order to deal with the topic “Youth and coming of age”. In the beginning I wanted to know what their expectations for the workshop were. They had different ideas and opinions, but their main expectation was “I want to have a lot of fun.” And as you can see on the picture, they really had great fun together. The amusing games for getting to know each other have contributed to that.

Beside the entertaining part we also have dealt with serious subjects concerning youth and coming of age. The first point we discussed about was “Youth Rights”. We ascertained that there are many similarities in the different countries but also some differences. The members were very surprised by some of the differences and it was very interesting to hear the different opinions from the youngsters about the youth rights.

After a break the participants formed two groups. In form of collages they have explained what they associate with childhood and being an adult.

**“As an adult you have a lot of advantages, but sometimes you must take over a lot of responsibility and that could be difficult.”**

(Statement of a participant)

Concerning our presentation on Friday in which we wanted to perform a play, we started the first pantomime exercises. The game “I’m a tree, I’m a dog” became very popular.

At the end of the first day we talked about, what we want to show in our play on Friday. The participants have decided to show the different stages you have passed through before you are an adult. They wanted to present it in a funny way, so we decided to include some typical prejudices about the different countries or let’s say cultures. These ideas sounded promising.

The next day was filled with preparing scenes for the play and lots of rehearsal. One hour before lunchtime we went to the Historischer Reichssaal and took a look at the stage. In the afternoon we went on with our rehearsal for the play for the presentation on Friday. It was a great pleasure to see how much fun the group enjoyed it and how well they cooperated.

At the end of the workshop “Youth and coming of age” we had created a funny and also emotional play, full of prejudices, which had filled the hall with lots of laughter. Even though the days have been exhausting, we had so much fun creating the play. It was a great and very interesting experience.







### Participants:

Theresa Detterbeck, Pamina Wittmann & Sarah Heinrich (Regensburg);  
Manuel Dianese & Johannes Messner (Brixen);  
Anna Lunhu, Diana Zakharova & Danyill Shynko (Odessa)

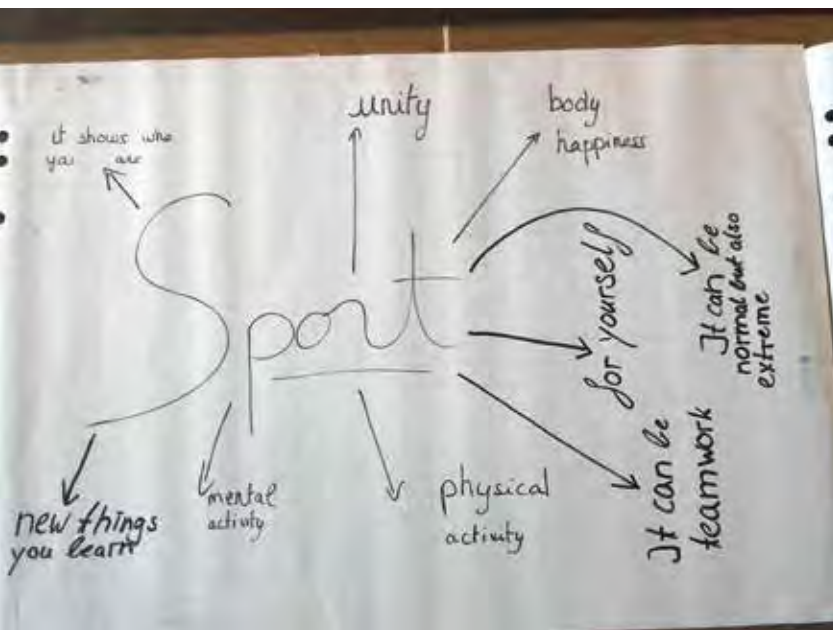


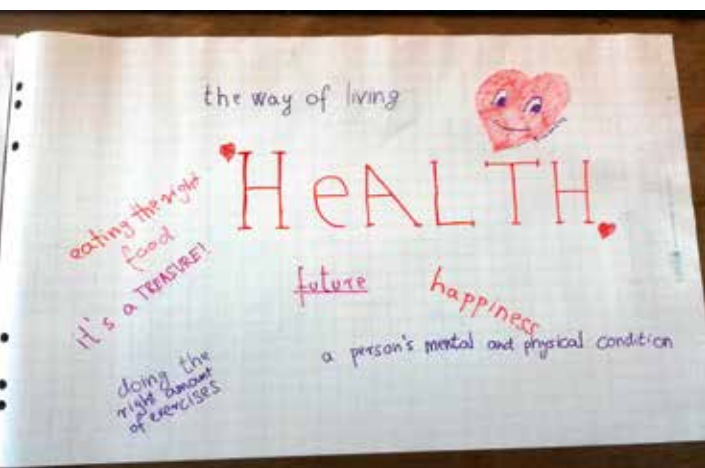
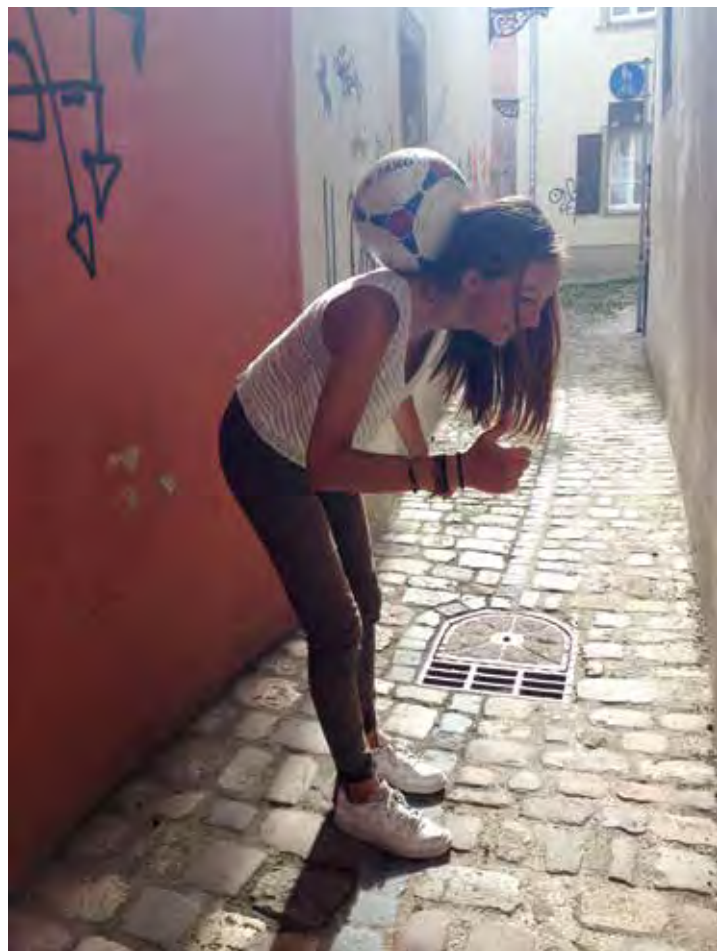
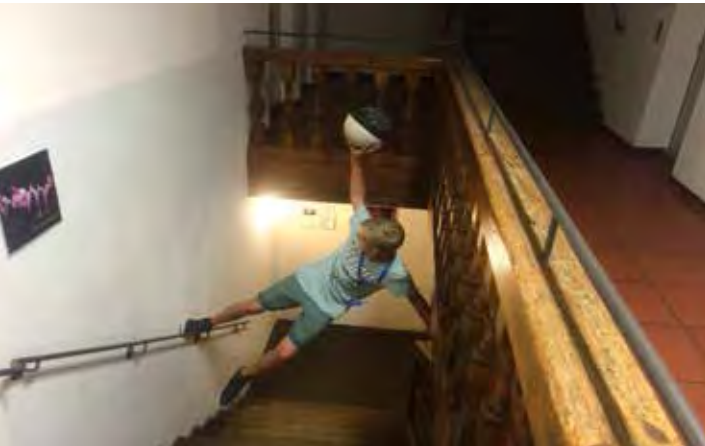
## Youth and fitness

### Workshop management: Jakob Pfreimer

In the workshop „youth and fitness/sports/health“ 8 young people from Odessa, Budavár, Pilsen, Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg met and discussed a topic which is very important for their every-day-life. During the two days of the workshop they spent lots of time doing sports in the city and trying to find new places or new ways to do sports in streets and casual places. The whole first morning was used for an introduction in parkour-running and free-running, which are very popular among young people and are also an important part of modern city culture. Within this sport-exercise we experienced our limits, but also found ways to expand and overcome them. Following this experience the group tried to define, what it means to be fit, to be athletic and to be healthy. While gathering their own definitions on posters, the group started first discussions. Is sport available to everyone, despite of money, health and place of residence? Are there possibilities for mentally and/or physically disabled people? How are school sports organised within the different countries? What is the connection between the three topics? How do they bring people together or support each other?

There were many questions and of course the group had many answers to them. All of the gathered information was used to create three different posters, which only showed a small bandwidth of the results. Another step towards the presentation on Friday evening involved creating a video about sports and health. The group documented their parkour-exercise and various sports in the city. All together it was a very joyfull and interesting experience for all of the workshop-members as well as for the workshop manager. We're all looking forward to the next international youth conference.





Participants:

Paschew Kader & Jennifer Preis (Regensburg);  
 Melodie Heyraud (Clermont-Ferrand);  
 Katerina Sabelova & Beata Zelenkova (Pilsen);  
 Daniil Shpylievyi (Odessa); Paul Pronk &  
 Levente Katai-Pal (Budavár); Orsolya Penner  
 (Chaperon –Budavár)



## Youth and media

Workshop management: Lennart Krummeck, Maximilian Seeberger

The workshop focused on contemporary internet culture. Using memes and vine-videos the participants humorously dealt with the subject of prejudices concerning their countries and everyday situations they experienced during their time at the conference.

The Oxford dictionary defines Memes as: “An image, video, piece of text, etc., typically humorous in nature, that is copied and spread rapidly by Internet users, often with slight variations.”

These pictures often have their origin in contemporary pop- and internet culture. They could be taken from a popular TV-show or a viral internet video. Usually they are attributed with a specific meaning and/or fixed

parts of text which are reused by many people.

Vines are short 7 second videos shared on different internet platforms. The challenge these videos resemble is fitting a plot in the short timeframe. Therefore they are shortened to the essentials, often using hard cuts. In between the creative phases the juveniles discussed different topics like the “darknet” and the pros and cons of viral internet phenomena such as challenge, prank and fail videos.

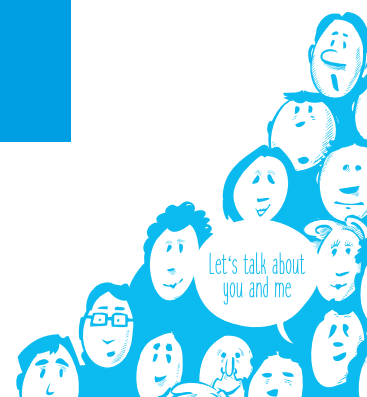
Over the course of the workshop more than a hundred memes and about ten videos have been created and later compiled into a single presentation.





### Participants:

Sarah Hopfner & Kevin Petri & Dennis Wagner & Evelyn Weinberger (Regensburg); Julian Überbacher (Brixen); Milan Mahna (Pilsen); Timothee Cardon & Chloe Garnier Bonnet & Elna Laurens (Clermont-Ferrand)



## Youth and public rooms

Workshop management: Iris Bögendorfer, Andreas Satzinger

Seven participants from China, Scotland, Ukraine and Germany have dealt for two days with the topic “youth and public places”.

The challenge in the beginning was to find out, where the adolescents like to spend most of their time. What makes a specific spot into a special place for them? What is important to make them feel comfortable and what makes them avoid places? Searching for differences and similarities, they gave answers that displayed a wide spectrum of needs and interests.

For example the youngsters of Regensburg enjoy spending their time at the Danube. A Chinese participant however said that after a long day at school Chinese adolescents like to spend time in a so called “learning isle”. Supposedly it is quiet there and they can autonomously study by themselves and if needed ask a teacher for help - as there is always one nearby. A youngster from Odessa called a fitness studio his favorite place. Here he can not only do something good for his body but he can also meet friends, burn off energy and relax. Little surprising was the input about the topic “shopping and shopping facilities” – it is a very popular leisure activity especially for girls. Very popular venues for young people are the malls. They often offer a free Wi-Fi connection, as well as the possibility



for meeting without obligation to buy something and without parental monitoring.

A participant from Scotland spends his time preferably at a flight school, which is mirroring his aspired career and – among other things – demonstrates the determination of many young people.

In a second step the group was presented the following challenge: „You are urban planners and you are supposed to make a draft for a city for adolescents. What is important to you? What is relevant? How should the city be constructed for young people to feel comfortable and have fun?”

The previously mentioned favorite places where part of a lively discussion about how the individual needs should be met best. The following key points have been determined by the group as crucial factors: Entertainment, education, sports, living, creativity, mobility and energy as well as environment.

As a third step the participants were given craft materials to build a model of a city according to the aspects they had prepared. Supplied with a video camera some of the participants additionally were given the opportunity to interview other youngsters in Regensburg about their favorite places in the city and about suggestions to improve people's lives in for Regensburg.





All agreed that nature is a crucial factor for relaxing and feeling comfortable in a city. Therefore they chose a river as a starting point for the arrangement of the various neighbourhoods.

The “city planners” also quickly agreed on the topic education. They wanted to cumulate all educational services in one district of the city. They arranged all educational institutions from preschool up to university, including a large public library, in a way that enables collaborative learning across the ages. They also created “creative spaces” in which ideas could form and grow and which are supposed to facilitate a creative and innovative interaction. It was important to the group that these educational opportunities should be accessible to everyone (barrier free and free of charge).

They built leisure- and entertainment options such as a mall, movies, a museum, a fitness studio and a natural public pool. They equipped their city model with free Wi-Fi.

Being aware of the fact that our resources are limited and that our ecological footprint plays a crucial role for the future, the participants included appropriate measures in their model city. Their results concerning sustainability, energy and mobility were a bicycle sharing

system, greening over roofs and applying photovoltaic systems on roofs.

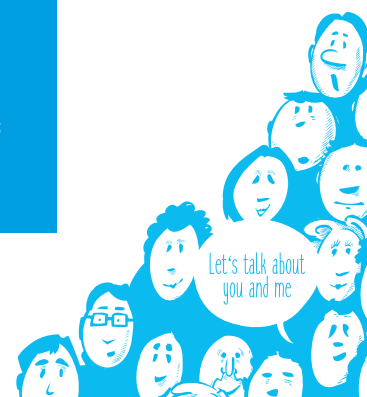
For the bicycling sharing system they established stations all over town in order to connect the “Hot Spots” of the city. Accordingly also the bicycle paths are fully developed. As soon as someone is registered in the system, bikes can be borrowed and returned at the closest bicycling sharing point.

In order to supply the surrounding stores and restaurants with regional and fresh products the group planned an organic farm.



### Participants:

Katharina Galli, Franziska Sichelstiel & Lisa-Sophie Moravcik (Regensburg);  
Joshua Hadden (Aberdeen);  
Liu Hoazheng & Yichun Wang (Qingdao);  
Victor Hrybanov (Odessa)



## Youth and human rights

Workshop management:  
Stefanie Baumann, Dian Bloch-Meilhammer



### Who we are:

Ten participants from six different countries. Young people between 15 and 18 years from Tempe, Qingdao, Clermont-Ferrand, Budavár, Brixen and Regensburg. Brilliant, open-minded, interested and hard-working young people. Steffi Baumann who had prepared the theoretical part of the workshop. Diana Bloch-Meilhammer who was responsible for the creative process and took the pictures for the presentation.

### What we did:

Even though it became quite obvious during the workshop that the participants had much in common in the way they look upon the world and its problems, it was interesting to see the differences at the beginning. As a start the participants were asked to form rows and thus sort themselves into different categories. Michael from Tempe is the one who has more brothers and sisters than anyone else in the group, whereas Feng and Yu from Qingdao are both only children. No one has travelled to more different countries than Dorothy from Tempe. She has been to eighteen foreign countries so far. Maxi from Brixen and Blanka from Budavár speak four different languages, the participants from Tempe just one (but very well indeed).

One important aim of the workshop was to exchange opinions and ideas. Therefore the participants talked in a rotating inner and outer circle about questions like

“What do you like about your city, what don’t you like?”  
“Are you interested in politics? Do you act politically?”  
“What are you allowed to do at the age of 16 in your country? What is forbidden?”

Then the participants were asked to work in small groups on questions like “Which rights are important for us?” “How do we want to influence political decisions?”. On presenting the groups` results, an extremely interesting discussion arose. The young people from three different continents discussed the main problems in their mother countries. Refugees seemed to be a big issue not only for the European participants but also for the young people from China and the USA. Besides, racism and gun related violence were serious problems for Dorothy, Savannah and Michael from Tempe. Feng and Yu from Qingdao talked about their school and educational system which they regard as a major problem for China. Another topic of the discussion was religion. Although nearly everyone emphasized the importance and value of being religious for society, all participants stated not to be very religious themselves.

After lunch, we had a close look on human rights. The participants formed three small groups and did a jigsaw puzzle with the first sentence of the United Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Then they compared the human right situation of their schools, sorted the articles of the UDHR, named the ten most important articles, found a definition of human rights, dealt with the question “What does it mean to be human?” and explained terms like “United Nations”, “Equality” and “Education” without being allowed to use certain “taboo words”.







Thursday's session started with a method to getting people discuss called "Sensis". The participants received cards which said "Yes", "No", and "Can't decide" on them. They were asked questions such as "Should human rights also apply to unborn children?" or "Is it a human right to decide about how and when to put life to an end?" It was impressive to see that those young people had similar viewpoints despite of their different cultural backgrounds. When it came to the question "Should the right to live ever be taken away by the state?" the Europeans on the one hand and the Americans and Chinese on the other hand disagreed. However, there was a consensus about the last question: "Are you satisfied with the human rights situation in your country?" There were ten "No"-cards on the floor and again a lively discussion started.

Another task for the group was a game similar to a speed dating situation. Everybody had three minutes to find the best woman / best man for the following imaginative project: "Let's assume that in our partnership of towns one common law for all young people in all of our countries should be introduced. One of us will be chosen to be part of the committee making decisions". At the end of the game, three names were mentioned most frequently but the group wanted them to remain secret.



"Concerning young people's rights: How content are you with the situation in your hometown?" was the last question of the theoretical part of the workshop. Here is one example:



It took the group just five minutes to decide how to present such a serious issue like "human rights" on stage. Maxi from Brixen had the brilliant idea to let the audience guess different articles of the UDHR in a quiz show. So, the whole group had a nice afternoon in the nearby Villapark taking pictures and eating ice-cream.



### What impressed:

We were deeply impressed by the young people's open-mindedness and their great interest in other countries, cultural issues and different viewpoints. It was breath-taking which profound knowledge of politics and history of other countries they showed. Imagine 17-year-old non-Europeans having a stimulating discussion about the consequences of the Brexit for the European Union. Imagine teenagers using terms like "liberté, égalité, fraternité" quite naturally in their argumentation. Finally, it was an overwhelming experience to watch Maxi's and Dorothy's show on stage. They acted as if they had never done anything else.

"Are you optimistic about the future?" was one of the questions the participants asked each other at the beginning of the workshop. Despite the many problems in the world it is reassuring to know that these young people will be dealing with them. In brief, we should definitely be optimistic.

### Participants:

Maja Kainz & Leoni Kainz (Regensburg); Michael Garlid, Dorothy Settles & Savannah Johnston (Tempe); Mateo Garbe (Clermont-Ferrand); Blanka Marcov (Budavár); Maximilian Demetz (Brixen); Feng Ruigo & Yu Jiacheng (Qingdao);



## Youth and dance

Workshop management: Judith Pöpping, Bianca Kurz

**„Creating a choreography together brought us together. We learnt to listen to each other and to discover each other in a very creative way... And we feel too, that we have the same motivation for music and for dance, so creating a choreography was creating an unity of our different countries“**  
(Quotation of Philippa)

On Wednesday nine people of six different countries came together for the first time in the dancing room of the “W1 – Zentrum für junge Kultur”. Referring to the aim of the youth conference the first two hours were reserved for getting to know each other in a funny way with a lot of games in different rooms of the house. The participants of the group had about thirty minutes to prepare a little presentation about themselves, which was shown on the stage of the “Kulturcafé” before lunchtime. It was a pleasure to see these very creative presentations e.g. a little dancing performance of the daily life, a song from China, the experiences of being in a chancel or the differences between the English language and the Scottish dialect. The members began to communicate and share their personal experiences.



**„I realised that I can do my own choreography... I’m dancing since ten years, but every time there was a teacher with us, showing us the way of dancing... in that workshop I had the room to create my own style...“**  
(Quotation of Lia)

In the workshop it was very important to give the dancers the opportunity for creating their own styles and themes. The central activity during the first afternoon was to explore different movements, the room and the tempo, to listen to music and to try movements in a creative way which was initiated by improvisational exercises in little groups. With those exercises it was possible to create little choreographies and to have the opportunity to learn from each other the developed steps. The working process illustrated the way how people could communicate without words only by using their bodies and dance.

**„We worked together as one person and everybody could get out of his own comfort zone“**  
(Quotation of Lia)





The second day the group developed a performance together with all dancers. It took place in the beautiful „Historischer Reichssaal“ using a song the group had chosen. It was nice to see how the dancers worked together, designing a choreography including individual parts combined with fluent transitions. In the end the group was filled with motivation and the joyful anticipation to show the performance on the official stage, dressed in blue jeans and black shirts and with an individual and inspiring dancing style which was invented by them.

**„We got new ideas... we are from different countries, different cultures, but the dance we created by ourselves united all of us together... and hopefully it will survive a friendship forever...“**  
(Quotation of Simon of Qingdao)



### Participants:

Makdes Moges & Olcay Cakan (Regensburg); Olivia Finnie & Kirsty Taylor (Aberdeen); Mingchen Sun (Qingdao); Spencer Schor (Tempe); Kinga Nemes & Lia Lakos (Budavár); Philippa Marguin (Chaperon - Clermont-Ferrand)



## Youth and future prospects

Workshop management: Julia Müller

**„It`s good to see, that I`m not the only one, who feels insecure about his future and doesn`t know yet, what his dreamjob will be.“**

(Milan, 17 years, Clermont-Ferrand)

When the young participants of the workshop were asked „How do you feel, when you think about your (professional) future?“ at the beginning of the workshop, the answers were quite different: nervous, optimistic, afraid, insecure, curious, hesitant, undecided, confused, ...

To bring a little bit light into the darkness of all those feelings, nine young people between 15 and 18 years from six different countries came together in the workshop „Youth and future prospects“. For two days the youngsters dragged apart questions like

- What kind of different school types do we attend to in our home countries?
- What kind of different possibilities do we have after graduating from school?
- Who is influencing us in planning our future?
- What are our dream professions?
- ...

In order to get closer to all those big topics the adolescences got the chance to their own educational biography so far and their wishes for the future by using a creative method, which is called „Live-Collage“.



After introducing the collages to each other, Adele, a 16 year old girl from Regensburg summed up:

**„It`s surprising and relieving at the same time, that we all have kind of same dreams, even though we are from such different places all over the world.“**

The youngsters were given the opportunity to get to know the German university life: The group visited the Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule, University of applied sciences, for a whole afternoon. They learned about the differences between normal universities and universities of applied science. They got to know what kind of different courses you can study at the OTH, what possibilities you have, if you are a foreign student. They listened to a very interesting report of a female student, who took part in an exchange programme,





studying and working in Egypt and Jordan for one year and they got to see the whole campus during a guided tour. Quite impressed and overwhelmed from all that information Kelsey, 16 from Aberdeen said:

**„I want to study on a university, who offers exchange programmes. You can get so much more out of a temporary stay abroad, than just the content you learn in university. You learn about different systems and cultures, meet interesting people, broaden your horizon and you can improve a foreign language. That`s what I definitely want!“**

After a detailed guided tour through the company, Krystof, 16 from Pilsen said enthusiastically:

**„Since I already know, that I want to become a technical engineer, it was just great to see all those complex machines and the incredible amount of knowledge behind it.“**

Anna, 16 from Odessa concluded at the end of the two days:

**„Now it`s even clearer to me, how important a good education is. Not only to you personally, but also to contribute to society. Although it`s sometimes hard to make decisions, I think it`s great that there are so many possibilities for young people!“**



Besides visiting the OTH, the workshop group also made an excursion to KRONES A.G., a big international operating company, which invents, builds and sells all kind of machines for the beverage industry. They were informed about the different training opportunities KRONES offers, such as apprenticeship, vocational training and dual study. The German way of apprenticeships was quite new for some of the participants.



### Participants:

Lea Großkopf & Adel Shmucklerman (Regensburg); Anna Boiko (Odessa); Kelsey Murray & Caitlin Adams (Aberdeen); Krystof Trkovsky & Jakub Stepanek (Pilsen); Milan Gonzalez-Thauvin (Clermont-Ferrand); Alicia Pronk (Budavár)



## Future Workshop, 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2016, Mehrgenerationenhaus

**“Tell us how you see your very personal future, the future for your city, your country, for Europe and for the whole world. And also tell us what you expect from the people who are responsible for the important decisions today – parents, teachers, entrepreneurs, politicians and scientists.”**

These words of Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs during the opening speech of the first conference day included the aim of the Future Workshop.

The whole group was divided into three international groups with about twenty participants each. Every group discussed the following three questions:

1. “What do we wish for our international future?”
2. “What are your demands or wishes to politicians?” and “What are your expectations of them?”
  - a) in general
  - b) specifically to your local politicians?
3. “What ideas do you have for future international youth conferences?”
  - a) What suggestions for improvement do you have?
  - b) Which topics or activities would you like to do together?
  - c) Do you have any other ideas what we could organize to get the youngsters of the sister cities together besides a conference?

The group discussed each topic with the method “wall newspaper”.

After thirty minutes each group moved on to the next question. They could read what answers the previous group had written down and commentate or add new ideas. Everybody had the chance to answer all questions.

Afterwards two to four youngsters of each group presented the results to Lord Mayor Wolbergs. He had joined the future workshop in order to hear what the youngsters had been discussing. However it was not only him who attended the presentation. The following political representatives had accepted the invitation of Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs and took seat in the audience as well: Lord Provost George Adam (Lord Mayor of Aberdeen) and Laura Paterson (Departement for International Relations, Aberdeen), Angie Taylor (vice president Tempe sister cities, guest chaperon of the delegation of Tempe/Arizona) and Philipp Gummerer (city council Brixen).







Studying the pictures, everybody saw clearly that the intention of Joachim Wolbergs for preparing such a youth conference had been fulfilled:

“I also hope that you notice how important it is that people, who speak different languages, who come from different countries and cultures develop a common, peaceful vision for the future.”

The final presentation of the Future Workshop at the closing party at the “Historischer Reichssaal” summed up the results of the workshop.







Future Workshop presentation on the stage of MGH



## Closing Party – Part I – Historischer Reichssaal

The atmosphere was festive and there was an air of positive excitement. Some of the participants were down right nervous but all of them were looking forward to presenting what they had prepared in the different workshop groups.

And not only the participants and professionals were full of expectations. Many guests had been invited to the closing event of We R international 2016. On the benches of the Historischer Reichssaal - which provided a spectacular scenery with its grand charm – sat members of the city council of Regensburg, other political representatives, as well as representatives of schools and of institutions for youth of the city of Regensburg. Also some parents, acquaintances and friends of the participants of Regensburg mingled with the audience. Next to them were political representatives from Aberdeen, Brixen and Tempe.

Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs opened the event. His official closing speech revealed his enthusiasm about the first International Youth Conference and about the outcome of the collaboration of the youngsters.

**“Over the past week, you have learned how important it is to get to know people from other countries, how important it is to engage with other cultures, languages and lifestyles and how important it is to hear about the dreams and plans of young people from other nations. So this conference has already achieved much!”**

Michaela Schindler was responsible for the moderation of the closing event. She gave a short summary of the programme of *We R international*. The next event in the programme was a short video which showed impressions during the first three days of the conference.

Finally the workshop groups started their presentations. This part of the show was completely moderated by the participants.

The audience was thrilled by the various performances of the youngsters, which had presented their experiences with great verbal wit and self-confidence. Last on the agenda was the official presentation of the results of the Future Workshop. The foreign political representatives as well as the guest chaperons were asked to come on stage. The results were handed to them in form of final documents with the intention to pass on the results and requests to the relevant politicians in the respective sister cities.



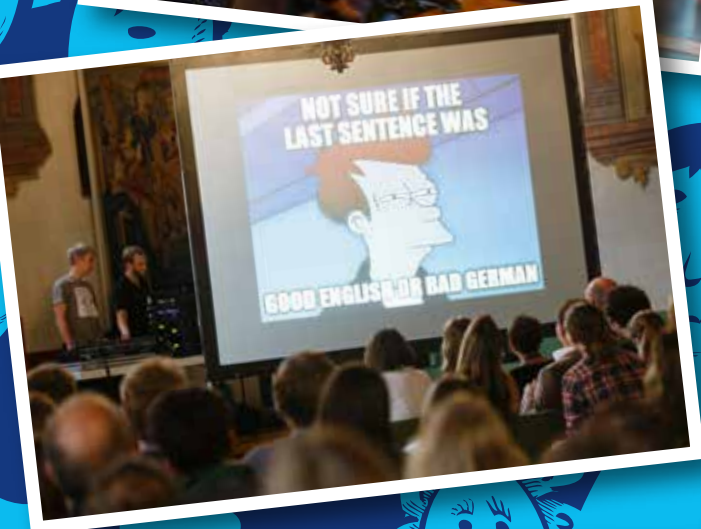


Closing Party – Part I





### Closing Party – Part I



## Closing Party Part II – Degginger

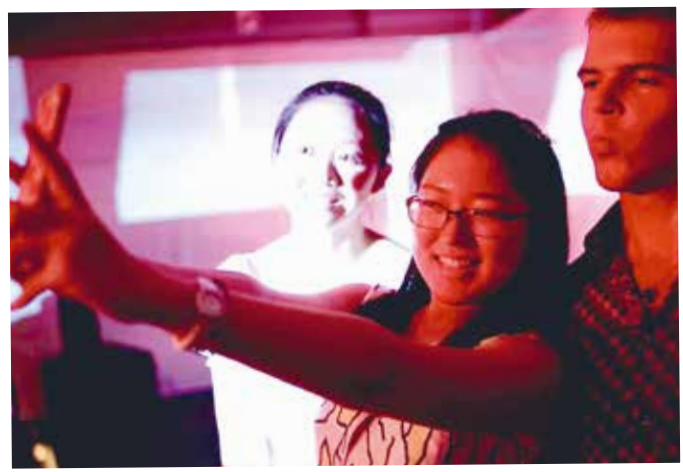
After the impressive official closing event in the „Historischer Reichssaal“ the celebration was carried on at the location „Degginger“ in form of a cheerful party with DJ and visual artist.

There were dance, laughter, chatting and a little heartache – as after all such an intensive week attaches very much.

The beautiful pictures speak for themselves.



Closing Party – Part II





## Outlook for We R international 2018

**“I am glad to have taken part in this awesome project and would do it again. It was a great experience to get to know teenagers from our sister cities and to just have so much fun with these great people. It will stick in my – and I believe also many others – memories for a long time.”**

Lea Großkopf, participant from Regensburg

The first International Youth Conference was a complete success. In his closing speech Lord Mayor Joachim Wolbergs has already announced that there will be a revival in the year 2018.

The project management team will try to implement the suggestions of this year’s participants. So the conference in 2018 might be one or two days longer. An accommodation for youngsters from Regensburg together with the young guests will be considered as well. Last but not least this decision will depend on the budget.

The title We R international will be the same, the motto has not been picked yet. Putting together a team with volunteers and professionals of the Department of Municipal Youth Services

has clearly proven to provide a successful structure. Also the choice of venues will be pretty much the same in 2018.

For the next conference we are going to give youngsters from Regensburg a say in choosing the topics and activities and - in the spirit of genuine participation- we will try to involve them in the preparations.

An easy wish to fulfill will be the request for non-carbonated water ! All other requests will be reviewed and taken in consideration.

With all this in mind: The team is looking forward to We R international 2018 and maybe even meeting some of the youngest participants of We R international 2016 again.

**“For me the international youth conference was a very special experience as I have never had so much contact to youngsters from other countries and with all this shared time I was able to make new friends. For these and many other reasons I want to take part again in two year for sure.”**

Pamina Wittmann, participant from Regensburg



# Press Review











ABERDEEN BRIXEN BUDAVÁR CLERMONT-FERRAND TEMPE ODESSA PILSEN QINGDAO



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