

Introduction



Twenty-five delegations -200 students and 50 teachers- from secondary schools from twenty-five member states of the European Union, will gather in Tilburg in the first week of October 2006 to give shape to 'Euroweek'. This event takes place for the fifteenth time and will be organised by Theresialyceum in Tilburg.

What is Euroweek?

It is a meeting between pupils and professors from the 15 "old" EU-countries. The idea came from a small team of schools. Gradually it spread all over EU. The meeting, which takes place every year at the end of September, is hosted alternately by each member of this network.

The last Euroweek took place in Portugal in September 2005. Because all members of Euroweek are convinced that this is a unique and valuable project, we have decided to continue this event and consequently new plans were made for a second round of Euroweeks for the years to come.

Theresialyceum is the first to organise this event and delegations from 25 EU-countries will meet during this week. Theresialyceum has this project subsidised for the greater part.

Aim of the Euroweek

The main aim is the realisation of the vision of a United Europe. Young people experience the spirit of a unified Europe by debating about and working together on issues related to Europe. Pupils and professors have the opportunity to communicate, to get acquainted with each other's educational systems, to get in touch with cultural elements from different countries of the EU.

During this week pupils are hosted by families and in this way they get to know the daily life and habits of other countries. Furthermore they can improve their speaking skills in foreign languages. The friendships that are created are so strong that they usually last for years and are reinforced by visiting each other during holidays.

I quote from a letter from the European Commission of Culture and Education in Brussels sent to us on the occasion of Euroweek:

'The aim of bringing together school pupils from throughout Europe to share their experiences, and thus promote awareness of and respect for each other's cultures, is indeed at the heart of cooperation between European schools'.

What's the programme like?

The main emphasis is put on pupils working together on a project. Other elements are presenting one's country, showing traditional dances and preparing traditional food. Pupils will do sports together, will debate about subjects related to the European Union and attend classes. Of course there will be social gatherings and a farewell party. In this way pupils and professors will have the opportunity to enjoy themselves, to increase their knowledge of other countries and to deepen the awareness of their own culture.

History



In 1992 the treaty of Maastricht was signed. It introduced new forms of cooperation between the governments of the, in those days, twelve countries of the European Community. This cooperation will be concentrated on many areas such as Defense, Justice and Home affairs. The Treaty of Maastricht creates the European Union by uniting the aforesaid cooperation between national authorities with the spheres of activities that had been ratified in the European Community.

In the same year a Belgian teacher, Jean-Pierre van Wijnsberghe, took the first steps towards the realization of a project, named 'Euroweek'. He was convinced that by bringing young people together, this would result in more understanding and tolerance in Europe. He invited one school from each member state of the European Economic Community and organised the first Euroweek in Belgium in 1992.

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| 1992 Kain / Belgium | The first Euroweek is an established fact. The go-ahead has been given for a cooperation of many years to come. |
| 1993 Stockport / United Kingdom | |
| 1994 Kalundborg / Denmark | |
| 1995 Tilburg / The Netherlands | In this year Austria, Finland and Sweden join the European Union. From now on the network consists of 15 countries. |
| 1996 Douai / France | |
| 1997 Sangerhausen / Germany | |
| 1998 Empoli / Italy | |
| 1999 Karlskrona / Sweden | |
| 2000 Oulu / Finland | |
| 2001 Rankweil / Austria | |
| 2002 Piraeus / Greece | |
| 2003 Figueres / Spain | |
| 2004 Dublin / the Republic of Ireland | On the first of May ten new countries join the European Union. These countries are invited to participate in Euroweek 2006. |
| 2005 Barcelos / Portugal | Euroweek will take place in September/October 2005 and will be the last one in its old form. |
| 2006 Tilburg / The Netherlands | Euroweek will be the first one in which all 25 members of the European Union are represented. This Euroweek will take place in October, the month in which the European Constitution might be ratified. A momentous event for Europe. |
| 2007 Kalundborg / Denmark | |
| 2008 Sangerhausen / Germany | |
| 2009 Trnava / Slovakia | |
| 2010 Stara Zagora / Bulgaria | planned – invitation affirmed |
| 2011 Stockport / England | planned |
| 2012 Racocany / Tschechien | planned |