



## United in diversity

On 22th of March 2018 a group of students along with their teachers (Ms. Renata Rasztawicka and Ms. Hanna Stachera) from XVIII LO im. Jana Zamoyskiego in Warsaw represented Poland for a one day on an international youth meeting in Strasbourg – Euroscola. Purpose of the event is to bond young people from 28 member states of European Union and give them a chance to express their opinion about the current situation of their country and Europe.

Throughout the whole day the group was being introduced to the legislative process of European Parliament by „playing the roles” of Members of the European Parliament. Every student was assigned to a certain committee dependent on the topic they had to prepare to earlier and had an unique chance to sit in a chair of a real MEP. First challenge for the students during the inaugural session was the moment when a two-person representation from each country delivered a speech about their school in a one-minute presentation that could not be conducted in their native language. The next thing on the agenda was a videoconference on the topic of development of Europe with a MEP from Spain – Pilar de Castilo, to whom students had the opportunity to ask questions concerning the future of European Union.

After a meal in the restaurant of European Parliament, students took part in Eurogames – a contest that challenged their knowledge about EU members. In order to take a part in the quiz students had to form a team consisting of four people from different countries and answer a set of questions, each of them in different language. Both students, and their teachers took part in a quiz that turned out to be a great icebreaker for contestants who decided to focus on teamwork in order to answer the questions. After the first part of Eurogames, students were divided into smaller groups where they had an open debate on topics they were preparing for before their arrival to Strasbourg. The debates touched on issues of renewable energy, human rights, cultural heritage or migration. After „committee meetings” pupils went back to the plenary sitting and voted on resolutions prepared by all of the committees. Last part of the agenda was the finale of „Eurogame”. The winners were awarded with gold medals. Euroscola came to an end with the bringing of flags of all member states accompanied by the European anthem „Ode to Joy”.

One of the students, Ewa Pasterz, summed up her participation of Euroscola as a positive experience: „It was worth it to visit the European Parliament and see how it works from inside. In the past I paid attention to the problems that are faced by the European Union but after Euroscola I got to know them better”.

Apart from the trip to European Parliament, group of students from Warsaw had an opportunity to see the german town Karlsruhe and its two museums: Natural History Museum and an interactive exhibition in the Center for Art and Media. After the Euroscola day, group went sightseeing around Strasbourg and had a chance to see the city landmark by going to the observation deck on the top of the Notre Dame Cathedral.



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