

YfE Meeting 10/09/16

Youth representatives from Italy, Hungary and Belgium were present alongside a handful of English people.

We started off the meeting with a brief name game as a fun ice-breaker and to get us warmed up for the other activities. We learned each-others names through this game and it generally set a positive and friendly mood for the remainder of the meeting.

Following that, a video was played to the group which elaborated on the qualities that the EU offered participating countries and described various policies like the Shengen Agreement. This was designed to give more information to the participants on the EU, resulting in a more interesting discussion later on.

We then hosted an educational quiz for the group, after they split up into teams of mixed countries. The questions were about the formation of the EU and general history surrounding it. The questions were designed to spark discussions within each group and test their knowledge on what the organisation was.

The final activity for the meeting was a group discussion on the state of the EU, Brexit and the political climate of each represented country. The topic of Brexit was discussed with sadness from each country, many simply didn't believe what the result actually was when they first heard it and then questioned our motives to leave.

It was interesting to also note that many participants from each country said that they were originally interested in studying inside the UK, or in another country, but their plans would change if something were to happen to the state of the EU. Some participants even mentioned nationalist parties in their own countries and that were were trying to push a similar 'leave the EU' agenda – none of the participants wanted their own countries to leave the EU because they believed it offered them several benefits.

Overall the meeting offered great insights into the perceptions of Brexit from different European countries. It offered us a chance to experience the thoughts of the youth on