

EUROPE TOGETHER: KNOWLEDGE, COMPETENCES AND CITIZENSHIP



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

C6 – MOBILITY TO STRASBOURG, MAY 2 TO 5, 2022

DEBATES in STRASBOURG, the CRADLE of the EU

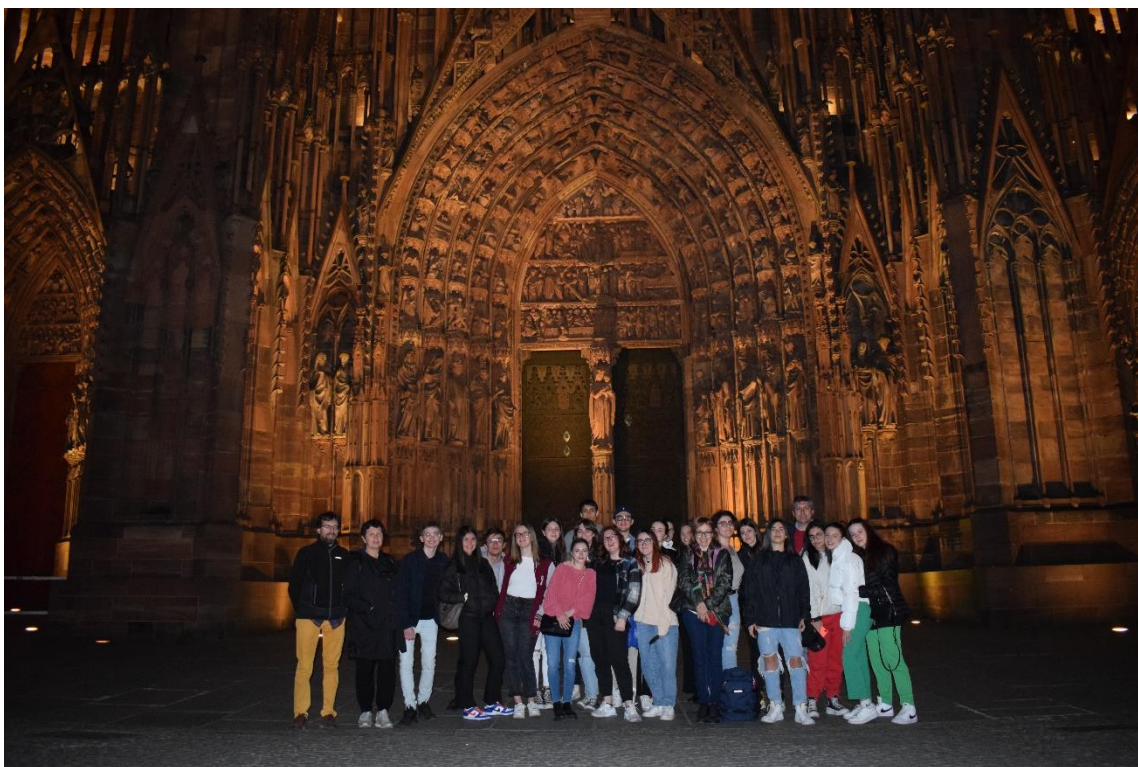
written by Alice Pelizzoli

After three years of online meetings with the other students and the mobility in Barcelona, we finally concluded the Erasmus+ Project in Strasbourg, one of the capital cities of the European Union. The three Italian schools, the Spanish, and the Cypriot students, who we met in person for the first time here, reunited to discuss, one last time, topics regarding citizenship and current problems of our society.

We left for France on Monday, May 2nd in the morning from our school and took the bus to reach Monza, where we picked up the students of Mosè Bianchi and Hensemberger. We travelled through Switzerland and France by bus, until we reached Strasbourg, on the border between Germany and France.

In the mornings of our stay, we had the opportunity to visit the city and discover its history, both mediaeval and modern, because not only did we see the signs left by the continuous passage of Strasbourg between France and Germany, but also what happened once the European Union was born. That is because on the second day, our teachers organised a treasure hunt in the EU neighbourhood starting at Le Lieu d' Europe, where we had to gather information on the institutions built in that district and on the history of the EU.

We also entered the Strasbourg Cathedral, called *Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Strasbourg*, and took part in a tour of the area near the church, with shops selling typical food, and the neighbourhood of Neustadt.



In the afternoon we all met together in our hotel and during the first two days we discussed the debates prepared in Barcelona, divided into groups. The new students from Cyprus and from the school Hensemberger pitched in with new ideas to make our arguments more complete and each group tried to study the motions of our debates more in depth.

On the second day, the teachers organised a surprise impromptu debate, and the chosen students had half an hour to prepare the speeches. While, on the third day, there was a proper competition between the groups, with our teachers as judges and a winner at the end. Not everyone in each group participated in the debate, but it was still interesting and fun to watch our classmates and friends take part in the match and root for our groupmates.



On Tuesday night, we had a guided tour of the Petite France neighbourhood, where we were told not only about the history of the area but also curiosities about the place. For example, we discovered that the name of the district comes from the "hospice of the syphilitic", which was built in the late fifteenth century on this island, to treat people with syphilis, which was called at the time the "French disease".

On May 6th, our last day, in the morning we had the opportunity to visit the European Parliament and listen to a real debate in The Chamber, which was on the impact of the Ukrainian war on women. While, in the afternoon, we visited the Maginot Line and Fort Schoenenbourg.



This trip felt like the perfect conclusion to the project, since not only did we finally meet the Cypriot students in person, but also because Strasbourg welcomed and let us experience what it's like being part of the EU community.