

Bucharest
EUROPE UNITES US
Europe unites us

In this last meeting of the project the Romanian school had arranged accommodation in host families, which was a very good way to get to know Romanian people, habits and family life. The Romanian students and teachers had arranged a very nice welcome event on Monday morning. Some speeches, good food and interactive tasks made it easy for the students to get into conversation with each other and to break the ice. A guided tour through the school showed them the different parts of the building, making sure everybody knew where things were. The overall topic of this meeting was 'Europe unites us', and each country had brought their films. These films were being watched and discussed, the according storyboards were analyzed. The films made clear, what worried the young people from five different European countries most: The Russian war against Ukraine had upset and frightened them deeply, and the fear to be 'next' on the Russian list became obvious. Especially the Romanian students were worried, because for them Russia is closest and according to navy officials so far nine sea mines have been found in Romanian waters of the Black Sea. Therefore, this meeting was important for all those students involved, because they could talk about their fears, could see that other nations share the same concerns and in so doing realized, how important it is to stick together as Europeans. The impact of that war could also be discussed at the Romanian Naval Academy in Constanta, which the group had the chance to visit. Officers of the academy gave the group a guided tour through the facility, giving information about training and education available to young people, and about NATO. In a very good workshop at the Romanian-American University in Bucharest students could deepen their knowledge about how the EU works. Again they learned how important it is for the countries of the EU to work together for the sake of cultural and economic growth – and safety. Detailed information about how films are made could be gained on a visit to Cantacuzino Castle, where the NETFLIX serial 'Wednesday' has been filmed. Culture, architecture and history of Romania could be experienced by visits to the Museum of National History and Archeology and the Grand Mosque in Constanta, as well as through visits to the Palace of Parliament and the National Village Museum in Bucharest. In the end the group evaluated the meeting, made plans for dissemination strategies/ workshops back home – and how to stay in touch in the future, after the end of this project.