

SummerAcademy23: A dialogue on dealing with uncertainty in Planina, Slovenia

An exciting chapter of European cooperation and personal development was written in Planina, Slovenia, from 28 August to 2 September. The SummerAcademy 2023 gathered 23 young people and eleven dedicated lecturers from all over Europe for an inspiring week on the topic of "Dealing with uncertainty - a dialogue in Europe".

Theoretical inputs and workshops enabled in-depth discussions and supported the participants in their search for answers to their questions. The exchange with experts made it possible to adopt different perspectives and gain a deeper understanding of challenges as well as opportunities. Dealing with insecurities was explored: from spirituality and music to stage performances and sensory perception. Paula Nauta, a participant, describes the week as packed with talks, conversations, exercises, and inspiring people. "Although I didn't know anyone, I quickly felt part of the whole group. Soon I had thrown overboard all my doubts that I might be too old for such an experience."

A highlight of the study week was the cultural trip to Ljubljana, where the group met with important personalities such as the first Prime Minister of Slovenia, Lojze Peterle, and the Bishop of Slovenia. Paula Nauta emphasizes: "I realized how important it was for our group to enter into a dialogue with them in order to sensitize topics that affect our generation."

The preparation for this experience began two years earlier in Vienna, where the international volunteer team came together for the kick-off. The SummerAcademy was not just a week of learning, but an ongoing process made possible by the commitment of the preparatory team.

Alice Varone, another participant, aptly summarizes the experience: "The SummerAcademy took up the challenge of bringing together lecturers from different fields to tackle the inexhaustible topic of uncertainty from different angles."

All young people who may feel addressed will have the opportunity to take part in the first kick-off for the next SummerAcademy in March 2024. Join us and be inspired by the enthusiasm and knowledge of those who have already taken part in this unique week of "Learning4unity"!

Barbara Hofer