

Arise bloabout Kaan

Name: Claudia Herrero

Kaan is from the ALASCA school in Amsterdam. He joined the arise+ project to learn more about democracy and the role of young people in a large international Union like Europe. Kaan liked the time he spent in Potsdam for the arise+ project. But he expressed his discontent with some of the assignments.

He criticized the lecture of Dr.Roth for being “sleep inducing” he said that a professor who has spent time researching young brains should have found a more encouraging way to give his lecture. He did enjoy the group assignments about solving important problems together, but said that he thought not enough time was given to do the assignments properly. The group he was working with had some difficulties starting solving the problem. He thought the problems that were given to his group were not of big importance. He said that he had a hard time relating to the problem. Because of this he could not give as much input as he wanted to. If more time was given for the assignments he could have done more research about the problems and the solutions would have been better. He realizes that the project was for collaboration rather than results but it would have made him feel more useful.

Kaan enjoyed activities like the Potsdam tour. Biking through Potsdam gave him a better perspective of the city. Together with his friends biking through Potsdam gave them a better sense of freedom this trip. The biking made him feel at home. The sport activities during the Potsdam tour made learning about the city more exciting, the tour guides had a better idea of how to encourage the youth to learn better.

Kaan liked Potsdam a lot. He really liked the architecture of the old buildings and he liked the urban planning of the old DDR buildings. He said that the city felt like a free and open place, because of the wide roads and nice proportioned buildings and parks. He also liked the Döner store next to the station close to the hostel.

Kaan enjoyed his time in Potsdam for the Arise project. the whole experience was great in his opinion. It was well planned and executed, but he expected more of the project. He felt like it was more about collaboration than about politics and important problems of the European Union.

Arise blog about Leo

Name: Isabel Rodríguez

On Monday morning, he went Leuven and from there they took a train to Luik and from there they had to wait two hours until the next one came. It was very cold because it was in the morning and he was irritated. He did the walk in the city of Luik by the area of the

train station. After this they took their train to Keulen in a four hours ride and it he was again irritated because the ride was very long and it too much time. He was happy when they arrived but when they were in Keulen they had to take a train to Berlin and there was no seat. They also took a train to get to Potsdam and they took a tram to go to the hostel. When they arrived in the evening it was already night. The conclusion for the travelling part is that it was way too long and it is better to take the plane. Then they ate dinner but he didn't like it because it looked like prison food. After that he went to the supermarket to see the type of food and got back to the hostel. Finally, he went to sleep and he slept very well because in the inside it was not cold.

The next day when he woke up he took a shower and had breakfast. He enjoyed the breakfast food. Then he went to the school by tram. He thought that the school was very big and modern the building's structure was nice. The lunch at Peter Pane was really good but there weren't enough potatoes. Then he had a boring speech from the professor and from his point of view it wasn't the best way for teenagers. He got back to the hostel, this time the food was better and then they did the quizz about the day and he won with his team. Finally he went to his room to sleep.

Next morning he didn't eat breakfast because he woke up late. He went to school but it was freezing outside he didn't really like the workshop because it was the same team all the time and as he was really hungry he got very happy when pizza arrived. He went walking on a tour around Potsdam. He had pain on his stomach but he saw nice views and buildings. He was very happy to arrive at the hostel he took a little nap and he had dinner and enjoyed the food.

His conclusion that everything is right but the days are too heavy for him and he likes the place except for the weather which is very cold and he doesn't like it.

Arise blog about Marta Puissant

Name: Marta Puissant

When we arrived in Potsdam we realised it was going to be different from my home country, Spain, as the cold hit us. We went to the hotel and there we met all the students from different countries. I remember being nervous as I didn't know how people were going to act and treat us. Later on we talked with everyone and they seemed funny and kind. We had dinner all together and after that I had the chance to talk with the people from France. They were really welcoming and funny so we became friends fast. We went to sleep and the next morning, on Tuesday, we woke up early so we could have breakfast and go to Einstein Gymnasium where we did games to get to know the other people and also got a visit around

the school. There we met the German students who really nicely show us everything and answered every question we had about Potsdam . All the countries got along pretty well from Germany, to Belgium, France, Netherlands and Spain. Then Gerard Worth, a neurologist came to talk about democratic values and how to manage our emotions. In my opinion it was a long speech, however we learned a lot and we had a lot to discuss about . After it we went to Peter Pane restaurant and had burgers all together, that's the moment I got the chance to meet new people from other countries and talk about what we expected from this experiences. Wednesday we went back to the school and we had some games about equality. In my opinion they were really interesting and we learn a lot about how to equal both genders in different fields of life. Then we had pizza in the Einstein Gymnasium and went on a tour walking with some german students that show us around. I liked the tour but it was too cold outside. After that we went back to the residence and had dinner. Personally I had the best of the experiences and I found out a lot of nice people that I will meet sometime soon. From the Arise program I learned values of equality and how important is that youth gets involved in democracy as we have a word and we need to use it. Last but not least I had the opportunity to meet Marwan, who comes from Belgium, he is a really nice and talkative friend. We talked about each other experiences and we concluded we both had a great time meeting other people and also learning from really smart and interesting people.

Arise blog about Ashim Tundup

Name: Raúl Guerrero

He took trains from Leuven to Potsdam to arrive in the hostel. Unluckily, he had a delay of 2hrs, he departed at 8:00 AM and he arrived at 17:00 PM to Potsdam, he didn't like the journey because he had to wait a lot at the stations because he missed his trains, but he couldn't wait to arrive in Potsdam so he didn't care about it.

Once he arrived in Potsdam, he left his stuff in his room and he went to have dinner at the dining room, he didn't expect the food to be that good, he really liked the food, specially the burgers and the vegetables. After that he went for a walk with participants of the others countries, he really liked the infrastructures of the buildings, he thinks that is not a big difference with Belgium, but he liked it anyway. Then he went to his room to rest for the next day.

The next day, he woke up, then he ate breakfast, he thinks that the breakfast was so basic but he liked it either. After breakfast, he was ready to start the second day in Potsdam. He went to the highschool that is also located in Potsdam, but it's quite far away and he took the trainway. Then he took part in the activities for know the people of the other countries, after

that he went to eat at the Peter Pane's restaurant, where he ate a delicious hamburger and he drank a cocktail that he never drank before. After that he returned to the school to listen a presentation of Mr Rohn, about Democracy for Learning, he learnt a lot but he didn't really like it the way of the presentation, in his opinion it was too long for him. After that, he had dinner in the hostel, he ate pasta and he liked it. After that, he went downstairs to participate in a quiz of what we saw in the day. He didn't win but he didn't care because the prize was 2 bags of candy. Then he went to his room to rest.

The next day, he ate breakfast again in the dining room. He woke up earlier than the others days because he went to the highschool to participate in the workshops about the youth EU, he liked the activities of the workshop. Then he ate a very tasty pizza with a lot of vegetables. After that he went for a tour in Potsdam guided by the students of the highschool, he thinks that they did really good job, they explained everything good for his knowledge. After the tour he had dinner in the dining room again, he ate boiled potatoes with cauliflower, then he ate raspberry pudding and he didn't know that it was the dessert. After that he went to sleep.

Arise blog about Julia

Name: Leire Blay

She took the train and she had to change the train several times because it was not a directed train. The travel took seven hours, it was irritating and boring because they had nothing to do in the train. When she arrived at Potsdam, she felt uncomfortable. She thought that the city was very cold and in every station, she was colder. Her first impression of the city was not good, she didn't like it. She didn't like the hotel too. From her point of view, the rooms are normal and the WiFi is bad. The food is also a thing that she doesn't like, she thinks that they can cook better food, but she is happy with the supermarkets. She thinks that there are a lot of shops to buy food and that the prices are very low or lower than in her country.

The second day, we went to the highschool. For her, the high school is big and has a lot of stairs and a big playground, she likes the school. At first, a university teacher did a conference to us. He talked for about two hours about personality. The class was really boring, it could have been better. We both agree that the class was not good for teenagers and we were disconnected at one point, so the conference was not interesting and we didn't listen a lot. Then, we had lunch at Peter Pane. The local was so clean and beautiful. The waiters and chefs were fast with the food but it was not very good at all. Moreover, she liked the drink, she thought that the glasses were very big. Also, we played games to know people from different countries and their personalities. She spent a good time there. Later, she was

happy because teachers let us had free time alone to explore the city and see its monuments.

The third day, we went to the high school to learn about youth goals. Two people talked all the morning about this and later, we did a project with people from other countries. She felt good, she liked the project and meet other people. Then, we ate pizza in the same room as we took lessons. The pizza was not good, she didn't like it at all, it was saggy. Finally, we took a long your along Potsdam. In her point of view, it was really long and boring, also the climate was cold and German people didn't explained much or took care of us.

Arise blog about Elf

Name: Simón Bravo

Arise for Elf is interesting to know people with other cultures and learn interesting things about his country and traditions.

Elf doesn't like the food of Germany so much, but he likes staying with all the students in the same place because we can talk and make friends. The teachers have good relations and we see this as an example of what we can do

Yesterday we had a long day with many activities. First, we made activities to learn more about all the students, later we went to the Peter Pane restaurant and we ate a hamburger, later we returned to the school because we had a talk with a University Professor.

Yesterday, for Elf, the first part of the professor's talk was a bit boring, but the second was better. He explained many interesting things about solutions. If we can solve problems, we need a good democracy, and talk about things better than use the violence.

Today first we made an activity focused on society's problems, then, in groups, we made some posters about this to explain it to the rest of our partners.

To finish before the break, we made performances about our problem. We ate pizza, and then we had two tours guided in Potsdam.

Today was better, the posters were interesting, about many things around his personal environment

The cycling tour was so nice. Two girls were the guides. They visited a Palace of a King that brought to Germany the potatoes and later they called him the potato king, then he learned many things about the Olympics in Potsdam.

Elf thinks that Potsdam is so interesting, seeing another culture is amazing and learning many thing about a new culture and a new city is fantastic

And that was our 3 first days.

Arise blog about Cristophe

Name: Óscar Marín

Hello I'm Óscar a Spanish student and today we have done an activity in pairs that was about our experiences in Potsdam and about our feelings.

I had to do it with Cristoph, who is the French teacher.

First of all, he asked me some questions about me and my experiences and then I did the same taking notes.

He's the teacher of the French students and he teaches laws in his college which is near Paris.

He's from France and he lives in a small town between Paris and his college city.

Like a teacher, he had different experiences because he didn't do the activities in groups but he enjoyed it because he saw his students talking with other people and cooperating. He enjoyed the other teachers too because they are so kind specially, the Spanish teachers.

He's favorite experience was when we did the quizz Tuesday evening which was a quizz.

When he was a student he realised some similar activities going out of France like for example when he went to Munich in Germany.

Some differences he found between Potsdam and his city are for example that here it is cleaner than there and everything is much more spaced and people are very nice and helpful, they help you in every problem you have.

In general, we have some similar feelings about the people who live here and the other students from the different countries and we are so happy with the place where we are and the facilities to travel inside the city.

Arise blog about Matthies

Name: Alejandra Bolumar

This experience, here in Postdam, was very nice and very interesting. It was even more fun because of his classmates and the other students from the other schools. This was very surprising to Matthies, because he had not expected them to be so nice. Also the activities were much better than expected. Matthies found Professor Roth's presentation instructive. Especially the second part of this. He does think it looks a bit like propaganda. The opinions of the students seemed to be influenced. He also discussed this with his partner students from his own country. They did not agree with him and they had a debate about this. The bike ride on the penultimate day was his highlight, he saw a large part of the city. It was also fun with the other people and the guides. Another particular interesting activity was the workshop where the poster had to be made. He was in a nice group and learned from people with other cultures and other languages. An added bonus of this was the quiz. That is because Matthies won it together with his group. Food was not very good but he did not worry about this. He went to a Döner shop nearby which he enjoyed very much, the supermarket was also very good and cheap. This was his trip in a nutshell with everything he learned.