ДРУГО МЕСТО НА КОНКУРСУ "Европске интеграције кроз искуства младих"

European integration from my perspective

European integration was not a topic I used to be very familiar with, however ever since I started taking part in Erasmus+ projects this topic started being a crucial part in my understanding of the European Union.

In my point of view, we as youth take an important part in European integration. Our involvement in projects has improved our role and we continue getting opportunities to be heard.

When it comes to me, I have taken part in an Erasmus+ project in Bologna in April of 2023. Still being sixteen years old during this program, and now looking back while I just turned eighteen, I realise I had no idea how much impact that project would have on me. It has helped me understand the way students learn and attend classes in Europe. Although our school is a small institution in Ruski Krstur it does not differ much from schools in the European Union.

Another important lesson I have learnt was that no matter where, we students are very much alike. People that I have met, who I now call friends, will always hold a special place in my heart. Our culture, race and language might be different, but we have many things in common. They have helped me understand and take part in their culture and I explained everything important about mine. Being Ruthenian, my culture is not well known, therefore I was grateful to have an opportunity to share it. Through the Erasmus+ project, I learned more about who I am as a person, but also as a European. Sharing my culture with others helped me see how valuable and unique it is. At the same time, I came to appreciate how our different cultural backgrounds add depth to the European community. This experience strengthened my sense of belonging to a larger, European identity.

With this in mind, there is hope for the youth in expanding ourselves and getting help through our understanding of European integration. Knowledge and involvement will only better us on our path to success. What is more, in the future it is crucial that we increase the quantity of youth who will take part in projects that entail any knowledge of European integration. This type of experience in early adolescence could help the youth in choosing a career and later on finding a good job.

Another key point, besides success in the future, is that European integration promotes peace, tolerance and understanding of each other. Those are all valuable qualities an individual has to offer.

In spite of these opportunities, there are difficulties. Not all young people have access to information about programs like Erasmus+. We have a responsibility to share our experiences with peers, encouraging them to take part. We can help more young people realise that they can play a role in shaping the future of Europe.

Our seniors often say the future is in the youths' hands. In conclusion there is a deep and true meaning in these wise words reminding us that we take part in shaping a better tomorrow.

Andreja Nadj