

PRESS RELEASE

Schwarzkopf Foundation, the European Youth Parliament and TUI Foundation start EU Crash Courses in the Netherlands and Spain

This September, the *Understanding Europe* project was launched in the Netherlands and Spain. The first courses have now started in both countries. At TUI Nederland's head office in The Hague and a conference centre on Majorca, the teams of young peer trainers were familiarised with the framework of the project and their future tasks.

Experiencing Europe, *Understanding Europe* – this is the motto of the project, designed to enable pupils to gain a fundamental understanding of how European politics work in four-hour EU Crash Courses led by young trainers. These courses are now offered in the Netherlands and Spain, amongst others. The trainers are familiarised with the teaching materials and various teaching methods during a weekend named “Train the trainers”. The courses in the Netherlands are supported by trainers from Berlin and North Rhine Westphalia, who have already run the project several times, as well as the Schwarzkopf Foundation team. Anne Rolvering, Executive Director at Schwarzkopf Foundation, said: “Our trainers bring European topics into the classroom based on a peer education method. We want pupils to experience and discuss Europe as a place for participation.”

The new trainers have tackled their new project with enthusiasm, both in Majorca and The Hague, as Judlit Lladós, a Spanish participant in the project, has confirmed: “My main motivation is to share my knowledge of Europe with other young Europeans, as they are the EU's future voters and should therefore know what they are voting on. That is why I consider it to be very important to create an awareness of the role of Europe and emphasize our remarkable privilege of living in a peaceful order.”

“*Understanding Europe* is a project that is more important and challenging now than ever before,” commented Thomas Ellerbeck, Chairman of the TUI Foundation's Board of Trustees, on a visit to The Hague. “TUI Foundation has aligned its programme to young Europeans. We believe that it is worthwhile to re-emphasize and further develop the idea of a common European order of peace and freedom, pursued at the time when Europe was founded. After all, Europe goes far beyond cents and euros. Due to the great success of the *Understanding Europe* programme in Germany, the time has come to roll these courses out to other European countries.”

Understanding Europe is a project run by the Schwarzkopf Foundation and the European Youth Parliament (EYP) in the Netherlands and Spain in cooperation with the TUI Foundation. Understanding Europe has been run in North-Rhine Westphalia since 2009 with the support of the Mercator Foundation, in Berlin and Brandenburg since 2012, and on an international level since 2014. The EYP is a unique European education programme motivating young people to discuss current European topics and helping them to experience peaceful intercultural dialogue. The Berlin-based Schwarzkopf Foundation is the EYP's international umbrella organisation.

The TUI Foundation supports and organises projects on “Young People in Europe,” promoting education, training, tolerance and capability for dialogue as well as equality of opportunity for young people in the European Union.

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