Last meeting of the FutureUp project

Introduction

The very last FutureUp event (WP8) took place in The Netherlands, in Rhenen and in Wageningen, on 8 and 9 October 2024. This last event was organized by the Municipality of Rhenen, in cooperation with Blankcon.

To recapitulate: FutureUp's mission is to empower European citizens by fostering intercultural dialogue and raising awareness of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Now, after two years, it was "harvest time": what did we realize and what can we take with us to the future?

Arrival

Our partners arrived on Monday 7-10-2024. We stayed in hotel "De Nieuwe Wereld", in Wageningen. This hotel is run by VET students in hospitality. Later that evening we had a welcome dinner in a local restaurant, called "Onder de Linden", where we also could taste home-made beer.

Our meeting on Tuesday in Wageningen

First day

On Tuesday 8-10-2024, partners officially met for the first time and presented their results so far, also with a focus on dissemination and future plans. Meanwhile, Mosaik made a video about these presentations. Two youngsters from the municipality of Rhenen had also produced a video with interviews with members of the LHBTI group in Rhenen, as an introduction to the public debate on Wednesday. This session was led by Ms Irene Breure, member of the Rhenen CERV working group.

Green travelling.

After the lunch, the group travelled (by public transport: green travel) to the Grebbeberg in Rhenen. This hill is interesting from a historical point of view. Under the lead of a local guide Rob Moret, we visited a medieval fortress and a military cemetery from WW2. With a splendid view on the river Rhine, we made our group photo. Then we returned to the hotel, where students served a nice meal. Those who wanted, visited the city center of Wageningen.

On the Grebbeberg with our guide.

Our group photo.

Second day

On Wednesday 9-10-2024, we travelled to the city of Rhenen (again by bus), to the Stadsmuseum (museum for local history) There we had our public debate. Also, local visitors were joining us. In total over 50 participants, surrounded by old paintings from Rhenen. The opening of the debate was done by Alderman Caroline Volmer, on behalf of the Municipality of Rhenen. The facilitator was Mrs Maaike van Vliet, also member of the Rhenen CERV working group.

Invitation for public debate.

The program had three speakers:
1. Justin Hermsen, a young active member of the city council. He spoke about politics, personal growth and importance of inclusion in a local context.
2. Jan van Dijken, member of a local church. He spoke about his struggle with his coming out and eventually finding acceptance. His presentation was very impressive because of his personal story. Now he is active in making churches as a safe place for all genders.
3. Saskia Ivens, consultant, feminist foreign policy. Her presentation was about gender equality and Intersectionality.

Impressions of our debate.

After a lunch in a local restaurant, we returned to the museum, to watch a documentary about excavations of a Francian cemetery from the 6-7th century, in the year of 1951. Many of the archaeological findings were presented in an exhibition, with the theme "The position of women". It had an interesting link with our discussion this morning.

Some grave gifts.

The meeting WP 8 ended in the hotel, with a nice dinner, with some discussions about further plans and with many friendly words. Partners became friends.

Our last meal together.