



**LET'S  
DEBATE!**  
YOUTH EXCHANGE



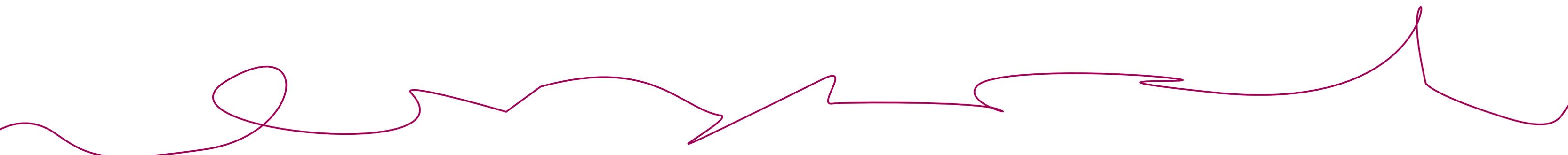
**HEureka**  
Generator



K R E A T I V



POLSKO-UKRAIŃSKA RADA  
WYMIANY MŁODZIEŻY



**Title:** 'Let's Debate'

**Project Type:** Youth Exchange

**Organiser:** HEureka Generator Association

**Time:** 1 July – 06 October 2018

**Preparatory meeting:** 19-21 August 2018

**Time and place of the Youth Exchange:**

30 August – 06 September 2018, Zwierzyniec, Poland

**No. of participants:** 32

**Partner organisations:**

Poland (HEureka Generator Association – Zamość)

Ukraine (Kreativ – Vinnytsia)

**Language:**

English with some activities in Polish or Ukrainian

**Who:** Young, open people from small towns in Lublin region in Poland and Ukrainian region of Vinnytsia. Age 18-30, willing to develop their knowledge in the field of intercultural communication.

# What was the whole exchange about?

With the Project 'Let's debate' we discussed issues which are important to us, young Europeans: active citizenship and chances of young people in present Europe. We discussed topics with proven non formal education methods, advertised and disseminated results.

It was our input in decreasing of tensions which are more and more visible in Europe nowadays.

Oxford debate was the main method of our meeting. Our experiences with this method proved that every time we are using it, we are able to develop knowledge in frames of discussed topic, develop skills of cooperation in group, increase

self confidence being in 'public speaking' situation, increase language skills on high level and to learn critical approach in discussion.

Development of all these skills increases our chances on labour market and helps us to decide about our future more consciously. We want to be a pattern of non conflict cooperation for Europeans.

**All our methods:** Integration games, team building, intercultural communication workshop, orienteering game, reflection groups, debate workshop, oxford debate, brainstorming, intercultural simulation, World cafe, press conference, city game, presentation, discussion, trip, exhibition.

# Getting to know each other

After the first day participants from Poland could greet in Ukrainian as well as Ukrainians were quite confident in saying “female resident of Constantinople” in Polish. We learned a lot about our mother tongues during language animation workshop.

That day we also discussed what we fear the most, what we expect to gain and what can be our contributions for the project to make it better. We had a lot of common fears, contributions and expectations.

In the evening we split into small groups and we went

for an unforgettable evening walk in the national park.

Name games and teambuilding are a great resource for waking up and storing the energy for the whole day. You never know how deep the meaning of the simplest game can be until you discuss it with new friends and try to be a facilitator yourself. Our project is a territory of self-improvement where everybody is both a teacher and student for one another.

*Iryna Martyniuk*



# active citizenship

During the morning activity we had to draw portraits of each other to remind our names once again. After having some fun, we discussed the topic of active citizenship. This was our preparation for the afternoon debates.

We split into four groups and sat at four tables. At one of the table the topic was “What is NGO and do we need them?” At the second table we needed to give examples of active citizenship in the places where we live. The other group focused on the meaning of being active for each member of the team. One of the group had a creative task to draw a graffiti about active citizenship. The last group tried to understand what they can change in their nearest environment through being active.

Then our group was explained the rules of the oxford debates and we had a test debate on a half-serious

topic. We proceeded to brainstorming the topics for further debates. Among several ideas “Every person enters a non-governmental organization for personal profit” was chosen. The proposition and opposition groups were preparing separately from the audience. After reflection groups, supper and sauna we had our first serious debate.

In the evening we stayed till late night celebrating, chatting and having fun with each other at the bonfire.

It's the evening of 1 September... I'm putting on official clothes, checking my plan of the speech and going out of the room. It's my first debate ever and I feel a little bit nervous...

Our thesis was “Every person enters an NGO because of personal profit”. My team was the opposition, so that's made the game harder. The proposition team was a really strong and they had good arguments. The questions from the audience were great. But..

we've lost this debate.

But after all, the debate was a great one!

I really liked it, because of interesting discussion, new knowledge and experience.

Hope my next debate will be even better.

*Liza, speaker*



At our Oxford debate, the majority of the international group was the audience. From my perspective it wasn't just passive participating. We had to follow what the speakers said, because in the rounds second and third we had to add own arguments and ask the questions. It was a great exercise for practicing my memory and attention. I'm sure that this skill will be helpful in the future.

*Agnieszka, audience*

At the official and the preparatory debates I was a secretary. I had to measure time, give signals to the speakers when their time was coming to an end or ended. While debating I was really stressed because I was in the centre and the audience was looking at me. I'm shy person and I'm not used to public speaking. Despite this I became more confident.

*Dominika, secretary*





# simulation game

On Sunday we experienced a very interesting exercise - "Sleepyville town simulation". The goal of this workshop was to improve our public speaking skills, which would help us during the debates. The task was to solve the financial problem between the two groups of local society: youth and muslims. Young people needed some place to spend their free time so they wanted to build the skate park and the cinema. On the other hand Muslims didn't have a place where to pray, so they wanted to have a mosque. But the government could finance only one project this year.

In the afternoon we had the trip to Roztocze National Park. We had a walk in the forest and at the end we could see specific Polish horses.

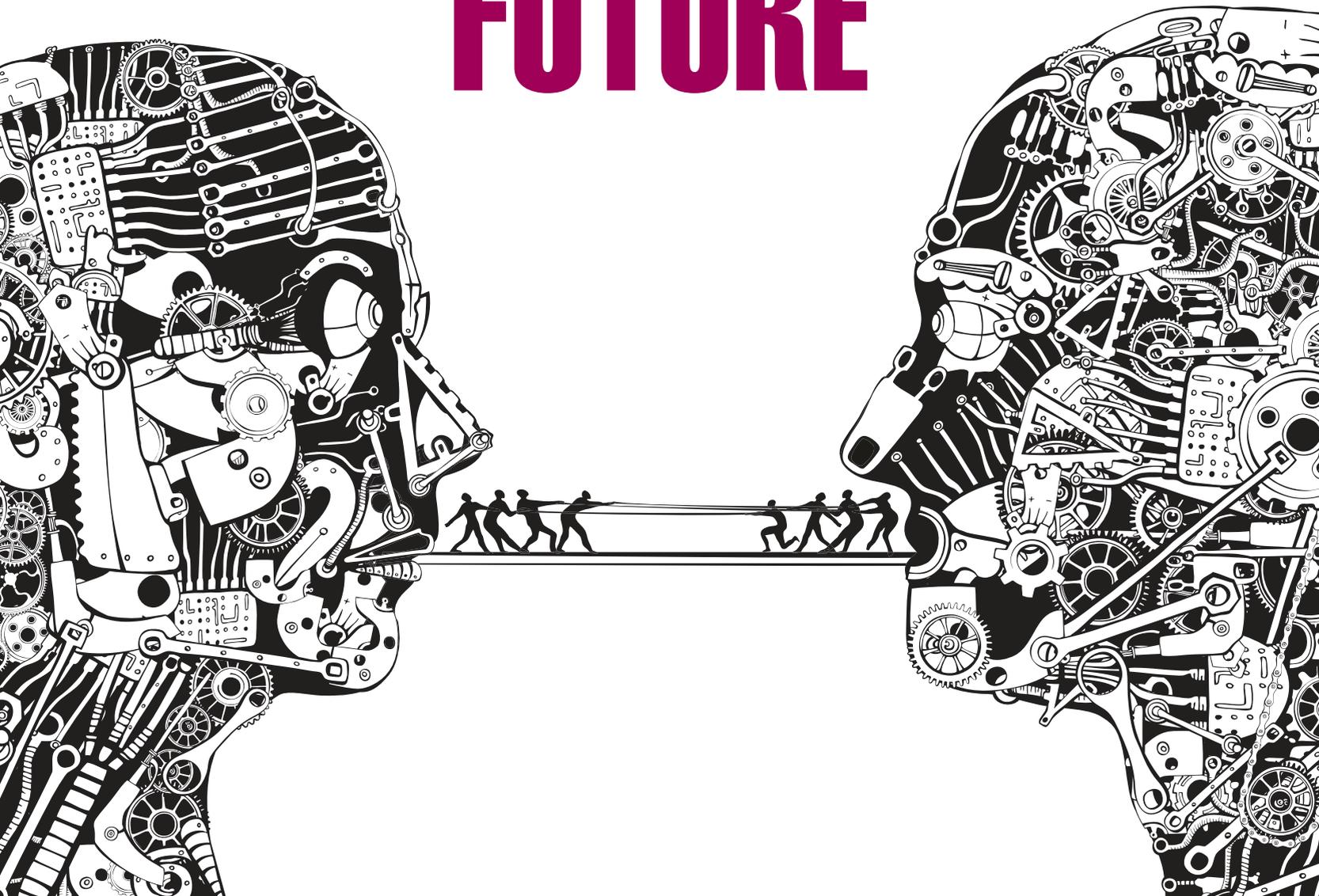
In the evening we had a game "pick a side". The leader asked different questions about intercultural topics and we had to pick one side: whether we agree or disagree with a statement and then explain why so.

All the people were separated into different groups which represented the interests of the citizens: bank, government, LGBT, youth, Muslims, people with disabilities. We created different solutions of that problem from different points of view. We created a city council and made a decision for the town.

*Maryna Borovikova*



# PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE



The morning debates concerned the topic “In the near future the world will be a monoculture”. The thesis was about “monoculture” - comprehensive homogenize culture all over the planet.

Our groups conducted everything by themselves.

After lunch we started preparing to the next debates. We decided to talk about people’s life in the future. Then we chose a thesis “Robots will have the same rights as humans in the future”. Before these debates the proposition and the opposition teams were given a short training including the test thesis “Every politician in Europe is a robot”.

Personally I would oppose such an idea but during the oxford debates your own opinion can’t influence your speech, as you don’t even choose your team and your role. Thus it’s quite a challenge when you can’t speak from your heart.

*Viktoriya Alokina*

# visiting Schools



We spent the first half of our last day of the project visiting the schools in the towns nearby.

We held the oxford debate in one of the high schools in Krasnystaw (i.m. C.K. Norwida). Our topic was: “Being an active citizen in my local community is a waste of time which can be used in a more effective way for my personal development”.

In another school in Krasnystaw (i.m. W. Jagiełły) we were talking about our project with students.

In a village primary school we held several energizers and also talked about the importance of the non-formal education.

In the last school in Zamość where kids are taught both in Polish and English we really enjoyed doing energizers. Then we talked about our and their projects.

The second half of the day we spent in Zamość Old Town eating pizza, sightseeing and advertising Let's Debate project by spreading out our handmade leaflets.

After the supper we had the last official activity which was the evaluation. Everyone shared their impressions about our youth exchange.

A huge event that was ahead of ‘Let’s Debate’ participants has taken lots of preparations. We were looking forward to seeing happy and curious children and to open the world of debates, active citizenship, enjoyable games and activities for learning English and meeting Ukrainians.

*Iryna Martyniuk*







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**'HEureka Generator' Association** was founded in November 2016 by people with long experience in working in NGOs. Our members are professional local and international project coordinators, non-formal education trainers and young people who have taken part in a lot of local and international projects in the past. What connects us is the will be active to help our local community.

**Aims/goals:**

1. Increasing social activity of citizens;
2. Promoting and spreading the idea of non-formal education;
3. Organizing and supporting different forms of pro-youth activities;
4. Equaling chances for people with disabilities and those endangered by social exclusion;
5. Organizing and supporting activities aimed at preventing social exclusion.

**Methods:**

1. Organizing and conducting local, regional, national and international courses, seminars and study visits aimed at increasing social activity of citizens;
2. Organizing international youth meetings conducted with use of non-formal education methods;
3. Creating new tools and methods of non-formal education;
4. Creating and distributing materials and publications concerning social activity, non-formal education and problems of young people and socially excluded groups;
5. Preparing and distributing publications in the field of conducting courses concerning elicitation of young people, and problems concerning social exclusion.



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**“KREATIV” – Vinnytsia Regional Informational Centre** is a Non-Governmental Organisation, founded in 2007.

**Our mission:** strengthening civic society development, popularizing European values: human rights, tolerance, freedom, democracy, equality and human dignity.

**Our motto:** Be Creative!

**Main activities:**

- development and implementation of local, regional and international programs (delivering seminars, trainings, workshops, exchanges, round tables, conferences, public hearings, thematic meetings) aimed at development of civil society;
- information and educational activities in the field of European integration and implementation of European values in the Ukrainian society;
- promotion of culture, spirituality, civil and non-formal education, volunteering;
- preservation of cultural heritage, historical and cultural environment;
- preservation of the environment;
- prevention of negative phenomena among youth and promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- support of the development of independent mass media (including electronic one).

“KREATIV” has professional experts from various fields of public activity, cooperates fruitfully with NGOs, educational institutions, international organizations and foundations.

HEureka Generator Association would like to thank for support of our project to our partner schools and partner organisations:

**W. Jagiełło Secondary School from Krasnystaw**

**C. K. Norwid Secondary School from Krasnystaw**

**Bilingual Elementary School 'Smart School' from Zamość**

**J. Słowacki Elementary School from Małochwiej Duży**

**Association 'Zamość - 1920'**

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