

Impulspaper

Shaping the Future of Europe – My Image of Peace

Within the framework of the European program CERV, partner organizations from Germany (Lüneburg), Greece (Kifissia), Slovenia (Izola), and Romania (Timișoara) worked under the motto “My Vision of Peace” in collaboration with students and citizens. Through workshops, exhibitions, and international conferences, the theme of Peace in Europe was explored creatively and through dialogue.

Insights from the activities

Voices of the youth: Young people associate Peace not only with the “absence of war,” but also with security, justice, freedom of speech, respect, and a healthy environment.

“For me, Peace means that everyone has a voice – and that they should not be afraid to use it.” (student, Lüneburg)

Dialogue in the face of war: As part of the exhibitions, international discussions were also held alongside the works of young people, with the participation of politicians and representatives of civil society. The voices of refugee children and teenagers from Ukraine were especially moving. “We hear news about the war every day, but here I was finally able to express what it means to me.” (participant, Izola) Art and human connection as a bridge:

Creative exhibits and public discussions highlighted that Peace must be continuously recreated through education, encounters, and collective memory.

Intergenerational: Children, young people, adults, and the elderly exchanged experiences, confirming that Peace is a shared mission for all generations.

“It was moving to hear new voices and older experiences side by side. That gives hope.” (citizen, Lüneburg) “At last we had the opportunity to show our thoughts – not only to think them, but to truly make them visible.” (student, Kifissia)

“Peace is a common good. Peace does not only mean the absence of war, but also respect and a life in harmony.” The Director of the Employment Agency of Timișoara stated: “Peace is not a condition, but a decision that we must make every day.”

Reflections toward politics: The results show that peace is not a fixed state but an ongoing process. Citizens can contribute to shaping it only through trust in politics and its decision-makers. The willingness to participate is evident – especially among young people. This commitment gains strength when politics opens spaces for dialogue,

creates trust, and thus lays the foundation for people to work together for Europe and its values.

At the same time, it becomes clear: international agreements must be observed reliably – organizations and institutions must not be “trampled upon” out of lack of respect or indifference.

Final thought: Peace is not the destination, but the path itself.



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