



NARRATIVE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "EMPOWERING YOUTH CITIZENSHIP FOR EU FUTURE" PROJECT

6TH CROSS MEETING – SANTAREM (PORTUGAL)

The Italian delegation joined the sixth cross meeting in Santarém (Spain) from March the 4th up to March the 8th, 2024.

The delegation was composed by 5 people: 1 delegate of the public institution Unione della Romagna faentina, 2 girls (age 20 and 24) and 2 boys (age 23 and 24).

From 4th to 8th of March we had a chance to participate in the sixth “YOUth for EU” event that was happening in Santarém and Golegã, Portugal.

The 4th of March was the first day of the event, dedicated to travelling and joining the other delegations during a welcome dinner, where we were able to taste typical Portuguese dishes and desserts. The second day started with a visit in Santarém. We visited the city hall, where we were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor, who introduced us to the history of the city. After that, every delegation made a quick presentation about their town and region. Straight after the meeting, we arrived at the Technical and Professional School of Ribatejo, where, together with students, we took a knowledge test about the European Union (Kahoot). The questions of the Kahoot were about youth in the European Union and its future. Will it be positive or not? Will young people become more socially active? Will more countries exit the union, and will it end? After lunch, we went for a tour around the city. The guide showed us many beautiful places hidden in Santarém. We started with a visit to Convento de São Francisco, which we were able to see from the inside. Our next point of the tour was Praça de Sá da Bandeira, the heart of the city. After some free time, we went to Jardim das Portas do Sol, an amazing viewpoint that made it possible for us to see the whole Santarém from above. We also learned some interesting facts about the city, its culture, and its history. We finished the day with a dinner and a dance lesson at the headquarters of the Sociedade Recreativa Operária association, where, together with the local community, we learned traditional Portuguese dances. We started Wednesday with a World Café Discussion at the Municipality of Golegã (Santarém District). In cooperation with youngsters, we took a Kahoot knowledge quiz about the EU. In groups, we discussed why many young people lack knowledge about the European Union and how to encourage them to extend it. Then we went on a spontaneous trip to Tomar and visited the Convent of Christ. Our guide told us the rich story that stands behind the building and why it is so special when it comes to architecture. The last day of the event started with a Good Practices Visit at the Lisbon Youth Center. We learned how it works and what it offers young people. We also saw the headquarters of the youth center on a special tour prepared for us. The tour ended with a presentation that got us familiar with youth living in Lisbon, its daily difficulties, and how the Youth Center prevents them. We also discussed the problems of youngsters in our countries and their daily struggles. It turned out that what definitively connects young people are their problems, which are pretty alike all over Europe. We found the visit very informative and inspiring for our future actions in our town. After that, it was time for a cultural visit in the center of Lisbon. We saw many famous monuments, such as the Vasco da Gama Bridge and the Praça do Comércio. We also had some free time to sightsee the city.