



## **Young European Leaders at Žilina Model United Nations Conference (20 - 26 April 2016)**

After one week of exciting discussions, interesting political debating and lots of fun, the *Young European Leaders* (YEL) project of ERASMUS + can be regarded as a real success story. The project supervisor, Mr. Imrich Milo, called it an “unteachable experience“. He explained that everyone, from organizational team members to delegates, is part of the big ZAMUN family and plays a crucial role for the extraordinary success the participants can witness during ZAMUN every year in Žilina.

The coordinating school Gymnasium Bilingválne in Žilina (Slovakia) had invited the partner schools of the project Schildin Lukio Jyväskylä (Finland), Institution Saint Jude Armentières (France), Wittekind Gymnasium Lübbecke (Germany), Lycée Michel Rodange Luxembourg (Luxembourg) and IES Miguel Catalán, Zaragoza (Spain). As a network of funded ERASMUS PLUS schools rooted in the Europroject *Education without Frontiers* they all started their preparatory project work in September 2016 by establishing debating clubs at their schools at home. These clubs are aimed at Young European leaders (YEL) to improve their communication and IT skills in the world as a “global village“.

By the simulation of life debates at school, digital exchange via *twinspace*, the EU platform for the exchange of best practice, and by attending national Model United Nations, the students enriched their political way of thinking and their communication skills in formal debating. Apart from that, their ability of negotiation, compromising and cooperation in national and multi-linguistic settings could be developed. In addition to these general objectives, the clubs of *Young European Leaders* deepened their political background knowledge on the major international issues in a global world, such as climate change and terrorism as major challenges of our life.



## **YOUNG EUROPEAN LEADERS**

### **Interview with a YEL club member from Wittekind-Gymnasium Germany before and after attending the United Nations Model Conference in Žilina**

1. *What are your expectations for the conference? - I want to watch how the United Nations work because it must be extremely complicated to solve the major conflicts and problems of the world with many hundreds of participants as in the General Assembly of the United Nations. There are so many cultures, languages, opinions, interests and, above all, conflicts in the world.*
2. *What are your main aims for your time in Žilina? - I want to make international friends, I want to take part as much as possible in the committee work to contribute a lot to the committee's resolution. It must feel really good to see your own work in the final result.*
3. *Would you recommend the YEL Club and the participation in ZAMUN to your friends? - It was a great and fantastic time and I might come back or attend MUNs somewhere else. Everyone was able to learn a lot about how complicated negotiating is and profit from the inspiration by meeting so many young people from all over Europe and even India. So everyone was able to breathe in this week's Model United Nations spirit. Therefore, I would highly recommend taking part in our YEL Club at school!!*



The German delegation with the German ambassador Dr. Thomas Götz impressed by the future generation in their roles of young diplomats