

6<sup>th</sup> **STUDENT  
WORLD  
FORUM** | **20  
15**

19-24 April 2015

HOSTED BY  
**UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG (FRANCE)**  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
**UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG (GERMANY)**



**THE EUROPEAN  
EXPERIENCE  
IN LOCAL AND  
REGIONAL  
DEMOCRACY**



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IN LOCAL AND  
REGIONAL  
DEMOCRACY**



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**Yoshihito WATANABE**  
Trustee/Vice-President, Nagoya University  
Director of the AC21 General Secretariat

The Academic Consortium for the 21st Century is an international network of currently 19 institutions including University of Strasbourg, committed to the vision of bridging different societies in the 21st century through academic collaboration.

Founded in 2002, the AC21 is now recognized as one of the best practices of cross-regional academic partnership, offering a variety of collaboration opportunities: Student World Forum, International Graduate School, International Forum, and more.

It is my great pleasure as the Director of the AC21 General Secretariat to welcome you to the AC21 Student World Forum 2015 co-hosted by the University of Strasbourg and the University of Freiburg.

Under the theme of this year's Student World Forum, «The European Experience in Local and Regional Democracy,» you can learn about «real cooperation» within a multicultural and multilingual society such as Europe. I hope that you will take full advantage of this opportunity to broaden your horizons and knowledge, meet and make new international friends, as well as gain invaluable life experience.



**Francis Kern**  
Vice-President for international relations  
University of Strasbourg

On behalf of the University of Strasbourg, I offer our warmest welcome to the students who are participating in the AC21 Student World Forum 2015.

The University of Strasbourg has taken advantage of its rich history and of its geographical position in the tri-national Upper Rhine region. Indeed, since the seventeenth century, the University of Strasbourg has become a strong intellectual center in Europe and experienced three hundred years of bicultural development while being moved back and forth between France and Germany.

Since the early 70's, the University of Strasbourg has been fostering cross-border cooperation and encouraging mobility through international agreements.

Strasbourg, hosting many European institutions such as the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the European Court of Human Rights, is a laboratory for a deeper regional integration. We believe that this very exciting atmosphere at the heart of Europe will lead the participants to think about the challenges that local democracy faces in the international context of globalization.

We are very pleased to organize the Student World Forum 2015 in partnership with the University of Freiburg, as both of us have been working on themes related to local and regional democracy.

I wish all the participants an inspiring Student World Forum 2015 and I hope that they will go back home with treasurable memories.

Academic Consortium 21 for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (AC21)



# Academic Consortium

# 21

The Academic Consortium for the 21st Century (AC21) was established on June 24, 2002 at the International Forum 2002 hosted by Nagoya University, Japan, as an international network comprised of educational, research and industrial organizations throughout the world.

The Forum brought together the presidents and high-ranking delegations from twenty-four of the world's leading education and research institutions, and resulted in the founding of a new and vigorous global partnership in higher education, "Academic Consortium AC21".

The principal theme of the inaugural forum, "The Role of Universities in the 21st Century", continues to guide AC21's activities to this day. In an era of continuous change, we believe that institutions of higher education must take the initiative in responding to the rapidly transforming needs of society, and that an international university network, with its common pool of knowledge, expertise and experience, comprises the optimum means to accomplish this. As demonstrated by the scale of our projects and activities, AC21 is firmly committed to contributing to the global knowledge sector.

The vision of AC21 is the promoting of cooperation in education and research between members, the bridging between different societies in the world and the delivering of wisdom to all people to mutually understand and share values, knowledge and cultures necessary to improve quality of life and to foster co-existence beyond national and regional boundaries in the 21st century.

### The AC21 Student World Forum

The AC21 Student World Forum is the biennial meeting of students from member universities of the AC21 network. On this occasion, students from member institutions are invited to exchange ideas on issues of international concern. The conferences facilitate international friendship, encourage students to develop a global mindset, and strengthen the AC21 network.

## AC21 member Universities

### Australia

The University of Adelaide

### China

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Jilin University

Nanjing University

Northeastern University

Peking University

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Tongji University

### France

University of Strasbourg

### Germany

Technische Universität Chemnitz

University of Freiburg

### Indonesia

Gadjah Mada University

### Japan

Nagoya University

### Laos

National University of Laos

### New Zealand

University of Canterbury

### South Africa

Stellenbosch University

### Thailand

Chulalongkorn University

Kasetsart University

### United States

North Carolina State University

University of Minnesota



## the University of Strasbourg

UNIVERSITÉ DE STRASBOURG



### University of Strasbourg, 5 centuries of excellence

Located in the heart of Europe, the University of Strasbourg is heir to a great tradition born of the humanism of the 16th century. It boasts almost 45,000 students each year, 20% of which are foreign, together with 4,800 teachers-researchers and staff, 37 training and research units, and 79 research units. These impressive figures make the University a rich hub driven by its active involvement in virtually every discipline comprising the current body of knowledge.

The University of Strasbourg has a global reputation founded on the quality of its research teams operating in every major subject area. Among its teaching staff are Nobel prize-winning research scientists, including Martin Karplus (Chemistry 2013), Jean-Marie Lehn (Chemistry 2013) and Jules Hoffman (Physiology or Medicine 2011).

The University's international partnerships along with its humanitarian, intellectual, and scientific potential, have contributed to fueling the greatest of ambitions on an international scale. Influenced by a variety of cultures, the University has developed strong European and international ties and offers exchange programs with countless establishments around the world.

The University of Strasbourg offers an exceptional diversity of programs that cover five principal areas of education : Arts, Literature, Languages / Law, Economics, Management, Political and Social Sciences / Social sciences and Humanities / Science and Technology / Health.

The University of Strasbourg and the University of Freiburg are both members of the European Confederation of Universities on the Upper Rhine (Eucor). The objective of Eucor is cooperation in instruction and research through academic exchange, joint courses of study and research programs, and accreditation of course work done at any of the participating universities.

## the University of Freiburg



### University of Freiburg: comprehensive, excellence, minds, Alumni, Benefactors, Sponsors, Future.

#### Comprehensive University

Already a comprehensive university at its founding in 1457, the University of Freiburg still offers undergraduate and graduate studies as well as professorial qualification in all important disciplines today: the humanities, natural and engineering sciences, medicine, law, and theology. This diversity also provides an ideal environment for innovative interdisciplinary studies.

#### Excellence

Many famous philosophers, top researchers, and Nobel laureates have taught and researched at the University of Freiburg. The university's recent success in the "Excellence" competitions, 2007 for research and 2009 for instruction, testifies to its position as one of the leading universities of the 21st century.

#### Minds

More than 24,000 students from over 100 nations are matriculated in 180 degree programs at 11 faculties. More than 7,000 professors and lecturers and many other employees put in their effort every day – and experience that family friendliness, equal opportunity, and environmental protection are more than just empty phrases here.

#### Alumni, Benefactors, Sponsors

Numerous former students as well as benefactors and sponsors intensify a culture of dynamic exchange with the city, the region, and the international scientific community.

#### Future

All of these groups work to give the University of Freiburg the vitality that will continue to provide fertile ground for outstanding achievements in the future. We are always eager to welcome more intelligent minds to our university.

## The sixth AC21 Student World Forum

At the University of Strasbourg, we saw a great opportunity to share our experience of Europe and knowledge of cross-border cooperation. Thus, the purpose of the Student World Forum 2015 is "The European experience in local and regional democracy".

During this event, the 38 participants were able to take part in a series of conferences on diverse topics such as the tasks of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, cross-border cooperation in clusters of companies and research centers, management of cross-border projects, or sustainable development projects within Regional Authorities.

#### Forum sessions were arranged according to the following sub-themes:

- ▶ Regional cooperation in Europe: overview
- ▶ Local and Regional authorities of Europe
- ▶ Cross-border clusters and business cooperation
- ▶ New energy concepts, innovative materials and resilience: scientific cross-border cooperation – University of Freiburg
- ▶ Transborder cooperation and regional initiatives on sustainable development

## Organization and logistics

In terms of logistics, we decided to divide the students into six workshop teams: we had the green team, the blue team, the yellow team, the purple team, the orange team and the red team.

We wanted to create heterogeneous teams: indeed, for each team, we selected students from very different countries and disciplinary horizons, so that everybody would have to work and interact in a very multicultural atmosphere.

It was very useful to have these teams for the workshops and we had planned where the teams would work: the Orange and Purple teams were in a big room, just like the Red and the Green teams, whereas the Blue and Yellow teams had a smaller room on their own, in the Nouveau Patio building.



**Dyah PRITADRAJATI**  
Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia  
**Itt THIRARATH**  
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand  
**Jiayao WANG**  
Tongji University, China  
**Kornelie GRONSKA**  
University of Strasbourg, France  
**Malaythong PHONTIPPASA**  
National University of Laos, Laos  
**Melanie ZIMMER**  
Freiburg University, Germany  
**Ryan KING**  
North Carolina State University, USA



**Akane OTA**  
Nagoya University, Japan  
**Alina WINTER**  
Chemnitz University, Germany  
**Ci MO**  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University  
**Claire KOTZE**  
Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
**Ian ALLEN**  
University of Minnesota, USA  
**Lipeng CHEN**  
Nanjing University, China  
**Sarah PLATT**  
University of Canterbury, New Zealand



**Chitamon CHANOK-OWAT**  
Kasetsart University, Thailand  
**Dana BOYER**  
University of Minnesota, USA  
**Di LONG**  
Jilin University, China  
**Dostonhuja MAHMUDOV**  
Nagoya University, Japan  
**Francis BOWERS**  
Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
**Solenn TENIER**  
University of Strasbourg, France



**Iulia DOTU**  
Chemnitz University, Germany  
**Rachael NIELSEN**  
Adelaide University, Australia  
**Shiyi HUANG**  
Northeastern University, China  
**Taufik RAHARJO**  
North Carolina State University, USA  
**Xiaoyun TANG**  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China  
**Yuki KAWASAKI**  
Nagoya University, Japan



**Kevin CRADDEN**  
University of Strasbourg, France  
**Laisa PAMIDHI WIDITA**  
Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia  
**Lu WANG**  
Jilin University, China  
**Narut SEESAENG SUWAN CHAI**  
Kasetsart University, Thailand  
**Qichun DAI**  
Tongji University, China  
**Veronika GALOVA**  
Chemnitz University, Germany



**Bundaree DEEWONG**  
Kasetsart University, Thailand  
**Lanxuan LIU**  
Tongji University, China  
**Risa MINENO**  
Nagoya University, Japan  
**Siphosihle MZONGWANA**  
Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
**Tamika GLOUFTSIS**  
Adelaide University, Australia  
**Xiaosong GAO**  
Northeastern University, China

## Program overview

### Sunday, 19.04.15

#### Arrival and welcome cocktail

07:00 PM..... Welcome cocktail at the CIARUS youth hostel

### Monday, 20.04.15

#### Regional cooperation in Europe: overview

09:00 AM..... Visit of the European Parliament

10:45 AM..... Visit of the Council of Europe

12:00 PM..... Lunch at the University restaurant

02:00 PM..... Welcome and opening speech by Alain Beretz, President of the University of Strasbourg

02:15 PM..... Speech by Francis Kern, Vice-President for International Relations

02:30 PM..... "Introduction to the European Charter of Local Self-Government" by Ulrich Bohner

02:45 PM..... "Building up a European Campus in the Upper Rhine region", by Janosch Nieden

03:30 PM..... Free time in the city of Strasbourg

06:00 PM..... Guided tour on the river boat

07:30 PM..... Dinner at the Ancienne Douane restaurant

### Tuesday, 21.04.15

#### Local and regional cooperation for democracy: a major asset for the European institutions

09:00 AM..... "The role of regional cooperation for democracy", by Ulrich Bohner

09:45 AM..... "EU funding and regional cooperation in human rights and environmental projects", by Johannes Moio

11:00 AM..... Questions and answers session

12:00 PM..... Lunch at the University restaurant

01:30 PM..... Workshop: creation of a project according to the Charter of Local Self-Government

04:00 PM..... Final discussion

05:00 PM..... Wine tasting at the Caves historiques des hospices civils de Strasbourg

07:00 PM..... Dinner at Le Cerf d'Or restaurant

### Wednesday, 22.04.15 / Day in Freiburg

#### New energy concepts, innovative materials and resilience

08:30 AM..... Departure from Strasbourg

10:00 AM..... "Freiburg – sustainable city development in the Upper Rhine valley", by Luciano Ibarra

11:00 AM..... Guided city tour

12:30 PM..... Lunch at the Mensa

01:30 PM..... Visits – Group A: the "Riesefeld", example of a new district / Group B: "Vauban", sustainability highlights

04:30 PM..... Departure from Freiburg

07:00 PM..... Dinner at the CIARUS youth hostel

### Thursday, 23.04.15

#### Cross-border clusters and business cooperation

09:00 AM..... "Making the most out of cross-border cooperation: BioValley, a case study", by Mona Boyé

09:45 AM..... "New routes for teaching in the Upper Rhine basin", by Jean-Marc Jeltsch

11:00 AM..... Questions and answers session

12:00 PM..... Lunch at the University restaurant

01:30 PM..... Workshop: design, manufacture and distribution of products in a bi/tri-national context

03:30 PM..... Final discussion

04:00 PM..... Free time in the city of Strasbourg

07:00 PM..... Dinner-show at the Alambar restaurant

### Friday, 24.04.15

#### Final discussion and closing ceremony

10:00 AM..... Preparation of the presentations

12:00 PM..... Lunch at the University restaurant

01:30 PM..... Departure from Strasbourg

03:00 PM..... Visit of the Haut-Koenigsbourg castle

05:00 PM..... Presentation of the teams' projects and closing ceremony

08:00 PM..... Dinner at the CIARUS youth hostel

**Sunday**  
**19.04.15**

## Arrival and welcome cocktail

**Participants arrived at the CIARUS youth hostel and were greeted with a welcome package containing:**



Photo © Malaythong PHONTIPPASA

1. The program of the Student World Forum
2. A Student World Forum 2015 notebook
3. A badge with their names, university and country of origin, and their team color
4. A polo shirt whose color was their team's color
5. A pen of the University of Strasbourg
6. A Student World Forum USB flash drive
7. A map of the city of Strasbourg
8. A map of the tram / bus network in Strasbourg

At 07:00 PM, the welcome cocktail started in the reception room of the CIARUS youth hostel. All participants had been informed that they should wear their polo shirts. After an informal welcome speech held by Francis Kern, Vice-President for International Relations, and a presentation of the organizing staff of the Student World Forum, the participants enjoyed some fine finger food and played an ice-breaking game known as "the onion game". Participants formed two circles: an outer circle with participants facing inward and an inner circle with participants facing outward. Each person found a partner and interviewed him/her. Participants then changed positions (participants from the inner circle made a step to the right) and ended up interviewing four people in total. Each participant was responsible for introducing the last person he/she interviewed to the rest of the group. Everybody had a lot of fun playing this game and one could see it created some friendly links between the participants.

Afterwards, all participants gathered in front of the CIARUS youth hostel to take a colorful picture.



Participants of the SWF 2015  
photo © Lucie GONIN



**Monday**  
**20.04.15****Regional cooperation in Europe: overview**

**In the morning, participants visited the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.**

**Visit of the European Parliament**

On this morning, the students learned that the European Parliament is an important forum for political debate and decision-making at the EU level: indeed, the Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by voters in all Member States to represent people's interests with regard to EU law-making and to make sure other EU institutions are working democratically.

Over the years, the Parliament has acquired substantial legislative and budgetary powers that allow it to set, together with the representatives of the governments of the Member States in the Council, the direction in which the European project is heading. In doing so, the Parliament has sought to promote democracy and human rights – not only in Europe, but also throughout the world.

The group was also taught that the European Parliament is made up of 751 Members elected in the 28 Member States of the enlarged European Union. Since 1979, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have been elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year period.

Each country decides on the form its election will take, but must guarantee equality of the sexes and a secret ballot. EU elections are by proportional representation, that is to say that seats are allocated on the basis of population of each Member State. Slightly more than a third of MEPs are women. MEPs are grouped by political affinity, not nationality<sup>1</sup>.

The students visited the hemicycle, which is the great debating chamber where the Members of the European Parliament discuss during the plenary sessions: each MEP sits with the other members affiliated to the same political group, from left-wing parties to right-wing ones.

**Visit of the Council of Europe**

The students were very enthusiastic about visiting the Council of Europe, which is the continent's leading human rights organization. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union.

All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law<sup>2</sup>.

The students learned that, through many activities, the Council of Europe advocates freedom of expression and of the media, freedom of assembly, equality, and the protection of minorities. It has launched campaigns on issues such as child protection, online hate speech, and the rights of the Roma, Europe's largest minority.

The Council of Europe helps member states fight corruption and terrorism and undertake necessary judicial reforms. Its group of constitutional experts, known as the Venice Commission, offers legal advice to countries throughout the world.

The Council of Europe promotes human rights through international conventions, such as the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Convention on Cybercrime. It monitors member states' progress in these areas and makes recommendations through independent expert monitoring bodies. Council of Europe member states no longer apply the death penalty<sup>3</sup>. ●●●



The European Parliament  
photo © Catherine SCHRÖDER



The European Parliament  
photo © Catherine SCHRÖDER



The Council of Europe  
photo © Catherine SCHRÖDER

1- Source: [www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en)

2- Source: [www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/who-we-are](http://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/who-we-are)

3- Source: [www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/values](http://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/values)

# activities during the week

●●● During their visit, the students attended a conference on the role of the Council of Europe in the political European architecture and had an overview on the actions that the Council of Europe implements to protect the European citizens, by promoting diversity and respect.

The students were really impressed to discover these places and they asked many questions about the functioning of the European supranational institutions, so as to understand better how democracy works on this continent.

Indeed, these two institutions have a major role in the European construction and we wanted the student to understand that building democracy on the European continent is a day-to-day enterprise. Politicians, yet also citizens have to take part in it so that it works for everyone in all the States.

## Welcome speeches

**In the afternoon, the welcome speeches and the first conferences were held in the Collège Doctoral Européen.**

The President of the University of Strasbourg, Alain Beretz, offered his warmest welcome to the participants and gave them a comprehensive overview of the history of the University of Strasbourg. His speech was very moving, for he indeed talked about the French-German past of the city and about the reconciliation of two major European countries. He reminded us that the city of Strasbourg was torn back and forth: it is on the border which is the Rhine river. This border is also a link between cities and it has been so since very early, since when the Romans used this river to colonize this whole valley up to the northern sea.

He added that the Erasmus program is named after Erasmus who was a scholar at that time and who travelled on the Rhine between Basel, Strasbourg, Freiburg, Heidelberg. Erasmus used this axe to travel and learn and teach, indeed learning and teaching was also a part of this area.

Mr. Beretz went on about the Rhine River: this river was also the border between France and Germany, and wars were quite common in the area. And this was not always a pleasant situation and it impacted the University in one sense. But it is also because of this specific place in history and geography that we have in Strasbourg two major European institutions: the European Parliament, the Council of Europe yet also the European Court of Human Rights and other international institutions like the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines etc. Strasbourg is a European capital, which means that it actually is the second diplomatic town in France after Paris: we have here many embassies, consulates and international representations.

So this is where the University is but it is also a very beautiful city, which is at a human size, but it is also a nice city to visit, to live and to study.

Francis Kern, the Vice-President for International Relations, expressed as well his enthusiasm about welcoming 38 students from 11 different countries and was delighted to introduce the full program to the participants.

After these welcome speeches, Ulrich Bohner, chairman of the Strasbourg Europe House (MESA - Maison de l'Europe Strasbourg Alsace) presented the European Charter of Local Self-Government<sup>4</sup>.



Alain BERETZ - President of the University of Strasbourg  
photo © Lucie GONIN



**Ulrich BOHNER**  
Chairman of Strasbourg Europe House (MESA)

He was born in Germany in 1944 and studied Law in Saarbrücken and Berlin. After getting his lawyer degree in 1972, he worked at the Council of Europe and had various positions: Senior Official in the Office of the Secretary General, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Kosovo, Secretary of the European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Regional Planning, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

He is now retired and is the Chairman of the Europe Strasbourg House, whose main mission is to inform citizens and raise public awareness on the European debates, issues and actions.

### The European Charter of Local Self-Government

Within the Council of Europe, the oldest international organization in Europe (since 1949), as well as the largest (47 member States), democracy, including at local and regional level, as well as human rights have always been considered as the two basic values for the success of international cooperation. Both issues are protected, in various ways, by international conventions. In particular, the European Charter of Local Self-Government from 1985 has also been a strong incentive for discussing these issues at world and regional levels. In the framework of the United Nations, this has led in 2007 to the adoption of the "International Guidelines on Decentralisation and the Strengthening of Local Authorities". Both texts make a large reference to the principle of subsidiarity, in favor of more decision making power at local level. It is hoped that this, as well as citizen participation, may also lead to responsible attitudes and projects in the field of the environment.

After the speeches, the students asked a few questions about the Council of Europe, especially on how it addresses to young citizens of Europe. Mr. Bohner answered that the European Youth Center was created so that young people can get involved in the European issues they are interested in. There is one European Youth Center in Strasbourg and one in Budapest (Hungary).

Mr. Beretz added that the best way that young people can get involved in politics is to vote, like for the European Parliament, and he said that if young people do not do it, others will and it can be dangerous at some point.

Mr. Bohner suggested that young people who want to get involved in day-to-day politics should take part in youth organizations like Youth Forum or World Forum for Democracy, where young people can discuss and exchange ideas about Europe.

Then, so as to have a very concrete example of an international cross-border project, Janosch Nieden, EUCOR coordinator, presented the University of the Upper Rhine: the European Campus.



**Janosch NIEDEN**  
EUCOR Coordinator

Janosch Nieden is the coordinator of EUCOR, which is known as the University of the Upper Rhine, and embodies the alliance of five universities located in the Upper Rhine region: Universität Basel (Switzerland), Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (Germany), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany), Université de Haute-Alsace (France), Université de Strasbourg (France).

The coordination of these 5 universities is based in Strasbourg. Before taking this position in February 2015, Janosch Nieden has been the coordinator of the Science Sector of the Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine in Kehl (Germany).

### EUCOR: building up a European Campus in the Upper Rhine Region

As one of the most developed regions of Europe, especially in the fields of research and innovation, the Upper Rhine Region is on the same level as knowledge-driven metropolitan regions like Paris, Berlin or Munich. However, the Rhine Region is the one of very few regions in Europe where three leading countries are meeting: Germany, France and Switzerland. In a very small perimeter, within a one-hour drive only, students and researchers can benefit from the internationally highly ranked universities of Strasbourg, Basel, Freiburg, Karlsruhe as well as the University of Mulhouse. In this perspective, these 5 universities have decided to expand their EUCOR alliance into an internationally attractive center for science and research. The aim of EUCOR is to create a highly integrated European campus, including for instance joint research projects, the joint hiring of staff, and the establishment of more integrated degree programs.

# activities during the week

## River boat cruise and dinner

**After the conference of Janosch Nieden, the participants had a free time to enjoy the sunny weather:** most of them went to the city center and took a walk to discover the beautiful buildings of Strasbourg. At 06:00 PM, the students were invited to take the river boat for a small cruise through the city. Indeed, the very heart of Strasbourg is a small "island" on the Ill River. It is therefore very easy to discover the city comfortably sitting on a boat.

## At 07:00 PM, the students went to the Ancienne Douane restaurant.

This famous edifice, which was built in 1358, was formerly a place where the wares (mostly tobacco, wine and fish) transiting on the Rhine River were controlled, taxed and stored. At this time and during the Middle Ages, river trade was essential for the development of the city.

On that evening, a very traditional Alsatian dish was on the menu: *the flâmmeküeche*.



River boat  
photo © Tamika GLOUFTSIS



The Ancienne Douane restaurant  
photo © Coralie SCHIRRU

“ To me, the Student World Forum was about learning the local and regional democracy in Europe through lectures, workshops, visits to European Institutions and staying in the beautiful city of Strasbourg. It was also a great chance to make lifelong friends from all over the world and experience the local culture and traditions in the central city of Europe.”

**Dostonhuja MAHMUDOV**  
Nagoya University, Japan

“ The Student World Forum was one of the best experiences I ever had! I learned so many things that it simply is impossible to list them all! When I left, I took so many things with me: knowledge about the European Union, pictures of the beautiful city of Strasbourg and above all: new friends from all over the world.”

**Melanie ZIMMER**  
Freiburg University, Germany

**Tuesday**  
**21.04.15**Local and regional cooperation for democracy:  
a major asset for the European institutions**The principle of subsidiarity**

**In the morning, participants attended a conference held by Ulrich Bohner, on the topic of the role of regional cooperation for democracy and protection of human rights and environmental projects.** Ulrich Bohner is the former Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Council of Europe) and is now the chairman of the Maison de l'Europe Strasbourg Alsace (MESA, House of Europe in Strasbourg). Ulrich Bohner read and explained some very important articles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. He talked most specifically about the principle of subsidiarity, which is fundamental when one wants to understand local and regional democracy (articles 3 and 4 of the Charter).

**Article 3 – Concept of local self-government**

1. Local self-government denotes the right and the ability of local authorities, within the limits of the law, to regulate and manage a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interests of the local population. (...)

**Article 4 – Scope of local self-government**

1. The basic powers and responsibilities of local authorities shall be prescribed by the constitution or by statute. However, this provision shall not prevent the attribution to local authorities of powers and responsibilities for specific purposes in accordance with the law.
2. Local authorities shall, within the limits of the law, have full discretion to exercise their initiative with regard to any matter which is not excluded from their competence nor assigned to any other authority.
3. Public responsibilities shall generally be exercised, in preference, by those authorities which are closest to the citizen. Allocation of responsibility to another authority should weigh up the extent and nature of the task and requirements of efficiency and economy.
4. Powers given to local authorities shall normally be full and exclusive. They may not be undermined or limited by another, central or regional, authority except as provided for by the law.
5. Where powers are delegated to them by a central or regional authority, local authorities shall, insofar as possible, be allowed discretion in adapting their exercise to local conditions.
6. Local authorities shall be consulted, insofar as possible, in due time and in an appropriate way in the planning and decision-making processes for all matters which concern them directly.



Johannes MOISIO, Ulrich BOHNER, Francis KERN  
photo © Lucie GONIN



Workshop 1  
photo © Catherine SCHRÖDER

After the presentation of Ulrich Bohner, Johannes Moisiso, chairman of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), held a conference about cross-border projects and international cooperation.



## Johannes MOISIO

### Chairman of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

Johannes Moisiso has chaired AEBR Task Force of External Borders from its foundation in 2007.

In his home region, South Karelia, Finland, he has worked as Head of Operational Unit in Joint Managing Authority of South-East Finland / Russia ENPI program and in the Secretariat of South-East Finland Interreg IIIA program<sup>5</sup>.

In 2000, Johannes Moisiso was chosen to manage international projects and relations of South Karelia region. He was one of the initiators and founders of NEEBOR network in Brussels<sup>6</sup>.

## The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

During his talk, Johannes Moisiso introduced the Association of European Border Regions to the student. This association can be taken as a meaningful example of a successful cross-border cooperation project: the AEBR represents the interests of cross-border regions towards the Council of Europe, the European Union and the national governments. Johannes Moisiso presented the missions of the AEBR and gave an overview of some projects that are implemented in the south Karelia region (Finland), mostly in cooperation with the neighboring Russian regions.

## Questions and answers session

During the talk with the speakers, some very witty questions were raised, for instance:

### How can we measure the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation?

Mr. Moisiso answered that there should be some numeral objectives for the cross-border statistics such as: amount of created job or number of new businesses that were created. Mr. Bohner added that when the finance for cross-border cooperation comes from donors or public institutions, one has to do some reporting to justify the expenses. But sometimes, some actions or changes happen mostly in the minds of people and this is hard to measure. Nevertheless, one can evaluate that with opinion surveys.

### To which extent can the political context of a State influence cross-border cooperation?

Mr. Moisiso meant that it is indeed hard to foster cross-border cooperation in a hostile environment, as the government usually supports cross-border cooperation and will stop doing it in conflictual times. Indeed, some political decisions also influence the economy of a State and this has indirect consequences: currency variations, political uncertainty, and these are not good conditions to work in collaboration with a given country. Mr. Kern took the example of the Strasbourg – Ortenau Eurodistrict: the city of Strasbourg is now developing towards the German former border to form a French-German district with the city of Kehl and the surrounding villages. Mr. Kern insisted that this 360 degrees cooperation did not exist 10 years ago and the new politics make this development possible.

### How do you educate people about cross-border cooperation?

According to Mr. Bohner, the first step is to learn the language of the neighbor so as to be able to communicate. In Alsace, young children learn German, and on the other side of the border, pupils learn French. Some other initiatives can be encounters for sport organized by associations, exchanges between schools, a museum pass to visit museums across the border, theater performances in two languages (or surtitles), public discussions of politicians... All this creates link between people, but the education about cross-border cooperation is a long process because the borders are also in the heads of people.

“ The forum was an incredibly worthwhile and enriching experience. (...) I learnt so much about the situations of social justice, social services, education systems, equality, politics and general day to day life in a multitude of locations around the world. For me, this was what I have taken away from the Student World Forum 2015, the joy of human connection shared between people with different political ideology, religion, background and races - we all came together as one united group to get the most out of our Strasbourg experience.”

**Rachael NIELSEN**  
Adelaide University, Australia

<sup>5</sup> For more information on those cross-border cooperation programs, see: [www.southeastfinrusnpi.fi](http://www.southeastfinrusnpi.fi) and [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/expost2006/interreg\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/expost2006/interreg_en.htm)

<sup>6</sup> For more information on the NEEBOR network, see: [www.neebor.eu](http://www.neebor.eu)

## Workshop 1

## Cross-border cooperation project

**In the afternoon, the first workshop took place. With the support of Francis Kern, Ulrich Bohner and Johannes Moisiso, the six teams had to create an innovative project which would respect the framework of the European Charter of Local Self-Government.**



Ulrich BOHNER



Francis KERN



Johannes MOISIO

After discussing what the main problems can be in a region where people of different background, culture and language meet every day, the workshop teams offered some solutions towards a peaceful and harmonious living together, taking in account environmental, economic and social issues. All the teams followed the same path to achieve their innovative results: they named the issues people of their own country face when living in a border region, then they brainstormed together and came up with creative ideas of realizable projects they could implement in real life.

**Issues in keywords**

**Environment:** Global climate change / Sharing resources / Sustainability / Power / Alternative energy / H2O

**Social issues:** Gender inequality / Cultural competencies / Social welfare / Poverty alleviation / Right to education / Political Education / Wealth inequalities / Ethnic tensions / Immigrant integration

**Solutions**

After thinking about all these issues, the teams decided to focus on social integration, language and education.

According to the teams, the main problem in border regions is the misconception of immigration: that can be seen when one group of people is having hard time to accept individuals coming from other countries, cultures, religion and maybe race as well, whereas these individuals are experiencing issues to adjust to local and cultural differences.

The two projects that came up from the brainstorming of the workshop teams are the following ones:

- Binational day nursery or kindergarten: teaching children from their youngest age to play and interact with children from another culture, and teaching them the two languages of the two neighbor countries. This would encourage curiosity, openness and tolerance in border regions.
- “Imolution” is the contraction of the words “Immigration” and “Solution”: this name was the project of the Yellow team, yet it can be applied to most of the projects, as all the teams created the same framework. The project is about empowerment of immigrants and local citizens and encouraging them to share ideas during events where they could get to know each other. This project can be initiated by the political institutions from both sides of the border and fosters acceptance between two (or more) groups of individuals from a different background.

Some of the teams took as an example the Mexican-American border and spoke about prejudices and conflictual situations: for instance, the integration of the Chicano community in the American society is still an issue that some southern States (mostly California, New Mexico and Texas) have to deal with. The students, by basing their projects on the European Charter of Local Self-Government, really understood the principle of subsidiarity and thought about innovative measures that would improve the day-to-day lives of people living in a border region, included in their own countries. They learned that even cultural projects can actually lead to democracy, at a local and regional level.

The three speakers (Mr. Bohner, Mr. Moisiso and Mr. Kern) noticed that all the presentations were very lively and that the students took their projects to heart and were very implicated in them.

**Visit of the Wine Cellar of Strasbourg City Hospital and diner**

**After the day at the University, the participants had the chance to visit the Caves historiques des hospices civils (Wine Cellar of Strasbourg City Hospital) for a wine-tasting session, during which they were able to learn about the local vineyards and wines, and to try a delicious pinot gris.**

This well-known wine cellar was built between 1393 and 1395 in the enclosure of the City Hospital: indeed, during the Middle Ages, wine was used as a medicine to cure ill people, and each patient was entitled to two liters of wine a day, until the 19th century.

Nowadays, the wine cellar stores and sells very good wines from the region. All the benefits are reinvested in the purchasing of medical appliances.

After the wine-tasting session, the day ended on a cheery note in the Cerf d’Or restaurant. Since 1917, this lovely restaurant has been offering traditional and tasty Alsatian food. On this evening, the students discovered the sauerkraut with zander and really enjoyed it.



Wine Cellar of Strasbourg City Hospital  
photo © Catherine SCHRÖDER

“ The Student World Forum was an unforgettable experience for me. I have participated in various conferences and forums but this one was definitely the best! Thanks to you and the universities it was possible to have this amazing experience, meet great people, learn about other cultures and countries, and learn more about regional democracy and European specificities.”

**Kornélie GRONSKÁ**  
University of Strasbourg, France

# activities during the week

**Wednesday**  
**22.04.15**

Day in Freiburg  
New energy concepts, innovative materials and resilience

**On Wednesday, all the participants went on an excursion to Freiburg, in Germany, which is a beautiful city located 90 kilometers away from Strasbourg.** More than beautiful, the city is internationally known for its approach towards sustainability: architecture, mobility and energy are at the heart of the city's agenda. There, the students were greeted by Christian Tischer, from the University of Freiburg, and attended a very instructive presentation held by Luciano Ibarra.



**Luciano IBARRA**  
Journalist and filmmaker

Luciano Ibarra holds a **Master of Science in Renewable Energy** and a **Bachelor of Science in Chemistry**: ecological and socio-political issues are therefore his key topics. He has a long experience in making documentaries and radio broadcast on these matters and is the co-founder of the "Gartencoop", which is a cooperative-based agriculture in Freiburg.

## Sustainable urban development in Freiburg

Luciano Ibarra started off his presentation talking about Freiburg's history in terms of research towards sustainability. Freiburg's sustainability process began back in the 1970s with the successful action against the Wyhl nuclear power plant.

This was then continued by socio-civic initiatives that formed part of the "Local Agenda 21" process: a wealth of projects and the innumerable activities and initiatives that help to implement Freiburg's sustainability targets. These planned activities attest to the city comprehensive commitments to sustainable development. For its commitment, the city of Freiburg was honored with the German Sustainability Award in 2012, presented for the first time to towns and municipalities as the most sustainable city in Germany.

The prize was awarded specifically to reflect the city's unique sustainability infrastructure, as well as the commitment of urban societies, offices and agencies combined with an active body of citizens.

The students were able to discover that Freiburg is regarded today as a model for the reconciliation of "soft" ecology and "hard" economics: environmental policy, solar technology, sustainability and climate protection have become the drivers of economic and political growth along with urban development<sup>7</sup>.

The point that Luciano Ibarra wanted to make clear for the students is that nowadays, more and more people around the world live in cities and are thus concentrating their consumption of natural resources in urban areas.

The city of Freiburg is a good example of how architecture and urban planning can contribute to ensuring a secure supply of resources and a high quality of life. To illustrate his point, he spoke then about the initiatives implemented by the city of Freiburg in terms of sustainable development: cycle roads and highways for cyclists, bike stations, farmers' markets in the city, innovative waste management, recycling, use of second-hand products, etc.

Freiburg is a model in that field and this is why this excursion was a major point of the Student World Forum.



Luciano IBARRA's presentation  
photo © Tamika GLOUFTSIS



Eco-district  
photo © Tamika GLOUFTSIS



**After the presentation and the lunch at the Mensa (University Restaurant), the students went for a walk in the streets of the sustainable districts: the Rieselfeld and the Vauban districts.**

## Rieselfeld district: eco-housing

The largest district project in the federal State of Baden-Württemberg covers an area of some 70 hectares, and now provides 3,700 homes for 10,500 people. Its positive image, comprehensive and needs-based public infrastructure and intact neighborhood life make Rieselfeld an attractive location for owners and tenants.

The emphasis is on civic engagement and active cooperation in the district. The district borders a 250-hectare nature reserve that the Rieselfeld use as a local recreational area.

All houses have been built as low-energy buildings. Photovoltaics and solar thermal systems harness the energy from the sun in many homes.

Further renewable energy use and district heating from combined heat and power plants, a systematic water supply and consideration of climatic aspects, attest to the fundamentally forward-looking approach of this very new district.

The urban development plan also attaches great importance to green spaces, play areas and open spaces, as well as cycle paths and pedestrianized streets<sup>8</sup>.

## Vauban district: urban development with eco-awareness

The inner-city "Vauban" district was built on the grounds of the former barracks belonging to the French armed forces and covers an area of some 40 hectares.

An attractive, family-friendly district, now home to some 5,500

inhabitants, in which civic involvement goes hand to hand with collective building and environmentally conscious living. Low-energy building is mandatory in this district and around 170 units have been built as "passive" houses and a further 70 as energy-plus homes.

Heating from a local heating network powered by renewable energy sources and the use of solar technology is largely standard for most homes. The former stock of trees has been largely preserved. Green

spaces between the rows of houses guarantee good climatic conditions and provide play areas for children.

An infrastructure incorporating schools, nursery schools, youth facilities, civic meeting places, a market place as well as leisure and play areas, was built in parallel with the private development. Vegetation-covered "green" roofs store rain water, which is collected and re-used in the district.

The residential area is largely traffic-calmed, with whole streets

free of parking spaces, many households not even owning a car, and private vehicles parked in one of the two car parks in the district.

The district has been connected to the city's tram system since 2006, enabling many people to do without a car, preferring to use local transport or ride their bikes<sup>9</sup>.

It was very important for us to organize this day with our partner, the University of Freiburg, as we know that environmental issues are a key point in cross-border cooperation matters.

The students were delighted about everything they discovered during their day in Germany.

“The Student World Forum has opened my eyes to new cultures, new ways of doing things both at governmental level and social level and it has created a desire in me to learn more about the rest of the world.”

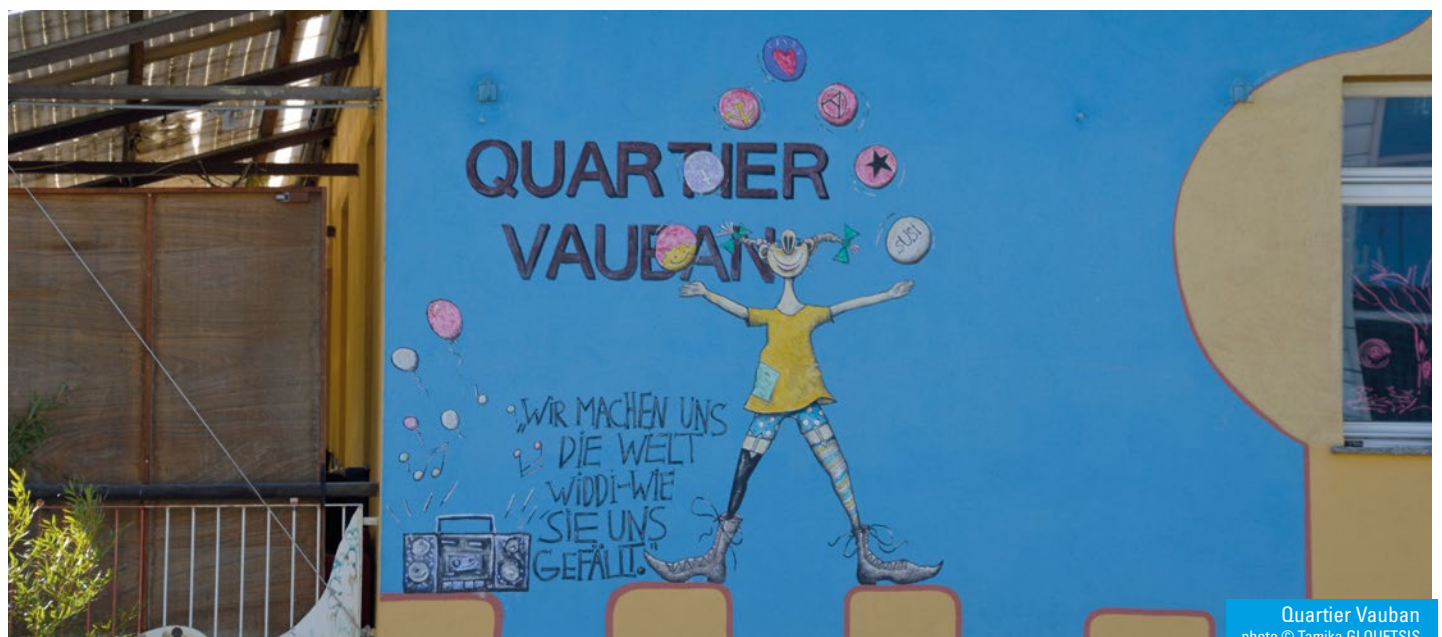
**Claire KOTZE**

Stellenbosch University, South Africa

“The Student World Forum is something unexpectedly wonderful. It truly broadened my horizon, as if it were a key to the door behind which is a new world I've never been to (...). I cherish all the memories I had during the Student World Forum.”

**Shiyi HUANG**

Northeastern University, China



Quartier Vauban  
photo © Tamika GLOUFTSIS

<sup>8</sup> For more information on the Rieselfeld district, see: [www.freiburg.de/rieselfeld](http://www.freiburg.de/rieselfeld)  
<sup>9</sup> For more information on the Vauban district, see: [www.freiburg.de/vauban](http://www.freiburg.de/vauban)

**Thursday**  
**23.04.15**

## Cross-border clusters and business cooperation

**On Thursday, the accent was put on business in an international context.** In the morning, the participants attended the conferences of Mona Boyé, scientific coordinator and business developer at Alsace BioValley and Jean-Marc Jeltsch, vice-president in charge of industrial partnerships at the University of Strasbourg.



### **Mona BOYÉ** Business developer and scientific coordinator at Alsace BioValley

Mona Boyé holds a PhD in Molecular Biology / Biochemistry and worked as a patent officer at the Beuth Hochschule für Technik in Berlin. At Alsace BioValley, a tri-national cluster, she is now in charge of setting up French and European R&D projects as well as funding of projects.



### **Jean-Marc JELTSCH** Vice-President in charge of industrial partnerships at the University of Strasbourg

Jean-Marc Jeltsch holds a PhD in Molecular Biology and Cellular Biology and is now a Professor at the University of Strasbourg. In charge of the partnerships with companies since 2013, he is a board member of several organizations.

### **Alsace BioValley, a tri-national cluster**

Mona Boyé explained the concept of clusters and introduced the mission and vision of Alsace BioValley to the students: Alsace BioValley is a cluster dedicated to therapeutic innovations, driven by Healthcare companies, for Healthcare companies. Its "pharma / biotech" and "medical technology" experts will identify new business growth opportunities, financing and innovation. They offer to Healthcare companies a range of services: funding assistance for collaborative R&D projects, coaching to fundraising, partner identification, customized relationship, etc. Alsace BioValley operates in two areas: drugs discoveries and medical device. Alsace BioValley is one of the 3 world-class Healthcare competitiveness clusters in France. It is supported by the French state and by Alsace regional authorities<sup>10</sup>.

### **Questions and answers session**

After her presentation, the students asked some questions:

#### **How does the government balance the price of a drug (conception, intellectual property rights, and patents) and still make it affordable for the citizens?**

Mona Boyé answered that the government cannot really influence the drug market (in terms of pricing at least), only the competitors do, as it is market-driven. If a drug is too expensive and nobody can buy it, the company has to find a way to make it cheaper.

#### **Do you think clusters profit a lot from the cooperation or it is sometimes hard to find to common way?**

Mona Boyé noticed that it depends on where the clusters are and in which country it is. The cooperation indeed takes a lot of time but some clusters really want to work with others because they have some interest – they look for a cluster which is compatible with their field, which could bring along other competences: you have then a benefice for your cluster. The companies are then willing to cooperate because they know they will make a financial benefice out of it.

### **How to turn a tri-national learning program into a success?**

Jean-Marc Jeltsch talked about academic cooperation and spoke about the Superior Biotechnology School of Strasbourg (Ecole Supérieure de Biotechnologie de Strasbourg) to present some of the international programs it has, between France, Germany and Switzerland. Students from France, Germany and Switzerland follow a tri-national curriculum to get an Engineer's degree in Biotechnology and have the chance to study in three different cities: Strasbourg, Basel and Freiburg. The learning program benefits from the competences of the professors, researchers, engineers from the three partner universities and from the associated research center. The pluridisciplinary curriculum is based on a solid scientific culture: engineering sciences, languages and a basis for economic, social and human sciences<sup>11</sup>.

After his presentation, the students wanted to learn more about the Bologna process. It was indeed very interesting for them to hear that in Europe, students can spend some semesters in other universities and they earn credits for this.

Also, the students were very curious to know how universities ensure that their students who go abroad will have the same quality in learning programs as in their own country. Jean-Marc Jeltsch explained that the Bologna process is the very heart of the cooperation between universities<sup>12</sup>.

“ The Student World Forum was an opportunity for young leaders from around the globe to interact, discuss and evaluate key topics regarding social, political and economic issues. (...) The exchange of ideas, notions and opinions allows for a melting pot of ideas to develop, this truly embodies my personal motto by Nelson Mandela: 'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world'.”

**Francis BOWERS**  
Stellenbosch University, South Africa

<sup>10</sup>- For more information on Alsace BioValley, see: [www.alsace-biovalley.com/en/](http://www.alsace-biovalley.com/en/)

<sup>11</sup>- For more information on the ESBS, see: [esbs.unistra.fr/](http://esbs.unistra.fr/)

<sup>12</sup>- To learn more about the Bologna process, see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bologna\\_Process](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bologna_Process)

## Workshop 2

### Development of a fully automated arm prosthesis



Mona BOYÉ



Jean-Marc JELTSCH



Francis KERN

#### The second workshop was very different from the first one.

During this workshop, each team represented a given department of a big company and had to answer some questions about an international project in the healthcare sector: the development of a fully automated arm prosthesis. The departments were to collaborate between them and as well with the academic and industrial partners so as to design, industrialize and commercialize the final product.

The teams were the following ones: Research and Development, Marketing, Human Resources, Finance, Legal Framework and Project Management.

This workshop was a kind of simulation game, in the sense that each team was to represent a given position<sup>13</sup>.

Here are the questions for each team:

**What industrial competences could help the consortium** for being successful? What is the added value, the role for the industrial player for the project?

**What aspects will be essential for the industrial partners** for the participation at this collaborative project / What is the added value for the industrial partners?

**How can the participation** of the industrial partner be financed?

**What intercultural competences are needed** in the academic laboratory for the participation at the project?

**What kind of companies** do you think will have to work on the project?

Each team had to think about these questions for their department and they all managed really well to find the answers. Again, the students were much implicated in this simulation game and showed that they were really interested in what they had learned during the day.



Workshop  
photo © Catherine Schröder

## Dinner show

**Later that day, everybody met at the Alambar restaurant to enjoy a bright dinner show: the local Alsatian band Une Abeille dans le Bonnet, the singer Miss Yella (from Strasbourg) as well as the magician Eric Roumestan were here to bring good vibes so as to make everyone have a great time.**

The students were very enthusiastic about the show and some of them went on stage to play the guitar with the musicians and sing. Another very exciting part of the show was a music quiz: Miss Yella interpreted some very famous songs and everyone had to guess the artist and the title of the song. Some teams scored a lot of points and the musicians gave away some of their CDs. It was a very joyful evening and the students really enjoyed the lively atmosphere of this dinner show, which was typical French.

“ The Student World Forum was a great experience for me not just in the sense that I was able to gain knowledge about the European institutions and cross-border cooperation efforts from experts, lectures, workshops, and study tours, but because I also learned so much from listening to the stories that my peers told about their lives and experiences in each of their respective countries.(...) I believe that there is not another forum that would be superior to this one in allowing such intelligent people from all over the world to meet and for bright young minds to come together. I truly believe that I have made valuable friends for life.”

**Risa MINENO**  
Nagoya University, Japan

# activities during the week

**Friday**  
**24.04.15**

Final discussion and closing ceremony

## Preparation of the presentations

In the morning, the students worked on their final presentations for the closing ceremony. Each time had its own room so that everybody could really concentrate: the students had to think about a presentation of their two team projects and of their experience of the Student World Forum, by naming three things that they had enjoyed the most during the week.

## Closing ceremony at the Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle

In the afternoon, everybody went to the Château du Haut-Koenigsbourg, which is a well-known medieval castle. After a visit of the building, it was time for the students to hold their presentations in front of the delegates from their home universities. In the reception room of the castle, the six teams presented their projects in a very professional yet creative way and showed how satisfied and happy they were: it was clear that this experience had been unique for all of them. The students mainly talked about what the conferences and practical workshops brought them, in terms of knowledge about the European system and about cross-border cooperation.

After their presentations, all students were awarded the participation certificates with the signatures of Francis Kern, the Vice-President for International Relations from the University of Strasbourg, and of Hans-Jochen Schiewer, Rector of the University of Freiburg<sup>14</sup>.

This closing ceremony was beautiful and very moving, as the students knew it was the last time that they were all gathered together.

“ It was amazing to hear about the lives, thoughts, and experiences of such a diverse and bright range of students, and to form connections with them. The Student World Forum fostered diversity, acceptance, and harmony between cultures and allowed us to encounter many different perspectives.”

**Tamika GLOUFTSIS**  
Adelaide University, Australia

“ The Student World Forum was an opportunity to collaborate with minds from all over the globe, and realize that some of the most complex problems can be solved in a multicultural team. It was an invaluable experience in fostering international collaboration and connect with bright minds from all around the world.”

**Ryan KING**  
North Carolina State University, United States of America



Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle  
photo © Lucie GONIN

After the Student World Forum, the organizing team submitted a form to the students, so as to evaluate their overall satisfaction about the event. 1 was the best mark they could give, 5 was the worst.

The overall marks are very good, and the feedback the students gave is very encouraging. Here are the results:

1.6

**The facilities**

(hostel, building, transportation, Internet connection)

1.1

**The social program**

1.2

**The staff**

1.4

**The academic program**

The comments of the students show their great enthusiasm about the Student World Forum<sup>15</sup>.



Bike station in Freiburg  
photo © Tamika GLOUFTSIS



Le Cerf d'Or restaurant  
photo © Lucie GONIN



Workshop  
photo © Coralie SCHIRRU



Dinner Show  
photo © Lucie GONIN



Day in Freiburg  
photo © Christian TISCHER

15- See Appendix 4 : evaluation of the Student World Forum

# best quotes and pictures of the teams

## GREEN TEAM



Dyah PRITADRAJATI, Itt THIRARATH, Jiayao WANG,  
Kornelie GRONSKA, Malaythong PHONTIPPASA,  
Melanie ZIMMER, Ryan KING

## BLUE TEAM



Akane OTA, Alina WINTER, Ci MO, Claire KOTZE,  
Ian ALLEN, Lipeng CHEN, Sarah PLATT

## YELLOW TEAM



Chitamon CHANOK-OWAT, Dana BOYER, Di LONG,  
Dostonhuja MAHMUDOVI, Francis BOWERS,  
Solenn TENIER

## ORANGE TEAM



Kevin CRADDEN, Laisa PAMIDHI WIDITA, Lu WANG,  
Narut SEESAENG SUWAN CHAI, Qichun DAI,  
Veronika GALOVA

## PURPLE TEAM



Iulia DOTU, Rachael NIELSEN, Shiyi HUANG,  
Taufik RAHARJO, Xiaoyun TANG, Yuki KAWASAKI

## RED TEAM



Bundaree DEEWONG, Lanxuan LIU  
Risa MINENO, Siphosihle MZONGWANA,  
Tamika GLOUFTSIS, Xiaosong GAO

“ The Student World Forum was an overwhelming experience I was privileged to be a part of. It has brought a lot of excitement, academically and culturally. Merci beaucoup !”

**Laisa' PAMIDHI WIDITA**  
Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

“ I think it is my honour to have this great opportunity to attend the AC21 Student World Forum. I will never forget the life experience I had here and will remember all the friends I made here. Although the Student World Forum lasted only 5 days, what it brought to me is countless. What I have learnt is how to communicate with different people from different countries and cultural backgrounds.”

**Lu WANG**  
Jilin University, China

“ The Student World Forum was an extraordinary opportunity for me and now is a memory of an amazing experience that I will never forget. Every single person who participated was courageous, creative, open-minded, curious and communicative. Every activity and exchange was therefore a true inspiration and profit for all of us.”

**Alina WINTER**  
Chemnitz University, Germany



**Anne Gemminger**  
Head of international partnerships



**Lucie Gonin**  
International communication officer



**Coralie Schirru**  
Communication project assistant



**Recheal Blankson**  
International partnerships intern

The Student World Forum conferences were broadcast and are all to be found here, on the channel of the University of Strasbourg:  
[www.canalc2.tv/video.asp?idVideo=13320&voir=oui&mac=yes&btRechercher=&mots=&idfiche=](http://www.canalc2.tv/video.asp?idVideo=13320&voir=oui&mac=yes&btRechercher=&mots=&idfiche=)

During the Student World Forum, Alsace20, a local channel, came to interview some of the participants. The result is tremendous and is to be found here:  
[www.alsace20.tv/VOD/Actu/6-minutes-eurometropole/6-minutes-Eurometropole-uXdkefzPXV.html](http://www.alsace20.tv/VOD/Actu/6-minutes-eurometropole/6-minutes-Eurometropole-uXdkefzPXV.html)

The Student World Forum was also on the homepage of the University of Strasbourg website (in French and English).



## Students from across the world discuss Europe at Unistra



From 19 to 24 April, the University of Strasbourg hosted the 6th Student World Forum of the Academic Consortium for the 21st Century, in partnership with the University of Freiburg.

For this occasion, 38 students from the 5 continents were introduced to European issues and exchanged ideas on local and regional democracy as well as on cross-border projects. They also explored Strasbourg's history and heritage during cultural tours around the city.

Although they all had different backgrounds, the participants showed a common interest in the European Union and in cross-border collaboration, as well as a strong will to understand the EU through their own national specificities. "I study history: it is fascinating to come here and see how Europe managed to overcome its history," said Tamika from Adelaide (Australia). Siphosihle, a South-African student from Stellenbosch, explained: "The EU is a symbol of the way different countries can unite to promote peace, human dignity and human rights. I think this is something my country and my continent really need."

### A week full of discoveries

The participants showed a real interest towards the week's programme and the visits, conferences and workshops took place in an enthusiastic atmosphere.

The week started with a visit of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, followed by a conference on the role of regional cooperation in supporting the promotion of human rights and the defense of

environmental projects. The students also became acquainted with the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which defines subsidiarity.

This charter formed the basis of their first workshop, which gave them the opportunity to think about innovative ways to promote cross-border cooperation in a given region. In small working groups, the participants managed to present relevant and well thought-out projects. They mostly thought of ways to bring populations of various nationalities and languages together and imagined cultural policies to foster understanding and harmony between different communities.

They also attended a presentation of the European Campus project, which provided an insight into the issues of implementation of a concrete cross-border project. The concept of a campus without borders aroused the students' interest.

On Wednesday, 22nd of April, the group went on a day trip to Freiburg in order to learn more about the sustainable development policies led by the city, notably in eco-districts.

On Thursday, the students had to reflect on how to develop a product in a cross-border context.

### A closing ceremony at the Haut-Koenigsbourg castle

On the last day of the Forum, the 38 participants joined their home universities' representatives for a closing ceremony at the Haut-Koenigsbourg medieval castle, where they presented their group projects and looked back at how the week unfolded. Each group recapped the highlights of the week and was given a participation certificate co-signed by the universities of Strasbourg and Freiburg.

Cultural exchanges and friendship were at the core of the forum's programme, and the participants made the most of their cultural differences to develop friendly ties and make this week an unforgettable experience.



## Appendix 1: Workshop 1 - European Charter of Local Self-Government

### European Charter of Local Self-Government Strasbourg, 15.X.1985

#### Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe, signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering that one of the methods by which this aim is to be achieved is through agreements in the administrative field;

Considering that the local authorities are one of the main foundations of any democratic regime;

Considering that the right of citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs is one of the democratic principles that are shared by all member States of the Council of Europe;

Considering that it is at local level that this right can be most directly exercised;

Convinced that the existence of local authorities with real responsibilities can provide an administration which is both effective and close to the citizen;

Aware that the safeguarding and reinforcement of local self-government in the different European countries is an important contribution to the construction of a Europe based on the principles of democracy and the decentralisation of power;

Asserting that this entails the existence of local authorities endowed with democratically constituted decision-making bodies and possessing a wide degree of autonomy with regard to their responsibilities, the ways and means by which those responsibilities are exercised and the resources required for their fulfilment.

Have agreed as follows:

#### Article 1

The Parties undertake to consider themselves bound by the following articles in the manner and to the extent prescribed in Article 12 of this Charter.

### PART 1

#### Article 2

##### **Constitutional and legal foundation for local self-government**

The principle of local self-government shall be recognised in domestic legislation, and where practicable in the constitution.

#### Article 3

##### **Concept of local self-government.**

1. Local self-government denotes the right and the ability of local authorities, within the limits of the law, to regulate and manage a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interests of the local population.
2. This right shall be exercised by councils or assemblies composed of members freely elected by secret ballot on the basis of direct, equal, universal suffrage, and which may possess executive organs responsible to them. This provision shall in no way affect recourse to assemblies of citizens, referendums or any other form of direct citizen participation where it is permitted by statute.

#### Article 4

##### **Scope of local self-government**

1. The basic powers and responsibilities of local authorities shall be prescribed by the constitution or by statute. However, this provision shall not prevent the attribution to local authorities of powers and responsibilities for specific purposes in accordance with the law.
2. Local authorities shall, within the limits of the law, have full discretion to exercise their initiative with regard to any matter which is not excluded from their competence nor assigned to any other authority.
3. Public responsibilities shall generally be exercised, in preference, by those authorities which are closest to the citizen. Allocation of responsibility to another authority should weigh up the extent and nature of the task and requirements of efficiency and economy.
4. Powers given to local authorities shall normally be full and exclusive. They may not be undermined or limited by another, central or regional, authority except as provided for by the law.
5. Where powers are delegated to them by a central or regional authority, local authorities shall, insofar as possible, be allowed discretion in adapting their exercise to local conditions.
6. Local authorities shall be consulted, insofar as possible, in due time and in an appropriate way in the planning and decision-making processes for all matters which concern them directly.

#### Article 5

##### **Protection of local authority boundaries**

Changes in local authority boundaries shall not be made without prior consultation of the local communities concerned, possibly by means of a referendum where this is permitted by statute.

## Article 6

### Appropriate administrative structures and resources for the tasks of local authorities

1. Without prejudice to more general statutory provisions, local authorities shall be able to determine their own internal administrative structures in order to adapt them to local needs and ensure effective management.
2. The conditions of service of local government employees shall be such as to permit the recruitment of high-quality staff on the basis of merit and competence; to this end adequate training opportunities, remuneration and career prospects shall be provided.

## Article 7

### Conditions under which responsibilities at local level are exercised

1. The conditions of office of local elected representatives shall provide for free exercise of their functions.
2. They shall allow for appropriate financial compensation for expenses incurred in the exercise of the office in question as well as, where appropriate, compensation for loss of earnings or remuneration for work done and corresponding social welfare protection.
3. Any functions and activities which are deemed incompatible with the holding of local elective office shall be determined by statute or fundamental legal principles.

## Article 8

### Administrative supervision of local authorities' activities

1. Any administrative supervision of local authorities may only be exercised according to such procedures and in such cases as are provided for by the constitution or by statute.
2. Any administrative supervision of the activities of the local authorities shall normally aim only at ensuring compliance with the law and with constitutional principles. Administrative supervision may however be exercised with regard to expediency by higher-level authorities in respect of tasks the execution of which is delegated to local authorities.
3. Administrative supervision of local authorities shall be exercised in such a way as to ensure that the intervention of the controlling authority is kept in proportion to the importance of the interests which it is intended to protect.

## Article 9

### Financial resources of local authorities

1. Local authorities shall be entitled, within national economic policy, to adequate financial resources of their own, of which they may dispose freely within the framework of their powers.
2. Local authorities' financial resources shall be commensurate with the responsibilities provided for by the constitution and the law.
3. Part at least of the financial resources of local authorities shall derive from local taxes and charges of which, within the limits of statute, they have the power to determine the rate.
4. The financial systems on which resources available to local authorities are based shall be of a sufficiently diversified and buoyant nature to enable them to keep pace as far as practically possible with the real evolution of the cost of carrying out their tasks.

5. The protection of financially weaker local authorities calls for the institution of financial equalisation procedures or equivalent measures which are designed to correct the effects of the unequal distribution of potential sources of finance and of the financial burden they must support. Such procedures or measures shall not diminish the discretion local authorities may exercise within their own sphere of responsibility.

6. Local authorities shall be consulted, in an appropriate manner, on the way in which redistributed resources are to be allocated to them.

7. As far as possible, grants to local authorities shall not be earmarked for the financing of specific projects. The provision of grants shall not remove the basic freedom of local authorities to exercise policy discretion within their own jurisdiction.

8. For the purpose of borrowing for capital investment, local authorities shall have access to the national capital market within the limits of the law.

## Article 10

### Local authorities' right to associate

1. Local authorities shall be entitled, in exercising their powers, to co-operate and, within the framework of the law, to form consortia with other local authorities in order to carry out tasks of common interest.
2. The entitlement of local authorities to belong to an association for the protection and promotion of their common interests and to belong to an international association of local authorities shall be recognised in each State.
3. Local authorities shall be entitled, under such conditions as may be provided for by the law, to co-operate with their counterparts in other States.

## Article 11

### Legal protection of local self-government

Local authorities shall have the right of recourse to a judicial remedy in order to secure free exercise of their powers and respect for such principles of local self-government as are enshrined in the constitution or domestic legislation.

## Part II – Miscellaneous provisions

## Article 12

### Undertakings

1. Each Party undertakes to consider itself bound by at least twenty paragraphs of Part I of the Charter, at least ten of which shall be selected from among the following paragraphs:
  1. Article 2,
  2. Article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2,
  3. Article 4, paragraphs 1, 2 and 4,
  4. Article 5,
  5. Article 7, paragraph 1,
  6. Article 8, paragraph 2,
  7. Article 9, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3,
  8. Article 10, paragraph 1,
  9. Article 11.

2. Each Contracting State, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, shall notify to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of the paragraphs selected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article.

3. Any Party may, at any later time, notify the Secretary General that it considers itself bound by any paragraphs of this Charter which it has not already accepted under the terms of paragraph 1 of this article. Such undertakings subsequently given shall be deemed to be an integral part of the ratification, acceptance or approval of the Party so notifying, and shall have the same effect as from the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

### Article 13

#### Authorities to which the Charter applies

The principles of local self-government contained in the present Charter apply to all the categories of local authorities existing within the territory of the Party. However, each Party may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the categories of local or regional authorities to which it intends to confine the scope of the Charter or which it intends to exclude from its scope. It may also include further categories of local or regional authorities within the scope of the Charter by subsequent notification to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

### Article 14

#### Provision of information

Each Party shall forward to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe all relevant information concerning legislative provisions and other measures taken by it for the purposes of complying with the terms of this Charter.

## Part III – Authorities to which the Charter applies

### Article 15

#### Signature, ratification and entry into force

1. This Charter shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. It is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2. This Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date on which four member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Charter in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

3. In respect of any member State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

### Article 16

#### Territorial clause

1. Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the

territory or territories to which this Charter shall apply.

2. Any State may at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Charter to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the Charter shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.

3. Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.

### Article 17

#### Denunciation

1. Any Party may denounce this Charter at any time after the expiration of a period of five years from the date on which the Charter entered into force for it. Six months' notice shall be given to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Such denunciation shall not affect the validity of the Charter in respect of the other Parties provided that at all times there are not less than four such Parties.

2. Any Party may, in accordance with the provisions set out in the preceding paragraph, denounce any paragraph of Part I of the Charter accepted by it provided that the Party remains bound by the number and type of paragraphs stipulated in Article 12, paragraph 1. Any Party which, upon denouncing a paragraph, no longer meets the requirements of Article 12, paragraph 1, shall be considered as also having denounced the Charter itself.

### Article 18

#### Notifications

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe of:

1. any signature;
2. the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval;
3. any date of entry into force of this Charter in accordance with Article 15;
4. any notification received in application of the provisions of Article 12, paragraphs 2 and 3;
5. any notification received in application of the provisions of Article 13;
6. any other act, notification or communication relating to this Charter.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Charter.

Done at Strasbourg, this 15th day of October 1985, in English and French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe.

## Appendix 2: Workshop 2 - Development of a fully automated arm prosthesis

### Context: Public financiers from your multinational Region launch a Call for projects

The project that should be driven will aim for the development of a fully automated arm prosthesis. Academic and industrial partners shall collaborate in order to develop, industrialize and commercialize the final product.

#### Group 1 Research and Development / Universities

What academic competences could help the consortium to be successful?  
*What is the added value, the role, of the academic player for the project?  
Academic know-how / open minded / aware about new technologies in the field etc*

What aspects will be essential for an academic research group for the participation at this collaborative project / What is the added value for the academic laboratory?  
*Publication record/ Getting funded by a public cofinancer / Being inventor and (co)owner of a patent / Getting a financial feedback via the commercialization of a licence/ product.*

How can the participation of the academic laboratory be financed?  
*By its own funds (rare in Europe) by european, national or regional public financiers at 100 % as a grant!*

What intercultural competences are needed in the academic laboratory for the participation at the project?  
*Basically the common language with the partners*

How long do you think will it take to develop and commercialize the arm prosthesis?  
*Very long (>6 years) –too long to be financed under this call*

#### Group 2 Industry / Marketing

What industrial competences could help the consortium for being successful?  
What is the added value, the role for the industrial player for the project?  
*Participation for R&D aspects possible for some companies, prototyping, industrialization, regulatory affairs, fabrication, marketing, commercialization*

What aspects will be essential for the industrial partners for the participation at this collaborative project / What is the added value for the industrial partners?  
*Bringing a new product on the market , being service provider*

How can the participation of the industrial partner be financed?  
*By its own funds (almost always) – if possible cofinancing via public funding.*

What intercultural competences are needed in the academic laboratory for the participation at the project?  
*Language skills, cultural understanding*

What kind of companies do you think will have to work on the project: R&D companies, service providers...?  
*R&D company (developer of the final product), service provider: OEMs, consultancy for the regulatory affairs, clinical project managers...*

#### Group 3 Human Resources

What fields of competences are needed to drive such a project from R&D to the market?  
*Electronics, Mecatronics, Informatics, sensors, Life science competences: neurologics, clinical affairs, regulatory affairs, fabrication, marketing, commercialization etc.*

What intercultural competences are needed for the project?  
*Language skills, good understanding of the cultural differences*

How could you address the problem if there is a partner without intercultural competences?  
*Multinational Clusters / specialized HR agencies*

Who could/should be a project leader for the project?  
*Experienced partners from a stable organization. The partner with the biggest economic interest*

#### Group 4 Finance / Public Financers

What do you think are the eligibility criterias for a public financer to cofinance such a project?  
*Scientific excellence  
Economically stable partners  
Completeness of the consortium with a clear definition who will do what and when (workpackages)  
Usually headlines of a consortium agreement  
Impact on the territory in terms of innovation and creation of new jobs  
Project in line with the strategy of the respective region*

It is a multinational project: what criterias are important for the respective public cofinancers?  
*Benefit for the respective partners on their territory*

What possibilities have public financiers to evaluate the quality of the project?  
*Clusters or other specialized organizations can evaluate with a panel of independent experts*

What possibilities does a public financer have for being able to finance several projects over several years with a relatively small budget?  
*For stable industrial partners no grants but loanings.*

## Group 5

### **Legal Framework / Consortium agreement**

Whose legal entities have to gather in order to sign the consortium agreement?

*Universities, R&D companies*

What basic topics have to be treated in a multinational consortium (headlines of the agreement)?

*Who is project leader / Project Management (Meetings) // IP management / Confidentiality Publication of the results / Financing aspects*

What problems could emerge during the negotiation of the consortium?

*Usually about the IP rights and the technical transfer from the universities to industries*

How long do you think will it take to sign a multinational consortium?

*Between 2 months and 2 years...*

## Group 6

### **Team and Project Management**

What are the basics for a good project management?

*A clear planning with well described work packages, regular meetings with all partners, a good project manager*

How many meetings shall be foreseen during the project?

*Every 2 months – twice a year*

Who should attend to the meetings?

*R&D partners and Financers*

What will be the challenge in a multicultural context?

*The language, the fact that you will have to deal with several financers following their own strategy, different cultural approaches to deal with a project*

## Appendix 3: Certificate of participation



## Appendix 4: Evaluation of the 6th Student World Forum

### 1. Please evaluate the 6th Student World Forum facilities and social program (Average mark (from 1 : excellent - to 5 : awful))

Accommodation at the CIARUS Youth Hostel .....	1,5
Conference building (Collège Doctoral Européen) .....	1,4
Workshop building (Nouveau Patio) .....	1,2
Transportation .....	1,2
Internet connection (overall) .....	2,8
Welcome cocktail (welcome package, food, ice-breaking game) .....	1,3
Sight-seeing activities (river boat tour, Haut-Koenigsbourg castle) .....	1,1
Social activities (restaurants, wine tasting, dinner show) .....	1,0
Closing ceremony (location, food, certificates) .....	1,2

### 2. Please evaluate our staff in the following aspects

(Average mark (from 1 : excellent - to 5 : awful))

Pre-arrival communication .....	1,2
Pick-up service at the airport / station .....	1,2
Friendliness .....	1,2
Ability to answer your questions .....	1,3

### 3. Please evaluate the 6th Student World Forum academic program

(Average mark (from 1 : excellent - to 5 : awful))

Visit of the European Parliament and Council of Europe .....	1,2
Opening speeches (Monday, 20.04.15) .....	1,5
Conferences .....	1,6
Day in Freiburg .....	1,0
Workshop "European Charter of Local Self-Government" .....	1,6
Workshop "Developing a product in a tri-national context" .....	1,7

### 4. Were you able to develop your thoughts about the idea of local and regional democracy?

Yes .....	34
No .....	0
Can't say .....	0

### 5. Were you able to make new friends?

Yes .....	34
No .....	0
Can't say .....	0

### 6. What did you like the most during the Student World Forum?

See table

### 7. If you were given another chance, would you like to participate in the AC21 Student World Forum again?

Yes .....	33
No .....	0
Can't say .....	1

### 8. Please, express in your own words: what is the Student World Forum for you?

See table

### 9. Anything you want to add?

See table

## TABLE

### 6. What did you like the most during the Student World Forum?

- Freiburg, Dinner show, final presentation at the castle
- I was inspired by the group dynamics we as an international group with different backgrounds and fields of studies developed - no one was excluded, no small groups were created, everyone was accepted everywhere.
- Sight-seeing activities / social activities / friendship / workshop activities / staff
- Workshop (the first topic), Freiburg, wine tasting
- Team building; thought provoking speeches; detailed planning
- Friendships, different culture, food
- Opportunities to meet smart people from all over the world - European Parliament visit - Workshop experience
- 1. Making wonderful friends from all over the world.
- 2. Visit to European Institutions, lectures and workshops.
- 3. Special dinner event and all the wonderful staff of the Uni. of Strasbourg.
- Discussions, friends, tours
- Meeting the other student delegates; Final Presentations; Dinner Show
- Freiburg, dinner show, and making new friends
- European Parliament,, day in Freiburg, Strasbourg
- Sightseeing Dinner Friends
- Trip to Freiburg, Haut Koenigsburg and the Wine-Tasting
- Meeting people from all over the world, Interculturality, Social activities
- Workshop, day in Freiburg and friends
- Workshops, trip to Freiburg and the concert held in the restaurant
- Workshop, Friendship & Food
- 1. Making friends with people from all different country and culture background
- 2. Cultivating us to consider the problems from a world-wide view.
- 3. The advanced idea of urban planning and building
- Freiburg, Castle and European Parliament
- Workshop "Developing a project..", Dinner show at Alambar restaurant, Haut-Koenigsburg castle
- Food / Friends and Environment
- Orange team! dinner show! tram!
- New friendships; Day trip to Freiburg; European Parliament and Council visit
- The boat tour, the dinner show, and free times in which we could explore the city and socialize with others in the common room of the hostel
- Working with students from all over the world and learning about everyone's different experiences. The day trip to Freiberg was a phenomenal opportunity to see the way the rest of the world could develop its cities with respect to the environment and alternative energy.
- Making new friends; beautiful landscape of Strasbourg; ideas from people of different backgrounds .
- 1. The facilities and social program.
- 2. The academic program.
- 3. The staff
- 1. The friendships formed with the amazing group of participants
- 2. the wonderful social activities ran by the forum
- 3. the visit to the European institutions and first conference about democracy
- Working on projects, Freiburg trip, free times activities
- Dinner show, visit to Europe Parliment, visit to Frieburg

- Friendship, activity, staffs
- Freiburg Day Trip, Presentation at the castle, Wonderful Dinner Show!

## 8. Please, express in your own words: what was the Student World Forum for you?

- Discoveries of Europe since it was my first time there. It was great to see how European countries have achieved sustainable and eco-friendly society especially in Freiburg. Also, talking with highly educated friends motivated me a lot.
- The SWF was an extraordinary opportunity for me and now is a memory of an amazing experience that I will never forget. Every single person who participated was courageous, creative, open-minded, curious and communicative. Every activity and exchange was therefore a true inspiration and profit for all of us.
- "Social / Wisdom / Friendship"  
The mutual exchange of ideas of different students who have an opportunity to learn new things and gain knowledge from academic and life experience to create the new project that come from the knowledge and abilities of each students.
- The awesome community for the younger multinational to learn and to share their ideas together.
- SWF is a valuable experience to see the outside world for me. I was able to become friends with many outstanding students from everywhere, and that's really important to me. I truly wish I could have another chance to participate in AC21 program in the near future.
- It has opened my eyes to new cultures, new ways of doing things both at governmental level and social level and it has created a desire in me to learn more about the rest of the world. Most incredible programme!!!
- It's a chance to learn something new, exchange ideas and present & improve myself. Also a chance to present my country and my culture.
- To me, the Student World Forum was about learning the local and regional democracy in Europe through lectures, workshops, visits to European Institutions and staying in the beautiful city of Strasbourg. It was also a great chance to make lifelong friends from all over the world and experience the local culture and traditions in the central city of Europe.
- Frankly speaking, Student World Forum is the best conference I have ever participated in. I was not only able to get knowledge and perspective about international cooperation and European institution, but also to get to know amazing new friends from various background.
- The Student World Forum was an opportunity for young leaders from around the globe to interact, discuss and evaluate key topics regarding social, political and economic issues. The conference perfectly balanced the more academic elements through formal dialogue in the workshops but then also had a rather entertaining and socially invigorating social/cultural perspective. Opportunities and moments such as this are vital for the building of a sound international and global network, especially amongst young leaders. The exchange of ideas, notions and opinions allows for a melting pot of ideas to develop, this truly embodies my personal motto by Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world".
- It was a great opportunity for youths across the world to come together and connect and to share ideas on contemporary topics relating to them. Overall, it was an awesome experience and I thank you for your hard work and for making this event possible! Thank you so much!
- It was a great experience for me. I met a lot of new people from different countries and of course I learned a lot about local and regional democracy. I would definitely like to participate in the Student World Forum again!!!
- Students express their ideas freely
- A chance to meet and interact with other young people from all around the world and overall a very enjoyable experience with a very packed schedule. Four days was probably too short to treat our topic with real detail but I feel there was a comprehensive overview as well as some relevant examples of cross-border cooperation. A challenging element for the organisers was the fact that European students would have been already familiar with the institutions and programmes described whereas those from elsewhere probably had limited or no knowledge.
- The SWF was an unforgettable experience for me. I have participated in various conferences and forums but this one was definitely the best! Thanks to you and the universities it was possible to have this amazing experience, meet great people, learn about other cultures and countries, and learn more about regional democracy and European specificities.
- The Student World Forum was an overwhelming experience I was privileged to be a part of. It has brought a lot of excitement, academically and culturally. Merci beaucoup !
- It offered a great opportunity to learn knowledge out of my routine and out of my major. During the lectures, I learnt and experienced how European institutes and enterprises work together and thought about the possibility of doing the similar things in my country. Ideas were very inspiring when we discussed in the workshops. In addition, it's been exciting to explore the cities which are pretty different from the ones in China.
- SWF is an excellent event where I met so many outstanding students from all over the world. During the forum, I not only experienced cross-cultural communication but also saw the gap between me and other students. Because of SWF, I will set a clear goal for the future and implement what I learnt and experienced in Strasbourg into my study and daily life.
- From my perspective, the Student World Forum is a good platform for students from all over the world to communicate with each other. It can provide the opportunity for the students to know each other and understand the different culture, customs and politics, which is beneficial to the development of global integration since we could understand each other and we would respect each other.
- Student World Forum is forum which gathers many talented students around the world to spend time and good experience together in order to share the current situation of our own nations in the point of Local and Regional Democracy issues, as well as to generate new idea/solution and bring back to our own regions.
- The Student World Forum was one of the best experiences I ever had! I learned so many things that it simply is impossible to list them all! When I left, I took so many things with me: knowledge about the European Union, pictures of the beautiful city of Strasbourg and above all: new friends from all over the world.
- "The best group of students!"
- It is my first time - For lots of things!! go abroad, go to pub, drink wine^\_^
- The forum was an incredibly worthwhile and enriching experience. Not only was I able to make connections with students from all around the world but I was able to do it in the setting of Strasbourg, an incredibly beautiful city rich in culture and European history. I was able to expand my very limited understanding of regional democracy in the European context by brainstorming with members of my team. Within this context my mind was expanded in a number of ways, both in the formal presentations by the keynote speakers but also in the general knowledge communicated to me by the other students. I learnt so much about the situations of social justice, social services, education systems, equality, politics and general day to day life in a multitude of locations around the world. For me, this was what I have taken away from SWF2015, the joy of human connection shared between people with different political ideology, religion, background and races- we all came together as one united group to get the most out of our Strasbourg experience.



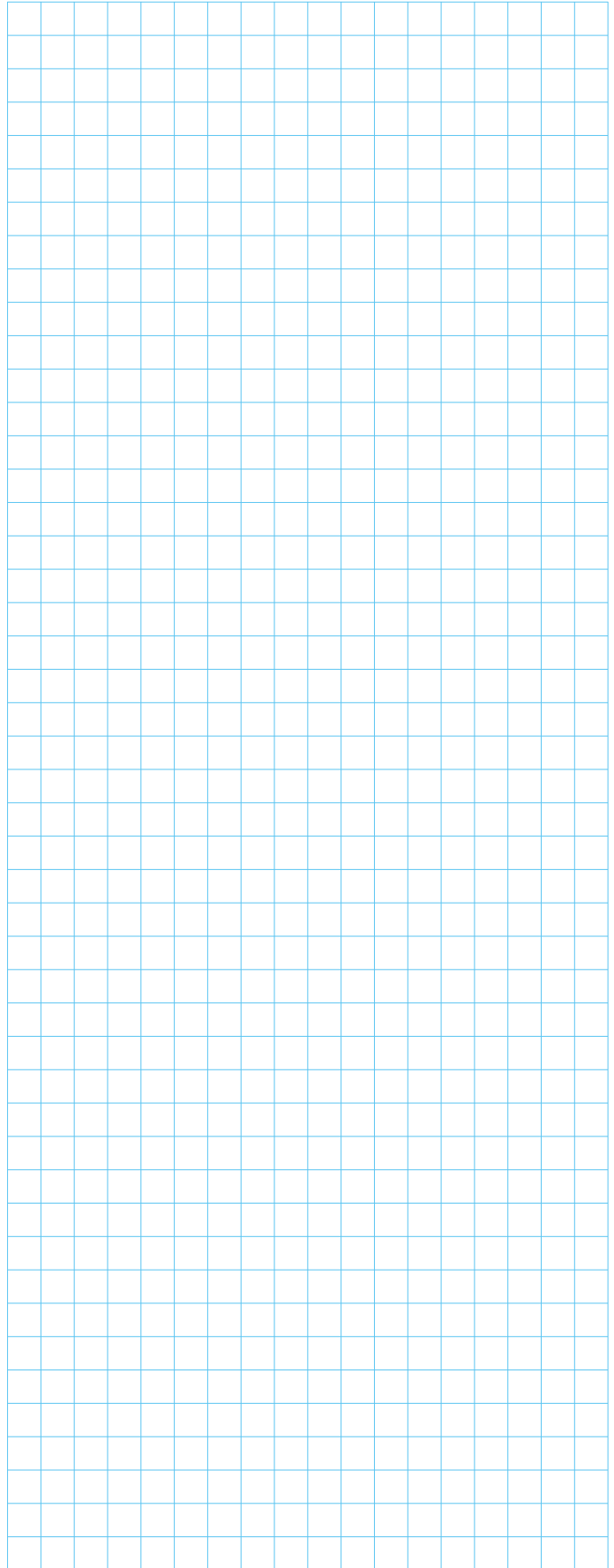
- The Student World Forum was a great experience for me not just in the sense that I was able to gain knowledge about the European institutions and cross-border cooperation efforts from experts, lectures, workshops, and study tours, but because I also learned so much from listening to the stories that my peers told about their lives and experiences in each of their respective countries. I had never participated in such a forum before, let alone such an international one, so every moment of the trip was so fulfilling, as I feel that my communication skills have improved and I have become more open-minded. Furthermore, I was actually able to experience cross-border cooperation first-hand by collaborating with my fellow forum members, and I believe that there is not another forum that would be superior to this one in allowing such intelligent people from all over the world to meet and for bright young minds to come together. I truly believe that I have made valuable friends for life.
- The Student World Forum was an opportunity to collaborate with minds from all over the globe, and realize that some of the most complex problems can be solved in a multicultural team. This past week was an invaluable experience in fostering international collaboration and connect with bright minds from all around the world.
- The SWF is something unexpectedly wonderful. It truly broadened my horizon, as if it were a key to the door behind which is a new world I've never been to, as if it were a corkscrew of a bottle of sweet red wine I've never tasted before. I cherish all the memories I had in SWF and am grateful for it very much. SWF is a dream I wish I could never wake up.
- It was the time of my life because it was my first time abroad and it was filled with many opportunities of learning whether through the academic program, the social activities or the excursions. Everything was just amazing. Thank you so much AC21 and I actually like to be part of this program again.
- To me, the SWF was primarily a fantastic avenue through which passionate and intelligent young minds could form friendships and exchange ideas about socio-political issues from all around the globe. Though some of the conference subject matter did not greatly interest me, many of the activities and topics served as a jumping-off point for fruitful and fascinating discussions with my peers. It was amazing to hear about the lives, thoughts, and experiences of such a diverse and bright range of students, and to form connections with them. The SWF fostered diversity, acceptance, and harmony between cultures and allowed us to encounter many different perspectives.
- The Student World Forum represented for me an amazing experience. It brought me new friends and contacts all over the world. Team work on the projects, with people from different countries, with different cultures were making this forum special for me.
- I really enjoy the days we had together in Strasbourg, it's such a nice chance to communicate with so many friends around the world. And the dinner time I had with our new friends had profoundly changed my understanding of the world since each and every of us can share our own understanding freely and willingly. Also, SWF provided me with a good chance to think about my future, what kind of people shall I become, what type of occupation could I choose from. Thanks so much for your hospitality!
- Sunshine World Friendship. That is what I understand for SWF. I really appreciate having the opportunity to participate in the forum. I could make friends from different countries, and communicate with each other directly. It's really amazing and unforgettable.
- The most fulfilling week in my life
- Thank you to the organisation team and to all the universities that have made this experience possible for us.
- Thank you for everything that you're finance me during the activities, it's very good experience for me to be a participant of your activities. I think I've improve myself in many ways such as confidence, presentation skill, solving unexpected problems and English skill.  
I feel very impressed with all of activities especially the day in Freiburg. It makes me happy and get a new experience for my life. I'm really love the atmosphere, people, lifestyle.
- I hope I could connect WiFi easier when I was at the hostel.  
And the place for the closing ceremony is too small.
- We were spoilt beyond measure. I cannot thank you enough for the experience. You are incredible. Thank you for making us feel at home!!! We will be back <3
- It's been such a wonderful time, can't say more of "thank you for all you have done for us!"
- The Student World Forum was amazingly organized and I loved every single moment of taking part in the program! Thus, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the organizers for making it such a wonderful event. I would like to express my special thanks for Professor Francis Kern for his leadership and valuable time spent with us throughout the program, and for Ms. Coralie Schirru, Anne Gimminger, Lucie Gonin and Recheal Blankson for making the event a wonderful one with their hard work and dedication throughout our stay in Strasbourg.
- Overall I have GREAT experience both in Strasbourg and Freiburg. My experience would be much better if the wifi in the hostel can be accessed from the room.
- I would like to add my personal thanks to everyone involved in the organization as well as the execution. It truly was a fantastic experience and in fact life changing. It was an honour spending time at Strasbourg and Freiberg University and getting to know you all. Once again thank you.
- 1. The Q&A session at the end of each lecture could have been better conducted. Instead of letting the students ask one question at a time, the staff could have let the students ask several questions relating to the same topic before the speaker answered. This would allow more questions to be answered.
- 2. Certain parts of the schedule were too tight in my opinion. Having almost 40 participants, you should prepare a looser schedule to prepare for any delays that could arise from getting from one place to another.
- 3. It was really difficult to understand some of the guest speakers.
- 4. There was some confusion about what we had to do in the first workshop.
- I thought the event was really well planned and organised. The amount of effort and attention to detail was clear for all to see. I had a lovely week and hopefully made some lasting friendships.
- Tthank you again for organizing this wonderful event.
- I am looking forward to seeing more photos and watching the videos.
- I want to thank you all for the well arranged conferences and activities you've prepared for us, in which I really learnt and enjoyed. I also appreciate the freedom you gave us out of the forum, which was very helpful to form ideas of ourselves and communicate with other participants. They are from a wide range of culture but are all so nice and funny. This week is like a month long. I had no regrets taking part in this wonderful program.
- I really want to thank the working staff of this forum. It is your efforts that make this forum possible and successful. Thank you again for everything!
- I think it is my honour to have this great opportunity to attend the AC21 Student World Forum. I will never forget the life experience I had here and will remember all the friends I made here. Although the Student World Forum lasted only 5 days, what it brought to me is countless. ●●●

### 9. Anything you want to add?

- Thank you so much, for the last words, especially organizers and hosts, for this wonderful experience. I am so lucky and happy to get this opportunity.

# appendixes

- What I have learnt is how to communicate with different people from different countries and cultural backgrounds. The next is how to think from a global viewpoint and the third is to keep an open mind to the international issues. Through this experience, I know how big the world is and how narrow I am, which inspired me to learn more about other culture as well as have a strong desire to become a better person.
- Thank you so much for this useful and great forum. I hope this forum could extend longer for the next time, since students may need much time to on their projects to come up with new solutions and idea.
- Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you for making our week so special and for the great organisation! :)
- You did well!
- I really want to participate AC21 SWF again!!! love u guys~
- I would like to say a big THANK YOU to the organisers Lucie, Coralie and Recheal for all of their amazing support, help and hard work throughout the forum. Not only were they very dedicated to their role as organisers but they took the time to really engage with us as their guests. I loved getting to know all the students over the 6 days but also the organisers as well. Thank you for such an incredible experience, it is something that I will never forget.
- Although I had to give overall internet connection a four on the five scale, I am not complaining because I think that gave many of us the opportunity to get together in the common room of the hostel, and spend long hours together there socializing, while simultaneously trying to get wifi. I enjoyed every minute of the forum, and I cannot thank University of Strasbourg and my school enough for choosing me as a representative from my school and country, and all of the other organizers (like Coralie, Recheal, David, and Lucie), guest speakers, and University of Freiburg, for arranging everything and making our stay in Strasbourg possible! I loved the atmosphere at the forum, which was serious at times, definitely international, and so cheery, friendly, and warm. I will always remember the exciting week I spent in Strasbourg at this forum and, of course, all of the friends I have made. I am sure it was probably difficult at times to control such a large group of students, and that could have been stressful, but thank you again for everything you have done to provide us with such a wonderful experience!!
- Thank YOU so much for all of your hard work! I know I speak for everyone from the forum when I say that we really appreciate how much effort was put into making the forum a success.
- The organizing team is more than awesome!!!!
- For future reference. I do not know how I can say thank you enough because I am really grateful for the opportunity which the student world forum gave to me. It was just amazing to be part of a group of people, each from a different country than I. It was very amazing. For future reference, if there is any way in which I can be part of the AC21 Student World Forum again please do not hesitate to contact me. Au revoir Strasbourg!!!
- I am deeply grateful to the SWF and the University of Strasbourg for allowing me to participate in this amazing experience! I will always treasure my memories of Strasbourg.
- My only critique will be concerning the closing ceremony. The room for presentation of our projects, on which we were working during the workshops, should be chosen better. There were not enough places to sit, mainly for the delegates and many participants had problems to listen properly the presentation. I think that in previous days were rooms chosen much more better and closing ceremony with the delegates from our universities should be located in a bigger and better equipped room. Anyway I would like to express one more time display my admiration for organizing team and thank you for managing this amazing event.
- I really appreciate your hard working. I can enjoy and learn thanks to you :) Hope to see you soon!



A large grid of graph paper for taking notes, consisting of 30 columns and 40 rows of small squares.

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