International Comenius Week

“Europe: Unity in Diversity”

April 9 – 13 2018

Europe is rich in her variety of languages, cultural habits and societal ways of living. Diversity makes this continent such an interesting place to be. The workshop will explore ways of combining unity with diversity in Europe. In finding out what makes us different and what brings us together, we may strengthen our commitment to the European project. The different activities will bring together students from different European (and non-European) countries to discuss and to enjoy the richness of European traditions.

Schwäbisch Gmünd is a cosy medieval town situated in Southern Germany, 50 km away from Stuttgart, the capital of South-Western Germany. At the University of Education Schwäbisch Gmünd about 3000 students are preparing their degrees as preschool, primary and lower secondary school teachers or for health education and nursing.

Activities during the International Comenius Week 2018:

- different workshops and seminars on cultural identity and diversity
- a video/photo project on cultural diversity
- an intercultural workshop
- a basic German lesson
- a workshop on the German educational system
- visits to schools, preschools or other educational institutions
- an intercultural and interactive discovery of Schwäbisch Gmünd
- a field trip to Stuttgart with cultural activities
- social activities with German and international students from all over the world and an international dinner
Practical information:

Costs for the students:
- Travel expenses to Schwäbisch Gmünd (Flight to Stuttgart + 25 € return ticket Stuttgart – Schwäbisch Gmünd)
- Lunch (university restaurant – max. 5 Euro per meal)
- 1-2 dinners
- Public transport to the university, to and from the schools and to the meeting points (if necessary)
- In case there is no 1:1 mutual exchange, students might be charged 75 € for “Bed&Breakfast” for the week to be payed to the International Office at the beginning of the International Week.

Accommodation: It is part of the design of the week to mix and mingle with the locals - all participants will therefore stay with local students (no hostel!).

Covered by the University of Education Schwäbisch Gmünd:
Guided tours, cooking evening, an international farewell dinner in a restaurant, excursion to Stuttgart (including transportation and entrance fees).

Hosting students and their families are expected:
... to offer their hosts: Bed & Breakfast from Sunday evening to Saturday morning;
... pick up the hosts at Schwäbisch Gmünd train station on Sunday.
... take them to the university, the meeting points of the week and to schools by public transport or by car.

If the accommodation is not based upon a 1:1 mutual exchange, the accommodating student/family might charge the international student (75.- €).

Arrival and departure: The closest international airport is Stuttgart. From there visitors can easily get to Schwäbisch Gmünd by local train via Stuttgart main station. There are also good train and bus connections to Stuttgart. Students will meet their hosts at Schwäbisch Gmünd railway station.

The programme starts on Monday, 9th of April, at 10:00 in the morning, so visitors are expected to arrive on Sunday, 8th of April. Departure: The official programme will end on Friday, April 13th, around 2 p.m. However, if the students want, the hosting students/families will provide accommodation until Saturday, April 14th.

Language of the week: English (at least B1 required)

ECTS: 2 (3 if students hand in a paper connected with the project after the week)

Further information:
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Application Deadline:
November 20th, 2017