



Learning from History...  
Planning the Future Together



### School Exchange

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 till 27<sup>th</sup> 2018

First Day, Monday 23.04.2018



The Italian group from Empoli after breakfast. Planning the day and getting settled in the lovely hotel.



Afterwards at the Guided Walk through historical Mauthausen in the village with sensational guide Anne Scholl, who told lots of interesting facts about the medieval and contemporary history of the old town of Mauthausen.





After the arrival of the Catalan Group we had a coming together of the Groups, warming up, playing football and volleyball and relax a bit in the sun, and playing games for getting acquainted in the warm sunny afternoon.





Meeting with the Mayor of Mauthausen, Thomas Punkenhofer and the mayor of St.Georgen/Gusen, Erich Wahl, under the big old trees of the main square of Mauthausen. Both held speeches in which they welcomed the guests and told the young people that it is very important for our and the european future, that we all come together as friends and that the memorial in Mauthausen is not only part of the city, but is part of european history. Afterwards the students were handed giftbags from Erasmus+.



## **Second Day, Tuesday 24.04.2018**

Visit of the concentration camp Memorial Mauthausen with well-versed guide Martha Gammer:

### **1. Introduction at the Wiener Graben quarry:**





2. Afterwards the guided tour continued with the visit of the national memorials where some students searched for their ancestors who were murdered in the Mauthausen camp. Inside the main camp Martha Gammer gave very interesting and personal examples of the life for the camp inmates and told the frightening story of the escape of several hundred soviet officers which lead to their persecution and murder in the so called "Mühlviertler Hasenjagd".







After lunch at the hotel the students participated at a thought provoking human rights workshop with Reinhard and Susi from the platform *SOS Menschenrechte*





### Third Day, Wednesday 25.04.2018

Early on this day the group drove to the Memorial of Schloss Hartheim where the NS regime killed an estimated 30.000 people with physical and mental disabilities a spart of the infamous „Aktion T4“. After a 30-minute introduction about the general informations of the memorial and the use of Schloss Hartheim during the years 1941-44 the students visited the museum on their own with great interest. Afterwards there was lunch at the nearby Cafe „Lebenswert“.





On the afternoon the group headed to the Ars Electronica Center in Linz. It was a relieving variation to the heavy topics of the memorials.

1. After a stunning projected 3D presentation, the students explored the rest of the large museum on their own.





2. After a bit of free time in Linz, which most students used to go sightseeing, shopping or to rest in the sun, everybody had Dinner at the restaurant L'Osteria.





#### **Fourth Day, Thursday 26.04.2018**

Soon after breakfast two witnesses of the time came to the hotel and shared their very interesting and partly horrible memories of their childhood in Mauthausen during the second world war and afterwards. It were very intense and moving two hours and many questions arose and were answered by the two in great detail and kindness.









In the afternoon of the only rainy day of the week the program included the visit of the memorial of concentration camp Gusen I. After that was a guided audio walk through the towns Gusen and St.Georgen. One could learn a lot about the former concentration camps Gusen I and II which were located there. The walk included wandering over the former railroad line, that the National Socialists built there to transport the inmates to the quarries and building sites.









The last evening of the week offered a joyful program: All students, including the ones from other exchange programs in St. Georgen, gathered at the Aktivpark St. Georgen to have Dinner together. After a few motivated speeches from students, teachers and Erich Wahl, the mayor of St. Georgen, everybody sat together and sang italian and catalan songs. A nice ending to an exciting week.











Cofinancation through



*"The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained there in."*  
German: