

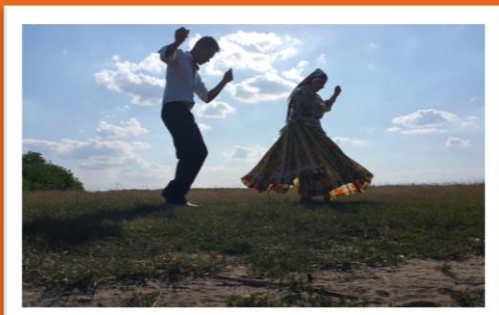
# „WE IN EUROPA – SHAPING THE FUTURE“

### Dance for Tolerance: Flashmob



In times of xenophobia the pupils send a clear and strong signal.

### Exhibition “We are also Europe”



*Roma and their culture as an integral part of Europe*

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### Europe Week 2017 in Germany and Hungary - Integration: We can do it!

In Europe week in Kerpen pupils sent a special signal for acceptance and tolerance during break in front of the main entrance to the **Gymnasium together with 100 pupils of the Ulrich School and the Adolph-Kolping School.**

The three schools danced together to the song “*Tu enemigo*” (Your enemy) by Juanes and Pablo López with their own choreography in a flash mob, aiming to promote more understanding for refugees who had to leave their countries and have now found protection in Europe. Pupils wore masks with the colours of European flags. This is a strong and moving signal at the time of Brexit and xenophobia. The choreography moved hearts and the dance gave an enormous feeling of togetherness.

Our partner school in Hungary provided the first contents for our **photo exhibition “We are Europe, too”** a significant component of our project. The purpose is to highlight the varieties of Roma culture as an integral part of Europe as well as provide insight into their living conditions. This exhibition will be supplemented at the next 3 **Erasmus+** mobilities (October, Germany, January 2018 Gran Canaria, May 2018 in Hungary).



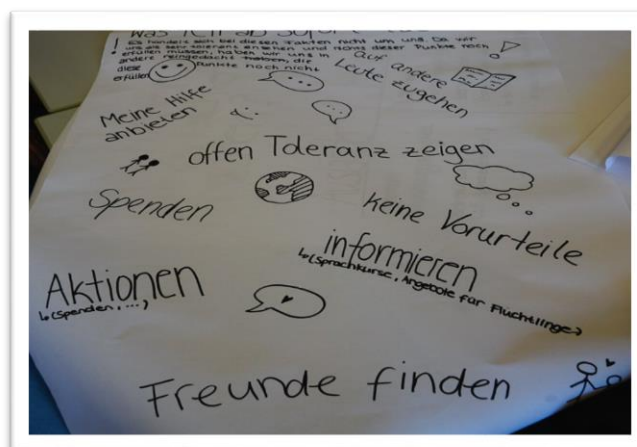
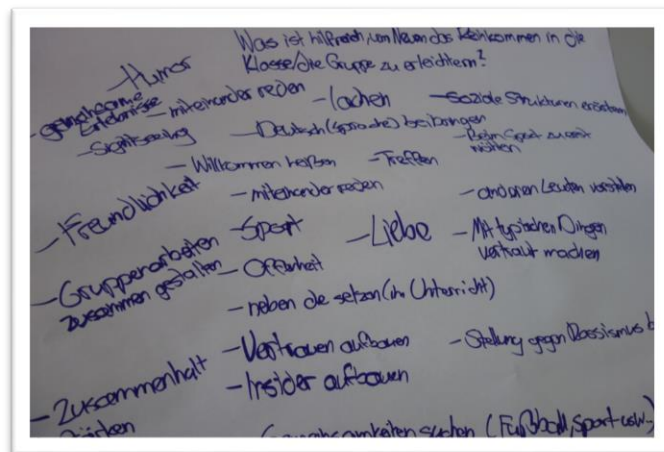
During Europe Week the Hungarian pupils cooked and presented specialties from all over Europe.



**The topic of integration and what prevents it**  
 “How can integration succeed?” Not abstractly and theoretically, but concretely in one’s one class? That was the topic of the **“Future workshop”**. Under the leadership of the integration coordinator of the city of Kerpen, Ms Seiche, and moderated by a journalist from WDR, Frau Münch, pupils from year 9 analysed this important and exciting topic.

Equipped with the key questions “What is helpful to make the integration of new pupils into a class/group easier?” and “What do I do immediately?”, the groups discussed, argued and collected ideas.

At the presentation of the results under the moderation of Ms Münch, the pupils discovered further difficult questions and exciting discussion topics, for example, what tolerance and respect actually mean, what one can do when apparently the differences, not the similarities, predominate and none of the partners want to change. Practical Ideas and tips for possible support were collected, for example, giving the new pupil a guide to the building or taking the first step towards him/her and taking an interest in him/her. Time did not allow for the discussion of all the ideas but was enough to create food for thought and ask oneself what every individual can do.



## “The is the way to master integration!”: Reports from refugees.

Ms Annette Seiche organises the housing of the refugees in Kerpen, rents private flats, takes care of the furnishing of the accommodations. She cares for an endless number of details, for example also for toys for the children of the refugees.

She came to the Europe Week with two refugees, Mohammad Ghareeb from Latakia in Syria and Hussein Alamod from Bagdad, the capital of Iraq. Hussein Alamod travelled for 18 days by bus, plane, taxi, and train and finally landed in Munich and then at the final station in Kerpen. He goes to school here and speaks excellent German, although he has only been here for a year and a half. He is well-integrated, does sports in his free time, meets friends. He communicates with the family in Iraq over Skype, Facebook and other media. He has decided to stay here in the meantime.

According to Ms Seiche there are many prejudices about refugees and their situation in Germany. The country equips them better than jobless Germans is one. Nonsense, says Ms Seiche. Look at these photos of Kerpen’s refugee housing: tiny rooms, bunk beds, several people sharing a kitchen and bath. Everything is clean, but very crowded. People do not leave their home countries for the fun of it, but when they do not have any basis for existence, when they want to escape war and suppression.







## Prejudices throughout history

How do prejudices arise? What effect do they have on people? A Religion class in year 8 was concerned with these questions. Prejudices arise when basic and human rights are violated. This can concern single people, groups of people but also peoples. This violation has always taken place since the beginning of history. The Religion groups determined that these basic rights are based in principle on the 10 Commandments.

This journey through the history of prejudices was a reflection on what keeps us from treating others with the necessary respect.

## The exhibition: “Tolerance-Respect-Solving Conflicts”

The exhibition “Tolerance-Respect-Solving conflicts” was created by the PPL course in year 7. The pupils began by talking about “tolerance” and “respect” and defining these concepts.

They also found the many-sidedness of the topic of conflict, which extended across subtopics like “bullying” and a poll of the student body which showed that pupils considered themselves much more tolerant than the questionnaire showed them to be.

## Diversity in a different way: Exhibition in Europe Week

**“Every mask, no matter what characteristics it shows, announces its non-identification with the everyday world.”**  
(Mircea Eliade)

Who wouldn't like to step out of everyday life? Try out a new role, show oneself without being immediately recognised? The pupils of the Adolph-Kolping School and the Gymnasium Kerpen found the idea of creating masks in the framework of the Erasmus+ Project “We in Europe – shaping the future” immediately exciting. They had fun and created their own very personal masks.

The country of origin was often a topic in their designs and that led to fantastic colours and diversity. The photos give an



impression of the mood in the workshop: there were lots of laughs and a lot of courage, even among the youngest, when painting the masks and posing for the camera.

The action was carried out by Ms Akcicek, the teacher in the integration class of the Hauptschule together with Ms Dietze-Neuber, an art therapist.

**The exhibition was shown and our project presented in the Hauptschule as well**



## **Cooking together: The right seasoning depends on the roots**

### **German Pupils cook together with refugees and pupils with migration background**

Cutting vegetables, cooking, seasoning and trying, these are universal actions, which do not need language skills when cooking together. The important thing is where you come from, because the different seasonings depend on the origins. This is what we discovered when cooking together in the school kitchen of Gymnasium Kerpen.

Anastasia from Russia, together with Efrem and Hewan from Eritrea, cooked Timtimo, a typical food from Eritrea, which is eaten with the hands.



Mohammed from Syria helped Sandra from Poland, Lea from Germany and Nafie from Kosovo to prepare a vegetarian recipe from Spain.

Hannah from Germany and Mostafa from Afghanistan managed to prepare Túró Rudi, a typical dessert from Hungary and Simon from Germany worked on the dates from Spain together with Ali from Aserbaidshan and Mustafa from Syria in another corner of the kitchen.



Ana Lena from Germany and her team – Sytkie from Kosovo, Zoya from Bulgaria and Ms Akcicek from Turkey – started cleaning up after they had made a millet salad from Turkey.



And in this way, the first recipes for the wonderful dishes in our cookbook came into being.



**Afterwards – as the saying in the universal language goes: Enjoy!**



***A project year comes to a conclusion. It was a difficult but impressive year. We have achieved many goals, others will surely be achieved. Many of these goals have only been achieved thanks to the support of colleagues.***

***Many thanks to all!***

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### ***Don't miss – Don't miss***

*11th July: World Refugee Day in the Erfthalle Türrnich*

*18:00 Postcard Action*

*3<sup>rd</sup> October: Festival of Cultures: various actions*

***Participate!***

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