

Kanti Wohlen at the EYP Conference in Valmiera (Latvia) April 16 – 20, 2023

Daniel Chen G2D; Lorik Goli G3D; Lia Schuler G3D; Grace Räber G3F

Thursday March 16th trip

Travelling from Switzerland to Latvia had to be done by plane. We flew from Zurich to Vienna, then changed plane and flew from Vienna to Riga. Our flight from Zurich to Vienna was a bit delayed, we had little time to change planes, but we managed to get on time. Our flight was quite early in the morning, so we arrived early. This gave us time to wander around in Riga. The bus going to the city centre from the airport is usually packed and behind schedule. Since we were all hungry, we searched for a McDonald's nearby. As we tried getting off the bus, the throng of people didn't let us pass to the exit and we missed our stop. We got off at the next stop, which was a huge mall called Spice. Apparently, it is the 3rd biggest mall in the entire country. In the evening, we had to search for the train station of Riga. It was well disguised as another mall. We eventually found the train leaving for Valmiera, and we embarked on a 2-hour journey through snowy forests. As we arrived in Valmiera, we used the easiest way to get to our hotel, which is a taxi service. It took around 10 minutes. The hotel was very nice. We gave ourselves about an hour to settle in and then had dinner together. They offered a variety of things, notably fish, which we liked a lot. After 2-ish hours we decided it is time to go to bed. The next day, the EYP session was about to begin.



Friday, March 17th teambuilding, committee work

Teambuilding is a crucial part of EYP since it is the first meeting between the delegates and the chairperson and among the delegates themselves. You become acquainted with the



people you will be working with during the upcoming committee work. On the same day as we arrived, being Friday, we were asked to dress up warmly and leave the building for some fun games we played together. During EYP sessions, we play many fun get-to-know-each-other games, including dancing, singing, and even non-verbal interactions. They may seem strange at first, but soon you will understand how helpful those are to make a session feel more enjoyable, as you already stepped out of your comfort zone. Afterwards, you will gather with your committee. A committee is a group of people who choose the same topic to work on. Now is when the bonding between the delegates and the chairperson happens. The chairperson, who is considered the leader of the committee, will play some little games with the delegates. You interact with the other delegates and hopefully, you will become friends ;-)



Saturday, March 18th committee work



The committee work of the EYP is an integral part of its operations, where participants gather in smaller groups to discuss and draft resolutions related to a specific topic.

This part of the session began on Saturday when we had to split up into the different committees we selected. The participants are given a specific topic to discuss and draft a resolution on. The committee work takes place the whole day, during which the

participants engage in discussions, debates, and negotiations to reach a consensus on the resolution.



Each committee has a chairperson who facilitates the discussions and ensures that all participants have the opportunity to express their views. The chairperson also guides the committee in the drafting of the resolution and ensures that it is coherent and relevant to the assigned topic.

At the end of Saturday, each committee had worked out a resolution, which they are able to present at the general assembly the next day.

Sunday, March 19th General Assembly



After the hard work on Saturday, it was time to present and defend our resolutions at the General Assembly on Sunday. The General Assembly or short the GA is always the highlight of any EYP session. All the resolutions are given to everyone and we have to find flaws in the others resolutions, things we don't agree with and also questions we have about the resolutions from the other committees. One by one every committee must defend their resolution with two speeches and in a few rounds of open debates. After this is done everyone can vote for or against the resolution. It's always the happiest feeling finding out that your resolution got accepted. Personally, that's one of my favourite moments at every session. Of course GA is always very hard work as you have to really think about everything someone else says and also have to think about what you are going to say.

Adding onto that one can write speeches attacking or supporting the other committees and this of course also has to be done during the GA or breaks so the speech is ready at the right time. Nonetheless, General Assembly is really fun and really helps developing good speaking skills in front of many people. After GA there is always the closing ceremony, where everyone has to say goodbye to the friends we made in this short time and after that go home, with a ton of new things learned and experienced.

Monday, March 20th Riga, flight back



On our last day, the wide gauge railway brought us back to Riga, passing seemingly endless birch forests. We were quite surprised that in the train an additional fare was charged for every piece of luggage.

In the very short time left we visited the Museum of Occupation in Riga, which gave us a sense of how harrowing and painful the time of German and then Soviet occupation was.

After a stopover in Brussels, we were glad to be back in Switzerland. Unfortunately, our luggage had been misdirected and only arrived two days later.