

Young people from Tampere region join international Youth Exchange to stop violence!

Young people of our region had a chance to participate Erasmus+ youth exchange “*Violence is not our way*” in Fuzine, Croatia in August. There was an open call for this project and any 13-17 year old could apply for it. The group consisted 8 young people from Kangasala, Nokia, Orivesi, Pirkkala and Ylöjärvi.

The aim of the “Violence is not our way” was to teach young people new ways to prevent conflicts and violence and during the week we had a chance to do a lot of exercises and practices like debates and theater of oppressed.

“After this experience I have much wider view of many things. I learned about the different kind of violence situations and how to deal with them” says Miisa, 17 year old from Orivesi.

“I have noticed that now back home I can see these things easily and I can tell better what is violence, before I didn’t always notice what was happening around me. I also feel that my communication skills improved and it’s easier to be me” continues Lyyti, 14 years form Kangasala.

Besides the hosting Croatians there were also groups from Italy, Greece, Spain and France so the week was also a great learning about diversity, cultures and different habits of each country. Getting new friends around Europe and learning more about different cultures was one of the biggest aspects for young people and they feel that they have also learned a lot about themselves!

“I can be me also with new people and feel comfortable being myself, I don’t have to try to be something else. I feel that this exchange gave me a lot of self confidence”, says Ava, 14 years, from Pirkkala.

After the Youth Exchange the young people have talked about their experiences with their peers in their own communities sharing the methods they learned and encouraging other people to take part in Erasmus+ if they have a chance.