

Workshop “Peace and Climate”

Our "Peace and Climate" workshop, specifically tailored for Erasmus students, provided a transformative experience that bridged the gap between conflict resolution and climate crisis solutions. The event unfolded over two engaging parts, each designed to enhance our understanding and skills in mediation, particularly in the context of environmental conflicts.

Part I: Exploring Mediation Techniques

The workshop began with an insightful presentation on the fundamentals of mediation. Our speaker Mrs Siedenburg from the NLQ shared her extensive experiences in the field, emphasizing the importance of key mediation techniques such as conflict analysis, real dialogue, and active listening. Therefore, she shared photos of her work in Guatemala and South Sudan. One particularly enlightening aspect was the focus on understanding the needs behind spoken words, a skill crucial for effective mediation.

Students were then asked to practice these techniques. This approach allowed us to learn how to listen deeply and understand the viewpoints and underlying needs of others. This exercise not only honed our listening skills but also fostered empathy and mutual respect among participants.



Addressing Climate Conflicts

In the second part of the workshop, we shifted our focus to the climate crisis and its related conflicts. Some students shared personal experiences of climate-related conflicts, and we collectively selected examples for a role-playing mediation exercise which students were able to identify with. This interactive session aimed to find peaceful solutions to these conflicts.



The preparation phase was critical, emphasizing the voluntariness of participation, the importance of letting each person finish their thoughts, and practicing active listening. We drew inspiration from theatre techniques, ensuring everyone had a role in the process.

The culmination of our efforts was a presentation in the form of a fictive news broadcast. This creative outlet allowed us to demonstrate the mediation process and the peaceful solutions we developed, showcasing the practical application of the skills we had learned.



Reflecting on the workshop with key insights

1. The Power of Listening: Effective mediation hinges on truly listening to all parties involved. Understanding not just the words, but the needs and emotions behind them, is essential for resolving conflicts.

2. Empathy and Open Dialogue: Creating a space where all voices are heard and respected is vital. This fosters an environment where solutions can be collaboratively developed.

3. Applying Mediation to Climate Conflicts: The techniques learned are directly applicable to addressing climate-related conflicts. By focusing on peaceful resolution, we can make significant strides in tackling the climate crisis.

Overall, the "Peace and Climate" workshop was an enriching experience for Erasmus students, equipping them with valuable skills for both personal and academic growth. It highlighted the importance of mediation in resolving conflicts and provided practical tools to address the pressing issue of climate change in a peaceful way.

