

Thank you Mr. .... for giving us the opportunity to address the participants of this conference. I must tell you that we are excited every time that we get such an opportunity to meet and get acquainted with new and different people from abroad. This is not a chance that we come to get often. I know that I'm living in a place where people are visiting all the time for their holidays, but you don't get a chance to actually talk and discuss with other people and get to know them a little better.

Unfortunately, when I was studying I only had 2 chances, through educational trips, to visit some other country and actually meet new people from all over Europe, exchange ideas, opinions and perceptions, to learn about their way of life and share ~~our~~ thoughts. To listen to what worries and troubles them about ~~our~~ future or what they want and dream, and what kind of priorities they have. I say we need a Europe with a more human and personal face. And for me that would be something simple: Whenever I hear about another European country I need to relate it with a certain person or persons from that place. I need the faces of people I met, and of the friend that I made to come to my mind. And this will make it more human and more personal.

Whenever we had such a chance to meet and discuss with other people of Europe, mostly through joint educational trips and events, we realized that we had different opinions and conceptions about what Europe is right now, because we live under different conditions. But we found a lot of similarities about how we want and how we dream the Europe of the future.

All of us need to be given equal chances to study what we want, to have the opportunity to work where we want, to the field that defines us, and to make a living of it. We all have the same agonies seeing the environment being destroyed and degrading around us, feeling the need to do more on a collective level to stop it. We all worry any time that peace and stability in our neighborhood or further way is being threatened, knowing that we must do more to secure it: And we also need to see a Europe that will be able to be more sufficient acting as a whole and not as the sum of its parts, and in this Europe we want to see the Youth of Europe having a more active role in the decision shaping and making process, increasing our participation in democracy.

We were excited when we heard that this conference will be about town twinning. Every city has Universities, athletic and sports organizations or cultural and artistic institutions. This would give us a lot of frameworks through which we could come together and get acquainted. Bring us closer together, because when this happens, a lot of beautiful ideas are being born, a lot of misconceptions about each other vanish, and in the future, when we will be the decision makers, maybe we will think about each before taking a decision. And that would be progress.

Thank you