

EUROPA



KONZIL

Twin Cities for Europe

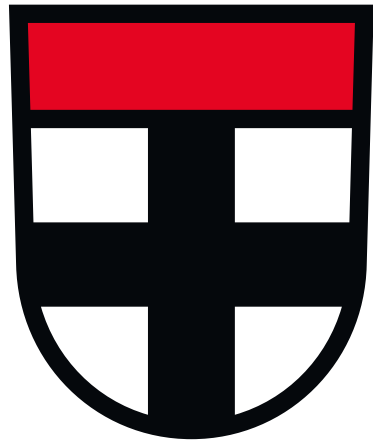
**The Europakonzil of
Konstanz**

05. – 07.05.2025

The Vision of the Europakonzil

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Constance



Fontainebleau



Richmond



Tábor



Lodi



Berdytschiw



The Europakonzil is a format that brings together young people from Constance and its European twin cities Fontainebleau (France), Richmond (United Kingdom), Tábor (Czech Republic) and Lodi (Italy) as well as the solidarity twin city Berdychiv (Ukraine). Students from these six European cities are invited to come together in Constance to strengthen their regional and European identity and bring shared ideas to life by meeting their peers and discussing future-oriented topics. The inclusion of partners from the United Kingdom and Ukraine is seen as an important contribution to European dialogue beyond the borders of the European Union.

The idea is rooted in the city's history: between 1414 and 1418, Konstanz hosted the Council ("Konzil") of Konstanz. For this purpose, ecclesiastical and secular decision-makers from all over Europe came together. Through the intensive joint discourse, it was possible to restore the unity of the church and thus of the Western world. The fact that the city of Konstanz is building on this history is reflected in the design of the 600th anniversary of the Konzil of Konstanz, which was celebrated from 2014 to 2018 and aimed to create new encounters, enable dialogues, and initiate impulses. This is also reflected in the vision of the Europakonzil, which took place for the first time with Konstanz' twin cities in 2017 as part of the Council's anniversary and a second time in 2022 under the motto „Together for Climate Protection“.

Under the slogan “**Twin Cities for Europe**” the young people spend three project days discussing shared European values and creating ideas for town twinning. The participants are encouraged to turn their own ideas into concrete, feasible proposals, with the primary aim of launching tangible follow-up activities in their hometowns.

With the help of experts, the students create six flags representing the six fundamental values of the European Union – human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and human rights – which are subsequently distributed to the participating cities. Additionally, the students get involved in journalistic work to give their commitment visibility. They capture meaningful impressions, statements, images, and video contributions and work on two essays, which are published on social media and in the local media.

The involvement of representatives from politics and administration ensures both valuable feedback and the opportunity to place the project’s ideas on the agenda at a higher political level.

In 2025 the European idea is at the core of the project. Therefore, the Europakoncil pursues the goal of enabling international dialogue among young Europeans of the same age and inspiring them to become active European citizens. The Europakoncil serves as a framework for this: it creates a sense of closeness through encounters, sparks new friendships, and strengthens the common European idea. If this connection is successful, it will ultimately strengthen and further develop town twinning partnerships in the long term.

In order to achieve the defined goals, strategic individual steps were developed and implemented:

- Recruitment of schools in all six cities as project partners.
- The teachers select a group of ten committed and enthusiastic students per city.
- In advance of the event, the young people are brought into contact with each other through pen pal matchings.
- The teachers prepare the students for the topic of Europe and support them in creating a city presentation.
- To further prepare the students, four online meetings are organised. During these calls the students will get to know each other, share their expectations, and gain intercultural skills while learning about European and local participation opportunities.
- The students are accommodated in host families. Through this close personal contact, they will gain insight into German everyday life and get to know the local mentality.
- The host families are involved and asked to reflect on national stereotypes together with their guest students in preparation for the „Cliché Show“.
- The “Cliché Show” offers a humorous yet thought-provoking exploration of national stereotypes. Decision-makers and host parents are invited to attend.
- Political and administrative decision-makers from all six cities are invited to contribute their expertise and to help elevate the students’ ideas for future town twinning measures to a higher political level.
- Two students from each city form an ‘editorial team’ to take on editorial reporting and public relations tasks. Trained in advance and supported by press experts, they document the project with articles, statements, photos and videos for publication on social media and in the local press.

- In order to ensure high visibility of the project in all participating cities, co-operation was agreed with the press departments of all city administrations.
- The developed town twinning ideas are presented by the young people in a video summary and evaluated in a final workshop by the decision-makers for their feasibility. The top-rated proposals are highlighted.
- The moderation and realisation is outsourced to a professional agency.
- With the support of a creative agency, six flags are created, depicting the European values. These flags are first presented to decision-makers and the press before being raised next to the historic Konzil building.
- As a complementary input, a representative of the local Young European Federalists presents their contribution to engaging in European politics. In addition, a volunteer from the EuroPeer Network presents opportunities to volunteer and travel in Europe.
- A separate programme for teachers during the project days aims to promote their networking and contacts and possibly initiate new school partnerships. A visit to the partner school in Constance is also on their programme.
- A meeting of the representatives of the town twinning committees also takes place to exchange experiences and develop new projects.
- At a final party, the young people will be among themselves, celebrating, having fun, and deepening their newly established friendships.
- A joint dinner with the decision-makers, councillors, and teachers will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and strengthen the twinning relationships.



The Students:

→ Fontainebleau:

Antoine Chauris — Aurélien Pernet-Titeux — Darius Baudet —
Colombe Saunier de Cazenave — Lola Boulanger — Marie Hamel —
Octave Dekker — Séverin Warrot — Youliana Gille

→ Richmond:

Alex Stanley — Ciaran Fitzgerald — Eve Jackson — Izzy Rendle —
James Wilson — Lilly Nedjah — Lucy Gaster — Matilda Edwards —
Tom Weigl-Gibby

→ Tábor:

Amálie Zahradnickova — Daniel Vintner — Deborah Horecká —
Frantisek Hubicka — Markéta Folková — Jakub Kremla — Kristina
Veselá — Kristýna Jirkovská — Liliana Berková — Linda Manuel

→ Lodi:

Asia Bruni — Brigida Marigliano — Daniela Michalska — Eana Dhali —
Giulia Capaldo — Isabel Rizza — Livia Valgoglio — Oana Pirvu —
Viola Torriani

→ Berdytschiw:

Anna Kronivets — Anna Meister — Anna Vasylivetska —
Anton Vislostkyo — Bohdan Vysotskyi — Daria Koliada —
Serhii Zaparyniuk — Vladislav Javorskyi — Volodymyr Hutsaliuk —
Yelyzaveta Moskalova

→ Konstanz:

Fabian Bärthele — Anne Colberg — Lena Eckert — Melia Huber —
Erik Remensperger — Soumaya Ridani — Luca Sommerfeld —
Mia Stecker — Isolde Trampedach — Pia Wietstruck

The partner schools and their teachers:

- Lycée International François 1er Fontainebleau, Annick Lusseau
- Orleans Park School Richmond, Ally Manole and David Sweetenham
- Táboorské Soukromé Gymnázium Tábor, principal Markéta Švadlenová
- Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina Tábor, Petra Nagyová
- Liceo Statale Maffeo Vegio Lodi, Simonetta Saccardi and David Glendinning
- Territory 12 Berdytschiw, Alla Bentkovska and Kateryna Verkhivska
- Gemeinschaftsschule Gebhard Konstanz, Johanna Heuer, Gesine Quilisch and Florian Wölk

The decision-makers:

→ Fontainebleau:

Deputy Mayor Judith Reynaud
Evelyne Wenzel, President Twinning Association ARCIF

→ Richmond:

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of the Council
Alan Mockford, Chairman Richmond in Europe Association

→ Tábor:

Mayor Štěpán Pavlík

→ Lodi:

Mayor Andrea Furegato
Mariapia Bellinzoni, President Twinning Association ARCIL
Angus MacDonald, member ARCIL

→ Berdytschiw:

Valentyna Adamenko, Head of Education and Science Department, City Council
Svitlana Basiuk, Deputy Head of Education and Science department, City Council

→ Konstanz:

Mayor Uli Burchardt
Mayor Dr. Andreas Osner
Councillor Gisela Kusche
Councillor Dr. Dorothee Jacobs-Krahn
Councillor Susanne Heiß
Councillor Gabriele Weiner
Councillor Khaled Badawi
Councillor Andreas Hennemann
Councillor Jan Welsch

Conceptual support and moderation:

Harald Kühl and Valentin Rickert,
PR-agency "Die Regionauten", Konstanz

Flag workshop:

Bert and Jarina Binnig and Team,
"Homepage – Kommunikation & Design", Konstanz

Editorial and social media support:

Jörg-Peter Rau,
"SÜDKURIER" daily newspaper, Konstanz

Bakisi Nsakala,
"Bakisi Marketing" social media agency, Konstanz

Additional partners:

Susanna Jung,
"EuroPeer Network"

Julius Hügler,
"Young European Federalists Konstanz"

Ruth Bader and Ulrike Horn,
Konzilsverein Konstanz

Marc SchloßBarek and his Improtheater
ComedyCation Konstanz

The sponsors:

Erasmus+ / Co-Funded by the European Union
German-Czech Future Fund

Getting together - presentation of the hometowns - brainstorming European values

The students and teachers met with co-moderators Harald Kühl and Valentin Rickert, as well as the preparation team, in the Wolkensteinsaal at the Kulturzentrum. Mayor Uli Burchardt warmly welcomed all participants in Konstanz. In his speech, he emphasized the relevance of the European community and solidarity in times of crisis, as well as the commitment of the young generation.



Afterwards, the students had the chance to get to know each other better during a speed friending event, while the teachers had their own speed friending session.

Following this, the students from the six cities showed a self-made film showcasing what their hometowns have to offer in terms of culture, history, nature, and local events. In their films, the students also highlighted their cities' connections to Europe and critically examined current challenges facing their generation, such as inadequate public transport, a shortage of affordable housing, and more.



After the lunch break, the teachers departed from the event to follow their own programme. Over the course of the three days, they took part in a city walk, a school visit in the partner school and social gatherings, which gave the students the opportunity to spend time together independently.

Julius Hügler, a member of the Young European Federalists Konstanz, presented the students his organisation's contribution to European politics and explained how they could get involved themselves.

This was followed by a brainstorming session on European values, during which the students explored the similarities and differences of these values in their respective cities. They collected their ideas on flip charts and presented them to each other, laying the groundwork for the flag-workshop on the second day.



Creative workshop - press work – Cliché show

In the morning, Valentin Rickert welcomed the students, introducing an activity designed to encourage them to reflect on and share their impressions and expectations of the event. Afterwards, the students split into two groups: the flag group and the editorial group.

The larger group of 46 worked with local artist Bert Binning and his team to create flags representing the six European values. They began by gathering ideas about how to depict their assigned value on the flag, deciding on appropriate symbols and colours. In the morning, they developed initial prototypes and sketches, and in the afternoon, they focused on producing the individual flag components.



The editorial team, consisting of 12 students, two from each city, collaborated with media experts, dividing their efforts between social media and press. The press team, guided by Jörg-Peter Rau from SÜDKURIER daily newspaper, produced statements about town twinning ideas as well as two essays. Meanwhile, the social media team, led by Bakisi Nsakala and his team, worked on images and videos that were shared on the City of Konstanz's social media channels. The media content created is also shared with the local press in the partner cities.



The day concluded with an entertaining Cliché Show. In addition to the young participants, host parents, teachers, and decision-makers were also invited. Before the show, the students were tasked with discussing common clichés with their host families and writing them down. The Improtheater Comedycation humorously and musically brought these clichés to life, skilfully conveying the meaning and impact of such prejudices in a captivating and inspiring performance. Between the sketches, Harald Kühl moderated short, insightful discussions between the students and the decision-makers, creating a truly interactive and memorable finale to the second day.





Presentations and evaluation – conclusion and flag raising

The students and teachers gathered one last time in the Wolkensteinsaal. Susanna Jung from the EuroPeer Network presented opportunities for volunteering and going abroad across Europe. She shared valuable information on how young people can get involved, gain international experience, and contribute to meaningful projects abroad.

Later the decision-makers from all participating cities were invited to the final workshop with around 100 participants. The students presented their town twinning ideas to the decision-makers in a video. In groups, the decision-makers had the opportunity to discuss the proposals directly with the students from their cities and provide immediate feedback. In a joint summary with all participants, key ideas were highlighted, and the event was reflected on together. Both personal impressions and concrete project results took centre stage. The young people took the opportunity to share their experiences, give feedback, and discuss possible next steps. The teachers and decision-makers also actively contributed and signalled their willingness to implement the ideas.



At the end, the organising team thanked everyone involved for their dedicated participation. The young people presented the decision-makers with the six flags and a USB stick with the jointly produced video, as a symbolic memento and an incentive for the twin towns' future work. Following this, all participants gathered to ceremoniously raise the six flags together next to the historic building of the former Konzil. This ceremony served as a finale to the event, leaving everyone inspired and motivated to continue fostering international collaboration beyond the day's program.





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The Europakonzil 2025 concluded with a party for the students at Orange X in Neuwerk cooperative and a final dinner at Constanzer Wirtshaus for the decision-makers, teachers and team — an enjoyable and fitting end to an inspiring project for everyone involved.



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The students designed six flags depicting the core European values – human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and human rights – which were distributed to the participating cities and prominently raised there. These flags will be present at future twin city encounters, including partnership events such as the triangular twin-city jubilee between Fontainebleau, Richmond and Konstanz in June 2025 or the Tábor Meetings Festival every September, serving as visible reminders of the values that unite the cities and their citizens.

The young participants also developed creative ideas for town twinning in their own cities and in Europe. And they also formulated concrete messages for the decision-makers. These two components were recorded during the project days and summarised in a final video, which was officially handed over to the decision-makers at the end and made available to all those involved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yTLZOBZziA>



RICHMOND

- York house → twinning in June
- 10th May – 9th June: abundance of flags shown
- Luke Chivers for social media distribution
- Twinning celebrations over the next month
- European youth mobility scheme
- Richmond hosting a twinned event
- ↳ Josephine Carter
- Bigger social media presence
- Encourage voting for the younger generation
- Issues with non-European passport
- Coalition between Lib Dem + Labour?
- Voting awareness comes from education
- Sat. 8th June = Mide

FONTAINEBLEAU

Best City in the World

- At a ceremony with the Mayor in front of the town hall
- Social media and in the newspapers (Bellfontaine) (Belgium... campus / école de Fontainebleau / judith... Raymond... (la République) / Gendarm / Carl... / Frédéric... / Comm... de Fontainebleau / Fontainebleau)
- Organize twinning days with activities
- Intervention in schools (for young students)
- Posters / Flyers (in the street)
- Organize "Europa Council" in Fontainebleau
- Organize trips / exchanges (more)
- Publicity

BERDYCHIV

- 1) Up to the end of May or at the beginning of June (Nova Poshta 8) (Berdychiv, Zhytomyr region)
- 2) We will hoist the flag in the central square of the city (near the city government) (Central Square 1)
- 3) The content of the E-Team will be spread and publicized in the local press (the newspapers: "Nova Press", "Rio-Berdychiv", by our press-officer in mass-media (Facebook, Instagram, Loh-Loh, etc.), in city school establishment press)

LODI

maybe all together (meeting online?)

- In Piazza Broletto from the balcony, in the course on a specific event in October (twin twinning day)
- Using the event as a pretext to explain better "Europacouncil" to more citizens and schools, also explain the project about town twinning
- School trips in/to twinned city
- create 2 more flags for context
- 1) Europacouncil crest
- 2) twinned abscissas
- publicize the project on social medias, newspapers and schools
- anticipated press and social medias drops before the main event

KONSTANZ

1. every year of the Europakonzeil will be passed to the next city
2. for example in the front of konzeil, Europa-brücke or in the city hall
3. if you post it on Instagram or tiktok or make an own Instagram account run by us
4. many projects, exchanges in all shades
5. inform others about the project, meet again in about 1 year.

Ideas

- put QR code or another flag next to our flag to inform people that there are 5 more flags in the twin city
- Straßen nach Partnerstädten benennen (some streets after the twin city)
- bei z.B. Fahren erwähnen das es Partnerstädte sind

TÁBOR

- ? Tábor Meetings (Gotha Hall are many) - September 12/13.9.
- "travelling" flag (through the city / schools / NGOs...)
- + small ceremony (speech / students' input)
- + Enhance twinning / awareness of Konstanza etc.
- school workshops? (local) ↳ connected with twin cities + EU values... + possibilities within EU (Solidarity corps) - events + projects → (grants) (Musica)

Examples of the students' proposals:

- Continuing and expanding the Europakonzil to meet regularly and for longer period and work on shared challenges.
- Creating joint social media accounts to promote the cultures of the twin cities.
- Expanding youth mobility and exchange between the twin cities, making it more affordable for everyone.
- Introducing a "Twin City Pass" with discounts to promote cultural activities.
- Organising joint events or festivals to meet in person and to strengthen the connection between the population of the twin cities.
- Expanding town twinning globally and invite more people from more cities to events like these to get a bigger perspective.

A selection of the students' messages to the decision-makers:

- Meet more often in person with the twin cities to discuss problems and find solutions together.
- Invest more in town twinning, emphasise it more strongly and what show what it means historically and currently.
- Appreciate history, address the environmental problem and be tolerant towards all people.
- More support for experiences such as the Europakonzil, travelling and encounters with other cultures.
- Search for goals and solutions to combat climate change and discuss these with the partner cities.

Several media contributions have been created by the editorial team:

- Two essays reflecting the personal experiences of the participants which were published in the local daily newspaper.
- Numerous Social media posts capturing the essence of the Europakonzil.
- Personal statements from all students addressing the somewhat more emotional question **"What can we do to remain friends in Europe?"**.
A selection:

"Promote school exchanges and meetings among the youth of European cities"
Octave Dekker, Fontainebleau

"Create opportunities to unite, to make friends and experience different languages."
Vladislav Javorskyi, Berdytschiw

"Stay open-minded and embrace our differences"
Soumaya Ridani, Konstanz

"Promote intercultural dialogue and prioritise education on European values"
Lilly Nedjah, Richmond

"Feeling a sense of belonging to something bigger and sharing ideas and goals"
Daniel Vintner, Tábor

"Share opinions and differences between our countries to find a common bond"
Daniela Michalska, Lodi

The young people approached their task with great enthusiasm and personal commitment. They were enthusiastic about the European idea and received a lot of input on this topic. Through their exchange with political and administrative representatives, they felt heard and taken seriously regarding their concerns about Europe's future. They were able to address their ideas and wishes directly to the decision-makers.

The decision-makers, in turn, gained valuable insights into what drives and inspires young Europeans today and what the concerns of the young generation are in their own city.

The Europakonzil 2025 aims to bring people together, provide new impetus, and promote the European idea. The event was met with great enthusiasm by all involved – particularly in terms of its atmosphere, contributions, and outcomes.

From the very first day, the young participants connected exceptionally well, quickly building a productive working environment.

They thoroughly enjoyed engaging with peers from across Europe and took genuine pleasure in collaborating throughout the program.

With the guidance of experienced professionals, they were able to develop creative and forward-looking ideas. Political and administrative decision-makers also benefited from the direct exchange and in-depth dialogue with the young participants. It is now their responsibility to carry these ideas forward and implement them in their respective cities. The exchange sparked inspiring discussions and generated tangible results, offering valuable inspiration for all six participating cities.

In this regard, the overarching goals — to encourage young people to engage with Europe, to set impulses for further cooperation, to promote European exchange, and to strengthen the town twinning network — were fully achieved.

On June 26, 2025, the young people from Konstanz presented their experiences and the outcomes of the Europakonzil 2025 to the local city council. The council was strongly encouraged to support and

follow up on the proposed project ideas in all partner cities.

Ongoing engagement by teachers and continued exchanges with the young participants are planned in all participating cities. As the organizing city, Konstanz will continue its efforts to initiate and support follow-up initiatives, both locally and in its partner cities.

The Europakonzil has made the strong commitment to Europe by Konstanz and its partner cities visible beyond the region. On both a regional and national level, it can serve as a model for other cities seeking to actively involve young people in European citizenship – particularly within the framework of town twinning. The positive impact and added value of this project on the town twinning activities of Konstanz are undisputed.

To establish the Europakonzil as a regular youth event format in Konstanz and as a “flagship project” for town twinning, the project takes place every two years. The next Europakonzil, together with Konstanz’s twin cities, is scheduled for 2027.

„Overall, Europakonzil was an incredible experience that we will never forget. It was amazing meeting so many new people from all over Europe and experiencing life in Germany, as well as contributing to a project that feels valuable and allows us, as young people in Europe, a voice to share our opinions and talk about what we believe in.“
Eve Jackson and Mathilda Edwards, students Richmond



We would like to thank all the approximately 100 participants from Konstanz and its twin towns Fontainebleau, Richmond, Tábor and Lodi as well as especially Berdychiw, for travelling so far and contributing in such a remarkable way! It was a very special and enriching experience to have them with us as new project partners.

Sincerely thanks also to

- first and foremost, the 57 young people for their passionate and inspiring work on the future of European values and town twinning.
- the sponsors Erasmus+ and the German-Czech Future Fund who made such a project possible in the first place.
- the decision-makers from politics, administration and twinning associations for their expertise and for their further support in implementing the project ideas.
- the partner schools and their teachers for their dedicated preparation, guiding and support.
- the 38 host families for their generous hospitality.
- Harald Kühn and Valentin Rickert for their skilful moderation.
- Bert Binnig and his team for facilitating the professional flag workshop and sewing the flags over night.
- Jörg-Peter Rau and Bakisi Nsakala and his team for their expertise support of the editorial-team and the great press and media releases.
- the press departments of the six participating cities for their cooperation in public relations work.
- Julius Hügle and Susanna Jung for their insightful presentations.
- and last but not least on our own behalf to the highly committed project working team:
From the Main office of the City of Konstanz: Antonie Bernhard (project manager), Karen Merkel, Laura Larsen, Sophia Luhr, Charlotte Biskup (Head of Main office), Martin Schröpel (Head of department BES), Anja Fuchs (Head of department PMK) and colleagues.
As well as Tom Ketelhut and Dr. Manuela Müller-Windisch.

Impressum

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Bildnachweise:

Stadt Konstanz (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 21 - 35)
Jörg-Peter Rau, SÜDKURIER (10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20)

August 2025, Änderungen vorbehalten



**Funded by
the European Union**

and

Deutsch-Tschechischer
Zukunftsfonds



Česko-německý
fond budoucnosti

