



Generation Europe Debate

"What young people want today"

Date: 22.12.2008

Place: Heraklion

Number of people: 3 students

Second debate prepared in Heraklion by Irene Schinaraki, GE Contact Person in Greece.

At first we made a short introduction about the riots that took place in Greece the past 3 weeks. We realised that the riots had not only to do with the killing of a young student but also because the youth demand more benefits, rights and rule of law. The attendees mentioned that education is a major problem nowadays since Greece lacks schools, good teachers and a general educational system. For instance, the attendees argued that governments pay lots of money to rents and less on school equipment or staff. Another problem that was highlighted was that lots of students are insecure about their future since unemployment is rising gradually. More and more young people finish their studies and face the problem of unemployment, making them live with their parents in order to reduce spending.

On the second part of the discussion, the attendees referred to the corruption of governments. They mentioned that governments haven't changed since the old days and that in fact young people demand the same things as in the past. Apart from better education and social or working rights, nowadays young people need to face the rising cost of living. To be more specific, the attendees commented on the low pensions that old people are earning and the insecurity that this causes to them.

In the end we noted that Greek young people compare the status of their lives to other western countries and that make them acknowledge the problems that Greece is now dealing with. In general the youth protest for the same rights and as the global problems are increasing (i.e. global terrorism, wars and financial crisis) they are becoming aware of the effects this has to Greece.

To sum up, the youth in Greece recognize the problems of education and unemployment they are challenged with.