

Generation Europe Debate

“The foundation of friendship and family – has the society changed their role?”

Date: 25th January 2009

Place: online

Participants: 5 students

Organised by Irene Schinaraki

According to Irene: ‘a very interesting and unexpected debate’

At start, all of us agreed that the role of families has changed but everyone gave a different reason for that. First of all some argued that it is the new lifestyle that people follow and that they value work more than their families. For example they try to work harder to get better salaries and that comes first.

On the other hand the rest of the attendants pinpointed that the lifestyle plays a little or no role. They based their argument on the fact that in the past, women worked twice as much and they were still raising their kids and had family to communicate. For instance in villages, women worked in farms and at nights they would gather their families to dine and talk.

However the whole group agreed that today’s way of communicating in families is not easy to be changed. Thus their way of conducting personal relationships is based on the time they give for their families.

On the second part of the discussion, we faced a few disagreements since not everybody believed that friendships have changed.

To begin with, some attendees believed that friends or acquaintances are rude or that they cannot be bothered with the problems of their friends. To contradict this argument, a few members were opposed to this fact and said that ‘sometimes friendships are made for selfish reasons but this is not the rule’. To specify that, they said that friendships are based sometimes on selfish reasons (i.e. to make a new friend in order to have someone to help you in Maths), but most of the times, they said that friends are helpful and if someone is selfish or rude, this is due to his/her character.

Next, someone connected the meanings of friendships with the meanings of families and suggested that young people behave according to what they learn through their families. If their families are indifferent or not caring, then they grow up to behave or have the same attitude towards friends and life. Towards the end of our discussion we all agreed that not everybody has the benefit of having good and honest friends and that you are supposed to be one of the lucky people to have good friendships. Last but not least, we also agreed that society plays an important role towards family and friendship and that people usually get used to attitudes or behaviours which are not always willing to change.

To sum up, the foundations of family have changed lately due to many reasons. As a result we face this change in today’s way of communicating with other people. (i.e. friendships).