



Imagine 2005

From September 23rd to 25th, AIESEC in Germany and the 'Think Tank 30' ('tt30') of the Club of Rome invited active students, young professionals and proactive agents of change across Europe to exchange perspectives, experiences and ideas for contributing to a positive development of society. More than 40 participants from Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, UK and Spain and 10 encouraging and inspiring external speakers found their way to 'Imagine 2005' in the 'Bildungshaus Rothleinmühle' in Nordhausen.

Unique new impressions, novel insights and ideas to shape the future emerged among participants with diverse expectations and experiences. Kirsten, student of Communication and Media Science observes: *'I came to Imagine with many questions: What to do after finishing my studies? How to combine work life and commitment to the values I believe in? I went home not with answers but with many new ideas, perspectives and contacts. Imagine 2005 really was a great & helpful step forward towards my future.'*

Before Imagine, the selected participants went through an intense personal reflection phase: A guideline with various exercises enabled to reflect on individual strengths and potentials, on personal values and a vision for the future. At the beginning of the seminar, everybody was invited to share personal aspirations and goals as well as expectations towards the seminar. In the next step, participants discussed their visions for an „ideal world“, issues and challenges which the world is facing and concrete actions that could be taken to 'make the world a better place'. Furthermore, an Open Space session gave participants the chance to freely start discussions or working groups on the topics of their interest. *'Whoever comes is the right person'* and *'whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened'* - these are two of the basic principles of Open Space sessions, and issues like promoting cultural dialogue, sustainable development, the future of education and the role of technology in societal development were content of intense dialogues.

Guest speakers with a high degree of ambition and idealism shared their paths and experiences in life and hereby served as a source of inspiration. Among many others, Prof. Dr. Michael Jischa, (chairman of the German Chapter for the Club of Rome), Eugénie Harvey (founder of 'We are what we do' in the UK), Surjo Soekadar (founder of the Global Contract Foundation 'Stiftung Weltvertrag') and members of the tt30 and Pioneers of Change shared stories which were sometimes funny, sometimes astonishing, but always encouraging to live up to your passion and ideals.

To wrap up the intensive reflection, discussions, and experiences so far during the seminar, the participants talked about concrete next steps after Imagine. One group drafted a project on 'youth & intercultural dialogue' which they currently seek to implement in cooperation with high schools in Germany, others thought about *"how to keep imagining after Imagine 2005?"* As a first step an email-list has been set up in order to give the participants the opportunity to remain connected and to strengthen the network and a regular meeting in Berlin is planned.

Zaheer, a Pakistan-born student of Computational Visualistics resumes: *"For me Imagine was a meeting where I could find that many people are looking positively and seriously for the betterment of society. It was an event which helped me understand how others are looking at the world and what they are planning to do for it. This is a thing which will help me in improving my plans also."* One can finally say that it's the network created that made Imagine an extraordinary event for all those who were part of it, as it gives people the chance in the long-run to actively exchange ideas and thoughts, offer each other support and take actions to shape the future together.

The organizing team of Imagine wants to thank AIESEC in Germany, AIESEC in Oldenburg and the 'tt30' for their conceptual support and dedication, 'Aktion.Mensch' for their financial support, the media partner 'squeaker.net', and wishes the guest speakers and participants of Imagine 2005 all the best for their personal future.