

Eurocourse 2011 - Wow, what a week it was...

This was my first Eurocourse. So I really didn't know what to expect. And to make it even more challenging, I was the only participant from the Netherlands.

The first weekend of the week we stayed at a local Chiro group to see how they work with the children. I arrived on Saturday so we could participate in the weekly leaders meeting. That Sunday I realized the Chiro is in some ways very similar to Jong Nederland but it surprised me that they separate the boys and the girls; but that's not all, in this Chiro group all the different ages meet on the same day. But I have to say it works out very well. Maybe it's because they have a real big area. After this weekend the other three guys, who had also stayed with the same Chiro group, and I left for Antwerp.

The Eurocourse is now really starting. There was a key phrase for this Eurocourse: Volundare. The idea of it all was to find out what other people think about volunteering and to learn more about what volunteering means for you. The topic was brought in a really funny way, with one of the Eurocourse leaders playing Bambi, needing a volunteer to help her with everything because she had lost her mother. With this idea the group was separated into three groups: the Bambi's, the Thumpers and the Stinky's. With these teams we did lots of things during the week: most of the games we played in the centre of Antwerp and of course in our hostel, the «Scoutel». We also went to see some volunteer projects in Antwerp to give us an idea what Belgian youth workers do to entertain the youth but also to keep them busy with things they like and how it helps to keep the youth away from criminality. With the three groups we sat together at least once a day for some exercises about how volunteer work affects your life and how involved you are in your youth group. All of this was really great and well organized, but I think the best thing of this week was that I have made many international friends, even some friends for life.

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