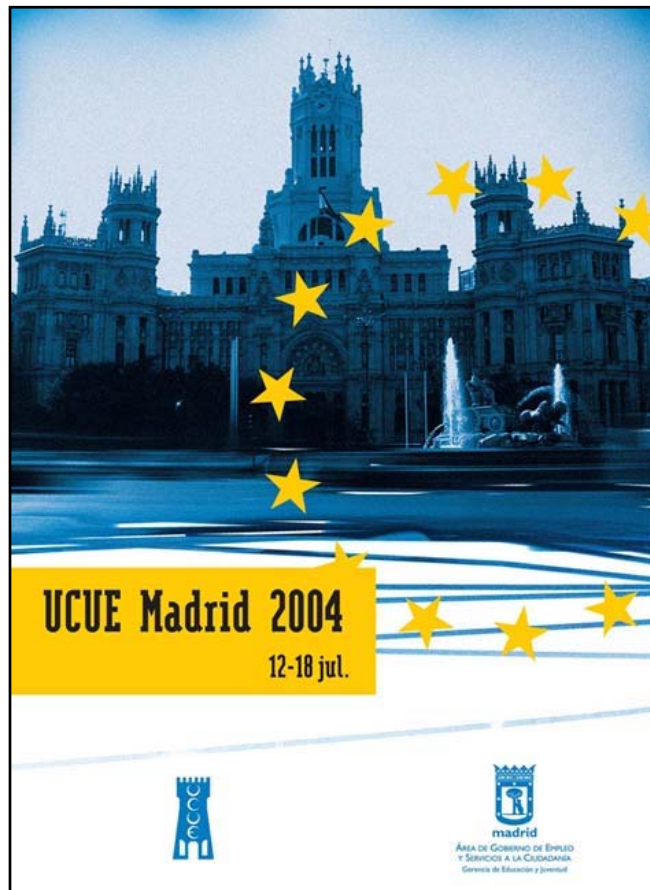


REPORT



MEETING OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNION OF CAPITALS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (UCUE)

Madrid 12th – 18th July 2004

Objectives of the Meeting

The objectives that formed the grounds on which the Meeting was set up are as follows:

- To offer participants a space in which to debate and reflect on topics of common interest within the context of the European Union.
- To achieve greater integration and a better understanding of the social reality of young people within the European Union.
- To provide participants with a framework of coexistence that will permit the exchange of cultural, historic and economic factors, etc.
- To dynamise the different groups of participating young people in such a way that they all interrelate and are enriched by the cultural diversity that exists.
- To promote group activities that encourage integration and the involvement of all the participants.

Methodology

All the activities were developed in such a way to allow all the young people to participate and express their interests, hobbies and friendships.

The methodological approach was based on a technique that was:

ACTIVE, based on stimulating the natural need to observe, investigate and express ideas.

PARTICIPATIONAL, promoting individual initiatives and the security that comes from belonging to a group via interrelation with colleagues and the environment.

PERSONALISED, permitting the individual characteristics of the young people to be addressed, and helping them to learn from and respect others.

A SOCIALISING AGENT, promoting interpersonal relationships and the spontaneous organisation of groups on the basis of shared interests, and attempting to encourage attitudes of cooperation, friendship and coexistence within a festive, fun and enriching environment for tod@s.

Participants

Each delegation had to be made up of three young people and a group leader. In order to participate in the Meeting, the young people had to meet the following requisites:

- Age: between 18 and 22 years of age
- Participants had to be university students or have successfully completed secondary education.
- Participants had to belong to a youth association or form part of the youth wing of a political party.
- Good understanding of English and/or French.

The delegations participating in the Meeting were:

CITY / Country	PARTICIPANTS
AMSTERDAM / Holland	5 (3 + 2 leaders)
BERLÍN / Germany	4 (3 +1 leader)
BRUSSELS / Belgium	4 (3 +1 leader)
BUDAPEST / Hungary	4 (3 +1 leader)
HELSINKI / Finland	4 (3 +1 leader)
LJUBLJANA / Slovenia	4 (3 +1 leader)
PRAGUE / Czech Republic	4 (3 +1 leader)
RIGA/ Latvia	4 (3 +1 leader)
ROME / Italy	4 (3 +1 leader)
TALLÍN / Estonia	3 (2 +1 leader)
WARSAW / Poland	3
VIENNA / Austria	4 (3 +1 leader)
VILNA / Lithuania	4 (3 +1 leader)

Evaluation and conclusions

The participants (the young people and the accompanying group leaders in each delegation) filled out an anonymous questionnaire that was given to them on the first day and which asked them to provide information on their opinions and expectations of the Meeting. On the final day they were given another questionnaire concerning the organisation and development of the event.

On the basis of the results of the questionnaires we have reached the following conclusions:

- The young participants enjoyed their time within a space that was effective in allowing them to share experiences of their own cities and, indeed, many of them have suggested that in future UCUE Meeting more time is set aside for meetings and group work.
- During the event, in addition to the work carried out by the delegations, for the first time young people were given the opportunity of working in three large groups that mixed different nationalities (one young person from each delegation in each group) in order to comment on the political initiatives that were being developed in relation to youths by their respective City Halls. This proved to be a great success as reflected by the comments they made in their evaluations.
- The young people had a very favourable opinion of meetings of this type and requested larger and more frequent meetings in the future, so that more and more young Europeans are able to participate and thereby contribute, as far as possible, to the construction of the European Union.
- The Meeting successfully brought the young Europeans closer together and the work that they jointly carried out during this time has given rise to a series of conclusions (which the Director-General for Education and Youth Matters of the City Hall of Madrid will send to those responsible for youth matters in the City Halls of each of the European capitals) that can be summed up in a final conclusion: the formulas for proceeding and the input of the young people must be included in the political programs relating to youth matters in each city. The young people view this aspect as essential if these types of meetings are and their input are to have any real meaning.

We can conclude that the Meeting was a success given that it met all of its proposed objectives and served to connect the participating young Europeans. According to the evaluation questionnaires that were completed, the average mark awarded to the Meeting was 7.8.