

## Sharing Visions Together: The experience of the students of Pavia attending the Ec2u event in Coimbra

During the first week of May, around 115 students from the seven partner [EC2U Alliance Universities](#) and from University of Lviv (strategic associated partner) attended the EC2U Students' Week in Coimbra, Portugal. In this article, the voice of UNIPV students is stressed, indeed this is a **text made by students for the students**.

One of the main goals of the EC2U alliance is promoting mobility between students, professors and administrative staff. This was the perfect occasion for students and staff to meet and sharing experience during a one week short mobility.

The University of Pavia was represented by 18 students coming from different fields of studies and one staff member representing the Ec2U WP2 “ Culture & Campus life”.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, the Students' Week kick-started with a welcome session: the Vice-rector of internationalization, the local coordinator of EC2U, and the president of the Student's Association of Coimbra wished us a great week. And it really was! After this initial moment of greetings, we walked towards the Mondego river where a full day of activities was planned for us. Some students did some canoeing in the river, others did Yoga, others played games meant to increase team building, others observed the sun from a special telescope and others participated in a body movement workshop.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, we had the opportunity to create music together with Transbal Express, a lovely band from Poitiers, whose goal is to play various and typical songs from all over the world. In the afternoon then we moved to the University to do a formal English-style debate where students had to discuss prioritization of social policies in youth and intercultural mobility programs.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, we had the chance to participate in a COP simulation, which is an international climate change meeting held by the UN, where we had the opportunity to represent a country and present, debate and advance motions meant to tackle climate-

related issues. It was interesting because we could grasp the intricacies and the 'slowness' that may be present in these kinds of meetings

These activities helped us build a connection and get comfortable with each other. And to me, this was really what this week was all about: getting comfortable in your own skin and with others, but mostly even putting yourself in other people's shoes. It really was a safe space where we could push ourselves to be more of what we love of ourselves without fears of being judged and scrutinized. We surely think that it's very important to develop critical thinking to build our own opinion about the reality around us.

Lastly, let's hear the voices of the students from the delegation of Pavia about their experience and their main takeaways from the EC2U Students Week :

*«The experience of this student week in Coimbra was more than enriching ! Beyond the meeting with international students coming from all over Europe, our place in the debates has made it possible to move forward and freely discuss the subjects that will make the world of tomorrow. Through immersion in a strong European culture, this week was able to create many bonds between us, students from varied backgrounds, and allow intercultural dialogue.» - Zoé*

*«Three days full of excitement, fun, and learning. The students' week in Coimbra was an amazing experience. Can't wait for the next one. Obrigado EC2U» - Fahad*

*« The experience amazed me way beyond my expectations! It was European Union at its best showing how cultural differences don't put barriers between us, instead, they make us richer, and they offered the opportunity to share visions together! What I felt during the days of the event was that we were part of a historical process, we were building a solid base for a peaceful, more sustainable, and more European future!» - Andrea*

*«I could not agree more with my friends from EC2U Student Week. It's true. When you come back from any type of mobility (long or short term) you come back as a different person. You are more open and more hopeful about the future. For me, this was a*

*beautiful experience where I met so many great people with different cultural backgrounds and had the opportunity to do something I never did before. Sports activities like canoeing and yoga classes, sun observation, and board games. Big thanks to Università degli Studi di Pavia for taking us, the EC2U Alliance, and the University of Coimbra for a fantastic organization.» - Marija*

*«EC2U Students Week filled my heart with joy: getting to know so many people from all over Europe was very insightful. We did not only shared visions together, but we also found friendships. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.» - Yasmina*

*«The EC2U students week was a discover for me, both in terms of places and people. I had the chance to visit such a beautiful city as Coimbra, and its prestigious University and I also had the opportunity to meet people from all around Europe and build a special connection with them. It was all about sharing and exchanging ideas and visions. I really understood what it's like to be a European Student, and I am delighted to be part of such an alliance. Many thanks for this amazing opportunity.» - Martina*

*«Thank you EC2U for this amazing opportunity. Being surrounded by students of different nationalities who were asked to share their "vision" about several issues, made me understand even better the essence of the EU.» - Alessandro*

*«Everyday gave us something different to aim for in our everyday life and in the future. We were presented with great opportunities during every moments we spent there: starting with the more ludic activities, such as the cooking competition, the making of a song, and every moment we spent dancing and singing, to the more serious and educational parts such as the city and museum tour, the debate and the COP simulation. I'm truly glad we had the chance to spend a lot of time with each other, from the early morning to the late night, with the possibility of talking and sharing ideas about the activities and the issues concerned.*

*I came back to Italy with a brand new awareness about how needs and visions about things can change from one person to another, and it made me realize the importance of empathy, patience and open-mindedness.» - Lucia*

The article was written by EC2U UNIPV students under the coordination of Murad, intern at [GLOBEC Office](#) - EC2U alliance project.

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