

Kanti Wohlen at the EYP Conference in Ticino 2023 (22.-26. Sept. 2023)

Delegation: Daniel Chen (G3D), Alina Greminger (G3B), Dario Knöpfel (G3A), Janis Knutti (F2b) and Gianna Prevost (G3E)

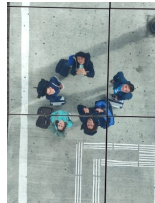
Introduction

The event promised to be an exciting journey filled with knowledge sharing, networking opportunities, and immersive experiences in the field of technology. Day 1, dedicated to team building, set the tone for what would be an unforgettable event. As we look back on that day, we can't help but feel grateful for the chance to participate in an event that brought together like-minded individuals with a passion for politics and innovation.

Friday, 22. Sept. 2023: Teambuilding



After a brief check-in, we received a warm welcome from the event organizers. Subsequently, we were divided into groups based on our specific areas of interest. Within these groups, we initiated our interactions by learning each other's names through the association of an adjective with each name. Following this, we engaged in ice-breaking activities such as Ninja, Mafia, and Wolves. Later we engaged in conflict-forcing activities, with games where we had to debate against each other; in the end, we set up 10 golden rules for the best possible collaboration space. In the evening, there was an event called the "Swiss Village" where all the attendees shared a culinary specialty from their respective Swiss cantons or the countries from which they were visiting.



Saturday, 23. Sept. 2023: Committee work – Day 1

The day started early: at 7:00 we woke up and started to eat breakfast; afterwards we made our way to the *Liceo* in Locarno, the place at which we worked. After a short energizer, we went to our committees and started planning the resolution. First, we drafted the am-statement; this is like a summary of our problem. We then worked hard for a few hours; after quite a mundane lunch we did an energizer as the group and went straight back to work. Our main focus were the because-clauses: the function of these are to show facts and conflicts to our problems. It was quite a hard job to find these for topics such as science in Europe and its future. After dinner, we went to the Euro-Concert, in which every group had to do a dance (the macarena, among others). During the Euro-Concert many people did also some amazing musical performances and we had the honor to see a mentalist perform a funny show for us.

Sunday, 24. Sept. 2023: Committee work – Day 2



As the first day of committee work was all about finding the problems of our topic, the committee work of the second day was all about finding solutions. In our groups the challenge was to find good solutions and write them down in the resolution. The aim was to present the solution in the form of direct requests for the European Union. We nearly worked the whole day on our resolutions. But as we finished, we still had some spare time.

Therefore, after our all-consuming committee work, we were able to learn more about the Canton Ticino and its culture. In the "culture afternoon" we had the opportunity to choose different activities to see the Canton Ticino from a different perspective. Most members of our delegation went on a trip to the Ghisla Art Collection in Locarno. It was great fun and we were thankful for a little break after having worked the whole day.



After dinner, the day was not yet over. We listened to a speech about the EYP, building skills, friendships and confidence. It was very interesting and informative to learn something about the history and the background of the EYP. After the speech, we returned to the hostel for the resolution hub and a mock General Assembly but because it was voluntary, most of us went to bed to get sleep before our big day.

Monday, 25. Sept. 2023: General Assembly – Day 1



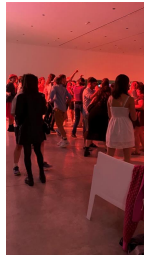
Monday was the first day of the General Assembly. In the morning, we had to wake up at 6:30; we packed our belongings and headed to breakfast at the hostel. Breakfast was always the best meal, offering a relatively good selection, and everything was delicious. At 8:05, we walked 15 minutes from the hostel to a street where three buses awaited us. We then traveled through Ticino for an hour until we reached Lugano, where the General Assembly was held in a large room at the *Università della Svizzera Italiana*.

The General Assembly followed a clear structure. A committee presented its resolution, there was an opening speech, counterarguments, discussion rounds, changes to resolutions, a concluding speech, and finally, everyone voted on whether to accept or reject the resolution. It was initially stressful and challenging to concentrate but over time, we got used to it. After some discussions, there was a coffee break with food and drinks, followed by lunch. We went to the cafeteria for lunch, where we were delighted to have gnocchi with herb sauce—a proper meal at last. Discussions resumed after lunch.





After lunch, it was time for Alina’s and Daniel’s group (FEMM, the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality) to present their resolution. Daniel delivered an excellent opening speech, and their resolution was eventually accepted. In the evening, there was the Committee dinner, where all committees, along with their chairpersons, went out to eat. Initially, we had to rush to the train station in Lugano to catch our train.



Gianna’s committee went to a pizzeria near the hostel for dinner; the food was delicious and her committee played games. We then returned to the hostel and quickly changed into our outfits for the Farewell Party with the theme: “Malibu, Beach, Ken, Barbie and Pink”. At the party, we listened to music, played with balloons and danced. Transfers to the hostel were available at different times, and thus, the day came to a close.

Tuesday, 26. Sept. 2023: General Assembly – Day 2



The fifth and final day was upon us. All suitcases were packed, hair done, and we were ready to think critically about other topics again. Especially for Gianna, Dario, and Janis, it was going to be tense as they would be giving a speech in front of 200 people for the first time. With a small delay due to the transfer, we could not start until after 10 a.m. For Tuesday, the rest of the debates were scheduled, and it started with the AFET committee (the Committee on Foreign Affairs), to which Dario and Janis belonged. As usual, one had to be approved by the EYP Board before starting a defending speech.



The person who was allowed to give this speech was none other than Janis. He brought a lot of emotion into his speech and started off with a very strong speech for his committee.

Dario then took over in one of the three rounds of open debates and was able to answer the questions confidently. No wonder that, in the end, they were the committee with the fewest votes against their resolution! Congratulations for this great performance!



When it was CULT’s turn (the Committee on Culture and Education), Gianna also showed her skills. During the first round of open debates, she answered the questions asked by the other delegates very fluently. Her committee also passed their resolution; congratulations on that too! As the session drew to a close, the mood in the room became very emotional and tears flowed. All of those who had made huge contributions to setting up this event gave a speech of thanks and said goodbye. Unfortunately, we could not stay to the end; otherwise, we would have missed our last train connection. The farewell was therefore very short but to our surprise, we met many other delegates, including those from Ireland, on the train again and were able to talk to them during the journey up to Zug. The return journey went without problems and all members of the Wohlen delegation slept like babies in their own beds that night.

Conclusion

The team building day at NS Ticino 2023 was an enriching experience that not only challenged our technical skills but also taught us the value of collaboration, communication, and adaptability in the field of technology. The picturesque location, the memorable challenges, and the lasting relationships formed during that day left an indelible mark on all of us. As the event continued, we carried these lessons and connections with us, making the rest of NSC Ticino 2023 an even more enriching experience.

Reflecting on the event, it was a great experience. Meeting people from all around Europe was the highlight for us. Working with the committee was enjoyable, though it did get a bit stressful at times because there was a lot of work to do. Despite the occasional challenges, the positive vibe throughout the event was great, especially at the Farewell Party and the Euro-Concert.

The tightly packed schedule and constant interaction with strangers made it a bit overwhelming from time to time. There were moments of confusion about what to do or where to go but looking back, these were just minor hiccups.

Despite the ups and downs, the experience was totally worth it. Not only did we learn a lot but we also grew personally and professionally, facing and overcoming challenges. In the end, the event was a fantastic opportunity for development, and we are all grateful for the chance to be a part of the EYP in Ticino.

