

NSC Zürich 2024 (30 August - 3 September 2024)

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Introduction

The 2024 National Selection Conference took place in Zurich from 30 August to 3 September. During these five days, we experienced an unforgettable EYP event. The trip was an exciting journey that enabled us to exchange ideas with young people interested in politics from all over Europe, explore Zurich, and improve our English skills. Looking back, we are very grateful that we were able to take part in the NSC Zurich.



Friday, 30. August

The first day of NSC Zurich 2024 was dedicated to teambuilding and setting a positive atmosphere for the conference.



The day began with participants arriving at the designated hostel in Zurich, where we completed the check-in process. This was our first opportunity to meet the other delegates from Switzerland and those who came from abroad. After check-in, we headed to Platzspitz Park, right in the heart of Zurich, to kick off the teambuilding activities. Fortunately, the weather was fantastic. Upon

our arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the officials and board members. After engaging in some fun activities with the participants, we took a coffee break, which allowed us to relax and chat with the session officials for the first time. Soon after, each of us was introduced to our respective committees by our chairperson, and the committee teambuilding commenced. We started with icebreaker games to learn each other's names, hobbies, and interests, followed by bonding activities that required the participation of all delegates to achieve the best solutions within our committee. During this time, we got to know every member of our committee better, which made it much easier to bond and collaborate with all committee members in the days to come.

As evening approached, we left Platzspitz Park and headed to the SIX Convention Point for the official Opening Ceremony. The venue, with its modern and sophisticated atmosphere, was a fitting location for such a prestigious event. The ceremony began with a series of speeches by the head organizers and keynote speakers, such as Thomas Vellacott, CEO of WWF Switzerland. These speeches were incredibly inspiring and provided the final push of motivation that we needed before the president of the session declared NSC Zurich 2024 officially opened. By the end of the first day, we felt a strong sense of motivation that carried us throughout the entire session, significantly enhancing the quality of our contributions.



Saturday, 31. August



Saturday, August 31st, was the first day of committee work. After we had woken up, we had breakfast and then got ready for the transfer to the Realgymnasium Rämibühl in Zurich, where we spent most of the day working in our committee. We started with a short Just Dance energizer, and then we began the committee work. The goal of the first day was to analyze our topic and discuss what the main problems were. After an open discussion, we formed groups and wrote on post-its every problem that came to mind. After that, we discussed these post-its with the whole committee and classified them as Slay, Mid, or Flop. This method allowed us to separate the bad ideas from the good ones and rewrite those that weren't clear or on point.

After this intense working session, we finally took a break and had lunch. After lunch, we focused on turning our prepared post-its into "because" clauses. The purpose of this procedure was to show facts and conflicts related to our problems. Arguably, this is the hardest part of the committee work, but we collaborated very well as a team, helping each other, and we were able to create strong "because" clauses.

At 16:00, we finished our work and came together for another entertaining part of the day: the Culture Afternoon, during which we walked through Zurich, saw a few sights, and visited the botanical garden. After this beautiful experience, we had dinner with our committees and then went back to spend some time with our new



friends at the youth hostel. After a very interesting but also exhausting day, we fell asleep.

Sunday, 01. September

On Sunday, September 1st, the second day of committee work took place at the NSC Zurich. We woke up, and after breakfast, we began the transfer to the committee work



location, Realgymnasium Rämibühl in Zurich. Upon arriving at our venue and settling into our room, we started the committee work. The second day typically focuses on finding solutions to the problems related to our specific topics, which, in one case, was surrogacy. In between working sessions, we had some coffee breaks that allowed us to recharge our energy levels, play games, and get to know the other committee members better. During our work, we focused on the Operative Clauses (OCs), which represent the solutions and actors needed to address specific problems. This is an essential part of the solutions that were to be presented in the following days during General Assembly.

After we finished our OCs, a jury member joined us as a “devil’s advocate”, which meant he would critically examine our OCs. As a final step before we started the transfers, we distributed the roles for the General Assembly. After transferring by tram and train back to the hostel, we had dinner, which featured Indian food that was quite good. Following dinner, we attended the so-called “EYP CAFÉ”, a new event where we could talk to the officials, ask questions about various positions within the EYP, and gather information about the upcoming days of the General Assembly. We had the opportunity to visit different stations and inquire about the roles of organizing, chairpersons, and media team members, which was very interesting and helpful. This helped us gain a deeper understanding of the roles and procedures of the EYP. Afterward, we had some free time, which most of us used to prepare our speeches for the upcoming General Assembly.



Monday, 02. September



On Monday was the first day of the General Assembly. It took place at the ETH Zurich, in one of the lecture halls. In the morning, we had to wake up between 6 and 7 and after that we headed to breakfast in shifts because of the large numbers of participants. We transferred to the ETH by public transportation. Once arrived, we had to wait until the board arrived and everybody was ready. Then the General Assembly started. First, they quickly explained the structure of the GA. One Committee at a time presents the resolution on which they worked over the last days. To open their presentation, someone from the Committee gives an opening speech and then everybody reads through the resolution and the topic sentence. Then the position speeches are held, followed by the response speeches. Then the most fun part begins: during the rounds of debate, all other committees are allowed to ask questions and speak up about concerns regarding the proposed resolution. After the rounds of debate, the proposing committee is allowed to amend its resolution and present the amendment with a speech. Subsequently, everybody votes for or against the resolution and the grand finale is always the closing speech.

After an exhausting day debating and presenting our work, we returned to the Youth Hostel. We had some time to relax, eat dinner and get ready for the Farewell Party. The party was held at an event location near our hostel. Everybody was dressed up in a nineties-style or disco inspired costume. We danced the whole evening and were all sad when we had to return to the Hostel. On the bright side, next day's General Assembly awaited us, which was exciting once again.

Tuesday, 03. September

On the fifth and final day, most of us woke up feeling exhausted from the long and draining farewell party the night before. Despite our fatigue, we were still motivated, knowing it was our last chance to show everyone the true strength of the Wohlen Delegation. During the transfers, we stayed focused, working on speeches and identifying weaknesses in other committees' solutions to gain an edge during the rounds of debate. Thankfully, the weather had cooled down overnight, sparing us from the unbearable heat. With this renewed energy, each of us managed to contribute at least two points, speeches, or direct responses. Unfortunately, although we had prepared an average of 6-7 points each, we couldn't contribute



them because many people in our committees also wanted to share their points. Nonetheless, most of us asked for and received feedback from the jury, which was mostly very positive. For the final committee, LIBE II, Gianna gave a beautiful opening speech to introduce the last resolution for discussion. We then had a moment to meet with our committees, where we exchanged compliments and promised to keep in touch. As a thoughtful gesture, we also wrote “love letters” to one another. Finally, it was time for the closing ceremony, which, as expected, was emotional and filled with messages of gratitude and gifts. Surprisingly, it was shorter than we had anticipated. Fortunately, we ended on a high note by singing the unofficial EYP song, John Lennon’s “Imagine,” while standing in a circle and hugging one another. This special moment is always a cherished highlight at EYP-meetings, and it will stay with us forever.

Conclusion

The National Selection Conference in Zurich 2024 was an impressive and unique experience for all of us. Not only were we able to connect with young and committed people from all over Europe, but we also got to know other people from Kanti Wohlen better. Participating in such a big session was a real adventure and a really rewarding experience. During the EYP session, we made most of this opportunity and really tried to improve our skills not only in English, but also in discussing and interacting with people who were strangers at first but eventually became friends.

We hope that many other students from Kanti Wohlen will have the opportunity to attend one of the many EYP events and share in the experiences we had. We are very grateful for this opportunity, and we would not have been able to attend such a session without the EYP and everyone who made this possible, especially Mr. Schneider and the principal of our school.

