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Niederlassung Brandenburg
Süd-Ost



Digital Workcamp

„A view into the world“



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Introduction

2020 is a very special year. The outbreak of the Covid19 pandemic changed the lives of people all around the world. In many countries lockdowns took place, people lost their jobs or even relatives, travelling was not possible in the way we know it and many offers of social life were closed. Those are just a few examples of the many changes different people experienced in 2020.

In the cultural centre „Pegasus“ in Senftenberg in the past years annually a international youth work camp took place. This year we had to cancel it because of the worldwide extraordinary situation. Also the entire house with its offers in the field of youth work had to close for several months. In this special times digital developments got in the focus of our daily work to keep in touch with the (local) youngsters. In this phase the idea of a digital workcamp grewed.

In September of 2020 the digital workcamp started with young people from Mexico, Lebanon, Ukraine, Algeria and Romania. The moderation was settled in Germany. Together we got views into the world. In every one of our six meetings one of the participants prepared something about his/her country. We talked about the culture, the landscapes, typical food, stereotypes and of course about the extraordinary situation in the times of a pandemic.



To collect our results of those interesting contributions and honour the carefully prepared presentations of the participants we decided to create this little brochure. On the one hand the persons, which were part of the digital workcamp, have a memory of our two weeks together and can show a result what they did in this time. On the other hand we have the possibility to share our experiences and let other people know about young peoples lifes in different countries.

Following you will read interviews with each participant and at the end a resume of our digital workcamp is set.

Sara Orlamünder

Servicestelle Internationale Jugendarbeit
Oberspreewald-Lausitz

Mexico

Who are you and what are you doing?

Im Jesus, but everyone calls me Chucho. I'm 26 years old and I'm from Mexico, currently living in Mexico City.

Currently I'm unemployed because of the pandemic but I used to work at a travel agency as I studied tourism. I'm a really positive person who always tries to enjoy life and take the best outcome of every situation. I love to travel and meeting new people and learn about their cultures and countries.



What is typical for your country?

Chili, spicy food, mariachis, tequila, gentle people, tortillas, tacos

What things make you proud to be Mexican?

Our people, our willnes to help other people, our traditions, our cultural heritage, our positive attitude, our food.

What are stereotypes you often hear and are they true?

The biggest one is that it's a very insecure contry that shouldn't be visited because of the drugs cartels, which I think is 50/50 because they exist but they are not always outside harassing people.

That we like to drink and party a lot and I think not all people but most of us we do haha, at least the party one.

That we like spicy food and we eat almost everything with tortilla and that's true.

That we all have smoke weed isn't true.

Your ultimate tip when visiting your country/city?

About the city you should try all the street food, you should visit the pyramids, you should learn to dance when you come because we like to dance, you also should go to the "Lucha libre" that means wrestling, but it's totally different than other countries wrestling, this is a whole show, you can't miss it. Also visit Xochimilco.

And about the country you definitely should go to the beaches because they are beautiful.

What policies were set by the government to contain the Covid19-virus?

Well our president at the beginning he took it as a joke, he even said if we pray and we stay positive we wouldn't get the virus... so as you can imagine they didn't took preventive measures.

And so there was a lot of problematic people, so the government just suggest to wear a mask, wash your hands constantly but when the virus started to reach a lot of contagious they declared obligated lockdown.

Were there a lockdown in your country? What did/do you in this time?

Yes, since march we got the obligated lockdown but currently we are able to go out a bit more.

For me I was doing home office, after I lose my job I started to invest time in myself and my family. I spend a lot of time with them and with my dog. I started to do yoga again, read some books, play videogames and also find what I really want to do with my life after the pandemia.

How has your daily life changed since the outbreak of the pandemic?

Well has changed a lot, before the pandemic I was working so I had to wake up at 8 am to have breakfast, get ready for job and the transportation time. Then I started my job at 11 am, had lunch around 2 pm and finishing around 8 pm, had dinner around 9 pm and go to bed around 10 pm from monday to saturday so by sunday I was amazingly tired so I was spending my sunday on taking naps and do cleaning.

Right now I can do more things, even if I wake up early I feel more energy and peace haha I can exercise and can go for short walks with my dog. I can have all my meals with my family which I think is really important if you have the chance. Delivery services have developed a lot so I can order my favorite food from outside and enjoy it with a movie at my bed haha so.

For me it has been a break I needed to do long time ago.

How spend young people their freetime in your country?

We are such a big city so we do city things haha like shopping, go to the movies, museums, parties.

Short travels outside the city, it also depends what are you up to because are many spots to do skate, play football, basketball, american football. Parks to take some walks or do some jogging.

Are there special offers for young people e.g. like youth and cultural centre? What happened to offers of social work and specially youth work in the pandemic times?

Yes, there are cultural centers around the city where you can practice sports, you can learn arts, learn music, you can learn dance, languages, lot's of things.

But because of the pandemic most of them got closed and haven't opened yet but it's also a good thing because some of them are taking this time to do some renovation work to improve the infrastructure.

Do you want to add anything else?

Come soon, visit Mexico, you won't regret!

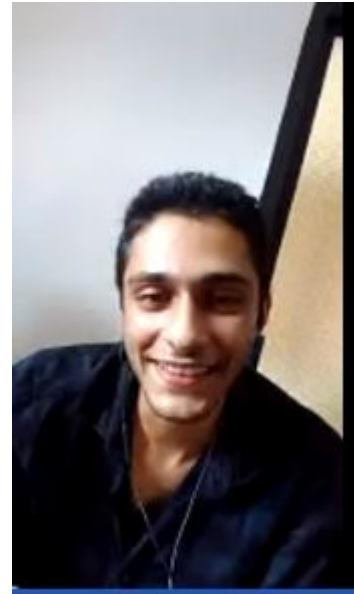


Lebanon

Who are you and what are you doing?

I am Mohammad, 20 years old lives in Beirut, Lebanon, studying business management with concentration in logistics and operations in southern New Hampshire University.

I would like to add that I am so interesting in investing and making money, since 2017 I join the forex market to get great experience in investing (buying and selling currencies) I am about to open my real account now and start investing in real money, I studied marketing and sales management (associate degree) and got a scholarship from southern New Hampshire University continues my bachelor's degree.



What is typical for your country?

Here in Lebanon the people are so friendly, they accept the other whatever he/she is.

What things make you proud to be Palestinian?

One thing that can make me proud to be Palestinian is because this country has a great history and great culture.

What are stereotypes you often hear and are they true?

the stereotype I often hear it and believe it, one time Palestine will be free at one time.

Your ultimate tip when visiting your country/city?

If you are planning to visit my country, you should plan to spend a long time and try to eat all kinds of our food.

What policies were set by the government to contain the Covid19-virus?

The policies were set by the government to contain the Covid19-virus is to make a social distance, keep putting the mask when you are going to get out of the home. Get clothes and always use hygiene.

Were there a lockdown in your country? What did/do you in this time?

When the country looks down, I planned to start getting online courses that will improve my skills to be skilled in my career, so as a marketer student (before getting the scholarship), I decided to start getting digital marketing courses and programming courses, I planned to improve my English too, I did that, I got a a lot of online courses and I improved my English, I tried to get online jobs to make money, but I didn't found it.

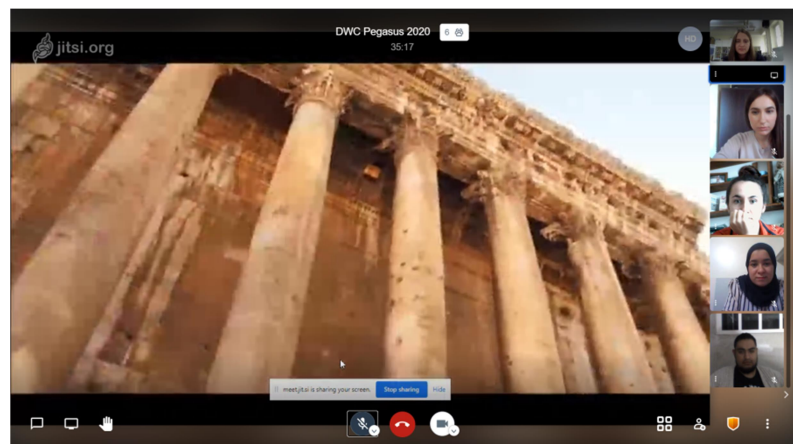
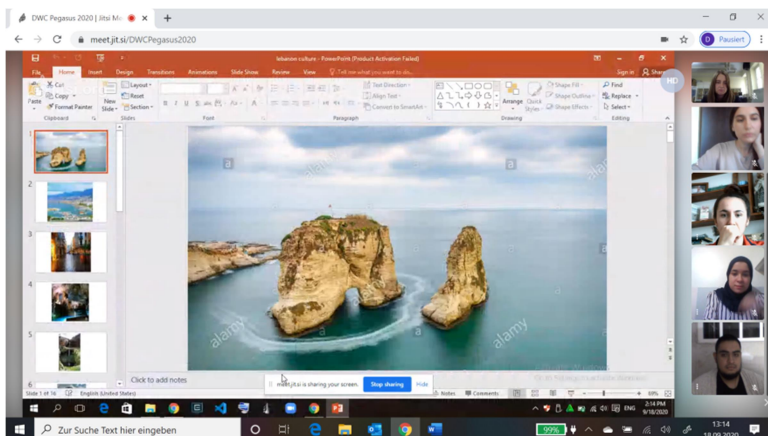
How has your daily life changed since the outbreak of the pandemic?

In my normal day, I just go to college, do the project when I reach home, contact my friends, playing video games, wok up early, even I didn't participate in any social activities. During the Pandemic, I started to achieve what I am planning to do it, I practice trading forex, taking English lesson, quit to play video games, I am the controller of my time, so I think this the most important change in my life.

How spend young people their free time in your country?

Some of them spend their time on social media and video game, some of them use this time to improve their skills, some of them tried to get jobs because they lost their jobs because of Pandemic.

Are there special offers for young people e.g. like youth and cultural centre? What happened to offers of social work and specially youth work in the pandemic times? I guess there was no special offers young people.



Romania

Who are you and what are you doing?

I'm Alina, I'm 19 years old and I live in Romania, in a small town Odobesti. I am studying Medical Engineering at "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati. If it wouldn't be the Covid-19 problem, I would've got a job in the summer vacation. About me, I am pretty positive and I want everyone to be happy around me. I would really love to travel as much as my wallet will agree haha, maybe after the pandemic ends.



What is typical for your country?

Our folk costumes, Alcoholic drinks such as palinca and țuica, Good wine, A type of food named „Mici“, and the fact that we eat everything with polenta.

What things make you proud to be Romanian?

Our beautiful places, Traditions, Our history, The food, The culture, The fact that we are in the first places when it comes to wine production.

What are stereotypes you often hear and are they true?

I heard years ago that we were considered thieves and it is false. People should not judge an entire nation just because a few people are doing this. Romania is known to have only gypsies and that is completely false.

Your ultimate tip when visiting your country/city?

You should definitely visit our capital Bucharest, The Corvin Castle, The big Square in Sibiu and Brașov city. Don't forget to try our Mici with mustard.

What policies were set by the government to contain the Covid19-virus?

The government implemented some rules for everyone to respect them, for example wearing a mask everywhere, in the public transport, in institutions, especially outside where there is agglomeration, social distancing and they closed schools and restaurants.

Were there a lockdown in your country? What did/do you in this time?

The lockdown started at 15th March and ended 1 month later. Everyone was locked in their houses and we were able to get outside only with a statement. The students from all universities were sent home. We continued the courses online, but everything became so boring because we didn't know how to deal with a lockdown. As I think now, I should've make so much more things.

How has your daily life changed since the outbreak of the pandemic?

Life in pandemic times has changed a little bit I can say, because we aren't able to travel everywhere we want, we cannot meet with our friends same as we did before. It is so much more complicated because we are afraid of this virus and of course our parents and relatives could be in danger. Usually I was at the university's campus so the days were so different than the days I was staying non stop in the house during the pandemic.

How spend young people their free time in your country?

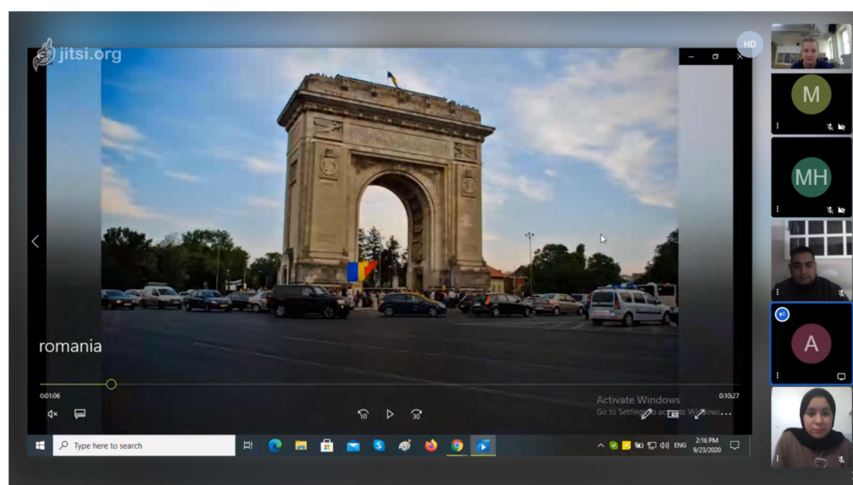
Young people from Romania have different activities, some are passionate about sports, some are learning new things so they can improve their knowledge, some are just spending time playing computer games, going to parties, travelling and seeing Romania's beauty.

Are there special offers for young people e.g. like youth and cultural centre? What happened to offers of social work and specially youth work in the pandemic times?

Not in my town but around here and in Romania there are cultural centers that offer teens different opportunities. During the pandemic times, searching for work has been a real problem and not especially for young people. Most of them were sent home and are not able to get any job yet, some employers are scared of Covid19 and some of them can't offer jobs because of the money problem.

Do you want to add anything else?

I hope all this pandemic and danger from all over the world will end soon because we are so young and we can do so much more with our free time, we can travel more, we can go to meetings, parties, student exchanges and do whatever we want. So everyone stay safe, wear that mask and be sure you are enjoying life! And don't forget to smile!



Ukraine/Poland

Who are you and what are you doing?

My name is Marina, I'm 22 years old. I am from Ukraine, the city of Kharkiv. More than a year ago, I moved to study in Warsaw, Poland. At the moment I am studying and getting a master's degree in international relations. I really liked the way of life in Warsaw and the city in general, so I decided to find a job here related to analytical work in the field of international relations and stay here.



What is typical for your country?

I would like to say that open and hospitable people, delicious food, for example our traditional dishes such as Ukrainian borsch, varenyky and nalesniki, are typical for Ukraine, Ukrainian national costume -vyshyvanka, musical instrument Trembita.

I would also like to point out a few typical features for Poland, such as: good education, delicious national food (bigos, pierogi, Polish sausage), hospitable and open people, the Polish Zloty (the currency of Poland), Mermaid of Warsaw, Tatra mountains.

What things make you proud to be Ukrainian?

Ukrainian culture and language, rich and beautiful nature, hospitable and kind-hearted people make me proud to be Ukrainian, as well as our customs and traditions.

What are stereotypes you often hear and are they true?

Ukrainians are friendly and hospitable, with a great sense of humor. This is absolutely true and to make sure of this, welcome to Ukraine or visit any Ukrainian family for dinner 😊

National costume – vyshyvanka as a daily wear. This is not entirely true, since we don't wear it every day, but we can wear it for national holidays.

Ukrainians love sweets and it's true. If you visit Ukraine, you will be able to see a wide variety of bakery and pastry products, chocolates, biscuits and more.

Your ultimate tip when visiting your country/city?

When you visit Ukraine, be prepared to eat delicious food and have a good time. You should definitely visit western Ukraine in order to better get acquainted with Ukrainian culture and its traditions, the Carpathian Mountains and the Bukovel ski resort. You definitely need to visit the capital of Ukraine, dynamic and modern Kiev, the multifaceted and youth city of Kharkiv, and the picturesque city by the sea Odessa. You should also take a walk in Lviv, this city has the most western architecture of all the country's cities. It is a cozy city with a wide variety of restaurants and cool bars.

In Poland, you should definitely walk around Krakow it's a city of stunning architecture and fabulous cuisine. You should also visit the port city of Gdańsk or the developing

and modern Warsaw, where you need to stroll through the Old Town, visit the Copernicus Science Centre and numerous Warsaw parks (Łazienki Królewskie, Saxon Gardens, Park Ujazdowski).

What policies were set by the government to contain the Covid19-virus?

Both in Poland and in Ukraine, it became mandatory to wear masks in public places, it was decided to provide a remote method of studying in educational institutions, as well as to carry out remote work in offices. In Poland and Ukraine, a decision was made to restrict tourism, and new rules for entry into the country were created.

Were there a lockdown in your country? What did/do you in this time?

Yes, the Polish government took certain measures and there was quarantine in Poland. During the quarantine, it was not possible to travel and spend days as before, so I decided to devote time to self-education. During the quarantine, many free courses were available, which I gladly passed and received a lot of new knowledge, began to learn a new language and spent a lot of time with my family.

How has your daily life changed since the outbreak of the pandemic?

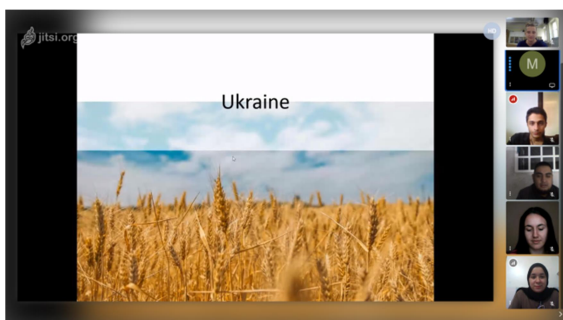
In connection with the pandemic, the lifestyles has changed, since now you need to follow certain restrictions, for example, the mandatory wearing of masks and always remember about the new rules in transport and in the store. I learned how to organize my distance learning and work, as well as take time for myself and rest.

How spend young people their free time in your country?

Young people love to ride bicycles, play sports, travel a lot. They often meet in cafes for coffee and attend various cultural and educational events in their free time.

Are there special offers for young people e.g. like youth and cultural centre? What happened to offers of social work and especially youth work in the pandemic times?

There are cultural and educational centers in Warsaw, where young people can exchange their knowledge on certain relevant topics, develop their skills and interests; many such centers and organizations operate at universities. At the moment, some centers are closed or switched to online work. On the other hand, with the pandemic, there are even more online projects and opportunities for young people to develop and communicate.



Do you want to add anything else?

Welcome to Ukraine and Poland!

Algeria

Who are you and what are you doing?

I am Najoua. I am 22 years old. I am from Biskra city, Algeria. I am currently studying to get a master's degree in Applied Linguistics from Mohamed Kheider University of Biskra.



What is typical for your country?

Algeria's economy is based primarily on oil and natural gas. The nation has the world's fifth-largest reserves of natural gas and is the second-largest exporter. It also has the fourteenth-largest reserves of oil.

What things make you proud to be Algerian?

I am so proud being Algerian. I am proud because I belong to this amazing country, a country of pride and dignity. Algeria has numerous natural resources and awesome landscapes. I am so lucky to be part of those people who are always ready to sacrifice for their nation's freedom and they help each other whenever someone needs help.

What are stereotypes you often hear and are they true?

Foreigners stereotype Algerians as they have an unconditional love to their home country. And that is so true because of the country fighting for the independence during the French colonization.

Your ultimate tip when visiting your country/city?

Algeria is really a beautiful country to visit; From the faded grandeur of colonial buildings, to Roman ruins, unspoiled sea views, rolling hills, silent deserts and snow-capped mountains, it's a country that is ripe for exploring, and a lovely people to deal with. So when you decide to visit Algeria, get yourself a local SIM card for internet data. WIFI is very limited, there are few cafes with wifi and if you are staying in a hotel it won't be fast, even the high end business hotels don't have the kind of wifi speeds you may be used to. The bonus of having data on your phone is that it will enable you to use an app like Google maps – with lack of printed maps and guidebooks available this is your sure fire way to get around, and it means you can do things like check currency rates, train times etc, especially if language isn't your strong point.

You will encounter French and Arabic so either brush up on these languages (if you can!) or be prepared to communicate with hands or seek out someone who can help you who speaks English. Mostly broken English is spoken, but some people speak fluently and others just won't speak it at all.

What policies were set by the government to contain the Covid19-virus?

The Algerian authorities decided to take precautionary measures to tighten restrictions on travel and movement to contain the outbreak of the Coronavirus, after the country recorded a high number of infected cases.

It has been announced a ban on traffic to and from and the 19 states that are most affected by the outbreak of Corona virus, and the ban includes private cars. In addition to banning public and private transportation on the weekend only, with intensive sterilization of the streets and markets several times a day, and deporting doctors of suspended institutions to work in exchange for material rewards if necessary.

And granting licenses to all government and private laboratories to conduct analyzes on "Covid-19", to relieve pressure on the Pasteur Institute and its annexes in the states, and to strengthen the capabilities of the permanent stock of examination and detection tools and oxygen and follow it daily at the level of each state.

Were there a lockdown in your country? What did/do you in this time?

Yes, there were a lockdown for 4 months (April-July). At that time I was learning new skills and taking different online courses to enhance my existed knowledge because we had a large time.

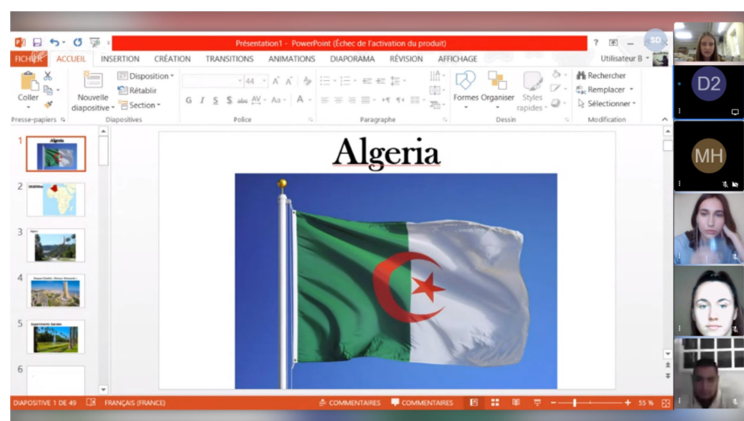
How has your daily life changed since the outbreak of the pandemic?

In my normal day, I woke up early to catch the bus going to university, after school I went home and made the required workhouse and study assignments. But the outbreak of the Corona-virus brings so much difference to our lives, we stopped going to schools, universities, institutions and carried lessons online.

How spend young people their freetime in your country?

Young people in my country spend their freetime according to each one's interests and talents. Some practice their favourite sports especially football, others prefer to enjoy expressing their talents like; drawing, singing,...etc. there are other activities young people like to do like : learning foreign languages, reading, ...etc.

Although the lack of opportunities and plans to encourage young people in Algeria to spend their free time usefully, they are so talented and ambitious to lead their country to the best.



Resume

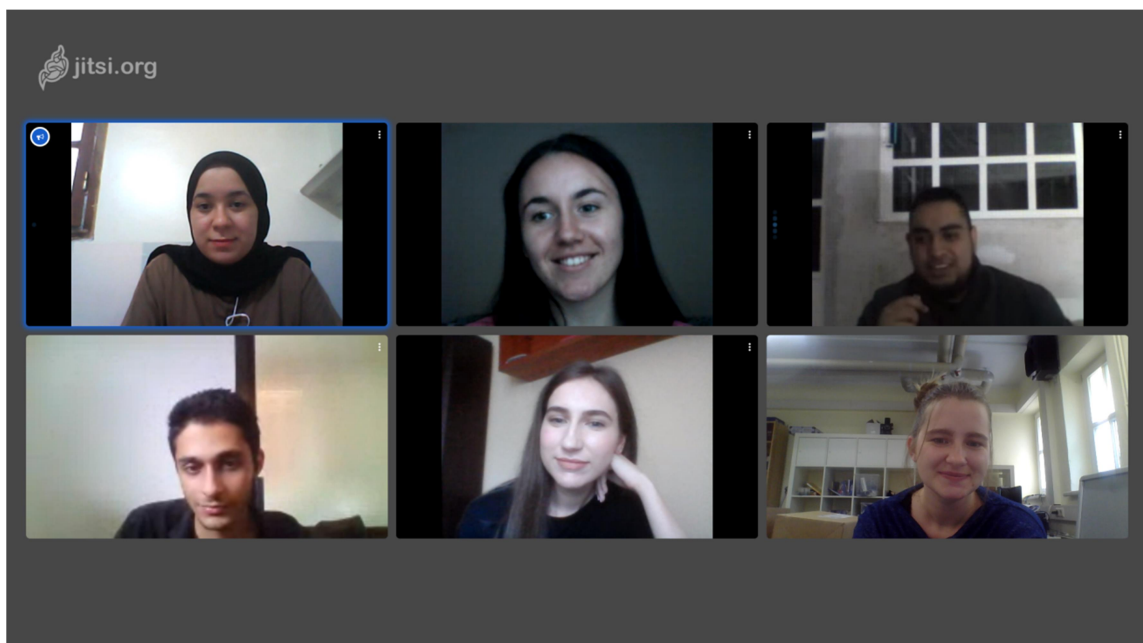
For two weeks the participants of the digital workcamp „A look into the world“ met every two days to exchange about their countries, cities and daily lifes. We started the meetings everytime with a specific question to get to know each other better. Now we know that Mohammad would like to meet Warren Buffet, Najoua would be a cat if she was an animal, Marina can't live without breakfast, Alina would like to visit Rome and Chuchos guilty pleasure is to...we better won't publish it here.

In the different meetings we learned about the cultures of our participants, delicious foods from their countries, got exclusive tips for visiting and talked about the different situations during this years pandemic. Even though the technic was not always on our side we made it.

At the end of every meeting we did little activities together. So e.g. we draw some self-portraits or did jumping jacks together. A common playlist was created with songs from the different countries and recipes were exchanged. We talked about volunteering and dreamed about a real life meeting, when the situation will allow it again to travel.

In our last meeting we evaluated the past two weeks. The positive feedback and also the critics will influence the next possible digital workcamps that will be offered by Servicestelle Internationale Jugendarbeit Oberspreewald-Lausitz. In times of social distancing and extraordinary policies we had the chance to get in contact, exchange and build connections to other young people in the world.

We are thankful for this opportunity and hope to get the chance to meet again at another time and place!



Special thanks to those interested, funny and just georgous young people that bring this digital workcamp to life and let us get a look into their worlds!

Thank you Alina, Chucho, Marina, Mohammad and Najoua!

