

UWC short course „Acting for Peace“ in Imst in August 2014

My name is Clemens Zoller, 16 years old, from Innsbruck, Austria and I participated in the UWC summer course, which took place in Imst in August 2014.

It was a multinational mix of young people learning, laughing, crying, playing, exploring, exercising, joking and experiencing many more things together, which contributed a lot to becoming a big UWC family, even though we just spent two weeks together. But it is not a „normal“ friendship we share. It is not about everyone knows how many siblings some people have. No, it was just knowing, no matter what would happen we would trust each other in any kind of situation no matter how hard, painful or exhausting it would be. We were there for each other if someone became sick because of the sometimes really brusque weather of Imst, we discussed issues we learned about peace and how to transform conflicts as well as possible during morning sessions, for hours.

Meeting and learning from all those inspiring people from all over Europe, the Middle East and Northern Africa was just one of the most wonderful experiences I have ever made in my live. But to quote Mr. Wolfgang Dietrich, the UNESCO chair holder for Peace Studies: “We do not make experiences, experiences make us”. And that kind of describes how I still feel about the course right now. I feel that this experience became a part of my personality and “made” me in a way.

Clemens