

Date: May 14, 2009
Time: 19.30h – 21.30h
Place: Meisjeshuis, Delft City Centre

Topics of conversation/debate:

Globalisation

All over the world, you may find a McDonalds. A US firm, it represents a world that is becoming one. There are many more examples: Apple and Microsoft and Windows being household terms the world over; French and Korean cars being produced in Bratislava; Adidas and Nike doing the same with sport shoes in Asia.

European integration

All this implies movement: Goods move (causing much pollution); money moves (less visible, but with great effect); people move (to where jobs are, to study, for recreation). Crossing borders as many of these movements do, it's up to the European Union to manage them. After all, who else could look after health insurance for migrant workers and make car producers observe common safety standards?

Migration

People are moving, not only within the European Union - ten percent of the residents of the Republic of Ireland are from Central and Eastern Europe - but also from all over the world into the European Union. In this respect, Europe is becoming more like Australia, Canada and the US. With an aging population, immigration could be a blessing, but there are many tensions.

Which fatherland?

We call ourselves Dutch, English, Czech or Hungarians. However, what does a long-time UK resident from Poland call him- or herself? What does fatherland mean to the English teacher who has settled in France? What does is the identity of children from international marriages - sixteen percent of all marriages in the EU? Who are we who we live in the EU? In the US there is talk of Asian-Americans; German-Americans etc., etc. Are we Dutch-Europeans, Slovak-Europeans, or rather European Spaniards, European Germans?

The evening will take place at the 'Meisjeshuis' which is a beautiful location in the centre of Delft. The evening will be hosted by a circle of notables from Delft and neighbouring towns. The conversation/debate will be led by Professor A. Faludi of the Technical University of Delft. He will introduce himself, the topic and the students. The students will be asked to talk about their ideas and feelings regarding Europe.

Our aim is to have two students per partner school. This would amount to a total of 18 students from 6 different countries.