

## **EU+ 2017**

### **07-08 February 2017, Bacharach**

#### **Description of the 2017 event:**

“Junior Campus EU+” 2017, held on 7-8 February 2017 in Bacharach, involved 51 pupils from the Römerkastell High School in Alzey and the Frauenlob High School Mainz who slipped into the role of European Council members of the 28 member states of the European Union and the accession candidate Serbia. After being instructed in the rules of procedure in the Council by academic staff, the member states representatives gave introductory speeches on the position of their state before the accession candidate presented its proposal in the Council. In the following sessions and days the member states discussed intensively on prerequisites for accession and drafted an accession treaty, while they also gave interviews to the media, played by the teachers, and repeatedly had informal conversations within the Council, at the lunch or with Serbian representatives. During the simulation, which included a debriefing of the pupils, the young Europeans learned how the bodies of the European Union work, how to find compromises in negotiations that involve diverging interests and had a first-hand experience on EU decision-making. This initiative raised the interest of pupils in European integration, which will in the medium and long term also positively affect the demand for BA/MA programs and teaching in European Integration Studies. It also fostered the cooperation between universities and (secondary) schools which agreed to continue and intensify cooperation in the following years. The 2017 evaluation of “Junior Campus EU+” clearly indicates that the interest of the pupils towards European integration has been further strengthened and that, in addition, new friendships between pupils from different schools have emerged. In particular, the pupils mentioned that the two-day simulation has increased their understanding of the difficulties of accumulating diverging interests.