

“Winter School” project

Interview with Prof. Joachim Pabst

From the 6th to the 8th of March the second edition of the project “Winter School” took place in Rome at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, bringing together Italian and German students to deal with a variety of topics, aiming to foster cooperation among the students, knowledge of respective legal and economic institutions, mutual understanding of the main features of Italian, German and European legal orders and political institutions.

The German students have been trained and prepared for the project by Prof. Joachim Pabst and today we had the opportunity to meet and interview him. He is a German Constitutionalist and head professor of the students of the University of Public Administration for the State of North-Rhine Westphalia who joined us here in Rome to take part to the “Winter School” project.

Professor Pabst stated the importance of such project, giving students the opportunity to discuss international topics with Italian students, foster their skills in a second language and giving a strong international shape to their curriculum. We found out this was his first time participating to this project, but he was enthusiast and he’d love to participate again to this experience next year.

We then discussed about the rise of populist and extremist movements, both in Italy and Germany, in response to today’s economic and humanitarian crisis, the professor told us that unfortunately this problem seem to have found fertile ground in Germany, making these new parties look much more appealing to people’s minds.

Our final discussion interested the topic of the Italian and German Parliaments, and how they resemble and differ, stating that most of the times we have shared issues without even knowing it, for example the fact that way too commonly politicians are greatly detached from people’s perspectives, consequentially not feeling properly represented.

We ended the interview with the professor restating his excitement for having taken part to this project here in Rome and hoping to meet again next year, suggesting to deal with more European topics and maybe changing the location to Colone.

Rome, 8th of March 2017

By Tommaso Carloni