

## CIMADE Conference at the Lycée La Martinière Monplaisir on March 21st, 2018

On March 21st, 2018, we, the secondary school students from the Lycée La Martinière Monplaisir who are participating in the Erasmus + project, received a visit from Ms. Nessler, a CIMADE representative.

Before the intervention, Mr. PETOT gave an appraisal of the world migratory situation by presenting several figures, statistics and findings.

Ms. Nessler then went on to present the precise and legal definitions of the following terms: "foreigner", "migrant", "undocumented", "asylum seeker", "refugee" and "clandestine"; while adding details on each definition that drew from her experience within CIMADE. She then presented the legal possibilities that would allow a migrant to live within French territory (Visas, residence permits, the types of persecutions that qualify someone for refugee status ...).

We learned that the media's coverage is not always adapted to the reality of the facts: for example, journalists often present the undocumented as being people without any means, whereas they may have only missed their title stay; or immigrants are often portrayed as poor people who are unsuccessful, when in reality only the rich can emigrate.

In addition, we were all shocked by the many lengths taken by the French court to complicate the arrival and integration of foreigners in France. Indeed, emigrants almost never know what steps are necessary to stay in France. Much patience and perseverance is essential to build their files. For example, there are two types of Visas for entrance into France, but only one allows obtaining a residence permit, and it must be requested in the embassy of the country of origin and is very expensive.

Finally, in the case of France, the "country of human rights" this harsh reality often affects emigrants with full force. They realize that the dream life in France is utopian because emigrants returning to their families do not dare to denounce reality, for fear of dispelling a "myth".

To conclude, we would like to thank all the speakers from CIMADE, the teachers of the school, as well as the Erasmus + project which made this meeting possible. This intervention was a real pleasure, very informative, and particularly lively. We were invited to actively participate through questions and feelings about the session, by which we were pleasantly surprised.

Sincerely, students participating in the Erasmus + project