

**CLEVER** ERASMUS  
EUROPEAN UNION

Co-funded by  
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**“CLEVER” BERLIN**  
*Explore the Europe*

**Directions**  
Berlin: German Bundestag  
Magdeburg:  
The State Chancellery,  
The State of Parliament of Saxony-  
Anhalt  
Stendal: BSZ Stendal

**Activities**  
Visiting the institutions;  
Interviews with the representatives;  
Media workshops;  
Panel discussion "Migration and  
integration in Stendal";  
Cooking session.

# Democracy in Action: The CLEVER Project

Active participation, real institutions,  
and authentic civic experience

# International Exchange: 10–13 February 2026

## Berlin

German Bundestag, federal parliament, and national policy making

## Magdeburg

Regional government, state-level politics and administration

## Stendal

Local governance, community integration and public dialogue

Teams from six European countries collaborate to explore democracy, institutions, and civic participation across different governance levels.

# Building Active European Citizens

## Real Experience

Students engage directly with democratic institutions, moving beyond textbooks to witness how governance actually functions in practice.

## Understanding Participation

Through hands-on activities and institutional visits, participants learn how citizens can influence decisions and shape policies at multiple levels.



# Inside the German Bundestag

Students explored how Germany's federal parliament functions, learning about the role of political parties, the electoral system, and how coalition governments form and operate.

- Political parties and representation
- Election mechanics and thresholds
- Coalition building and negotiation



# Panel Discussion at the German Bundestag



Meeting with Marit von Graeve assistant to Franziska Kersten

- Students learned how laws are created in practice
- From political ideas to debates, committees and voting
- They understood how decisions are made and how institutions function
- They explored the role of representatives and democratic responsibility

# Following the Law-Making Process

## Proposal

Introduce the bill idea formally



## Parliamentary Debate

Discuss, amend, and argue merits



## Committee Review

Examine details and hearings



## Voting

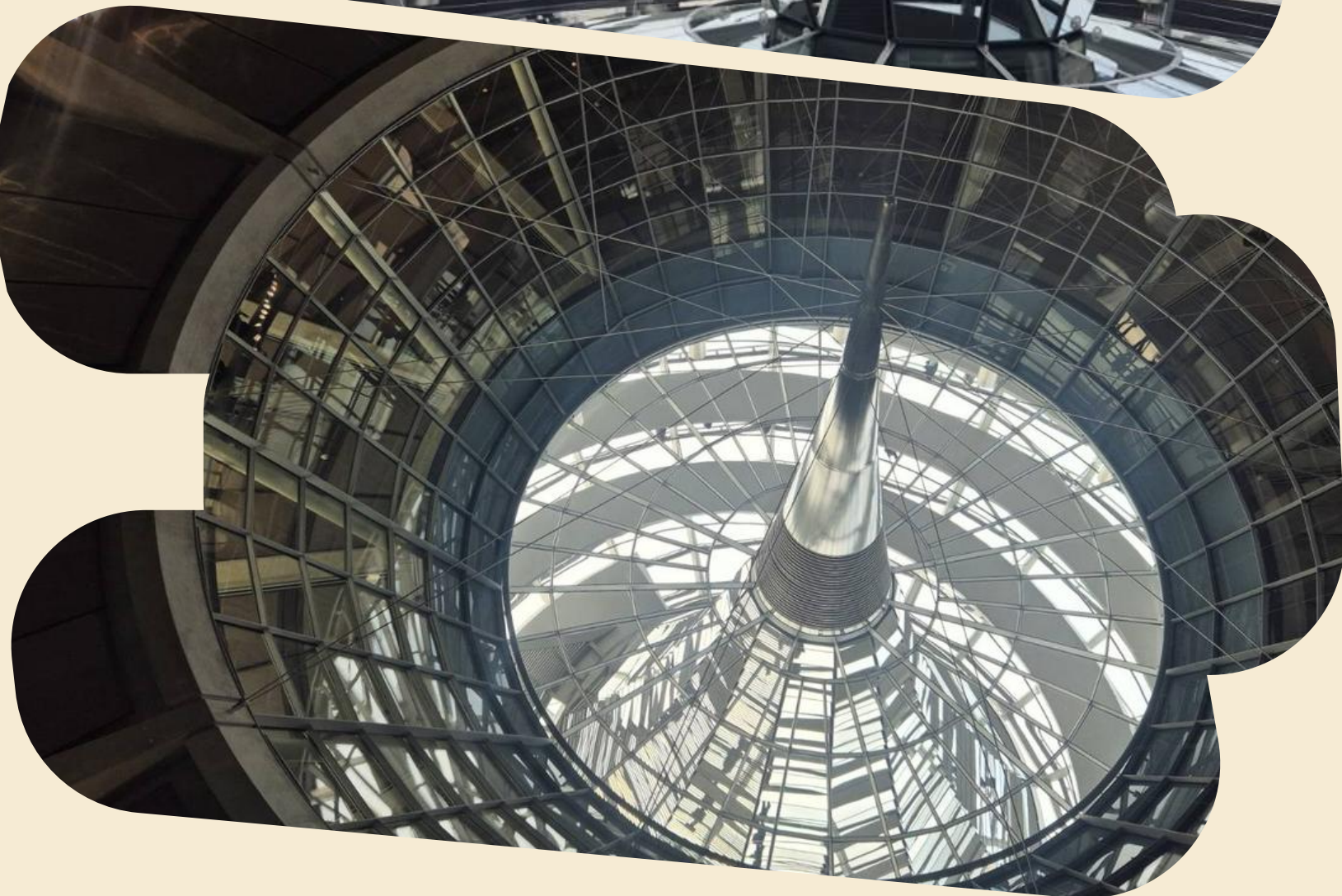
Final yes/no decision by members



# Transparency and Accountability

## The Bundestag Glass Dome

The iconic glass dome symbolizes democratic transparency, allowing citizens to observe parliamentary proceedings. Students learned how public oversight ensures accountability and builds trust in institutions.



# Afternoon Workshop: Fighting Misinformation



## Afternoon Workshop on Fake News and Hate Speech

Led by **Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe**

- Students developed media literacy and critical thinking
- They learned how to recognize misinformation and manipulation
- The workshop strengthened their ability to participate responsibly in a democratic society

# Street Interviews: Real Voices

## European Union

Understanding citizens' perspectives on EU integration and policies

## Migration

Exploring diverse viewpoints on integration and social challenges

## Democracy

Gathering opinions on civic participation and institutional trust



Students developed critical thinking and media literacy by conducting street interviews with citizens and tourists throughout Berlin.

# Regional Government: Magdeburg



## State Chancellery

Meeting with Dr. Jan Nissen to understand executive functions at the state level

## Landtag Saxony-Anhalt

Discussion with MP Juliane Kleemann about regional legislation and policy implementation

Students witnessed how policies are developed and executed at the regional level, connecting federal decisions to local impact.

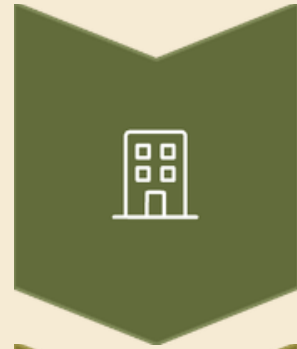
# Panel Discussion: Stendal

- **Mayor Bastian Sieler**  
Local government perspective on community integration
- **District Administrator Patrick Puhlmann**  
Regional policy coordination and resource allocation
- **Integration Coordinator Anna Henschen**  
Practical support programs for newcomers



Despite the focus on migration, democracy remained a core element. Students explored how democratic dialogue shapes solutions. They saw how institutions and citizens work together in decision making  
Students participated in real public discussion and defended their positions

# Key Outcomes: From Learning to Doing



## Institutional Understanding

How democratic systems function across federal, regional, and local levels



## Political Process Knowledge

Elections, party systems, coalition formation, and legislative procedures



## Critical Engagement

Media literacy, public dialogue, and active participation in civic life

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**Students didn't just learn about democracy - they practiced it.** Through direct engagement with institutions, citizens, and officials, they experienced how participation, dialogue, and responsibility create functioning democratic systems.