

The Euro Challenge was a wonderful voyage. As busy high school students it truly was a challenge fitting yet another item into our already cramped schedules in the months leading up to the regional competition in Chicago, but we found that the work was well worth it. Even though we didn't advance to the semi-finals in New York, we scored very highly, especially considering that this is the very first time our school has ever participated, and that we were the only team from an urban public school. And more important than whether we did or did not win, the experience was instructive and *fun*. In studying a specific issue faced by one of the countries using the euro, we improved our knowledge of general economics and grew more prepared for our future as adults in a global economy. Furthermore, we developed a sense of community with each other that broke out of the circles we had previously run in at school. Our team comprised five people who prior to the challenge only knew each other vaguely, but the months of preparation and finally the stay in Chicago made a dramatic change. The skills we developed in order to present a smooth presentation, the necessity of sharing hotel rooms, and the sense of being in a foreign (at least to us Madisonians) city, forged us into a strong and confident team with inseparable bonds and plenty of inside jokes that continue to show themselves after our return to our "regular" lives. In short, we wish to thank the organizers and especially our adult sponsors Bill Gibson and Csanád Siklós for inviting us to be the beta-testers for the EuroChallenge in Wisconsin, and would gladly recommend its continuation for future students' participation.

Anna Hipke-Krueger and Wilder Dietz, Madison East High 2010 Euro Challenge team members

Euro Challenge was naturally an enjoyable and bonding experience. I feel compelled to say that it was a learning experience as well. Euro Challenge is a competition occurring originally between schools from several states, however, it is to be expanded to encompass all of the American states. The competition was inspired by an in depth study of the economic influence the euro has as a currency on both Euro Area nations and non Euro Area nations. Our team was at first not quite motivated, and the process of gathering and using information started off slow. Some group members frequently missed preliminary meetings, but our sense of purpose involving the Euro Challenge became more sincere as the weeks progressed. We spent quite a bit of time questioning and often debating what the content of our presentation would be. Eventually, compromise was reached we put together what we felt to be a well-rounded presentation. I think we all did a great job and I want to thank our Euro Challenge team so much for the opportunity that we all made come alive.

Benjamin Esdaile, Madison East High 2010 Euro Challenge team member