Comenius – Human Rights Workshop

By Victoria Steckhan

On Friday 5th December 2014, we the members of the Comenius Project gathered at the Dialogue Room of the ESK to take part in the Human Rights Workshop. We students presented our completed work on the topic of cyber safety and Prof. Dr. Olásolo (the Chair on International Criminal Law and Procedure and Director of Law clinic on Conflict, Human Rights and International Justice) presented a PowerPoint on Human Rights. This workshop was very important for our project, and it opened our eyes to the plight of people who are not as privileged as us.

The members of the Comenius Project showed their presentations on social networks to Prof. Dr. Olásolo. They contained information on the different social networks, their use and their dangers. Part of one of the presentations told the story of Amanda Todd, a girl who fell victim to cyber bullying. After our presentations it was Prof. Dr. Olásolo’s turn.

Prof. Dr. Olásolo’s presentation was more about world problems than on social networks. He talked about the world’s largest industries not having a good impact on the world. Some of these include money-handling, the oil industry, the pharmaceutical industry (involved in preventing, not curing diseases because selling cures doesn’t make as much money), the weapons industry, the computing industry (finally, a good one!), the drugs industry and the sex industry.

Looking at all this you feel sorry for the world. You think: The world would be a much better place without human beings destroying and corrupting the planet, surely? What have we ever done for the world?

The presentation continued. The professor moved on to the situation in his home country: Colombia. He told us how armed groups were terrorizing and occupying much of the country. He also spoke about the unfair distribution of land and money, how only 50 families own a large percentage of Colombia’s land, and how few people have secure jobs where they get paid over 400$ per month. This made us all feel very privileged to be living in a safe country.
This talk was extremely important to our project, and we were honoured to have been present at it.