

## **SUPERSCHOOLS SUPERSTUDENT SPEECH**

Sarah:

The beginning of the first Superschools exchange made me aware of the aquarium I hadn't realized I'd spent my whole life living in. It seems a little ridiculous, right? In this time where the world seems more connected than ever, how can we be isolated? We knew about the problems happening around the world, but in doing so, we had forgotten our home, our region. We had forgotten to connect with the young people in the Western Balkans.

Jaksa: Before I took part in the Superschools exchange, I was told "Be careful, it's not safe there"

Sarah: And I was told "Why not go to Germany instead"

Jaksa: I was even told not to speak my language openly in the street

Sarah: or even... "Why would you even want to be friends with them?!"

Jaksa: But we were not aware of the power we have as young people. If the first exchange opened our eyes to the glass walls of our worlds, the second blew them away.

Sarah: I was more than safe, it felt like home...

Jaksa: For a friend of mine this was the first time he ever needed a passport

Sarah: I met a wonderful friend

Jaksa: it changed my life,

Both: our lives!

Sarah:

Together. What does it mean for the Western Balkans to be together? What would it mean for us to look past our differences and focus on our similarities?

Jaksa:

Well, It would mean new, diverse perspectives. It would mean increased mobility for everyone through the region. It would mean understanding, and most crucially, cooperation. The road toward this future is not easy, but it leads to an important destination. There is no better time to do it, and no one more determined than the young people of the Western Balkans.

Sarah: Yet, motivated as we are, we are not all-powerful. You can't do this without us, and we can't do it without you.

So open your mind. Look around you. Hear us out. And pay attention... because we need more opportunities to meet each other, fewer barriers to travel, more empowerment... we need more Superschools.

Both: Together.

Thank you!

