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General presentation

In 2016 the Intercultural Institute finished several of the projects initiated in the previous years and continued other major projects. Thus, for instance, the activities regarding Roma integration, education for a democratic citizenship, human rights education or those supporting migrant integration and civic participation, were continued.

Besides its involvement in the different projects described hereinafter, the Intercultural Institute also continued its collaboration with the Council of Europe, in activities related mainly to Roma issues, but also to intercultural education and education for a democratic citizenship, as well as its participation in different European and international networks and partnerships.

In the name of the whole team, I want to thank all our partners, collaborators and volunteers who have been involved in our activities.

Călin Rus

Director

Intercultural education and education for a democratic citizenship

Project Citizen

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara has been coordinating the activities of the CIVITAS International Network in Romania since 2002, the most important activity being the implementation the Project Citizen methodology in schools, during civic education classes.

Project Citizen (www.intercultural.ro/citizen) is an innovative method of civic education teaching, based on the study of a problem in the local community which implies a public policy and which is chosen to be studied by pupils. It is implemented in Romania on the basis of a Collaboration Protocol with the Ministry of Education and Research, no. 40506, signed on the 27th of October 2004. In conformity with the provisions of the partnership agreement with the Ministry and in partnership with the County Teachers' Houses (Casa Corpului Didactic) of several counties in Romania, the training course for teachers who teach civic education in secondary schools was accredited, in order to successfully apply the Project Citizen method. The project is very much appreciated by the teachers who use this method and especially by the pupils who benefit from it. The pupils using this method are placed in the situation to interact with local public institutions and with their representatives, with public servants and local elected figures, as well as other public structures and civil society structures in their community, acquiring thus not only knowledge about the functioning of the democratic system but also communication skills, which are very useful in order to become active and responsible citizens.

From 2013, due to the lack of financial resources, the IIT was only able to maintain sporadic contacts with some County Teachers' Houses delivering accredited courses for the implementation of the methodology.

In 2015 a new project was initiated, aiming at preparing the re-launching of the program in a partnership with the Romanian-American Foundation, by providing an assessment of the impact of the ten years of activity and of the current potential of Project Citizen and by developing a strategic plan for the next five years in consultations with the key stakeholders at local and national levels. The project was structured based on GROW methodology, by advancing towards the achievement of the *Goal* of designing an effective and sustainable civic education program based on Project Citizen methodology through an analysis of the current *Reality*, the identification of the *Opportunities* that the methodology is offering, of the *Obstacles* faced in its implementation and of the main *Options* for further development, which will be the basis for identifying the *Way forward*. Thus, an impact assessment report was elaborated through the cooperation of IIT staff with an independent external evaluator and a strategic development plan was produced based on the results of a consultation process with the key stakeholders.

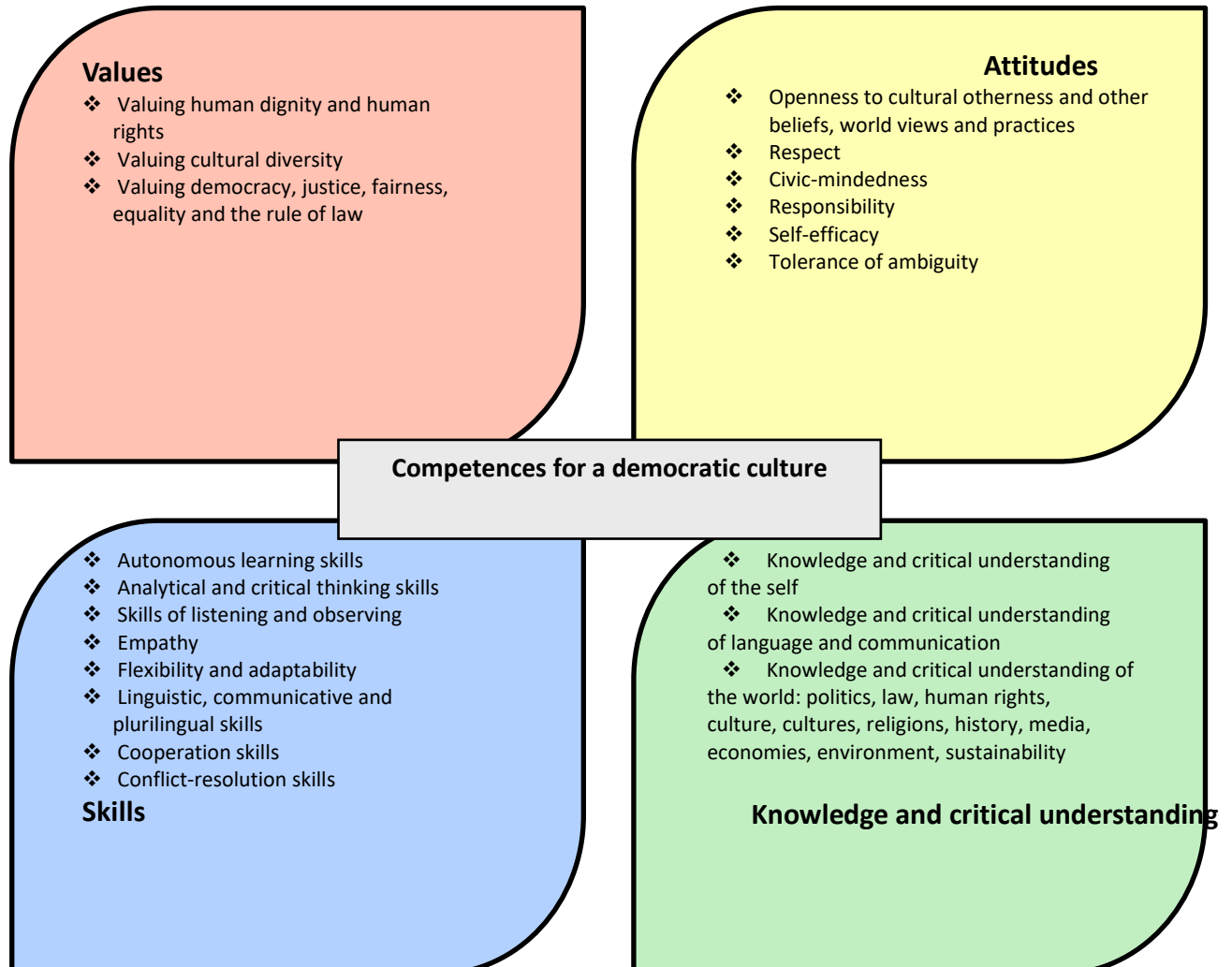
The four strategic development directions that were defined as a result of the project are:

1. Updating the Project Citizen methodology, focusing on maintaining its accessibility for all students and on making it compatible with ICT use.

2. Creating a comprehensive support system – handbook and guidelines for teachers, online platform for visibility and communication, web application, non-competitive incentive packages for schools, teachers and students.
3. Training courses for teachers.
4. An efficient management system, support and monitoring.

Competences for a democratic culture

In 2015, the Education Department of the Council of Europe worked to develop a new framework of reference for democratic and intercultural competences that citizens need in order to contribute to a society characterized by democratic culture, in which cultural diversity is respected and adequately managed. This competence framework was built on existing competence models that had been developed by the Council of Europe and by other organisations or on the results of the research in the field of social sciences. The competence model developed within this project includes values, attitudes, skills and knowledge and critical understanding. The model has a structure of 20 different components that need to be acquired by learners.



A set of descriptors was also developed to be used for designing and implementing educational activities for the development of competences, as well as for assessing learners. A descriptor is a statement or a description of something that a learner is able to do if they have acquired a particular component. In order to establish the usefulness of these descriptors, several questionnaires were elaborated in several European languages in order to test the extent to which the descriptors could be matched with the components which they were intended to assess. Also, each descriptor was evaluated individually using four criteria: clarity, concreteness, whether it can be observed in an educational setting and the level of education at which it is most useful to assess it.

The Intercultural Institute coordinated the testing process of the competence descriptors. This process took place between June and December 2015 through a set of 33 online questionnaires available in 12 languages. We received 1236 answers to these questionnaires from teaching staff or other professionals in the field of education from almost all European countries.

On the basis of the testing carried out by the Intercultural Institute, in 2016 the Council of Europe continued to develop the framework of reference for the competences necessary for a democratic culture, including by piloting the competence descriptors and elaborating support materials for teachers. With the support of the Intercultural Institute, 6 questionnaires were created in 12 languages, containing the 559 descriptors; these questionnaires have been administered in schools by teachers who had been trained in using the questionnaires. The processing of the data will be done in 2017.

In December 2016 IIT hosted in Timișoara the reunion of the Council of Europe Working Group on Competences for a Democratic Culture. On this occasion, the evolution of the competence descriptor piloting process was analyzed and the presentation of results was planned within the Conference of Ministers of Education from Council of Europe member states which will take place in March 2017 in Cyprus.

Details are available at www.coe.int/competences or at <http://competence.intercultural.ro>.

Teacher training in the field of intercultural education

Just like in the previous years, in 2016 the Intercultural Institute was involved in several actions aiming at developing the competences of teachers of various disciplines to integrate an intercultural approach in their teaching activity.

Thus, the Intercultural Institute continued its collaboration with the Timis County Teachers' House mainly by providing an accredited intercultural education training course to the teachers in the county.

On the 7th and 8th of October 2016, the Intercultural Institute organized in Timisoara a work meeting in order to discuss, analyse and complete several content elements that are to be included in an intercultural education guide addressed to practitioners in the field of education in Romania. Within the project “Intercultural Education Guide for Trainers and Teaching Staff”, co-financed by the Department for Inter-ethnic relations within the General Secretariat of the Romanian Government, 25 teachers and teacher trainers from Romania discussed about concepts such as cultural diversity, intercultural relations, multiculturalism, interculturalism, transculturalism, views on culture, constructivism, stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination, hate pyramid, intercultural education, intercultural competences; they contributed with ideas regarding the content of the guide so that it would answer as best as possible to their needs and analysed practical examples of intercultural activities that could be applied in the classroom or during training sessions.

Migration

Romanian Centre for Migration Research

The League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADO) Cluj, in partnership with the Intercultural Institute Timisoara and the Romanian Center for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM) are implementing between December 2016 and December 2018 the project entitled “Romanian Centre for Migration Research”, financed through the National Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (FAMI/16.01.01).

The project aims to create a new conceptual framework for documentation and information and new research tools to study the integration processes of beneficiaries of international protection (BP) and third country nationals (TCN) in the Romanian society by creating the Romanian Centre for Migration Research – RCMR.

The main target group of the project is represented by:

- Beneficiaries of a form of protection (BP) in Romania (refugees, subsidiary protection, temporary protection);
- Immigrants in general;
- Public institutions with responsibilities in the field of migration.

The secondary target group of the project is represented by:

- Experts in public institutions: Ministry of Education (County School Inspectorates), Ministry of Labor (County Employment Agencies, city halls, County Agencies for Payments and Social Inspection), Ministry of Health (Health Insurance Institutions), the National Authority for citizenship, selected to support the elaboration, completion and updating of the database and platform and the research planned in this project;
- Specialists, Master and PhD students in 5 Faculties in Bucharest, Cluj, Timisoara, Iasi, constantly involved in the research process in order to support the elaboration/updating of the database and platform, selected from the following fields: sociology, law, political sciences, economics, psychology, IT, etc.;
- Volunteers in the 5 migration regions of Romania, recruited from the staff involved in integration project implementation or local public institutions with responsibilities in the field of immigrant integration;
- Representatives of public authorities prepared to train the staff in institutions, NGOs, other relevant actors in using the integration measurement platform;
- The database will be accessed for study purposes and the experts in central and local public institutions will use the database for documentation, analysis and support in the

elaboration of sectorial and transversal reports, local, regional and national strategies of immigrant integration;

- Universities in Romania (Bucharest, Cluj, Constanta, Iasi, Timisoara) that participate in the project through their institutes or researchers involved in the project and at least 5 other universities, researchers or public institutions with competences in the field of migration, involved as partners supporting the project implementation;
- Universities and Research Institutes in the European Union through the English language communication platform;
- National and international mass-media;
- Romanian and foreign students, including Master and PhD students, through the site containing relevant information in English and Romanian;
- NGOs in Romania interested in the field.

The main activities and results of the project are:

- Create the Romanian Centre for Migration Research, respectively 5 active research branches in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Constanta, Iasi and Timisoara;
- Create a network of volunteers in the research field;
- Create a platform for the measurement of the integration level of BP and TCN;
- Create a database on integration which should generate statistics;
- Train staff in public institutions to use the platform;
- Ensure project visibility through: posters and leaflets, project site, travel and international conferences, press publications (articles, interviews, etc.), press releases, etc.

Migrant mediators for intercultural cities

This mobility project was financed by the European Commission through the Erasmus + programme and focused on good practice exchanges in the field of intercultural mediation. The aim of the project was to support the process of migrant integration in Romania. This was achieved by developing the competences and capacity of the national network of intercultural mediators, created four years before, together with a team of trainers in adult education. Thus, at the end of 2015 (November-December), a team of 20 people – mediators and trainers – were involved in a 5 day mobility in Imola, Italy, to take part in a course on the topic of intercultural mediation and visit several organizations in the area, active in the field of migrant integration.

The activity aimed to develop several competences of the 20 participants:

- a better capacity to carry out successful intercultural mediation processes;
- knowledge of the intercultural mediation model in Italy;

- knowledge of the Intercultural Cities programme;
- confidence in their capacity to have a positive impact in community;
- inspiration and enthusiasm about their activity as intercultural mediators, respectively trainers in adult education;
- intercultural competences;
- skills in transferring the gained knowledge, dissemination methods.

The project continued in 2016, when the mobility participants organized local dissemination meetings in Timisoara, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Constanta. These meetings were aimed at sharing the knowledge acquired within the intercultural mediation training course with other stakeholders interested in migrant integration (migrants, migrant organizations, public institutions or NGOs) and promoting the Intercultural Cities Programme and starting an analysis of their own cities seen through the intercultural lenses.

As a result of keeping the network of intercultural mediators active in Romania and developing it professionally, which was accomplished through this project, several mediators were contacted and employed by other NGOs implementing migrant integration projects, which contributes, in the medium and long term, both to the network's sustainability and to the fluidization of the migrant integration process and the continuation of the consultation activities supported by our organization in recent years.

Intercultural mediation training at regional level

The trainer team of the Intercultural Institute Timisoara carried out in the second half of the year 2016 intercultural mediation courses contracted by the International Organization for Migration in the cities of Timisoara, Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca and by the Centre for Civic Resources Constanta, in Constanta, in the framework of migrant integration projects co-financed by the European Union through the National Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, annual programme 2015, managed in Romania by the General Immigration Inspectorate.

The courses were delivered for the intercultural mediators selected within the respective projects, some of whom were already part of the network of intercultural mediators in Romania, initiated by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara and strengthened through the projects implemented by our organization in recent years. These courses exploited the experience acquired by the trainers who had participated in the project “Migrant Mediators for Intercultural Cities”.

NICeR – A new approach to refugee integration at local level

The aim of the project is to elaborate a new approach to the integration of refugees at local level and to foster greater respect towards refugees, starting from young individuals and through their cultural and local integration, without forgetting the awareness-raising among the local population.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- identify, develop, test and evaluate an innovative approach towards integration, including an active interaction between refugees and the local population in the host communities: building a common project together at the urban community level;
- encourage a stronger active participation of young refugees in the cultural life of the host community; tighten contacts between refugees and non-refugees;
- develop the young refugees' capacity to communicate with the local community and become part of it; facilitate the study of the refugee issue through a cultural dialogue at the local level as well as intercultural workshops bringing together refugees and non-refugees;
- change some mentalities and the opinion of civil society towards refugees, in particular among young people, by using new awareness-raising tools;
- stimulate a greater awareness in the media and schools and inside the local community as regards refugees;
- identify and promote good practices focusing on the local integration of refugees in Europe.

In 2016, the activities carried out within the project by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara were mainly focused on:

- elaborating an intercultural communication guide that will be used in 2017 by the local teams of the project partners within and beyond the project;
- coordinating the elaboration of a collection of good practice examples in the field of refugee integration at local level;
- contributing to the creation of tools to monitor and evaluate the success of the artistic activities carried out in 2017 within the project.

More information about the project: <http://nicerproject.eu/en/>

Culture and tourism

Cultural bridges for the sustainable development of micro-region Ținutul Pădurenilor – Țara Hațegului

The project, implemented between 2015 and 2016 by the Centre for Rural Assistance Foundation, in collaboration with Kaos Pilots Switzerland and the Intercultural Institute Timisoara, aims at offering an open framework for dialogue and facilitation, contributing thus to the increase of the capacity of the local communities in this micro-region to promote and exploit the natural and cultural heritage resources as vital factors for a sustainable economic, social, ecologic and cultural development.

The integrated and participative approach of the project is based on:

- the transfer of know-how and good practice, exchange of experience and training, from the Swiss partner towards the Romanian partners and stakeholders who want to get involved in the community facilitation process for sustainable development;
- mapping the natural, cultural and connected resources and promoting them at national and international level through an initial activity of information collection and analysis, a vast online platform – interactive website, a mobile phone application and touristic map, as well as through events to promote the cultural identity of the micro-region;
- the creation of an association for the promotion of the natural and cultural heritage assets, extremely rich and diverse in this area, ensuring thus the commitment and participation of all stakeholders interested in the sustainable development of the micro-region;
- the elaboration, through involvement, consultation and dialogue, of a Strategy on culture and cultural tourism and a marketing and branding Plan that should contribute in a harmonious and sustained way to the development and promotion of a diversified touristic offer positioning this micro-region in the top of the touristic destinations in Romania.

At the end of this project, the micro-region will have a better national and international visibility, a more cohesive and active community, making sure that the future generations have a chance to a better life in their home town/city/village.

Inclusion and Participation

Be:In (Inclusive participation : best practice sharing and networking)

The project Be:In started in the autumn of 2016 and has a duration of two years. It aims at exchanging good practices and creating a network between municipalities and non-profit organisations on the topic of inclusive participation, defined as the participation of people with fewer opportunities.

The direct target group is represented by elected people, or staff in non-profit organisations and local authorities working on citizenship participation.

The indirect target group is represented by the citizens, especially those who usually don't participate.

This project was born as a result of the fact that today, in most of the European countries, we observe:

- A weakness in the results of the participative process implemented by the local authorities
- A scepticism towards public authorities, at local, national or European level
- The participants are not representative of the "common" inhabitants : very often they are committed citizens, political activists and very few are people with less opportunities, or social problems. The reason for that could be their lack of interest in public issues and local authorities. However, some municipalities implement successful innovative tools.

Thus, the aim of the project is to strengthen participation of the citizens with fewer opportunities, in order to make their voice heard, and/or act locally to improve the standards of living together. It aims at capacity building and empowerment of people who usually don't participate.

Objectives:

- To develop a cooperation between the partners on inclusive participation
- To strengthen the skills of the people who work on citizenship participation projects.

Among the activities carried out in the framework of the project we can mention: European meetings, learning mobilities, exchange of good practices and elaboration of a compendium of good practices, assessment and dissemination of the project.

The partners of the project are:

P1 : Municipality of Billère / France

P2 : Comune di Silvi / Italy

P3 : Vulcan municipality / Romania

P4 : Gulbene municipality / Latvia

P5 : The Society of Polish Town Planners, Wroclaw Division / Poland

P6 : Municipality of Istiea – Aedipsos / Greece

P8 : Intercultural Institute of Timisoara / Romania

P9 : Municipality of Saillans / France

MOOC4EU

MOOC 4 EU is a project that started in 2016 and aims at offering a space to facilitate intercultural dialogue and promote civic engagement by improving structured dialog between different groups (migrants, national minorities), on the one hand, and local, regional, national and European representatives, on the other hand. It also aims at strengthening the knowledge of minority groups regarding European citizenship and their rights as European citizens.

The objectives of the project are:

- to strengthen European citizenship
- to promote civic engagement at European level
- to create a debate among minorities regarding the future of Europe
- to improve the knowledge of minorities regarding Europe and European citizenship
- to transfer knowledge through MOOC and reach a wide audience.

The different problems identified as a result of the dialogue with minorities will be included in an official document that will be submitted to the European Commission in the framework of a future advocacy activity.

One of the project activities is to carry out spontaneous interviews in order to introduce the reflection on Europe and European citizenship. Thus, authentic answers given by members of minority groups regarding their knowledge and opinions on Europe will be collected. These interviews will contribute to the introduction of future debates between minorities and their representatives but also to the creation of the videos that will make up the MOOC (massive open online courses).

Youth

Consultancy Council on Youth Issues Timisoara

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is an active member within the youth public consultation structure of Timisoara. IIT was one of the founding members of the Consultancy Council on Youth Issues, which is a consultative structure without legal personality which functions on the basis of a structured dialogue regarding the elaboration and monitoring of public policy application in the field of youth at local level. At present the CCYIT is coordinated by the Timisoara City Hall and has periodical consultancy meetings.

Youth Express Network

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is an active member within the European youth network on social inclusion. IIT, through Mirela Lupu, has had the Presidency of the network since 2015. In 2016, IIT facilitated the meeting of the Board of Directors which took place in Timisoara in July 2016 and has been a partner within the international youth projects coordinated by the network in the period 2016-2017.

ISOLAT – breaking frontiers!

This Erasmus + project was coordinated by the Centre du Theatre de l'Opprime Augusto Boal in Paris and aimed to develop forum theatre as a non-formal learning method but also as a social intervention method. By promoting and developing this method, the project supported values such as equality, social cohesion and active citizenship, as it contributed to the development of competences in the educational and socio-educational field with a view to gaining and strengthening these values.

The project was implemented by a partnership made up of organizations from France, Italy, Romania, Madeira, Palestine and is implemented between February 2015 and May 2016.

At the end of April and beginning of May 2015, the project team members took part in a training course focused on the implementation of the forum theatre method, organized in Madeira. This initiation training was followed by another session that took place in Genova, Italy, meant to develop and strengthen the knowledge and skills related to forum theatre. The two training courses were

provided by the project coordinator, Centre du Theatre de l'Opprime Augusto Boal Paris, which has a 20 year experience in promoting and developing this method.

After taking part in the training, each partner worked with young people to develop a forum theatre play on a topic of interest for the young participants. IIT worked with 5 high-school students and on the 25th of October presented two plays on the stage of the Hungarian Theatre in Timisoara, under the common title "Do Not Touch Me!". The chosen topics were violence in schools and discrimination.

In 2016, the project activities were evaluated and plans were made to continue implementing this type of activities within other projects developed by the Intercultural Institute.

As a result of this project, throughout the year 2016 the forum theatre play created within the Isolat project was presented several times locally in Timisoara and was included in a separate project, dedicated to forum theatre in youth work, entitled "Take Action!"

Take Action!

Implemented between May and November 2016, this project was developed by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara in partnership with the Timis County Teacher Training Institution and Casa Plai Association (through the Ambasada Cultural Centre) and co-financed by the Municipality of Timisoara and Timisoara Local Council.

The aim of the project was to increase the capacity of high-school students and teachers in Timisoara to constructively formulate their needs regarding the problems they face.

The pursued objectives were:

- To promote a new cultural offer (forum theatre) among at least 800 high-school students and teachers in Timisoara
- To develop transversal competences (leadership, communication, artistic expression, etc.) among at least 50 high-school students and teachers in Timisoara
- To facilitate dialogue among students, among teachers and between teachers and students on topics that are relevant for them, in at least 10 high-schools in Timisoara
- To create a critical mass of students and teachers interested in forum theatre and competent in using the method
- To stimulate the involvement of at least 800 students and teachers in community life in Timisoara.

A "tour" was organized within the project in 10 Timisoara high schools with the forum theatre performance "Do Not Touch Me!", created in the framework of Isolat project, implemented in partnership with Théâtre de l'Opprimé of Paris, opening a debate on violence and discrimination

in school. A demonstrative workshop was also organised in each high school, for students and teachers alike, during which participants had the opportunity to experiment themselves some of the activities used in building a forum theatre play. Following the 10 performances and 10 workshops a new group of students and teachers interested in forum theatre was brought together to develop, during 30 hours of intensive work, a new forum theatre play. This new show was entitled “Haț!” and was presented in November 2016 at Ambasada Cultural Centre, triggering a debate on the topic of drug consumption among students and the teachers’ need to contribute effectively to solving the problem.

The project was much appreciated within the FITT (Timis County Youth Foundation) Gala 2016, being presented with two awards:

- The award for the best project in the field of community involvement for the year 2016 in the Timis county
- The award for the best youth initiative for the year 2016 in the Timis county.

Forum theatre is an interactive theatre method that invites the public to develop and express their own ideas to solve the conflicts presented in the play. The specificity of forum theatre is the fact that it eliminates “the fourth wall” which separates the audience from the stage, transforming thus the passive audience in an acting audience as an active subject of the show, in an attempt to overcome the barriers between the communicator and the receiver of the message. From this perspective the role of the public is fundamental: they are invited to actively participate in the event on stage, transforming it with their own ideas and suggestions. Once, twice, ten times, the protagonists and the antagonists, the actors and the public search together for alternative solutions to the initial conflict.

The interest of the Intercultural Institute Timisoara in using the forum theatre method and other artistic methods for community interventions will also continue in 2017.

Preocuparea Institutului Intercultural Timișoara pentru a folosi metoda teatru forum și alte metode artistice pentru intervenții comunitare va continua și în anul 2017.

Human rights start with breakfast! Empower youth through human rights education

The main aim of the project implemented between 2015 and 2017 is to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations that work with young people from Romania, Italy, France, Denmark, Peru and Guyana to develop an effective, coherent, inclusive and sustainable framework for promoting and using human rights education. The project partners are: EIVA Association (Arad, Romania), Peruvian Institute for Human Rights and Peace Education (Lima, Peru), REDU (Florence, Italy), CEMEA Reunion (Reunion Island), InterStep (Aalborg, Denmark), Youth Challenge Guyana (Georgetown, Guyana). The project is financed through the Erasmus Plus Programme, Key Action 2 – Capacity Building for Youth

The objectives of the project are:

- To develop competences in human rights education for 30 youth workers from the partner organisations
- To develop basic competences in human rights for 300 young persons from the partner organisations
- To increase the cooperation at local and regional level between different stakeholders (schools/NGOs and community)
- To promote active citizenship and human rights values
- To increase the personal and professional development for 6 youths from Peru during 7 months of international volunteering
- To create an interactive, user friendly and accessible platform for human rights education

The overall project objectives are to invest in local youth workers that will become multipliers in their communities and will generate local activities that will involve more young people. The methodology developed for the training course for the youth workers in the field of Human Rights education will be easy to use also by others actors in the field of education and this will increase the competences of young people to become promoters of human rights. Human rights education implies transversal competences that contribute to the professional growth of the youth workers. By participating in this project, all the partners will increase their competences to work towards a more inclusive society. The partners will learn about different realities from Peru and Guyana and will have the opportunity to transfer the know-how, bringing thus change into the local communities and improving their work with the young people. Organisations from Peru and Guyana will have the chance to learn by doing how active organisations from EU countries are working with young people, what methods are most effective and how non-formal education can impact the professional and personal growth of young people. All the partners involved will have the opportunity to train local youth and then to maintain a direct communication with the consortium via on-line platform. The partner from EU will bring their experience in mobility and will have the opportunity to get to know realities and methods of working from organisations from Peru and Guyana.

The project will impact the participating organisations increasing their capacity to work in an international environment, improving their methods to work with young people and developing new relationships. This project is a start for future similar initiatives providing concrete tools on how to build and maintain international partnerships.

In November 2016, 30 youth workers from the partner countries took part in a human rights education training course and study visits in Lima and Cusco, Peru, to develop their competences in youth work on human rights issues to better work with the youth in local communities. In the framework of this training, different human rights education activities and methods were also tested to be subsequently included in a handbook elaborated as a result of this project.

Non-formal education and e-learning for inclusion

Diversity is one of the strengths of Europe, but we can observe overt/covert discrimination at social, cultural, economic levels. Racism and xenophobia are among the most widespread forms of discrimination that individuals experience because of their origin, culture, language, or lifestyle. Nowadays – due to the actual political, economic, and social situations – migration is one of the most important issues in EU and in the world, and we face situations, challenges day by day in connection with interculturality. It is essential to improve not only our intercultural competence and sensitivity, but also develop best practices and methods which help to understand, tolerate, accept each other and support the social, educational integration of youth coming from minority groups/migrant background.

The project is based on previous co-operations and joint planning with the partners through which we identified the problems and needs; firstly, the participation of youth with migrant background and the difficulty of their motivation and involvement. Secondly, youth workers are often not prepared for working with migrant background youth. Thirdly, it is needed to improve the quality of youth work and the methods based on the active participation of youth, which – in the case of youth with migrant background especially – includes the interculturalization and the innovative approaches of intercultural learning.

The consortium wish to target these needs by combining peer-to-peer learning and sharing best practices with visiting different countries in order to develop a sustainable outcome.

The need for the collection of good practices and the elaboration for the practice-oriented training and e-learning materials helping youth workers dealing with migrants, refugees has risen at every project partner during our joint work. The issue was brought up by several young people from different countries during our youth exchange projects as well. Young people and youth workers working in this field regularly mention during workshops, mobility programmes and informal discussions, preparatory skype conferences, that good practices regarding this field are not available in a collected and structured manner, and, what is even worse, youth workers dealing with refugees and migrants do not have a joint, standard set of tools, methods (special knowledge related to the target group – cultural information, legal knowledge, etc.). Our training and e-learning material elaboration wishes to fill this gap in youth work.

Concrete aims and objectives:

1. Capacity building of participating organisations, establishment of a network

The partners of the consortium, which planned and wishes to implement this project as a response to the need arisen from youth workers and young people, have experience with youth work and dealing with migrants and refugees themselves. However the establishment of a network of these organisations, and the joint planning and project implementation (along with the proposed project activities) are likely to contribute greatly to the increase of their capacity in this field. Capacity building, and network forming is likely to contribute to a wider dissemination of project results as well.

2. Collection and dissemination of good practices

Through international research (7 countries, online survey of at least 50 national organisations (by each partner) working with young people, focus groups for youth workers and decision makers/stakeholders/youth (2/country)), the project partners will gather and disseminate the most relevant and usable good practices in this field.

3. Well trained experts in the field of youth work (focusing on migrants, refugees)

In order to achieve this goal, we plan job shadowing (2 youth workers/partner) and international seminar (5 youth workers/partner) activities, and the pilot training (peer training)

Based on the results of the youth workers mobility and the international seminar, we will develop the e-learning training materials on integration of migrant young people and intercultural learning. Planned topics of the learning material: cultures, identities and ambiguity, intercultural learning from the perspective of migrant young people, human rights, participation and empowering migrant families, migrant children and young people in the classrooms, job mentoring for migrant young people, democratic participation, national and international advocacy: youth participation tools in Europe.

4. Promoting non-formal education in youth work

Due to the extensive research and the involvement of people with migrant backgrounds in the development of the training materials, the project aims to deepen the intercultural approach in youth work, and the use of non-formal education, thus increasing the quality and recognition of professionals working in this field.

Since the focal point of the project is the development of an e-learning material, we aim to promote the use of digital technology and ICT tools in youth work in general (along with newer trends such as the use of online project management tools, e-learning, gamification).

Throughout the project we employ the method of learning by doing, which means that the partners, and the participants of the mobility activities do not only acquire knowledge passively, but instantly employ the learnt tools and methods in practice.

5. Helping young people with migrant backgrounds

Through the pilot training (peer training of youth workers working with migrant/refugee youth) and youth exchange phase of the project, we also plan to contribute to the motivation and active participation of young people with migrants background, which is likely to contribute to their social integration.

6. Preparation/training of youth workers currently not dealing with migrants/refugees

Due to the current situation of migrants and refugees in the EU, organisations, youth workers currently not dealing with young people with migrant backgrounds will soon have to enter this field. With the elaboration of high quality training materials and providing free access to them, we wish to provide these professionals the necessary tools for expanding their work.

New Life for Young Offenders

This project is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Romania's development cooperation programme (RoAid) and implemented with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNPD) through its Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia. The project is implemented within a partnership made up by the West University of Timisoara, the Department of Penitentiary Institutions in the Republic of Moldova and the Intercultural Institute Timisoara.

The objectives of the project are:

1. To increase the level of social and professional competences among 40 young delinquents in the Chisinau region, through their participation in training programmes, in order to integrate them on the labour market;
2. To elaborate tools for the promotion of equal opportunities, in order to increase the labour market inclusion of vulnerable people in Moldova, through the creation of partnerships and professional development of 20 professionals in the field of equal opportunities;
3. To exploit the project results through their dissemination at the level of at least five penitentiary communities at national level, the target group including at least 100 vulnerable youth (people deprived of liberty).

Products:

- a working methodology created;
- 40 vocational profiles elaborated;
- 40 career plans developed;
- at least 2 hours of social-professional counselling with each of the 40 beneficiaries;
- 2 training sessions to develop the competences of 20 young delinquents per session;
- professional counselling and mediation tools for young delinquents;
- a support network made up of minimum 20 relevant stakeholders in the field of labour market inclusion, with a minimum of 4 meetings of the network;
- over 2000 people informed regarding equal opportunities on the labour market, the creation and broadcasting of a TV spot ad, 2 mass-media articles/shows on the topic of labour market inclusion of people deprived of liberty;
- 5 campaigns to promote the project results in 5 penitentiaries in the Republic of Moldova, at least 100 people deprived of liberty informed.

Results:

- the increases of the target group's professional insertion capacity;
- the development of a partnership network in the field;
- the increase of the professional competences among 40 young delinquents;
- the development and application of a social inclusion programme.