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**ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

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## Institutul Intercultural Timișoara – Raport 2017

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## General presentation

In 2017 the Intercultural Institute finished several of the projects initiated in the previous years, continued other major projects and also initiated new projects. Thus, for instance, the activities regarding the integration of vulnerable groups, 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

## Education

### 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 (detailed description available [here](#)) 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 encouraged 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.

In 2016, an external evaluation study was realized in partnership with the Romanian-American Foundation to assess the impact of the program and identify options for its further development. 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.

In 2017 the program was re-launched, with the support of and in partnership with the Romanian-American Foundation, aiming to pilot the implementation of the above mentioned strategic directions of program development. The main results achieved in 2017 were:

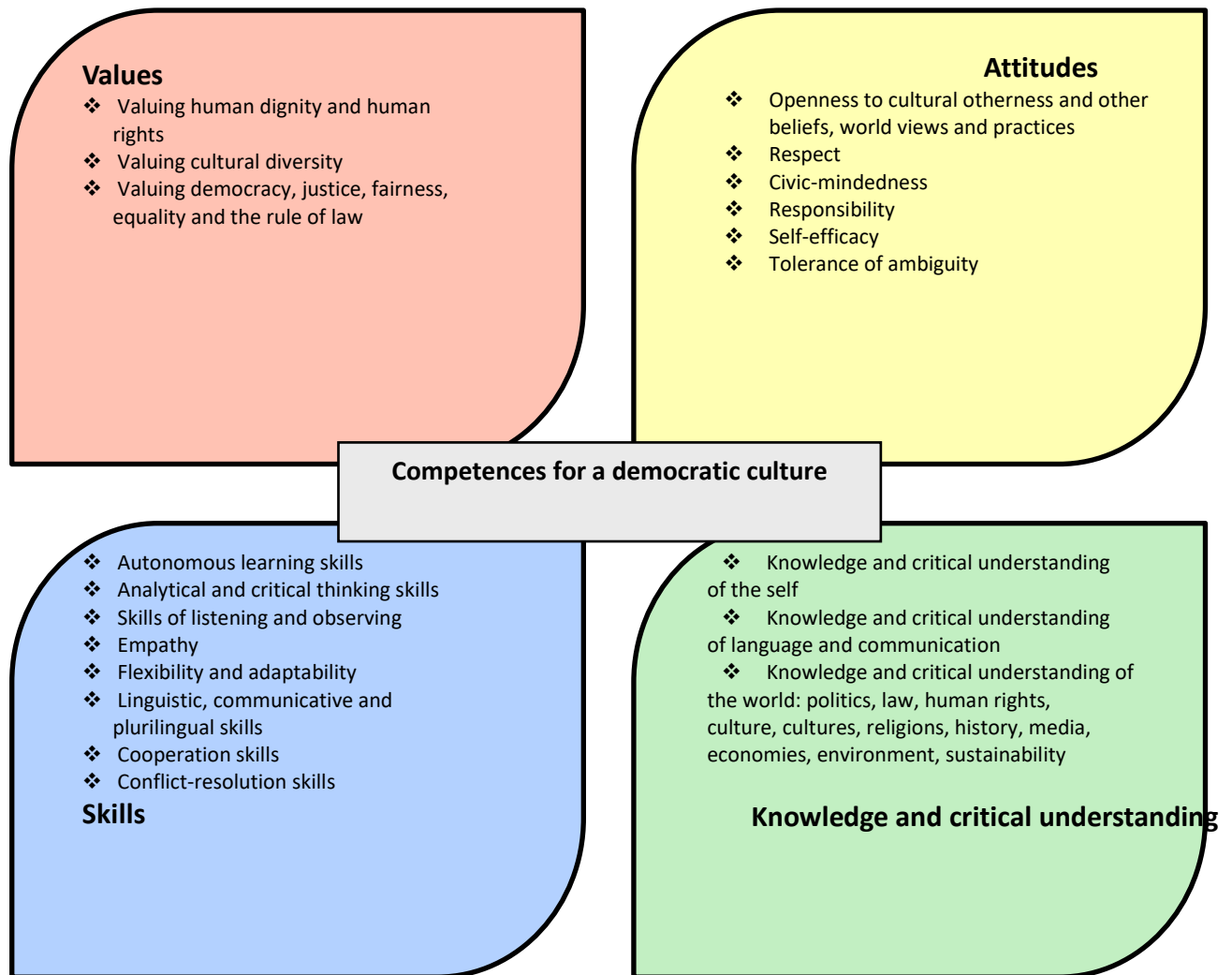
- An updated methodology of Project Citizen
- A brand new manual for students
- An updated training program for civic education teacher (beginners, advanced and online)
- An online platform – <http://cetateanul.intercultural.ro/>
- Local consultations with relevant stakeholders in the field of formal education
- A communication strategy

The piloting phase of the program continues in 2018 also.

As a result of the partnership with the Romanian-American Foundation, the IIT was involved in a process of developing organisational competences in the field of communication, public relations and customer relations management. IIT was involved as a beneficiary in the program “Marketing Polyclinic for NGOs”, developed by Friends for Friends Foundation, which aimed to partner NGOs in need of developing their communication skills with relevant specialists in communication, depending on the organisations’ most important communication needs. At the end of 2017, IIT submitted to Friends for Friends Foundation the application of a customer relations management project, to be implemented in 2018, which aims to start building a regular communication plan of the IIT with the teachers of social education with whom the organisation is collaborating in Romania (for Project Citizen and beyond).

## 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 and 2017 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 were administered in schools by teachers who had been trained in using the questionnaires. The result of this process was the validation of 447 descriptors out of the initial 559.

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

## Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights

IIT implemented in partnership with The Olga Lengyel Institute and Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of Holocaust in Romania a 4-day summer seminar for 35 teachers from across Romania.

The aim of the seminar was to contribute to increasing the quality of education regarding the Holocaust and social justice in Romania.

The objectives of the program were to:

- Develop a coherent understanding of the Holocaust in Romania;
- Discuss methods and approaches for teaching the Holocaust;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the impact of stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination at individual, group and society level;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the Jewish life before and after the Holocaust;
- Learn about the Roma genocide during WWII;
- Address the link between Human Rights Education and Holocaust Education as a way to better understand the past and act for the future.
- Promote positive values for life in a diverse world, such as: tolerance, interculturalism, dialogue and appreciation of the other;

## Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe network (DARE)

The Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE) Network was officially launched on 28 June 2003 in Antwerp (Antwerp Declaration on Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe). It is a Europe-wide network of primarily NGOs, academic institutions and training providers devoted to promote active democratic citizenship and human rights through formal education, non-formal and informal education, and life-long learning.

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is a member of DARE network. In 2017 the IIT became a partner in project STEPS, implemented by DARE members and aiming to create a toolkit for educators in the field of youth, useful to tackle the topics of post-factualism, populism and radicalization. By the end of 2017, in the framework of the project a set of country analyses was produced, as a result of an experts meeting in Spain, with the aim of describing the situation in various countries in Europe when it comes to the project topics and their approach by the educational systems (formal and non-formal).

Since the General Assembly in June 2017, the IIT has a representative in the board of DARE network with a mandate of two years (Oana Bajka), responsible for the coordination of the network's community of educators.

[www.dare-network.eu](http://www.dare-network.eu)



## 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.

## **REACT\_RO: educational resources for Romanian language learning and cultural accommodation of Beneficiaries of International Protection and Third Country Nationals in Romania**

The project started in July 2017 and will continue until July 2019. The objectives of the project are:

- **Develop the national framework for Romanian language learning by foreign citizens** (beneficiaries of international protection and third country nationals), respectively for acquired competence assessment, **by initiating and testing at least three interactive and innovative sets of materials for different ages and level of education.**
- **Develop the National Integration Program by creating at least three specialized educational tools for cultural accommodation** (course materials, handbook for training of trainers, a guide for foreign citizens), with intensive and interactive teaching while also developing the corresponding assessment framework and tools.
- Capacity building for at least **57 Romanian teachers/ educational services providers and 25 cultural orientation facilitators**, in order to be able to apply the new Romanian teaching/learning tools and cultural accommodation tools and test their quality and utility.
- **Support at least 100 migrants** (beneficiaries of international protection and third country nationals) to acquire, through intense teaching and learning, skills that would facilitate their integration in the Romanian society, such as: communication in Romanian, adapting to and interaction with the host society.

The project results achieved in 2017 are:

- Project management meetings
- A national framework for Romanian language learning by foreign citizens
- Interactive and innovative sets of materials for learning Romanian for foreign citizens, for different ages and level of education

### **Intercultural mediation training at regional level**

The trainers' team of the Intercultural Institute Timisoara carried out in the second half of the year 2017 intercultural mediation courses contracted by the LADO Cluj-Napoca. The activity took place in the framework of migrant integration projects co-financed by the European Union through the National Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration

Fund, annual programme 2016, 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 was 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 were:

- 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.

One of the main results of this project was the organization of the Timisoara Refugee Art Festival (TRAF), in May 2017. TRAF meant debate, projections of short films for children, adolescents and adults, installation, film, theatre and music. The film section included international short films on the topic of migration and a performance titled “IDENTICAL vs IDENTITY” (installation / immersive theatre, forum theatre, painting, film and music) was the fruit of the work carried out by 30 young people from Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Germany, Russia, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

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 2017 by the Centre for Rural Assistance Foundation, in collaboration with Kaos Pilots Switzerland and the Intercultural Institute Timisoara, aimed 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 was 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 wanted 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.

As the result 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.

## Birdhouse Gallery

Since 2016, before Timisoara won the title of European Capital of Culture for the year 2021, IIT was included in the city's bid-book as curator of one of the programs, titled "Visible / Invisible", focused on the city's marginalized communities, often invisible to the eye of the public interested in cultural spaces.

2017 was the year when the first collaborative project between IIT and the Association Timisoara European Capital of Culture took place. In the project "Birdhouse Gallery", implemented by the IIT in October-November 2017, three artists and teachers (Nedyelko Delchev, Bulgarian theatre director; Maciek Salamon, Polish visual artist and musician; and Nils Personne, Swedish composer and theatre musician) guided local teenagers in Timisoara through the process of creating unique wood birdhouses and musical instruments made of recyclable materials. A unique parade including an original musical performance and the itinerant exhibition of the birdhouse gallery concluded the project, with the purpose of presenting to the general public the beauty accessible in raw materials and in each of us. The project was successful in aiming to encourage imagination, develop children's creative ideas, improve their artistic skills and strengthen appreciation for the arts.

## Inclusion and Participation

### Rainbow of Desire

In the summer of 2017, the project `Rainbow of Desire` financed through Erasmus + started, having the following objectives:

- Develop competences of community development through artistic means (the rainbow of desire technique) for 8 IIT team members by taking part in a training course with the Theatre de l'Opprime of Paris and then applying the knowledge and skills acquired;
- Develop IIT organizational capacity in order to involve adults from disadvantaged communities of Timisoara and Timis County in artistic and public participation processes;
- Involve people with fewer opportunities in adult education activities – participation in this training of one Roma and one refugee, who would become resource people and facilitate the work with those communities, after the project ends;
- Strengthen the collaboration between IIT and Theatre de l'Opprime Paris in order to develop transnational projects targeting adults from less accessible environments.

In 2017 the project results were:

- Communication with the training provider - Centre du Théâtre de l'Opprimé Paris
- Selection of the eight adult educators that will participated in the training in 2018

### MOOC4EU

MOOC 4 EU was a project that started in 2016 with the aim of 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 aimed at strengthening the knowledge of minority groups regarding European citizenship and their rights as European citizens.

The objectives of the project were:

- 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 were included in an official document that was submitted to the European Commission in the framework of an advocacy activity.

One of the project activities was 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 were collected and made into a video that makes up the MOOC (massive open online courses). These interviews will contribute to the introduction of future debates between minorities and their representatives.



## 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 since 1996. IIT, through Mirela Lupu, has had the Presidency of the network since 2015. In 2017, IIT facilitated the General Assembly which took place in Timisoara in June 2017 and has been a partner within the international youth projects coordinated by the network in the period 2017-2018.

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

The main aim of the project implemented between 2015 and 2017 was 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 were: 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 was financed through the Erasmus Plus Programme, Key Action 2 – Capacity Building for Youth

The objectives of the project were:

- 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 were to invest in local youth workers that would become multipliers in their communities and would generate local activities involving more young people, to develop a user friendly methodology for human rights education, to develop the partners' competences to work towards a more inclusive society.

Results of the project:

- An online platform (<https://hre4all.org/>), dedicated to youth workers, trainers and other actors in the field of education.
- An human rights educational manual with 50 practical activities to be done with young people on Human Rights education
- 5 local and regional dissemination meetings where each partner organized human rights education activities in their country, applying the knowledge and skills acquired during the mobility that took place in Peru at the end of 2016.
- 2 day international conference, when participants from different countries, including the project partners, had the chance to interact and share ideas in the field of human rights education.

## **Non-formal education and e-learning for inclusion (NEELI)**

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 leaning.

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 was 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 was 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 were:

1. To increase the level of social and professional competences among 40 young offenders 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 increase 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.

## **Basca Solidarity Community – Human Rights Education and Art in the Community**

The beginning of this project coincided with the end of the Human Rights Start with Breakfast project, so they joined forces and came together in the international conference that marked the end of the HRSB project.

The aim of the project was to establish the basis of a community of youth, youth workers and teachers from Timisoara, who, starting from knowledge of their personal value as individuals and members of a community, would adhere to the principles of social solidarity and act in their community to apply these principles, contributing in the long run to reducing social distances and building an integrated society.

This aim was to be achieved through different activities, carried out between May and November 2017:

**Street workshops.** Every Saturday in July the project team organized street workshops in different spaces in different communities, targeting young people in these communities. The workshops were a combination between circus, forum theatre, immersive theatre and improvisation theatre. The aim of the workshops was to get young people in disadvantaged communities familiar with these means of expression, to know and build trust in the project team and their own capacities to transmit ideas, emotions through creative methods. On each occasion, the project team collected stories through direct observation, discussions, interviews. These stories were published on the blog especially created for this project.

**Basca solidarity evenings.** After the street workshops, every week there would be a Basca solidarity evening. Basca is an industrial space in the former PALTIM hat factory, refurbished to become a space for action and solidarity through art. Every Wednesday evening, Basca was available for meetings between people attracted mainly by the artistic expression of their civic preoccupations. The participants in the street workshops were invited to Basca to take part in civic education, theatre, circus and story-telling activities. The aim of these activities was to build group cohesion, self-confidence and mutual trust, develop critical thinking and several artistic expression skills. The civic education component had the role to develop civic competences among participants so that, by the end of the project, they would be able to identify and analyze a public policy problem in their community and propose solutions to solve it. Also, throughout these activities, we continued to collect stories for the blog.

**Public presentation of the project results.** In the second part of October there was a public event to present the project results. On the one hand, the blog was presented as one of the results, on the other hand, there was a creative and artistic presentation by the young participants from the disadvantaged communities, who expressed their civic preoccupations identified throughout the Basca solidarity evenings.

## **InclusiveArt – Access to Culture for Disadvantaged Children and Youth**

This project proposes to unleash the creative potential of the region. It implies a dynamic partnership formed by two NGOs, one local Public Authority and one Public cultural institution.

The overall objective is to increase the potential of the local communities and disadvantaged groups for innovative inclusive social practices by using art and culture to create inclusive contexts for integration and creative growth.

The project objectives are:

- Contribution to cultural and social cohesion of Romania - Serbia cross-border area by promoting inclusion and active participation in community development and by raising capacities

- Improvement of quality of life of children and youth from disadvantaged groups by active participation in the project activities.
- Mainstreaming of the social and cultural inclusion of disadvantaged youth by organising inclusive cultural events and recommending upgrades to public policies

The main activities of the project are:

- Training in creative entrepreneurship, socio-educational animation and community development for youth and stakeholders from 12 communities
- Artistic interventions carried out by young artists in 12 disadvantaged communities in Timiș, Caraș-Severin, Zrenjanin and Kikinda
- Sculpture workshops in Kikinda
- Visual art and sculpture exhibitions
- Cultural passport for migrants
- Mentoring and international mobility for youth
- Reading and storytelling workshops for children
- Games without frontiers in Zrenjanin
- Analysis of cultural policy documents from the perspective of inclusion
- Intermediary evaluation of the cultural strategy implementation in the cities of Timișoara and Zrenjanin
- Events to create new partnerships

The project began in 2017 with transfer of knowhow and training of the project team in order to ensure good collaboration inside the project management and implementation team by the organization of a training of trainers.

The activity **Enlighten the city – Banat Pavilion – Visual art/Media art exhibition in Timisoara**, was organized in the autumn of 2017, with the participation of several young artists from the Banat region. The exhibition lasted for a month and was part of the Contemporary art biennale Art Encounters, offering the young artists the opportunity of a high quality international exposure.

Other activities will be developed in the framework of the project in 2018.