

# YOUTH EXCHANGE

## INTEGRATION IS TEAMWORK!

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

25<sup>th</sup> June-2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017

***Raising awareness  
about minority issues***



**EDUCATION** Studio



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# PRESENTATION

This youth exchange gathered teenagers (15-17 years old) from six countries: Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Latvia, Turkey and Romania.

They shared knowledge, ideas, feelings on the topic of minorities. This book summarizes the discussions we had and the conclusions we reached during this week.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

What is a minority? .....	3
What minorities are living in Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Latvia, Turkey and Romania? .....	4
What can we do to improve the situation of minorities in our countries? .....	6
Some activities to raise awareness about minority issues .....	7

# WHAT IS A MINORITY?

- It is a part of a population or a group differing from others in some characteristics and often subjected to a differential treatment. The members of a minority have significantly less control or power over their lives than the members of a dominant or majority group.

Some characteristics:

- age
- gender
- sexual orientation
- ethnicity
- religion
- culture
- language
- wealth
- health / disabilities

# WHAT MINORITIES ARE LIVING IN ITALY, SPAIN, THE NETHERLANDS, LATVIA, TURKEY AND ROMANIA?

The participants of the youth exchange shared about some minorities living in their countries. All of them are facing discrimination.

We can classify these minorities according to the characteristics described before:

- **Sexual orientation: the LGBTQ+**

(Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer-+) community

Although people belonging to this community have different rights according to the country (right to marry or not, being more or less accepted...), they are being discriminated in all the countries.

- **Disabilities: the disabled people**

They can be considered as a minority, facing discrimination issues.

- **Gender: the women**

Some people consider the women as a minority as they are facing discrimination in some aspects of their life (income, opportunities, role and attitude to have...).

- **Linguistic** minorities:

In Italy, in every region, several languages are spoken. However, only a few of those are recognized as languages of the Italian State.

- **Religious** minorities:

The religious minorities differ according to the country:

- **The Muslims:** in Spain and the Netherlands (where people are mostly Catholic)
- **The Catholics and Orthodox:** in Latvia (where people are mostly Lutherans)
- **The Protestants and Atheists:** in Romania (where most of the people are religious and are Orthodox)
- **The Jews:** in Turkey (where people are mostly Muslims)

- **Ethnic** minorities:

- **The Roma community:** present in Spain, Romania and Turkey.

Some are **ethnicities**:

- **The Livs:** native inhabitants of Latvia
- **The Kurds:** an important minority in Turkey

Others are **foreign citizens** living in the country:

- **The Russians:** the largest ethnic minority in Latvia
- **The Greeks and Armenians:** minorities in Turkey

And some are linked to **current migrations**:

- **The Syrians refugees:** in Turkey
- **The illegal immigrants from North-West Africa:** in Spain

# WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF MINORITIES IN OUR COUNTRIES?

- **React!:** confront people discriminating others
- Be **open-minded** and do not judge at the first glance
- **Get rid** of our **prejudices**
- Put **pressure** for new **governmental** measures
- **Raise awareness** around us:

## - **Why?**

To help people to abolish their prejudices about minorities

## - **Where?**

In our family, with friends, neighbours....

At school, in other public places...

## - **How?**

- By creating places or events where people from the majority and from minorities can connect and learn from each other

- By sharing real information about minorities, so that the people can see beyond their stereotypes

- By creating intergenerational dialogue: allowing the younger generation to interact with the older ones, that often have a more conservative view

# SOME ACTIVITIES TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT MINORITY ISSUES

These activities were created and facilitated by the participants during the youth exchange.

We share them so that you can use them or get inspired from them.

## o What do you think?

**What:** a short theatre sketch in which you ask the public for their opinion

**Goal:** to have an open discussion with the public

**Where:** in a public space

**Materials:** actors + one monitor/presenter

**Time:** 15 minutes per performance

### **Description:**

In this activity, you can play a short scenario about the topic you want to raise awareness about, for example, violence against homosexuality.

You need to play a conflict between the victims of the violence/discrimination and the oppressors. At the moment when the conflict is rising, the monitoring person stops the scene and gives the public different options to follow:

1. Avoid the conflict: the victims 'walk away', stop doing the thing that evoked the conflict.
2. Both victims and oppressors keep doing their things but avoid each other.
3. The victims confront the oppressors and ask them why they behave this way.

The public will choose an option so make sure that you know how to play out all the options. Afterwards you can ask the public:

- Why did you pick this option?
- How would you behave in a situation like this?
- What do you think about this situation?
- Why do you think this is happening?
- Do you have a solution for this?

After the open discussion you can let the actors talk with the public or play another scene.

## ○ Sing along

**What:** sing a song

**Goal:** to create a cohesive community by singing together

**Where:** in a public space

**Materials:** music instruments, singers and lyrics

**Time:** the duration of the song

### **Description:**

Sometimes, it can be very powerful to just sing together about the topic you want to address.

Just find a song which is covering the message that you want to transmit. Write the lyrics of the song on a big paper and make sure that you have some small instruments. You can start singing and playing in a big open space and make sure that there is the opportunity for people to join.

## ○ Labels

**What:** movements / dance

**Goal:** to express discrimination in a visual way

**Where:** in a public space

**Materials:** object with *discrimination* written on it (scarf, bag, shirt, ball etc.), dancers

**Time:** 5-10 minutes (you can make it as long as you want)

### **Description**

In this activity, one of the dancers/actors has an object attached to his/her body. This object has *discrimination* written on it. In the dance/movement routine you can play with this item. Can you get rid of it? How do the other dancers react on the item? How does it feel when you have the item attached to you?

# PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS



**Ourense, SPAIN**

[www.sustinea.org](http://www.sustinea.org)



**CITTA' DI TORINO**

**Torino, ITALY**

[www.comune.torino.it](http://www.comune.torino.it)

**Enez İlçe Milli**

**Eğitim Müdürlüğü**

**Enez, TURKEY**

[www.enez.meb.gov.tr](http://www.enez.meb.gov.tr)



**Klubs "Māja"-**

**jaunatne vienotai Eiropai**

**Riga, LATVIA**

[www.klubsmaja.lv](http://www.klubsmaja.lv)



**Vathorst  
College** vmbo-t  
havo  
vwo

**Amersfoort, THE  
NETHERLANDS**

[www.vathorstcollege.nl](http://www.vathorstcollege.nl)



**EDUCATION** Studio

**Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA**

[www.educationstudio.ro](http://www.educationstudio.ro)

*The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*



**Erasmus+**