

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Action Type: Youth mobility

Project Title

Inter-religious dialogue

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Project Information

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Partners DAPHNE YOUTH (TR) , ASSOCIAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE VOLONTARI LAICI (IT) , FORUM OF EUROPEAN MUSLIM YOUTH AND STUDENT ORGANISATIONS ASBL (BE) , International Foundation for Y-PEER Development (BG) , Réseau Solidaire et Participatif (FR)
Topics Inclusion - equity ; Youth (Participation, Youth Work, Youth Policy) ; Ethics, religion and philosophy (incl. Inter-religious dialogue)

Project Summary

Objectives

In numerous European countries, politics and religion has been mixed and political polarisation has started to complement religious polarisation. In general, solidarity between different religious groups is low and there is not much inter-religious interaction and dialogue. Segregation and isolation, however, are some of the root causes of extremism and polarisation everywhere in the world. This is why we have created this project - in order to address the international and even global issues that the lack of inter-religious dialogue can entail and address crucial and apparent challenges, such as the above-mentioned religious extremism and polarisation in an inter-religious setting. Since both extremism and polarisation can happen in every religious denomination and the roots of those notions are often similar, we find it especially important to address these challenges in an inter-religious setting. Therefore our aim is to bring together people with different religious identities and in mutual contribution, develop a platform for interreligious dialogue to take place in youth groups.

The objectives of this project are the following:

- Encourage inter-religious dialogue in youth groups in a pan-European approach
- Address the challenges of inter-religious dialogue and find solutions for them
- Raise youth workers' capacities in regards to inter-religious dialogue
- Build an active pan-European inter-religious youth cooperation
- Address radicalisation and extremism in an inter-religious setting and find ways communities could support the risk groups in order to de-escalate their polarisation
- Foster social inclusion of people with different religious identities in Europe

Activities

We will organise a youth exchange on the island of Hiiumaa in Estonia.

During the youth exchange, young people with different religious identities will come together and discuss the ways that effective inter-religious dialogue could take place. The participants will research the best practices of inter-religious dialogue in their communities/countries, share them with other participants and discuss how to adopt/further develop these practices. Participants will also map the needs of their communities to better understand which measures to take to meet those needs. Then they will start working in interfaith groups to create a specific action plan to increase the volume and efficiency of interreligious dialogue in their communities. They will also address the emerging problem of extremism and polarisation in religious communities and the power of youth to make a change in this. We will host 30 participants from 6 different countries. The youth exchange will also be preceded by an APV to better include the participants to the preparation phase of this project meeting.

Impact

As a follow up, all participants will organise youth meetings in their communities, in either schools, youth centres or something similar. They will explain the concept of interreligious dialogue and the benefits of it's successful implementation, share their good experiences in interfaith groups (as this project) and introduce their action plan and/or their upcoming events in this topic in their communities. They will also give a short introductory presentation about the Erasmus+ program and encourage the participating youth to write and implement their own projects as well. The target group of these youth meetings will be young people up to the age of 30, interested in international opportunities and inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue. Special effort will be put in

order to include NEET youth and young people with fewer opportunities. All participants will be encouraged to organise Peace Camp activities with their sending organisations. However this will not be mandatory, but just an option for the participants that are interested in multiplying their knowledge to others.

The participants of the youth exchange are expected to build their capacities regarding inter-religious and intercultural communication, develop their skills of communication in a foreign language and improve their project management skills.

Additional expected impact is the following:

- More solidarity between different religious group on a local and regional level
- Stronger cooperation between youth workers on a national level
- Build an effective partnership of youth workers with similar goals on European level
- Create an active network of young people with different religious identities on national and European level
- Create a regular movement of inter-religious dialogue on a national and European level with at least one thematic project being organised yearly

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