

=TOLERANCE=

Open Educational Resources
for educating in diversity

Xeno-Tolerance

Supporting VET teachers and trainers to prevent radicalisations

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The Tolerance project is a group of 9 vocational, education and training organisations from 9 European countries joined in an Erasmus+ strategic partnership to develop guidelines and resources for teachers and trainers to prevent radicalisations.

Context

Schools and training institutions welcome learners facing social integration difficulties, usually with low educational level. When themselves or their parents are from different origins, they may feel discriminated within the society, by the school institution itself or by the other students. The learning climate is sometimes tense, in particular around socially sensitive questions or when violent political events make irruptions in all conversations and cannot be ignored in the classroom. These tensions and disquiet are reinforced in a context of high unemployment with unequal access to employment and an absence of positive perspectives for most of the learners in deprived areas.

Teachers and trainers need to be able to create and maintain effective learning climates, where themselves and their students feel comfortable and have the necessary freedom to develop their knowledge and skills. They need to protect the learning from the influences of the outside and, at the same time, they need to provide answers to the questions that the society is raising and that are formulated, directly or indirectly by the students. They are also asked to transmit values to students so that they become informed and active citizens.

Radicalisation

A critical minority of young people is attracted by radicalisation and extremist ideologies. They reject their family, the society and all forms of culture with an individualistic and nihilistic state of mind. The more visible part of this radicalism is islamised. With the family and the friends, the teachers who are in daily contact with them should be able to detect the first signs and to react accordingly. As educators, they should be able to participate to upstream prevention in order to avoid students losing their critical thinking and falling into radicalism.

Teachers, trainers and educators must acquire the knowledge and skills as well as confidence to do their job. They need to be prepared to deal with tensions between learners and educators, between learners and groups of learners and to detect, at an early stage, indicators of radicalisation. They need to be able to counteract the conspiracy theories that are spreading. They must provide concrete and sound answers to sensitive questions asked in the classroom. However, many of them have been trained as teachers or trainers years ago, and they are not necessarily prepared to these changes, in particular when they are specialised in vocational and technical topics. Also not all of them have an easy access to continuous training opportunities and radicalisation is probably not their priority among all the changes they face (new programs, new evaluation methods, new topics introduced in the curricula...).

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The Paris declaration

The Ministers responsible for education in the EU countries have stated that
“The primary purpose of education is not only to develop knowledge, skills, competences and attitudes and to embed fundamental values, but also to help young people - in close cooperation with parents and families - to become active, responsible, open-minded members of society. children and young people represent our future and must have the opportunity to shape that future. We must combine our efforts to prevent and tackle marginalisation, intolerance, racism and radicalisation and to preserve a framework of equal opportunities for all. We must build on children’s and young people’s sense of initiative and the positive contribution they can make through participation, while reaffirming the common fundamental values on which our democracies are based.”

(Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education – Paris, 17/03/2015)

The Tolerance project

Objectives

Tolerance project will give VET teachers, trainers and educators the possibility to acquire knowledge and skills

- to prepare learners to live and work in a pluralistic society
- to create a better learning climate in order to reach better learning results
- to deal with tensions between learners and between groups of learners
- to reduce racism and xenophobia in the classroom
- to develop critical thinking and prepare empowered citizens
- to detect indicators of radicalisation
- to identify who is at risk and the best way to helping them
- to apply interventions in a preventive stage

Open Educational Resources on a multilingual web platform

Products

Guidelines

It will give background information with knowledge and methods to empower teachers so that they can work in confidence in particular when facing individuals and groups generating tensions and destabilisation. It will include practical tips and how-to-do guides for prevention and reaction.

Toolbox

Ressources for VET teachers and trainers to use in the classroom with their learners. They will address particular topics that participate to the limitation of the tendency to radicalise. They will also target radicalisation as a whole.

Guidelines and Toolbox will be elaborated after the analysis of the needs and the detection of the existing resources in each partner country. The products will be tested in real situation and adapted. Finally, the guidelines and the tools will be integrated on a multilingual web platform providing free access for all.

Partners

The Tolerance project involves 9 partners from 9 European countries

- Greta du Velay (France)
- Die Kärntner Volkshochschulen (Austria)
- Fondazione Casa di Carità Arti e Mestieri Onlus (Italy)
- Escuelas Profesionales Padre Piquer (Spain)
- Ljudska Univerza Ptuj (Slovenia)
- Universidade do Porto (Portugal)
- Aequitas Human Rights (Cyprus)
- Fundatia EuroEd (Romania)
- CVO HIK (Belgium)

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Project web site

<http://www.allo-tolerance.eu>