

USE CASE
Tolerance Day
EuroED School, Iasi, Romania



The topic of the project

Radicalisation: a process by which an individual or a group adopt extreme political, social and religious ideals which reject or undermine the existing state of affairs. It can be violent. Preventing radicalisation by producing open educational resources, which will enable teachers, trainers and educators to create favourable learning environments and mutual understanding in the classroom.



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2015-1-FR01-KA202-015143

„Tolerance Day” Event

On the 10th of December 1948, the United Nations signed the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The EuroED school students and also students from other education institutions EuroEd collaborates with met in the assembly hall and discussed the difference between wants, needs and rights.

They also talked about tolerance and diversity. Students realized that it doesn't matter where we were born, what age we are, what language we speak, what beliefs we have, what religion we follow or where we live. From the second we are born, there are things that we all have a right to. They discussed the right to be born equal and free, to live in freedom and security, to have your own opinion and be able to express it freely or the right to education, to be tolerant and respect the others no matter how different they are.

The beneficiaries of the activity: 6 Teachers, trainers and educators and 105 students.

The teachers, trainers and educators in collaboration with the project team have accessed the



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tools of the toolbox in order to use it in the schools activities. At the beginning of the activity the project team presented the idea of the project and the tools that were created by the project partners and helped the participants, teachers, trainers and educators, to select some of the tools that they could use in their activity with the students.

Starting from the target group with whom they were supposed to organize the activity, the teachers, trainers and educators selected different tools of the toolbox:

-The educators – used two resources from the toolbox of the project in their activity: *basic indicators of radicalisation* **and** *also awareness about diversity in schools*.

-The teachers – used three resources from the toolbox of the project in their activity: *human rights education as a tool for change* and *identifying, detecting and reflecting on signs of radicalisation*.

-The trainers – used two resources from the toolbox of the project in their activity: *knowledge and management*



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*of emotions **and** developing a critical analysis against religious discriminations.*

The "Tolerance Day" event was conceived as a thematic event that was organized on different days of a week in December.

In addition, the teachers, trainers and educators used cases from the toolbox in order to discuss and understand the process of radicalization better.

The case studies that were used by the beneficiaries within the classroom activity were:

- educators – *bullying and discrimination*
- teachers - *relationships within a class group*
- trainers - *gender education for teenagers in multicultural contexts.*

The educators organized an anti-bullying week that was taken very seriously at EuroEd kindergarten. Our nursery groups thoroughly enjoyed showing their support for the anti-bullying cause. They discussed and they modelled what it's like being kind to each other. Following the discussions they made a poster using different colours



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that showed how much they rejoice in the diversity and differences.



At the end of the activity the poster was displayed at the entrance of the institution in order to be visible and open to the public. The activity organized by the educators with nursery groups has been appreciated among stakeholders becoming an example to follow by other educational staff.

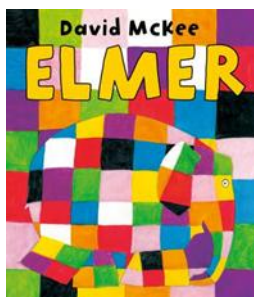


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2015-1-FR01-KA202-015143

The anti-bullying activity continued also in the English lesson with Year 1 where they learned about Elmer - the patchwork elephant.

'There was once a herd of elephants: old, young, thin and fat, but they were all grey; all except for Elmer. He was pink and green and red and purple and blue. He was different[...]' The story continues when Elmer wants to be the same as everyone else.



Such experiences prepare children from a very early age and creates the cornerstone for a tolerant behavior.



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The teachers from year 2, 3 and 4 organized an activity regarding the human rights as a tool for change and at the end of the activity they talked about relationships within a class group based on one of the cases of the toolbox.

Year 2 students presented their chosen Human Rights project. These were: the right to citizenship and the right to participate freely in the cultural life of your



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community. They asked themselves questions such as: how can one gain Romanian citizenship? How many citizenships are you allowed to have? In which cases can one be denied citizenship? What happens when a baby is born outside the borders of their parents' country?



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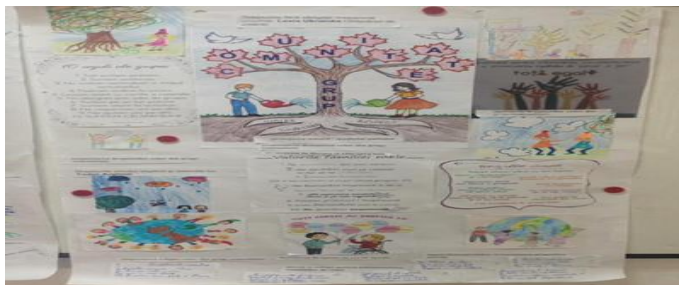
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Year 3 students focused on the right to have your own opinion and express it freely and the obligation you have towards your community. They prepared speeches and impressed with a thorough preparation and team effort. They found poems which reflect human rights and compared an individual with a tree, whereby the little drops of rain, the little rays of light and the fertile soil that help it grow and mature are the liberties guaranteed by the universal human rights. It is only because these rights exist, that the human grows healthy in body and mind and ready to contribute successfully to its society.



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The students learned that beauty is in diversity and differences and that they need to celebrate it instead of mocking it. They wore different colors socks that day and all of them understood the message. Rares in Year 4 said: 'These socks are just like us: we are all different, but we are equal' whilst Rares in Year 2 said: 'We are all different. People are not tolerant because they pick on others' weaknesses and differences. This is wrong.'



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All students were proud to participate in this event. They stressed on how important it was to treat people equally and not discriminate based on color of skin, social class, religion or gender. Robert, Year 4, said:

“Mother Nature treated us all equally, irrespective of place of birth and other differences. It is us, humans, who discriminate and we should learn from nature to be kinder to each other.”

The trainers organized two different workshops with students from the pedagogical university (the next generation of educators/teachers) and students from the



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school of medicine (the next generation of doctors, surgeons and also other specializations) taking into account that everything is changing very quickly and prevention should be the first step to be taken.

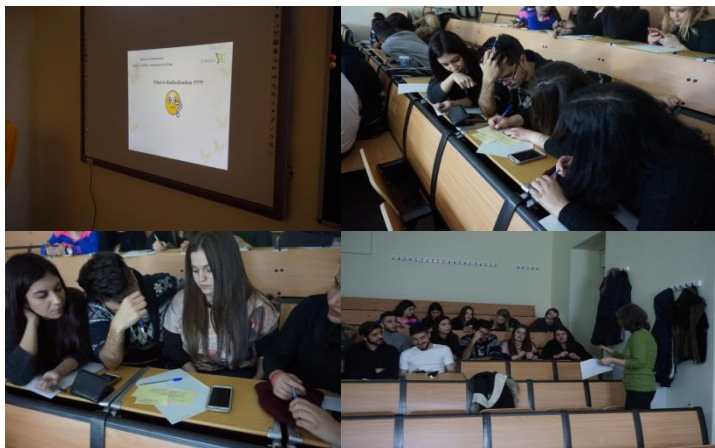
The activities with the students were organized in two different days. A number of 50 students participated in these activities.

The trainers introduced the students from the pedagogical university and the school of medicine to two modules from the toolbox (the knowledge and management of emotions and developing a critical analysis against religious discriminations). They debated these topics and also worked on the case of gender education for teenagers in multicultural contexts.

The trainers made a power point presenting the project, its toolbox and the tools of the toolbox. The students went through the tools of the toolbox and the activities, discussed and expressed their opinions regarding the Allo Tolerance project's outputs.

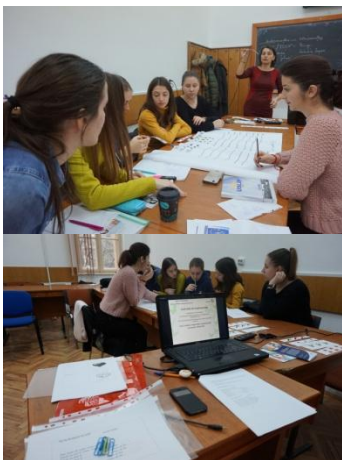


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The levels of the intervention:

„Educator” “Teachers’ Training” level:

- Providing a global overview of radicalisation and violent extremism at the national and international levels.

- Enabling educators, teachers and trainers to identify signs of “suspicious behaviour”.
- Adapting methods, strategies, and resources to enable teachers to work with different groups of students.
- Developing strategies to promote open communication between educators, teachers and students in the classroom.

“School” level:

- Including “Tolerance and Radicalisation issues” in the mission statement of the school.
- Establishing multidisciplinary teams to work on the vulnerability indicators of the school.
- Promoting collaboration among all school staff.
- Integrating radicalisation issues in the curriculum.
- Involving children and parents in school activities that target discrimination and intolerance issues.
- Promoting projects tackling discrimination issues.

“Classroom” level

- Enhancing students’ communication and inter-cultural skills.
- Developing students’ critical thinking skills.
- Raising students’ awareness about Human Rights and Education for Peace.
- Promoting empathy, solidarity, and respect for diversity through class debates and role play activities.



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The activities helped students

To define 'tolerance'!

To discuss the importance of tolerance!

To understand the concept of diversity, and why we should celebrate it!

To learn about respect for others' unique qualities!

To think about leaving others out of groups and tolerating differences!

To define respect and explore the relation between "respect" and tolerance

To define and give examples of prejudice, bias, racism, and stereotype.

The students recognized cases of prejudice and examined how they were perceived by others!

Project web site: <http://www.allo-tolerance.eu>

This project is a transnational partnership co-funded with support from the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



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