



AGORA'

Youth Worker's Actions in Public Spaces for Social Change

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Agorà is a Strategic Partnership project, in the field of innovation, aimed to develop tools and pedagogical approaches to fight young people social exclusion, and specifically gender-based discrimination, in public spaces settled in isolated areas.

Thus the project will have a specific focus on **public spaces**: areas potentially open and accessible to everybody where young people can encounter, gather and socialize. Some human geographers argued that, in spite of the exclusion, innate part of them, they can be conceived as a sites where democracy becomes possible. Nevertheless, even though we potentially agree with the idea, it has to be remarked that often in the most isolated areas, these spaces are still the landmark of exclusion, ghettoisation and the stage for racism, sexism, bullying and of different discrimination displays.

The term **isolated areas** is quite extensive and it can be applied to a big variety of spaces, normally marked by a quite strong heterogeneity. They can be the suburbs of big cities, "left-out" neighbourhood in a small town, more remote or rural areas. Still there are common elements as the potential tendency of being an artificial "ghetto dimension" for the young people settled there, from where it's challenging to escape and/or to create interaction with the other realities. They might often become the stage for discriminative events, hate speech, harmful rhetoric and populist approaches. They often are the setting where the extreme right parties and movements are setting their roots, permeating the mindset of young people and leading to extremism and radicalization. Here the young people are the most exposed target group to segregation events, not being equipped to understand the reasons behind exclusion and to take action.

Moreover, these areas are often the setting of un-respectful behaves toward the different **gender** identities, of gender-based stereotypes, sexism and discrimination. Young people are the victims and the perpetrators (aware or not) of these actions. Families and youth workers,

part of their closest relational circuit are not always fully equipped to detect the gender-based discrimination symptoms within groups of young people and to then to take action to promote gender justice and equality in public spaces.

For these reasons we consider crucial to keep enhancing the supporting action to **youth workers and activists** involved in the grass-rooted work in these isolated public spaces. We are aware of the enormous amount of actions already developed on the every-day base and of the heterogeneity of methods and approaches applied. In the same time we do believe that the work can be always further enriched and fine-tuned. Specifically for what concerns the creation of a **pedagogical package** (including different tools and methods within a newly designed pedagogical approach) **to detect the display** (behaves, causes, reactions) **of gender-based discrimination** within groups of young people **and** to afterwards **raise awareness on gender** sensitive issues. This package will contribute to reduce the gender-based stereotypes, to promote fair gender role models and, at large, fight exclusion by enhancing gender equity.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

DATES OF THE PROJECT: 01/09/2019 – 31/10/2021

DURATION: 26 months

PARTNERSHIP: Lunaria, Italy - Universitur, Romania - Break the Borders, Greece - Nexes, Spain - Le Bruit de la Conversation, France.

TARGET: youth workers and educators, activists, young people, local communities.

AIM: to develop tools and pedagogical approaches to fight young people social exclusion, and specifically gender-based discrimination, in public spaces settled in isolated areas, by promoting EU values and active citizenship.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- **SO1:** to build up, in the participating isolated areas, the local **diagnostic** to detect the reasons behind (causes and effects) gender-based discrimination among young people
- **SO2:** to share the **existing tools and approaches** the consortium members use to promote participation and inclusion
- **SO3:** to up-scale the tools and approaches shared, within a newly formed internal pedagogical perspective, to create an **educational package** to detect the gender-based discrimination within groups of young people and then intervene promoting gender justice in public spaces
- **SO4:** to empower **young people and local communities** from isolated areas, and to transform them in promoters of new grass-rooted actions.

THEMATIC FOCUS: the overall project will be focused on social inclusion, but with a specific focus on gender.

Gender is chosen as a transversal topic because it is a quite sensitive issues for young people from 16 (adolescence) to the 30 years old (adult age). For them sexuality and gender is often

a taboo, the education systems barely offer classes and courses on "sexual education", while it's rare and almost not existing a real "gender education". Groups of peers might thus become the stage where gender-based stereotypes appear, unbalanced gender role are models and sexist behaviors promoted. In Europe, the cases of gender-based violence toward young women and men are still actual and the scale of the problem is alarming.

There are extremely sensitive issues rotating around the big umbrella of gender and it's crucial to work with the young people on their "gender education" to transform them in agents of change and active promoters of equity. In order to achieve this goal, it's needed to further equip youth workers and activists with tools and methods to detect the display of gender-based discrimination within groups of young people and then to promote "gender-justice" approaches based on the promotion of equity and the respect of the differences.

SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- better understanding of the **reasons behind** the young people **gender-based discrimination** events (causes and effects) in the isolated areas of the participating countries
- **upgrading and up-scaling of the tools** EU organizations, trainers and facilitators are using, within the youth work framework, to fight against gender-based discrimination, to promote inclusion and gender equity
- **competences development** of youth workers and activists to better favour the social inclusion and involvement of young people with fewer opportunities and to promote gender justice approaches
- **enhancement of youth participation** and specifically the involvement of young people at risk
- **transformation of the young participants in promoters of new actions and activities** aimed at further promoting the values of the European Union and its main ground pillars
- **creation of a sustainable informal network** and enhancement of interactions among partners to strength the capacity of youth work to respond to the changes and trends in our society.

METHODOLOGY: the whole project will be developed within the umbrella of the **non-formal education - NFE** perspective and methodologies. The proposed educational **approach** will be constantly based on the **learning by doing:** here the specific learning objectives forecasted in the different steps are conceived in a consequential perspective to better achieve a coherent learning process of all the involved actors and stakeholders.

This approach moreover allows to shape the action/s accordingly to the **needs** of the direct beneficiaries (young people) and of the indirect (the local communities involved), respecting the specificities, ensuring **flexibility** to the learning experiences and enhancing the young people **knowledge, skills and competences**.

Thus a specific space will be dedicated to the tools, methods and approaches testing and up-scaling within a newly designed pedagogical perspective among the consortium members to fight gender-based discrimination and to raise awareness on gender-sensitive issues. Among the methods tested and up-scaled, the **Street Clowning, Body Movement, Labyrinth Theatre and Social Cabaret** (Conference Gesticulate).

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 1- TOOLKIT TO DETECT GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION:

Toolkit aimed to equip youth workers from the EU participating countries with innovative and tested tools and methodologies to detect the warning signals in the young people gender-based discriminative behaviours and to understand the causes behind the display of discrimination.

DATES I.O.1: January - October 2020 (10 months), which includes:

- **A2. COUNTRY FIELD RESEARCH: January-May 2020 (4 months)**
- **TRAINERS DESIGN OF THE TOOLKIT: May 2020-October 2020 (6 months)**

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 2- HANDBOOK FOR YOUTH WORKERS:

The Handbook aims to provide youth workers from different European countries with a new educational package including tools and interactive methods, within a newly designed pedagogical approach, to promote gender equity within groups of young people in public spaces. Thus the Handbook will include both the newly designed pedagogical approach and different activities, tools and methods, to raise youth awareness on gender issues.

IMPORTANT REMARK: the I.O.2, grounds on the work previously realized (I.O.1), aimed to enable youth and social workers to detect the warning signals in the young people gender-based discriminative behaves and to understand the causes behind the display of discrimination and sexism. In the development of the I.O.2 is crucial the work ran in the:

A3. TRAINING COURSE in Italy – June 2020: training course for youth workers and peer educators to test, share, deliver, evaluate and upscale the existing tools (Street Clowning and Body Movement) and approaches used to promote participation and inclusion.

A4. TRAINING COURSE in Romania – August 2020: training course for youth workers and peer educators (that will be then involved in the A6. Tools Testing through Street Actions – February – May 2021) to test, share, deliver, evaluate and upscale the existing tools (Labyrinth Theatre and Social Cabaret) and approaches used to promote participation and inclusion.

A5. TOOLS HARMONIZATION: September – November 2020: to upgrade and systematize the tools and approaches shared during the two training courses.

DATES I.O.2: December 2020 to June 2021 (7 months), which includes:

- **A6. TOOLS TESTING THROUGH STREET ACTIONS: February-May 2021 (4 months)**
- **TRAINERS DESIGN OF THE HANDBOOK: December 2020-June 2021 (7 months)**

PROJECT TIMELINE

| ACTIONS | AIMS | OUTPUTS |
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| <p>A1. TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING</p> <p>17th – 19th December 2019 – 3 days</p> <p>16th December 2019: arrival day – 20th December 2019: departure day</p> <p>Athens, GREECE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to share the main information concerning the project (main goal, steps, financial issues and reporting obligation) to structure the involvement of the different actors and stakeholders in the different areas to set the criteria for the participant’s identification and recruitment to draft the tools for the Country Field Research to launch a first reflection on how to structure the two Intellectual Outputs to define the visibility and dissemination strategy, designing the Communication and Dissemination Strategy - CDS to define the evaluation phases and the relative tools and indicators to measure the project impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthetic guideline on the project management where is included the task division and the to do list Country Field Research Tools: detailed description of all the tools to be used by the researchers in this action |
| <p>A2. COUNTRY FIELD RESEARCH - (part of I.O. 1)</p> <p>01st January – 30th April 2020 (4 months)</p> <p>ALL THE INVOLVED COUNTRIES</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to build up the local diagnostic on the situation of the involved, isolated areas, and detect the reasons behind gender-based discrimination suffered and generated by young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthetic country reports including the main elements detected during the research General Report including the main elements detected in all the involved areas Leaflet in .pdf for the on line version to share the main outcomes of the country field research |
| <p>INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 1</p> <p>TOOLKIT TO DETECT GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION</p> <p>01st May – 31st October 2020 (6 months)</p> <p>ALL THE INVOLVED COUNTRIES</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to equip youth workers in EU with innovative and tested tools and methodologies to detect the warning signals in the young people gender-based discriminative behaviours and to understand the causes behind the display of discrimination. | |

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| <p>A3. TRAINING COURSE</p> <p>17th – 22nd June 2020 – 6 days</p> <p>16th June 2020: arrival day – 23rd June 2020: departure day</p> <p>(dates have to be confirmed)</p> <p>Morrano, Orvieto, ITALY</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to share the existing tools and approaches the consortium members use (with a specific attention to Street Clowning and Body Movement) to promote participation and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, coming from isolated backgrounds • to make participants practically experiment, deliver, evaluate and up-scale the existing methods and tools, setting the ground for a common methodological knowledge • to start the design of a commonly agreed gender-based pedagogical perspective, to be then embraced by all the consortium members and to be afterwards applied in the street actions | |
| <p>A4. TRAINING COURSE</p> <p>25th – 30th August 2020 – 6 days</p> <p>24th August 2020: arrival day – 31st August 2020: departure day</p> <p>(dates have to be confirmed)</p> <p>Orșova, Mehedinți ROMANIA</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to share the existing tools and approaches the consortium members use (with a specific attention to Labyrinth Theatre and Social Cabaret) to promote participation and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, coming from isolated backgrounds • to make participants practically experiment, deliver, evaluate and up-scale the existing methods and tools, setting the ground for a common methodological knowledge • to start the design of a commonly agreed gender-based pedagogical perspective, to be then embraced by all the consortium members and to be afterwards applied in the street actions | |
| <p>A5. TOOLS HARMONIZATION- (part of I.O. 2)</p> <p>01st September – 30th November 2020 (3 months)</p> <p>ALL THE INVOLVED COUNTRIES</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to upgrade and systematize the tools and approaches shared (Street Clowning, Body Movement, Labyrinth Theatre, Social Cabaret) during the two training courses. This work, that will be run mainly by Lunaria, aims to set the ground to develop the educational package that will be part of the I.O.2. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolbox draft 1 – Training in Italy: collection of the methods shown and tested • Toolbox draft 2 – Training in Romania: collection of the methods shown and tested |

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| <p>A6. TOOLS TESTING THROUGH STREET ACTIONS- (part of I.O. 2)</p> <p>01st February – 31st May 2021 (4 months)</p> <p>ALL THE INVOLVED COUNTRIES</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to test, with different target groups, the tools upgraded and fine tuned in order to detect their impact and efficacy • to test and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the newly designed pedagogical approach • to use the tools to activate public spaces in isolated areas and to actively involve the local young people • to transform the young people who initially participated in the actions, in active agents of change and promoters of other streets activities (using the same tools) to involve other young people of the same age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative report including: n. of events, techniques and tools used; n. of young people involved, dates, location • Qualitative reports to assess the impact of the tools and the learning process of the young people |
| <p>INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 2</p> <p>HANBOOK FOR YOUTH WORKERS</p> <p>01st December 2020 – 30th June 2021 (7 months)</p> <p>ALL THE INVOLVED COUNTRIES</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide youth workers with tools and interactive methods, within a newly designed pedagogical approach, to promote gender equity within groups of young people in public spaces | |
| <p>A7. MULTIPLIERS EVENTS IN PUBLIC SPACES</p> <p>01st July – 31st August 2021 (2 months – 1 day events)</p> <p>ALL THE INVOLVED COUNTRIES</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to disseminate and widespread the two Intellectual Outputs produced (Toolkit and Handbook), among different stakeholders, as coordinators of local and national organizations, directors of youth and social centres, representatives of the local municipalities and of the educational and social services, staff of the National Agencies | |
| <p>A8. TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING</p> <p>25th – 26th August 2021 – 2 days</p> <p>24th August 2021: arrival day – 27th August 2021: departure day</p> <p>(dates have to be confirmed)</p> <p>Toulouse, FRANCE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to run the overall evaluation of the project, measuring its impact on the direct beneficiaries and on the participating organizations • to further share the main outcomes of the Tools Testing through Street Actions run in public spaces (measuring the change in the level of participation of the local young people and communities) and the impact of the Multipliers Events run in Public Spaces to disseminate the Intellectual Outputs • to finalize the final assessment of the tools and methods experimented in the previous steps, measuring their effectiveness accordingly to the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflet in .pdf and for the on line version to share the main outcomes of the project and to widen the visibility • Prezi presentation with the main information and outcomes |

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| | <p>different target groups involved and the isolated areas' specificities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to set the ground for the follow up activities forecasted for September and October 2021 and for the new ones to be realized after the formal end of the project. | |
| <p>A9. FOLLOW UP</p> <p>01st September – 31st October 2021 (2 months)</p> <p>ALL THE INVOLVED COUNTRIES</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to further wide-spread the project outcomes, creating new synergies to implement actions in public spaces, revitalizing isolated areas • to use the tools to further activate public spaces in isolated areas and to actively involve the local young people • to transform the young people who initially participated in the actions, in active agents of change and promoters of other streets activities, using these tools. | |

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