



INEX – Sdružení dobrovolných aktivit
Association for Voluntary Activities

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Youthworker 2.0 – about the project

The project Youthworker 2.0 aimed at improving the quality of work with groups of young people. It was a series of three training courses designated for leaders of volunteer projects and youth workers. Its main purpose was to support participants to work better with groups of young people in their own projects and activities; in particular how to better cope with the problematic situations that arise during the work with the group. The entire project was co-ordinated by the INEX - Association of Voluntary Activities and 24 participants from 6 partner organizations attended each training course (Egyesek Youth Association - Hungary, TransFúzia - Slovakia, Legambiente - Italy, Xchange Scotland - Scotland, Young Researchers of Serbia (Mladi istraživači Srbije) - Serbia, ELIX - Greece). **The project was supported by Erasmus + Programme.**

Each of the three training sessions lasted for a week, and from each of them, a practical guide was created by the participants. The guides focus on the work with the group and summarize the outputs of the training activities. They always contain the fundamental theories on which they are based, the results of discussions and various activities, including examples of particular situations and their practical solutions, and other useful tools for working with the group. The guides are helpful tools and can be used by everyone who works with youth.

Outputs of the project

The first training was focused on how to deal with the most problematic situations in the group, such as language barriers, demotivation of participants, unsatisfied expectations, their different experiences, etc. Participants sought solutions to these situations through team activities, positive communication and feedback, mediation of conflicts, group dynamics and ways of group leadership, work values, etc. The output is the guide [Dealing with Complicated Situations](#).

The second training was focused on the topic of social inclusion of people with special needs or fewer opportunities. Participants examined possible obstacles (social, economic, health, etc.) that could exclude individuals from the group and prevent their inclusion, and ways how to remove these obstacles. During the course, they created a workshop for pupils of a local school where they tried out group activities in practice that could help prevent exclusion from the group. All of this was summarized in the guide [Social Inclusion in International Youth Projects](#).

The third training was focused on the topic of discrimination. The participants were concerned with their own prejudices, stereotypes and their behavior in the group. They learned how to work with and prevent discrimination, and how to create open and friendly space in the group. The participants created a set of activities focused on the topic of discrimination and how to work with it and summarized it in the guide [Tackling Discrimination on International Projects](#).

Impact of the trainings

Participants retrospectively assessed the training and its impact on their own work. They considered as the most beneficial that they had gained greater self-confidence in leadership and personal life through training. They know better their strengths and weaknesses and can work with them. This helps them to better lead groups, keep group's motivation, use positive communication and prevent problematic situations including exclusion and discrimination. Participants also positively evaluated that they gained more confidence in their own projects. They could better plan, organize and lead them to successfully complete them. Participants gain the theoretical knowledge through the training that they have tried in practical activities and further use them in their work with youth groups.