



15.10. - 23.10. 2021

GYPSY SOUL

MURSKA SOBOTA - RAKIČAN, SLOVENIA

What is Erasmus + ?

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.

The 2021-2027 programme places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.



What is a youth exchange?

Young people groups from different countries to meet, live together and work on shared projects for short periods (5 - 21 days, excluding travelling).

You can participate in activities such as workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, outdoor activities and more.

Youth exchanges are managed by organisations, informal groups of young people or other organisations.





What is non-formal education?

The Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme offers young people various opportunities for the acquisition of competences and personal development through non-formal learning. The concept refers to learning which takes place outside the formal educational curricula, and embraces a participative, indiscriminative and learner-centred approach. Non-formal learning is carried out on a voluntary basis and is therefore closely linked to young people's own needs and interests. A high-quality non-formal education provided by the beneficiaries is a key aspect of all projects granted within the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme.



What we did in this project?

- Energizers
- Discussing about stereotypes
- Team building activities, games
- Presentations about the Roma community
- Intercultural night





With the "Gypsy soul" youth exchange, we brought the culture and way of life of the Roma closer to young people and presented the problem of hate speech and discrimination. Discrimination against Roma begins when they enter elementary school, and the result is often incomplete schooling, which leads to denied access to the labor market and health care, and dependence on social support. In the project itself, we focused on getting to know the problem, especially prejudices and hate speech, which is also present in the media. With the "Gypsy soul" youth exchange, young people from a total of 5 countries (Slovenia, Lithuania, Hungary, Italy and Romania) shed light on the problem of "labeling", stereotypes, hate speech and, as a result, discrimination and poor integration of the Roma population with the majority population. At the same time, we presented examples of good practices in preventing hate speech and dealing with stereotypes and prejudices in the participating countries, and brought Roma culture closer to the "non-Roma". The participants of the youth exchange were shown examples of good practices of Roma integration in kindergartens, schools, job search... in our region, as our region is the leader in the integration of Roma in Europe. We also followed the goals of the Erasmus+ program, as we included young people with fewer opportunities, promoted a healthy lifestyle, strengthened social inclusion and active participation of young people in society, we also strengthened language competences and improved or acquired key competences and skills. Throughout the project, we promoted tolerance and prevented hate speech. We each transferred the newly acquired knowledge to our own country and raised awareness about the issue of hate speech in the media. In our countries, we presented good practices for reducing hate speech and tried to influence the general public's awareness of the problem of stereotypes and hate speech, especially in the media. The goals of our project, which we achieved, were: greater social inclusion of members of the Roma minority in the project; reducing impatience; understanding of Roma culture and Roma issues; raising awareness of the issue of hate speech; activation or motivating members of the Roma community for active social inclusion; acquainting the general public with examples of good practices in improving the social condition of the Roma population and dealing with hate speech; inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities; improving knowledge of foreign languages; improvement of key competences and skills of young people; promoting the quality of youth work; promoting tolerance and preventing hate speech.



The youth exchange activity included young people aged 18 to 30, and some of the group leaders were over 30 years old. There were 14 participants from Slovenia, 6 participants from Lithuania, 5 participants from Hungary, 5 participants from Italy and 6 participants from Romania, so there were 36 of us in total and we were fairly equal in terms of gender as well. Some of us are young people with fewer opportunities, from remote, rural areas, who do not have as much access to such programs. It is also possible to find individuals from an economically disadvantaged environment in our groups. Participants from all countries included a representative of the Roma minority. What we all had in common was that we were interested in Roma culture, that we had a desire to get to know better the life of Roma in other parts of the world and to become familiar with the issues of this culture. Young participants from various European countries thus investigated the phenomenon of hate speech and hate speech in the media. Each partner country also had Roma among the participants, so we focused our attention on them as well and gave them the opportunity to share their stories and experiences with us. We focused on examples of good practices presented by each country. We also visited the largest Roma settlement in Slovenia - Pušča.





I liked the connection with people, learning new things about Roma and Romanian people

Dominik, 23



Georgiana, 20

I liked the diversity in people, creativity and activities

My experience

What did you like the most about this project?



I liked meeting new people, learning about new cultures and the Roma history

Boris, 29



Alexandra, 23

I liked that we were very diverse and different and that we had the opportunity to learn about different cultures



Veronica, 23

I liked breaking the stereotypes, making connections and I liked the group atmosphere





Erasmus +



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