

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals  
Action Type: Mobility of young people

Project Title

# Young Solutions Combating Hate Speech

## Project Coordinator

**Organisation** Young Solutions

**Address** TR

## Project Information

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**EC Contribution** 43,082 EUR

**Partners** Astika (BG) , Heritage - Youth Education and Promotion Center (AZ) , Agency for innovation and development (MD) , Loesje Palestine (PS) , JOVESOLIDES Egypt (EG) , ASOCIATIA NEST - NATURA EDUCATIE SPORT TEHNOLOGIE (RO) , Stowarzyszenie Youth Human Impact (PL)

**Topics** Human rights and rule of law ; Preventing racism and discrimination ; Youth policy development

## Project Summary

### Objectives

Young people are the most dynamic and transformative force in societies. However, in today's world, young people are faced with challenges such as discrimination, hate speech and social exclusion. These problems deepen social polarization and weaken understanding, empathy and solidarity between different communities. This project was developed to ensure that young people are equipped with active citizenship awareness, take a conscious stance against hate speech and produce projects that promote social inclusiveness.

By implementing this project, we aim to increase young people's awareness of human rights and social inclusiveness, develop their empathy skills and encourage them to carry out solution-oriented youth work. At the same time, the project aims to strengthen the culture of dialogue and cooperation among young people, ensure that young people from different cultural backgrounds understand each other and prepare the ground for sustainable youth initiatives that can create long-term social impact.

In doing so, we will ensure that participants learn from their own experiences by using tools such as non-formal learning methods, interactive workshops, intercultural dialogue studies, creative drama, storytelling, media literacy and digital activism. We will encourage young people to be not only consumers of information but also producers of information through practical activities. At the end of the project, young people will have the capacity to develop concrete actions against discrimination and hate speech, and will be more actively involved in awareness-raising activities in their own communities.

By carrying out our project;

- 1- Strengthening Inclusiveness and Empathy Among Young People,
- 2- Raising Awareness to Combat Hate Speech and Discrimination,
- 3- Increasing Young People's Awareness on Human Rights,
- 4- Developing Young People's Critical Thinking and Media Literacy Skills,
- 5- Creating Social Change Using Art and Creative Methods,
- 6- Encouraging Young People to Volunteerism and Activism,
- 7- Establishing International Cooperation and Cultural Dialogues.

We want to develop empathy towards vulnerable groups in society, encourage spirit of solidarity among young people and raise awareness for a world where everyone has equal rights. In this context, young people will increase their cultural awareness by listening to the experiences of young people in different countries as well as understanding the forms of discrimination experienced in their own countries.

Hate speech, which is increasingly prevalent especially in digital media today, has negative psychological and social effects on individuals and groups. Within the scope of this project, we will encourage young people to become aware of the fight against hate speech, develop their critical thinking skills online and offline and take action on this issue.

During the project, young people will be informed about issues such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, minority rights, and the rights of refugees and migrants, and will conduct in-depth studies on the implementation of these rights through interactive sessions. In this way, young people will become individuals who are conscious of social justice and rights-based approaches.

In the digital age, although it is easy to access information, misinformation and disinformation are equally common. By acquiring media literacy skills, young people will learn how to analyze hate speech and disinformation they encounter on digital platforms, how to be conscious media consumers, and how to create digital campaigns that benefit society.

Art is one of the most powerful tools that promote social change. During the project, young people will develop creative projects that will raise awareness in their communities using methods such as theater, visual arts, storytelling, digital media, and social campaigns.

One of our biggest goals is to ensure that young people not only become aware, but also take action. At the end of the project, participants will be motivated to develop and implement individual or collective projects to increase social inclusion in their own countries.

While the cultural understanding of young people from different countries will increase, long-term friendship and collaboration opportunities will also be created. With this project, we aim to encourage young people to carry out joint projects at an international level and to participate more actively in programs such as Erasmus+.

Young people participating in the project will return to their communities as leaders who are active citizens, sensitive to global problems, solution-oriented, and inclusive at the end of this process.

Our project aims to contribute to the development of young people as actors who will create change in their societies. Our biggest goal was to empower them as conscious individuals based on social justice, human rights and equality and to motivate them to create more inclusive societies in the future.

## Activities

Within the scope of our international youth exchange project, young people from 8 different countries, namely Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Egypt, Palestine, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Turkey, will come together and participate in an 8-day intensive training and experience sharing program. A total of 40 participants, 5 young people between the ages of 18-29 from each country, will be included in the project. This group will consist of a structure that encourages cultural diversity and includes individuals from different social, economic and ethnic backgrounds.

In the selection of participants, criteria such as sensitivity to the subject, interest in social inclusion and human rights issues, volunteer experience and active citizenship awareness will be taken into account. In addition, gender balance, representation of young people from different socio-economic backgrounds and ensuring a participation balance appropriate to the social dynamics of the countries involved in the project are among our priorities. In this direction, special sensitivity will be shown to encourage the participation of young people from disadvantaged groups in the project.

In terms of the participant profile, students, new graduates, members of civil society organizations, activists, social entrepreneurs, youth leaders and individuals interested in human rights issues will be included in the project. Participants are expected to have basic knowledge or be interested in issues such as human rights, inclusiveness, combating hate speech and intercultural dialogue. In addition, participants must be individuals who are willing to actively participate in the project process, be open to learning and disseminate the gains they have achieved in their own countries.

Within the scope of our youth exchange program, various non-formal learning methods and interactive activities

are planned to strengthen the learning process of the participants and encourage their active participation. Throughout the program, participants will be supported with methods such as individual and group work, experiential learning, creative drama, workshops, case studies, intercultural learning activities, field visits and the use of digital media tools.

Day 1, Icebreaker Games and Group Dynamics, Expectations, Fears and Participation Agreement, Cultural Presentations and Introductions will be held to ensure introduction and trust.

Day 2, Inclusion and human rights workshops will be held, Interactive Workshop on Human Rights and Social Inclusion and Social Prejudices and Discrimination Studies will be held.

Day 3, Hate speech and media literacy sessions will examine hate speech in the digital world, how hate speech spreads on social media, its effects and ways to combat it. Practical studies will be held on how to recognize misleading news, disinformation and hate speech with the media literacy and critical thinking workshop.

Day 4, Intercultural Dialogues, Intercultural Learning and Empathy Studies, Discussions on Migration and Refugee Experiences will be held.

Day 5, Art, Storytelling and Creative Solutions, Social Change through Art, Digital Activism for Youth events will be held.

Day 6, Social Entrepreneurship and Creating Impact in Society, Youth Impact in Society, Social Entrepreneurship and Innovative Solutions will be held.

Day 7, Interaction and Implementation with the Local Community will be carried out. Community-Based Studies and Field Visits will be carried out and meetings will be organized with local NGOs and institutions fighting against discrimination.

Day 8, Evaluation and dissemination activities will be carried out to evaluate the learning outcomes, next steps and international collaborations, and participants will develop strategies on how they can create an impact in their own countries after the project. All participants will receive youthpass certificates documenting their achievements at the end of the project.

The project aims to adopt environmentally friendly practices and raise awareness among participants on this issue. Digital materials will be used in all activities to minimize paper waste, and recyclable and reusable materials will be preferred to limit plastic use in events.

Online workshops, interactive webinars and virtual campaigns will be organized to raise awareness among young people about combating hate speech on a global scale. Several virtual introductory meetings will be held before the project to increase interaction among participants and ensure that they are prepared for the project topics.

The participation of socially and economically disadvantaged young people and the representation of individuals with different cultural backgrounds will be ensured throughout the project. Gender balance will be taken into account in the selection of participants. Storytelling events and empathy-focused workshops will be organized where young people can share their own stories and experiences to increase inclusiveness.

## Impact

The Young Solutions Combating Hate Speech project is an innovative and inclusive initiative that aims to increase inclusiveness among young people, combat hate speech, and raise awareness of human rights. This project, which will be carried out with the active participation of young people from different countries, aims to

contribute to the individual and collective transformation of the participants while also creating a broader social impact. The fact that the project is shaped by non-formal learning methods will enable the participants to transform from passive listeners to active practitioners and will encourage them to disseminate what they have learned in their own countries.

One of the most important outcomes of this project is that the participants will become aware of hate speech, discrimination, prejudice, and human rights. Considering that hate speech and discrimination are increasing widely on digital platforms and in physical environments today, it is of great importance for young people to become sensitive to these issues, develop social media literacy, and strengthen their critical thinking skills. In this way, young people will not only support individuals exposed to hate speech, but will also be able to take concrete steps to combat discrimination. Participants will be encouraged to educate their own circles and take action on these issues through social media campaigns and awareness-raising events.

In addition, the project aims to strengthen intercultural dialogue among young people and develop empathy among individuals from different backgrounds. Participants from 8 different countries will share with each other their social inclusion policies, approaches to migration and refugee rights, and methods they have developed to combat discrimination. This diversity will not only increase the participants' awareness of their own societies, but will also help them gain a global perspective. Thus, project participants will be able to take on more active roles in social inclusion and human rights projects in their own countries in the future.

Another important effect of the project is that participants develop active citizenship awareness and are encouraged to be a part of social change. During the project process, participants will gain social entrepreneurship and activism skills to identify social problems and produce solutions to them. In particular, they are expected to develop innovative methods to combat hate speech and integrate these methods into youth organizations, educational institutions or NGOs in their own countries. Participants will be able to disseminate what they have learned within the scope of the project and carry out awareness-raising activities against hate speech and assume leadership roles in their communities.

The project also aims to develop young people's critical thinking and media literacy skills. Today, disinformation and hate speech spread through digital platforms have a serious impact on young people. During the project process, participants will gain competence in detecting fake news, making critical analyses, and using social media tools consciously. These skills will strengthen young people's understanding of digital citizenship and help them make a difference in their societies as more conscious individuals.

One of the long-term effects of the project on participants and society is to ensure that young people are more involved in social responsibility projects and to support them in creating sustainable change in their local communities. The individual and group projects developed during the project process will pave the way for participants to take similar initiatives in their own countries. In particular, collaborations will be developed with local NGOs, municipalities, and educational institutions, and broader awareness-raising activities can be carried out on combating hate speech.

Digital content, guides, and educational materials will be prepared by the participants for the sustainability and dissemination of project outputs. These materials will contribute to raising awareness among other young people in combating hate speech, not only during the project process but also afterwards. Participants will have the opportunity to inspire more young people by sharing the gains they have gained from the project in their own circles and on social media.

The Young Solutions Combating Hate Speech project aims to create social change by raising awareness,

empowering and mobilizing young people. At the end of the project, not only the participants but also a wide range of young people around them will be more conscious and active in the fight against hate speech and discrimination. This project will contribute to young people becoming effective change agents in society and will be an important step towards building a more inclusive and tolerant world.

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