

ID TALKS!

ID Talks 2024 spring edition will take you on a journey through faith, belief, and how to build projects to encompass different perspectives in your youth & community projects.



ID Talks:

UNDERSTANDING INTERFAITH DIALOGUE
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND IDENTITY
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND COMMUNITY
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND PEACE

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EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS



Erasmus+

ABOUT SALTO

...‘Support and **A**dvanced **L**earning and **T**raining **O**pportunities within the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes’. The European Commission has created a network of seven SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres to enhance the implementation of the EU Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes, which provide young people with valuable non-formal learning experiences.

SALTO’s aim is to support the implementation of the European Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps Programmes with regard to priorities such as Social Inclusion, Diversity, Participation, and Solidarity. SALTO also supports co-operation with regions such as EuroMed, South-East Europe, or Eastern Europe and The Caucasus and coordinates all training and co-operation activities, as well as information tools for National Agencies.

In these European priority areas, SALTO-YOUTH provides resources, information, and training for National Agencies and European youth workers. Most of these resources are offered and disseminated at www.SALTO-YOUTH.net. Find online the [European Training Calendar](#), the [Toolbox for Training and Youth Work](#), the database of youth field trainers active at the European level ([Trainers Online for Youth or TOY](#)), links to online resources, and much more.

SALTO-YOUTH actively co-operates with other actors in the European youth field, among them the National Agencies of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, European youth workers and trainers, and training organisers.

THE SALTO-YOUTH INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY RESOURCE CENTRE WWW.SALTO-YOUTH.NET/INCLUSION/

The SALTO-YOUTH Inclusion and Diversity Resource Centre (based in Belgium Flanders) works together with the European Commission to support the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Through that, it works to contribute to social cohesion in society at large. SALTO Inclusion and Diversity also supports the National Agencies and youth workers in their inclusion work by providing training, developing youth work methods, disseminating information via the newsletter, etc. By offering opportunities for training, exchange, and reflection on inclusion practice and diversity management, SALTO Inclusion & Diversity works towards the visibility, accessibility, and transparency of its inclusion & diversity work and resources, and towards making ‘inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities’ and ‘positive diversity management’ a widely supported priority.

For more information and resources, have a look at the Inclusion & Diversity pages at www.SALTO-YOUTH.net/Inclusion/



DISCLAIMER

This magazine contains pictures as a result of the Graphic Recording which is an integral part of all the ID Talks events. There are four types of styles throughout the whole magazine.

- **General Cover Picture.** It is used for promotional reasons throughout the social media channels and the dissemination materials and it depicts the logo of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, the title, and the graphic elements of each version of the ID Talks events. It is displayed as a cover picture of each ID Talks version.
- **Portrait of Speaker.** It depicts each speaker and a few graphic recording elements such as written parts of their "speech" and/or any other graphics according to the style of each ID Talks version. It is displayed on top of the speaker's description page.
- **Main Graphic Recording Card.** It is used for promotional reasons throughout the social media channels and the dissemination materials and it depicts the logo of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, the title, and the graphic elements of each version of the ID Talks events, including the specific name of the event, the portrait of the speaker, written quotes of their "speech" and/or any other graphics. It is displayed on top of the first page of each article.
- **Graphic Recording Elements.** Throughout each article, the graphic recording elements complement the text with essential parts of each speaker's "talk".



I & D Talks

“Interfaith Dialogue for Community and Peace Building”

What is it all about?

ID Talks are a series of 5 online workshops on 5 major topics to form a general understanding of interfaith dialogue and its link to community building and quality youth work. They feature youth workers, professionals, and volunteers from all over the world to share insights, research findings, food for thought, good practices, or inspirational stories. They will guide participants through the pressing matters and challenges affecting interfaith dialogue and inspire them to make their programmes and organisations more inclusive, embrace human differences, look ahead and picture how the future of youth work and Inclusion and Diversity might be.

Each workshop begins with an input from a guest speaker. Afterwards, participants have the opportunity to engage in the discussion, ask questions, and share their realities and experiences.

For whom?

Youth workers, youth leaders, professionals, and volunteers involved in ID in the EU youth programmes, as well as all those interested in youth work and Inclusion & Diversity topics.

Main objectives:

- To provide food for thought and learn from inspirational ID stories;
- To provide an opportunity to learn about ID topics from the youth work sector and beyond;
- To get information, inspiration, and methods to help the youth sector address ID;
- To inform about and contribute to quality (international) youth work;
- To identify and learn how to tackle existing and future challenges within ID;



Event Dates:

- 14 February (13h CET) > **ID Talks Understanding Interfaith Dialogue** - Are you wondering what is interfaith dialogue and what we can learn from it? Why it is important and what is its value and relevance today? Let's discover together the various concepts (such as inter-conviction dialogue, religion, faith, spirituality...) and differences between those, and have a closer look at the basic elements of interfaith dialogue, its potential and limits. Guest speaker: **Meg Villanueva, Philippines**
- 28 February (13h CET) > **ID Talks Interfaith Dialogue and Identity** - Ready for some introspection? In this session, you'll discover what is identity and the role religion and faith play in its creation. How do the religious identities of an individual and a community interrelate? Knowing that our religious and cultural narratives are as important to us as theirs to different other communities, is the clash of narratives inevitable? Let's talk about the power of storytelling, its impact on young people and possible (mis)use in (interfaith) dialogue. Guest speaker: **Fouad Lakbir, The Netherlands**
- 13 March (13h CET) > **ID Talks Interfaith Dialogue and Community** - It is undoubtedly important to foster dialogue and exchange between people and communities living side by side. But what does it really entail and how do you conduct it? What makes "good" interfaith dialogue, what conditions enable it and who should be involved? Let's analyse how the complexity of diversity affects interfaith dialogue and community building, and discover the role the city and the EU youth programmes can have in this process. Guest speaker: **Fien Ingelbrecht, Belgium**
- 27 March (13h CET) > **ID Talks Interfaith Dialogue and Reconciliation** - How can we create bridges between people? This session zooms in on reconciliation and the role of interfaith dialogue in this process. As religion and faith can be forces of cohesion instead of division in the society, let's find out about possibilities to bring together different religious communities in post-conflict areas and the role of the youth work and youth programmes like Erasmus+ in reconciliation processes. Guest speaker: **Nadežda Mojsilović, Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- 10 April (13 CET) > **ID Talks Interfaith Dialogue and Peace** - Peace and conflict are very often addressed in non-formal learning and youth work. But what sets interreligious conflicts apart from other types of conflict? Let's see what is the role of interfaith dialogue in conflict prevention, conflict transformation and peace building, and how youth work and youth programmes like Erasmus+ support the work on intercultural learning and peace building. Guest speaker: **Mamoun Khreisat, Jordan**

ID Talks: ID Talks Understanding Interfaith Dialogue

Are you wondering what is interfaith dialogue and what we can learn from it?

THROUGH MY EXPERIENCE I HAVE LEARNT THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER AND UNDERSTANDING WHERE OUR PREJUDICES COME FROM



MEG VILLANUEVA
(PHILIPPINES)

GUEST SPEAKER: MEG VILLANUEVA

Meg Villanueva carries with her 18 years of hands-on experience in conflict transformation work. A peace practitioner specialising in sustainable peacebuilding and youth work, she has lived and worked in Spain, Georgia (working between Abkhaz and Georgians), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Latin America, and the Caribbean, with projects extending from peace education curriculum design to reconciliation and healing, dealing with the past, capacity development in youth, peace, and security, and research on inter-religious dialogue, gender analyses, and prevention of violent extremism.

She is an independent consultant engaged in youth and peacebuilding work in Mindanao, Philippines. Most of her work revolves around capacity building and managing grassroots interventions on conflict transformation among young Muslims, Christians, and indigenous youth in southern Mindanao.

She was the lead trainer of the ALLY Project (Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth), a 30-month program for PVE through digital training of youth from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri-Lanka, and a researcher for interreligious dialogue for social cohesion in South East Asia.

Her home base is in the beautiful island of Siargao (Philippines) where she loves to surf, practice yoga, mindfulness, and wellbeing, and promote sustainability with her local community.



Article

Meg Villanueva



Interfaith Dialogue – where does it begin and where does it end?

For the last 15 years I have been involved in youth work, in Europe, the Mediterranean, and in Asia, and the topic of 'interfaith dialogue' has gained ground. In educational activities, the concept of 'intercultural learning' and 'intercultural dialogue' is being mainstreamed as an essential part of a 'holistic' form of youth work.

The coming together of different people representing different cultural traditions, different faiths, and beliefs, is not new in the context of young people who want to work for change in their communities. Especially in the context of peace and war and anything in between, the importance of 'dialogue' from a cross-cultural perspective is always emphasized.

Understanding interfaith dialogue entails a good understanding of the terms 'interfaith' and 'dialogue' joined together. The terms interfaith and intercultural may be often used interchangeably, and it is not so much of a big deal unless the focus is on content.

INTERFAITH

Interfaith means the interaction or relationship of people representing different faiths – usually the Abrahamic faiths such as the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions.

Inter-religious means the coming together of, or relationship of different religions (such as Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism).



Intercultural means the coming together of different cultural traditions and backgrounds - and can be as broad as we wish. Included in this broad definition are interactions at the international and economic levels where two or more countries/communities interact.

Culture, religion, and faith can be intertwined depending on how much we relate to them and embrace them as important elements of our day-to-day lives.

DIALOGUE



The term **dialogue**, for me, carries a more important weight – not just because it is the ‘action’ part, but also because it is and has been diminished and misunderstood.

I would like to highlight the Greek prefix ‘dia-logos,’ which means an acceptance, by two people or more, to compare (and contrast) their perspectives. The prefix dia can be likened to the Latin ‘trans,’ which means a transformation or shift – in time, space, substance, or thought...so dialogue means coming together to embrace a shift or transformation in terms of mindset and understanding. It is not to be confused with the prefix ‘duo’ which means a conversation between two people.

So, interfaith dialogue is MORE THAN JUST a conversation between two people coming from different faiths – but an interaction between or among people of different faiths with the openness to embrace a shift or transformation in understanding each other.



Interfaith dialogue can also be defined as a cooperative, constructive, and positive interaction between people of different religious traditions (i.e. "faiths") and/or spiritual or humanistic beliefs, at both the individual and institutional levels.

Now that we have defined the concept of interfaith dialogue, I invite everyone to explore the question ‘where does interfaith dialogue begin and end?’

AN **INTERACTION** BETWEEN
PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT FAITHS,
RELIGIONS, SPIRITUAL GROUPS &
BELIEFS WHICH IS **POSITIVE** AND
COOPERATIVE AND PROMOTES
mutual understanding

INTENTION

I believe that interfaith dialogue (or any form of dialogue) begins with an intention to understand and embrace perspectives coming from others. **Intention (motivation)** is an important element of dialogue because without it, the coming together without the openness to understand can be diminished to simple forms of interaction. The intention of dialogue is important in guiding the process of the dialogue itself.

If the intention is considered an important element at the beginning of the dialogue, then when this intention is over, the dialogue ends.

Sounds simple, right? Interestingly enough, intention should not be confused with having strict or rigid objectives when coming into the dialogue space. The openness could be kept in line with participants of the dialogue having the freedom to explore this (or their own) openness and not be stuck with rigid aims and goals.

In line with this understanding of where interfaith dialogue begins and ends, I would like to end this sharing by giving practical tips related to the good practice of interfaith dialogue.

INTENTION
THE STARTING POINT
OF ANY DIALOGUE!

YOUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD NOT BE TO CHANGE THE OTHER PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE, BUT TO ACTIVELY **EXCHANGE, COMPARE & UNDERSTAND** DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW

BEING CONSCIOUS AND VISUAL

For interfaith dialogue to flourish, it helps when it is consciously facilitated. Mentioning dialogue visibly and introducing the concept of (transformative) dialogue helps ensure that people who take part in the dialogue are aware of the openness the activity encourages. This visibility will also help 'screen' people who will be participating in your dialogue activities. The more explicit we are with the intention of the dialogue activity, the more we can attract the 'right people' to come.

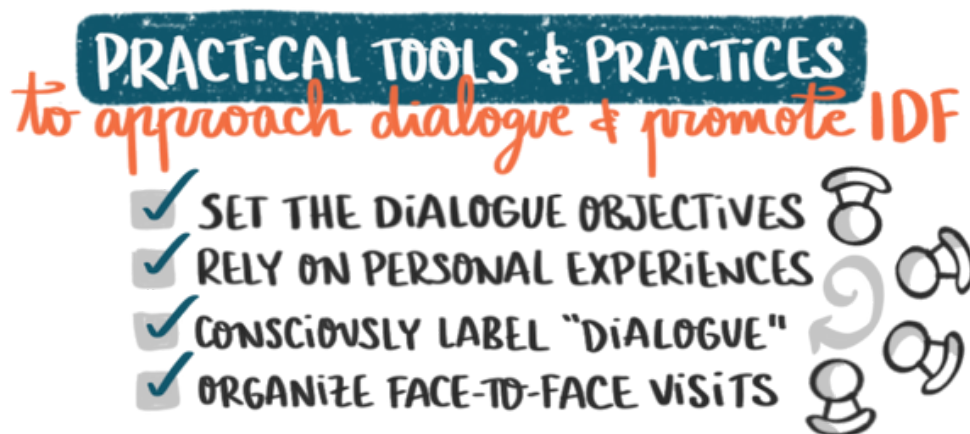


HUMANISING DIALOGUE APPROACHES

Interfaith dialogue can end up in the sharing of too much information about diversity and differences that can end up in lip service. Especially in situations when diversity can be seen as a threat rather than as a resource, dialogues can be misinterpreted as trying to convert or play power dynamics from one faith to another. Combining approaches that present the human side of diversity will help in making the dialogue less threatening and more inviting towards mutual understanding. Day to day, human approaches to dialogue can also make the interaction more 'real.'

Below are some approaches!

- Storytelling is one approach that can be used to encourage the coming together of different cultures and faiths that bring about the human side of people. Sharing real stories of real people can connect those who might share similar experiences and struggles.
- Community visits and immersions to places of worship, for example, can help make people appreciate and understand differences.



Lastly, it is important to remember that in all these, ensuring a safe environment is necessary to allow real dialogue to flourish. Interfaith dialogue, when done correctly and intentionally, can enrich our lives, and promote social cohesion and peace within our communities.



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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On behalf of the SALTO Inclusion & Diversity!

