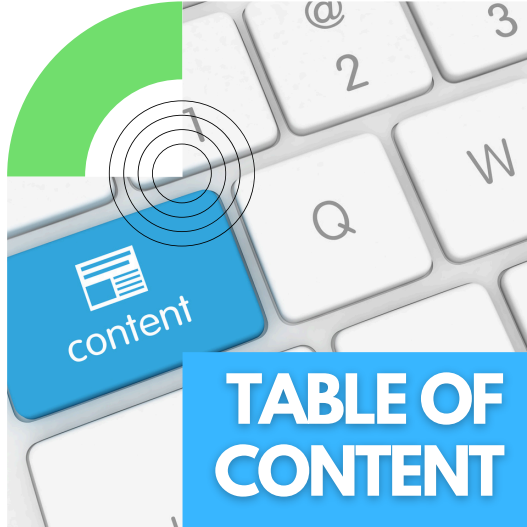




TOOLKIT

THE POWER OF CREATIVITY WILL FIGHT THE HATE SPEECH AGAINST MIGRANTS



03	<u>OUR JOURNEY</u>
04	<u>ORGANISATIONS</u>
07	<u>WHY DO WE NEED THIS TOOLKIT</u>
08	<u>HATE SPEECH I</u>
09	<u>HATE SPEECH II</u>
10	<u>STORYTELLING METHOD</u>
12	<u>LOESJE CREATIVE WRITING</u>
14	<u>CONSCIOUS BREATHING</u>
15	<u>MUTUAL APPRECIATION</u>
16	<u>POESIE IN ACTION</u>
17	<u>LOCAL ACTIVITIES (GREECE)</u>
18	<u>LOCAL ACTIVITIES (N.MACEDONIA)</u>
19	<u>LOCAL ACTIVITIES (BELGIUM)</u>
20	<u>DISCLAIMER</u>

OUR JOURNEY



The project duration is 15 months. Initially we started the project with a meeting in Waterloo, Belgium and ended with the final meeting there, too. The training course happened in Veles, North Macedonia, as well as the mid-term meeting. Local activities were happening online and in person in different cities in the participating countries.

With the local activities we managed to engage around 100 participants from North Macedonia, Greece and Belgium. Our toolkit was developed in 4 languages and shared online on different platforms such as Salto-Youth, Erasmus+ Project Results platform and the communication channels of the participating countries.

ORGANISATIONS



Education Globale et Développement asbl (EGD asbl) is a Belgian non-profit organization founded in 2001, dedicated to promoting peace education, intercultural understanding, and values-based learning across all age groups. The organization works to foster a culture of non-violence, dialogue, solidarity, and active citizenship through a combination of formal and non-formal educational methods. EGD asbl implements a diverse range of educational activities, including Peace Classes within schools, creative peace workshops for extracurricular learning, holiday programs and youth camps, as well as training courses for educators, youth workers, and facilitators. The organization also runs family and community learning programs that support intergenerational participation, social inclusion, and community engagement.



BITOLA

NORTH MACEDONIA

Loesje Bitola is the Macedonian branch of the international Loesje Network, dedicated to promoting freedom of expression, creative writing, and critical thinking as tools for social change. The organization produces distinctive Loesje posters in multiple languages that provoke discussion and raise awareness on important topics such as human rights, inclusion, diversity, tolerance, and environmental issues. These posters are used both in public spaces and within educational workshops that encourage participants to express their views creatively.

Alongside its artistic activities, Loesje Bitola is strongly engaged in youth work, organizing workshops, training courses, and Erasmus+ mobility projects. Their initiatives focus on empowering young people and youth workers—especially from vulnerable and marginalized groups—using non-formal education methods that promote active citizenship, digital literacy, social inclusion, and intercultural dialogue.



Youth Empowerment Center is a youth organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece, dedicated to creating inclusive spaces where young people can express themselves, develop skills, and engage actively in society. The organization works in alignment with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and promotes values such as inclusion, solidarity, diversity, communality, and sustainability. Through its activities, Youth Empowerment Center addresses topics including human rights, social justice, anti-discrimination, environmental awareness, and youth participation.

Alongside its community work, Youth Empowerment Center is actively engaged in youth work at both local and international levels, organizing workshops, training courses, youth exchanges, and Erasmus+ mobility projects. Their initiatives focus on empowering young people and youth workers—especially those from vulnerable and underrepresented groups—using non-formal education methods that foster active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, personal development, and social inclusion.



WHY DO WE NEED THIS TOOLKIT

The toolkit serves as a practical response to the issue of hate speech against migrants, which manifests differently across the participating countries but remains a common challenge. In North Macedonia, hate speech is directed not only at international migrants but also at internal migrants—especially young people moving from rural to urban areas—who are often stigmatized as being less capable. In Greece, despite years of migration flows, public reactions continue to fluctuate between hostility and solidarity, with hate speech and far-right narratives contributing to a hostile environment for many newcomers. In Belgium, migrants face many challenges related to access to housing, employment, and regularization of their status.

This toolkit aims to address these challenges through non-formal educational approaches that support critical thinking, creative expression, and inclusive dialogue. It is developed by organizations with strong experience in youth empowerment and social inclusion and it provides practical tools and methods that can help youth workers, educators, and activists counter hate speech.

Hate Speech I

Definition & Understanding

DURATION, GROUP SIZE AND MATERIALS

This activity lasts for 75 mins. in total.

The group size could be from 15-50 people (it can be easily adjusted depending on the size of the group).

The materials needed are:

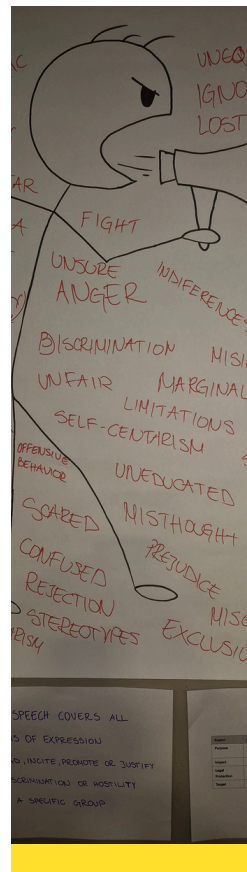
- flipcharts
- markers
- printed papers with definition of Hate Speech, study cases, types of Hate Speech and their definitions
- A4 papers

IMPLEMENTATION

Before any activity, start with lifting up the group's energy using an energiser. Then, using the Popcorn method, ask the group the following questions:

- What comes to your mind when you hear the word hate?
- How the word 'speech' comes at play?
- What is the difference between 'hate speech' and 'free speech'?

Present them a clear definition of hate speech (ex. from Council of Europe) and give them the 5 types of hate speech and its definitions: insults, discrimination, dehumanization, demonization and incitement to violence. Divide them in smaller groups, each having a study case of HS and they need to: identify elements of HS, type of HS, targeted group and how to transform it into free speech. Each group will present and then debriefing.



Hate Speech II

Roots & Consequences

DURATION, GROUP SIZE AND MATERIALS

The activity is designed to last 75 mins.
The group can vary from 15-50.

The materials needed are the following:

- flipcharts
- A4 blank white paper sheets
- printed A4 sheets with examples of how HS turned into violence
- markers in different colors

IMPLEMENTATION

Intro: First, you need to explain the Problem Tree method and why this method fits good in analyzing problems such as HS. Then, give the participants the freedom to draw their own tree analyzing a given problem and possibility to come up to solutions.

Main part: Divide the group in smaller groups and give them different examples of how hate speech turned into violence and caused even bigger society problems. Each group should analyze the situation and define the roots, the problem and the consequences. Then they present their trees to the rest. After presenting, a small brainstorm session: "What can individuals, communities, and institutions do to address HS?"

Debriefing: Here, ask them the following question: "Do you see HS online daily?" "How do you feel when you read or hear a comment that obviously contains HS?" "Was it easy for you to identify the roots of the situations you were given?" "How confident are you now in recognizing HS?" "Would you change something in the workshop?"



Storytelling method

DURATION, GROUP SIZE AND MATERIALS

The total duration of this activity is 5 hours. The method is consisted of 4 different stages, each one taking approximately 1 hr and 15 mins. Again, this activity can be done with around 50 participants.

For the whole activity, you will need:

- flipcharts
- colored papers
- tape
- A4 sheets
- pens
- markers
- post-it notes
- your phones

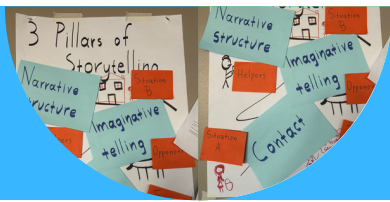
IMPLEMENTATION

PART I: PILLARS OF STORYTELLING

Participants engage in a name game activities, where one by one, they share how they got their name, whether they like it and if there is a deeper meaning. With this they will have already started telling and listening to stories, and how we are surrounded by stories. Then, participants get to know the 3 pillars of storytelling:

- 1.Narrative structure: Beginning, Middle, End+elements that make the story exciting.
- 2.Imaginative Telling: Providing images+using the 5 senses
- 3.Contact: The storyteller is keeping contact with the listener(s)

Then, division in pairs and giving tasks to participants to practice the 3 pillars of storytelling by analyzing the workshops from previous days. At the end, debriefing.



PART II: PHOTO STORYTELLING

The trainer asks the participants to go through their phones, choose one photo that is meaningful for them, show it to the rest of the group, share why they chose this photo and what memory they associate with it.

Then the participants engage in a game of Worst Case Scenario where a character named Patty is introduced with a single sentence, and participants continue the story by creating problems for the characters, until the worst case scenario is reached. Then the story is repeated backwards to solve each problem.

Afterwards, participants will create their own character including its name, backstory, personality, looks and plot

PART III: CREATING A SCENE

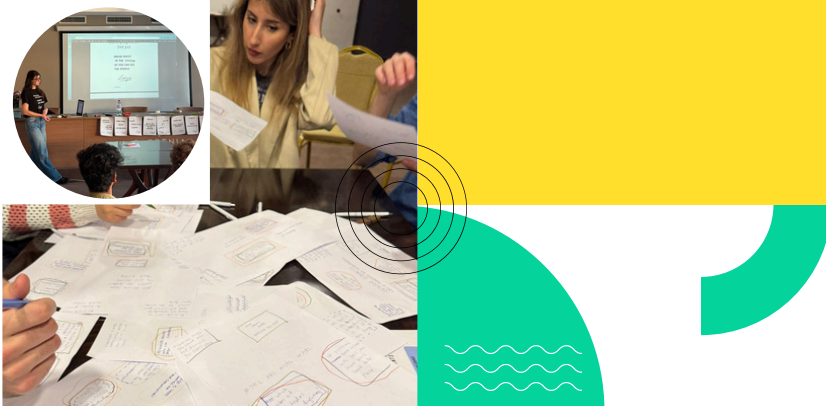
In this part, participants will be asked to act based on the character they've created. They will need to randomly walk around the space and randomly start a conversation with someone as if they were their character. Then, a groups of 3-4 people, each needs to come up with a conflict to play out, highlighting the characters they've created. Finally, presentation of the scene and debriefing session

PART IV: HERO'S JOURNEY

The Hero's Journey method is being introduced to participants. Then participants will be asked to go through their personal journey through some questions: 'What are the steps/decisions that set you on your current path?' 'Who are the people influencing your journey?' 'Where are you standing now?' 'What are your challenges and successes?' 'What are your dreams you want to achieve?'

At the end, a detailed debriefing session.





Loesje Creative Writing

DURATION, GROUP SIZE AND MATERIALS

This activity usually lasts for about 5 hours in 4 different stages. This activity is most efficient when divided in groups of few people. The materials needed for this activity are:

- laptop
- projector
- paper
- pens
- colorful markers
- rope

IMPLEMENTATION

PART I: INTRODUCTION AND WARM-UP GAMES

Participants are getting introduced to Loesje, its beginnings, characteristics and the movement itself. Then they are divided into smaller groups of max 7-8 people, where they go through creative warm up games to boost their creative minds. In this part of the workshop, participants are being asked to come up with topics they see as a problem in their society/life and things they would like to talk more about. On each piece of paper, they write down the topics, and they explain a little bit why they think it is important to talk about it.

PART II: WRITING CREATIVE SENTENCES

In this stage, participants get detailed instructions by the facilitator, reminding them of Loesje's characteristics and having them in mind when writing. They are asked to take the paper with their topic on and start writing creative sentences that will make people think, act and react if read on the streets. At the end, they will take a colored pen and circle the sentences they like the most. The ones with the most votes will make it to the final round.



PART III: FINAL EDITING

Participants will be divided in smaller groups, different than the ones they've been in. Each group will have randomly assigned sentences (the ones with the most votes) and they will once again, even more thoroughly, discuss and decide whether the sentence could be a potential Loesje poster, or not. At the end of this stage, the trainer points out that everything that the participants wrote, it doesn't belong to them now, it's Loesje's.



PART IV: FINAL VOTING

A rope has been put on a table and on top of it, the potential posters that have made it to the final round. The facilitator explains how the final voting works and emphasized that if they like the poster, they move it 1 cm up and if they don't like it they move it 1 cm down. The ones that are the highest, they already will become Loesje's posters, and the ones that are on the middle, are again discussed in front of everyone. After we have all the posters, the Loesje team will take care of the layout and printing and participants will have the opportunity to see the final product that they have created.



Conscious Breathing

DURATION, GROUP SIZE AND MATERIALS

This activity lasts for 15 mins. in total.

The group size could be from 15-50 people (it can be easily adjusted depending on the size of the group).

For this activity, you don't need any particular materials, you can ask the participants to sit on a chair or on the ground.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Breathing: Ask the participants to start breathing using nostrils, mouth closed, eyes closed and to breath from the belly. Breath-in with normal speed and breathe out a bit slower.

2. Concentrating: The second day it will get better, you breath-in normal and breath-out a bit slower, but at the same time you watch your breath which is going in and out, always from the belly. Mouth closed, eyes closed, breath-in normal speed and watch your air going in and going out so concentrate in your air.

3. Identifying: While doing Conscious Breathing, after some time, people can get distracted and when you realize that you are distracted, you identify the thought and without analyzing, directly come back to your breathing. Concentrate and this Conscious Breathing will increase self-mastery.





Mutual appreciation

DURATION, GROUP SIZE AND MATERIALS

This activity lasts for around 5-6 mins per participant, so for a group of 10 it could take up to an hour in total.

Again, for this activity a notebook and a pen are needed.

IMPLEMENTATION

Ask participants to find 3 competencies in each person and have to give a reason for each competencies during the course, not quality but competencies and capacities. These competences should be based on personal observations.

Once everyone is ready, one person begins by choosing someone from the group. They share three competencies or positive qualities of that person, along with a short justification for each. Afterward, the rest of the group can also add their own words of appreciation. When the sharing is complete, everyone claps for the person being appreciated. Then, the appreciated person selects someone else, and the process continues. Step by step, this cycle repeats until every participant in the course has both received and given appreciation.

Poésie in action

DURATION, GROUP SIZE AND MATERIALS

For a group of 10 people, each step lasts for about 1 hour. This activity lasts for around 5-6 mins per participant, so for a group of 10 it could take up to an hour in total. For this activity, a notebook and a pen are needed.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. We have a group and everybody sings one song from one's childhood
2. The animator shows a surmounting challenge from his life or in somebody else's life and shows how the challenge was overcome and what was the positive learning about this challenge
3. Each participant gives 5 personal positive qualities and shares them with the group. Everybody claps and the animator asks everybody to think of a sentiment of well-being. Each person shares this absolute well-being sentiment. Everybody writes a self-appreciation poem with the 5 personal positive qualities and each quality is made as a comparison with an element of the nature (courageous like the tiger i.e)
4. Self-choice of a pair: a person will choose somebody and with the need, each share a surmounting challenge and each one compose a poem while being in other's posture
5. Share what they think about this activity



LOCAL ACTIVITIES

(Greece)



In Greece, the Youth Empowerment Center hosted a dynamic and interactive online event on March 23, 2025, designed to deepen participants' understanding of hate speech against migrants and promote inclusive attitudes among young people. The event attracted 20 participants from Thessaloniki and surrounding areas, many of whom had already shown interest in human rights and social inclusion. The session opened with a brief introduction to the project's goals and the key outcomes of the training course. To make the experience engaging and reflective, a Kahoot quiz was used to test participants' existing knowledge and spark curiosity about the topic. This interactive activity served as an entry point into a rich group discussion, where participants openly shared their thoughts and experiences related to hate speech and discrimination. The conversation emphasized the power of individual and collective action, highlighting creative and peacebuilding tools that can be used to support migrants and foster social cohesion. The event concluded, with participants expressing a shared sense of responsibility and a renewed commitment to countering hate and promoting empathy in their communities.



LOCAL ACTIVITIES (North Macedonia)

In N. Macedonia, Loesje Bitola carried out impactful local activities in the city of Prilep, forming strong synergies with local schools and universities to bring the project's messages to a younger audience. One of the key events was a workshop held with 20 students from the high school "Riste Risteski-Richko." The workshop was thoughtfully structured, integrating tools and methodologies from the international TC. Participants began with a conscious breathing exercise to foster self-awareness and reflection, setting the tone for a safe and thoughtful space. They then engaged in case studies exploring different forms and meanings of discrimination, which encouraged critical thinking and group dialogue. The session ended with a creative reflection method that invited students to express their insights and emotions. Throughout the activity, participants demonstrated growing awareness of the ways discrimination and hate speech manifest in both public and private spheres. A key message that emerged was the importance of rejecting passivity: the students recognized that when hate speech occurs—whether online or offline—bystanders must become upstanders, taking active steps to challenge harmful narratives and support those affected.



LOCAL ACTIVITIES (Belgium)

On Friday, April 25, 2025, we had the pleasure of organizing a dissemination activity as part of the Erasmus+ project “The Power of Creativity Will Fight Hate Speech Against Migrants.” The event brought together around fifty people from migrant backgrounds and the Belgian community, creating a space for dialogue, creativity, and exchange.

Participants of the training course held in Veles, North Macedonia (February 16–22, 2025), enthusiastically presented the results and learning outcomes they developed to combat hate speech against migrants. Through their presentations and creative outputs, they showed how artistic expression and critical reflection can be powerful tools for inclusion and mutual respect.

The event served as a real bridge between cultures, fostering understanding and new connections. Guests were also introduced to Erasmus+ learning mobility opportunities, opening new perspectives for active participation in building a more inclusive and open future.



DISCLAIMER

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