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Partners

Migdal, Solidarus, Young Folks LT

Artists and Youth Workers from Latvia, Germany and Lithuania contributed to the completion of methods.

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

“Art of Identity: Partnerships for the Quality of Youth Work and Youth Exchanges” - the project has been designed to strengthen the capacities of partner organizations, enhance the quality of youth work, and promote meaningful collaboration in addressing the challenges young people face in identity formation and social inclusion. The initiative focused on supporting the development of inclusive, solidarity-based communities that embrace diversity and promote shared European values.

The primary goal of the project was to equip youth workers and partner organizations with innovative methods and practical tools for integrating art practices into youth work and non-formal education. Through collaborative activities, training sessions, and creative learning approaches, participants have been exploring how artistic expression can support self-awareness, intercultural dialogue, social participation, and mutual understanding among young people.



By encouraging creativity, inclusion, and active engagement, we had an opportunity to learn how to create safer and more supportive space where young people can reflect on their identities, connect with others across cultural differences, and contribute to building more open, democratic, and cohesive societies.

METHOD 1 Photowalk

1. Title: Framing Identity: A Photowalk Exploration

2. Art Form / Medium: Photography

3. Objectives / Outcomes:

This activity uses art-based experiential learning to support young people in exploring personal and collective identity. Participants will:

- Develop self-awareness and reflection skills
- Explore identity through artistic and non-verbal expression
- Strengthen critical thinking and observation
- Experience creative processes as tools for personal development
- Build empathy through sharing personal narratives

4. Target Group: 15+y/o, 5-10 participants, youth exchanges / youth centers

5. Duration: 150 min total: 10-15 warm-up / 90 activity / 20-40 sharing

6. Materials Needed: Not required.

7. Method Steps:

1. Introduction & Framing (10 min)

- Facilitator introduces the concept of identity as fluid, multi-layered and contextual.
- Brief input on visual storytelling and symbolic thinking.
- Presentation of ethical considerations (e.g., photographing people, consent) and guiding

Questions

- What elements of this city resonate with who I am?
- What details reflect my values, roots, or aspirations?
- Where do I see contrasts or tensions that relate to my identity?
- What do I feel connected or disconnected from?

2. Photowalk (60-75 min)



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- Participants explore the city individually or in pairs.
- They take photos that represent aspects of their identity.
- Encourage slow observation, sensory awareness, and intuition

3. Selection & Editing (20 min)

- Participants choose 3–5 photos that best represent their reflections.
- They may apply basic edits (contrast, cropping, filters)

4. Reflective Sharing Session (5 min per person)

Suggested facilitation format:

- Small groups (3–5 participants) for safe sharing.
- Each participant presents their photos.

Facilitator prompts:

- What story does your photo tell about you?
- What surprised you during this process?
- Was it easy or challenging to “see” your identity? Why?
- Did the environment influence your reflections?

5. Debrief & Harvesting Learning (5-10 min) Facilitator leads a plenary reflection:

- Identity as dynamic and contextual
- The role of environment in shaping self-perception
- Art as a tool for self-discovery

Variations of the Activity

1. “Identity in Contrast”

Participants must capture contrasting images (e.g., old vs new, light vs dark) that reflect inner tensions or dualities in their identity.

2. “Collective Identity Map”



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Instead of individual reflection, participants create a shared photo collection representing the group's identity, followed by dialogue on similarities and differences.

3. "One Object, Many Stories"

Participants photograph the same location or object, but interpret it differently. Reflection focuses on perspective and subjectivity.

4. "Emotion-Based Photowalk"

Participants are assigned or choose emotions (e.g., belonging, confusion, pride) and capture how these emotions manifest in the environment.

5. "Past-present-future"

Participants take:

- 1 photo representing their past
- 1 photo representing their present
- 1 photo representing their future

Used for narrative identity building.

6. "Silent Photowalk"

Participants walk in silence to deepen awareness and introspection. Reflection focuses on how silence influenced perception.

7. Facilitation Notes

- Create a safe and non-judgmental space
- Emphasize process over product
- Encourage multiple interpretations
- Be attentive to emotional responses — identity work can be sensitive
- Adapt pacing depending on group energy and weather conditions

8. Reflection / Debrief Questions:

(4–8 open questions supporting identity, emotional expression, or perspective-taking. Example:

"What did you discover about yourself during the process?")



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9. Adaptations / Variants:

(Brief notes on how to scale up/down, simplify, or adjust for different groups or sensitivities.)

10. Outputs: Photos

11. Sensitivity / Risk Notes:

Personal insecurities or inner conflicts. Experiences of exclusion, discrimination, or not belonging. Fear of judgment or misunderstanding. Facilitator should clearly communicate that sharing is voluntary and normalize different levels of openness ("you choose what and how much to share")

12. Credits / Origin:

Developed by Ilga Vilcane, tested at Photowalk, Riga, 2026

Method description by Inna Eizensharf.



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