

CONCEPT PAPER

Applicant Organisation: Minimum

Programme: Erasmus+

Key Action and field: KEY ACTION 2 - COOPERATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES - Strategic Partnerships in the field of youth

Project title: “CARED - Culture and Art against Refugees Discrimination”

Project description: “CARED - Culture and Art against Refugees Discrimination” (hereafter called CARED) wants to contribute in raising and increasing the comprehension of cultural differences among young people aged 16-18, refugees and Europeans, through a learning path linked to ‘visual arts’. This project takes the cue from the current emergency about migration throughout Europe and the increased sense of mistrust and in some cases, racism, towards migrants.

Particularly in central-eastern part of Europe, these feelings have been rapidly developed into a common closure against all the people came from abroad Europe, in a general framework created by media that exalts the fright of differences, of other cultures.

CARED wants to involve two groups of participants with the aim and the hope that the power of creativity, the art and the possibility of a communication on a common ground, can facilitate the mutual comprehension of cultural differences. The Europeans involved from a Polish secondary school and the refugees hosted in a dedicated centre in Italy will get in touch by a blended mobility exchange: a step by step online exchange via skype and other social media to better know their daily life (‘collecting pieces of life’) and two international workshop to create a multicultural and multilingual photobook.

Through this experience target groups also improve their creative skills and personal skills (language, self-confidence, respect, trust, etc...).

As written in EU “Inclusion and Diversity Strategy - in the field of youth”, cultural issues are really central in the EU policy for the inclusion of citizens, especially young people, yet involved in the worldwide economic and social crisis linked to the market of labour: *«in the wake of increased immigration to and within Europe, racism and ethnic and religious stereotyping is on the increase in many countries. A robust strategy embracing diversity among peoples can serve to challenge and address these issues. The Inclusion and Diversity Strategy sets out to embrace and celebrate diversity so that difference becomes a positive source for learning rather than the cause for negative competition and prejudice. Young people and youth workers should be equipped with the necessary competences to manage and work with diversity. This will encourage positive interactions between people of all walks of life and ultimately improve the situation of young people with fewer opportunities».*

In this sense, CARED, via the tools of visual art, photos, social media and so on, wants to embrace the diversity giving its participants the possibility to better understand each other and take advantage of diversity as a way to grow and become a responsible and active citizen, no matter where you come from.

Specific objective:

Raised comprehension of cultural differences among young persons involved (refugees and Europeans) aged 16-18, through a learning path linked to 'visual arts'.

General objectives:

- O1 - "Reduced phenomena of xenophobia and racism in Europe"
- O2 - "Increased meeting occasions between Europeans and refugees"
- O3 - "Strengthened cooperation and networking between European organizations"
- O4 - "Improved informations about refugees conditions achieved by EU citizens"
- O5 - "Increased informations about refugees conditions achieved by EU citizens"

Expected results:

- R1 - "Achieved specific skills, for the target group, in the field of visual art that improve their comprehension of cultural differences"
- R2 - "Improved linguistic skills (english as a common language)"
- R3 - "Experimented ICTs as intercultural tools"
- R4 - "Improved awareness on refugees conditions"
- R5 - "Experimented new approaches to address - at UE level - cultural diversity among involved organizations"

Target groups: young Europeans and young migrants (refugees) aged 16-18

Activities:

1. Local project activities (both in Italy and Poland). Collecting pieces of life
2. Preparation of the learning activities - Online phase
3. Preparation of the learning activities - Mobility phase
4. Design and development of the 'CARED' social web profiles
 - 4.1. Social accounts attivation and storytelling (video, stories, exchanges, etc...)
5. Online video and stories dissemination and follow up
 - 5.1. Video documentaries of photobook workshop
6. Design and development of the project guide: "How visual art could contrast racism"
 - 6.1. Project guide dissemination
7. Preparation of the final exhibit of the workshop outputs in Italy
 - 7.1. Final exhibit of the workshop outputs in Italy
8. Preparation of the final exhibit of the workshop outputs in Poland
 - 8.1. Final exhibit of the workshop outputs in Poland
9. Dissemination of final exhibits contents (Italy/Poland)

Furthermore it will be expected 2 Transnational Meetings: one kick-off meeting in Italy and one for the progress assessment.

Duration of the project: about 18 months

Coordinator of the project: Minimum is a cultural association focused on the language of contemporary photography and visual research. Through the lenses of photography, the association

has conducted different projects. In addition to strictly artistic events, such as open talks, participation in photography exhibition, partnerships with existing local cultural associations in Sicily and other Italian Regions, Minimum has actively organized social projects directed at young people and refugees. Minimum's team, made of 4 photographers and 1 human rights researcher and writer, has worked in this sense with activities of awareness raising through the means of photography and with workshops.

For example, in collaboration with #Dysturb in 2016, an organization of photojournalists born in Paris, Minimum studio managed an urban exhibition in the Sicilian town of Menfi aimed at raising awareness on several socio-political issues, like the current refugee crisis.

In another project, named SuperFotoColla, Minimum worked with children of refugees and migrants in the Sicilian town of Gibellina during a photography workshop. Minimum studio is further dedicated to the promotion of editorial photography, and in particular is curating the realization of a book by two of its members focused on the smuggling of migrants from Africa to Europe, called LIMBO. One of Minimum's members, Eileen Quinn, is a PhD Candidate specialized on migrant smuggling and irregular migration to Europe, and therefore future projects will also be focussing on creating potentials to diminish discrimination against immigrants, while increasing integration and communication between migrants and local citizens.

Partner researched: Minimum wants to involve an organisations with a proved experience in the internal evaluation and monitoring of EU project, especially in the field of social inclusion and integration. This partner will be responsible for the quality control during all the phases of the project, assuring the respect of deadlines and tasks. Furthermore, it will responsible for the Risk Management.

Deadline for answering: 10th January 2018