



## “United youth against violent extremism in Europe”

European Youth Centre Budapest  
1<sup>st</sup> Study Session: 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
2<sup>nd</sup> Study Session: 11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Report of the Study Session held by  
Human Rights Education Youth Network (HREYN)  
UNITED for Intercultural Action  
European Youth Press (EYP)  
in cooperation with the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe.

*This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the First Study Session, Intermediate Phase and the Second Study Session of the Special Project “**United youth against violent extremism in Europe**”, a partnership activity organized by HREYN – Human Rights Education Youth Network, UNITED for Intercultural Action and EYP - European Youth Press, in collaboration with the Youth department the Council of Europe.

This project builds upon the experience gained by these organizations and its members in different European contexts throughout the No Hate Speech Movement Campaign promoted by the Council of Europe and on the proposals collected by HREYN during the Study Session “Building Peace in Europe – The Role of Civil Society and Young People” held in Budapest in March 2016.

The **First Study Session** took place on April 23-29 2017 and gathered 24 participants (including the team of facilitators) from 15 countries, 10 males and 14 females, with an average age of 28 years old most of them youth trainers/activists already engaged and experienced in countering hate speech within the No Hate Speech Movement and through the partner organizations.

This study session consisted of the following program elements:

- Council of Europe Youth Department structure and activities;
- Violent extremism in European media and public discourse;
- Hate and Violent Extremism in Europe: sharing participants’ experiences and needs of young people;
- Study cases on right wing extremism in Europe;
- The No Hate Speech Movement;
- Online activism, internet and human rights;
- Planning intermediate phase actions.

The first study session provided many insights in the topic of violent extremism but it also revealed the need for more in-depth understanding of the concepts. It raised motivation of participants to keep working on the topic and particularly to put more focus in their work on young people at risk of social exclusion. It also provided space for participants to plan and develop their Intermediate Phase activities having No Hate Speech Campaign as the framework and main support structure. The feedback of the participants was overall very positive with particular appreciation of having two study sessions and intermediate phase in-between in addressing such complex issues.

During the **Intermediate phase** participants organized activities at local level, joint activities at international level and for common activity at European level connected to 22 July Action Day of No Hate Speech Campaign. Activities have been very diverse: workshops, open-discussions and presentations focused on positive counter-narrative on refugees through arts and digital tools and street actions. Activities focused at the importance of social media and internet literacy, most of them used Human Rights Education approach as well as the educational resources of the Council of Europe Youth Department particularly manuals Bookmarks and We Can. There were also many individual activities that linked particularly to No Hate Speech Campaign activities related to Action day for victims of hate crime on 22 July.

The **Second Study Session** took place on September 11-16, 2017 and gathered 34 participants from 15 countries, 19 males and 15 females with an average age of 28. It gathered 10 participants from the First Study Session, young people engaged during the Intermediate Phase and also 20 new youth

workers, youth activists and young people with priority to young people belonging to vulnerable groups and/or at risk of social exclusion. These new 20 participants were either involved by the organisation in the intermediate phase and then invited for the second study session or invited by organisations that promoted the event. Most participants reside in States parties to the European Cultural Convention, participants from Palestine and Morocco were also invited.

The second Study Session included the following program elements:

- Sharing participants' projects implemented in the Intermediate phase and other relevant practices;
- Developing common understanding of concepts of hate speech, violent extremism and radicalization and sharing realities;
- Psychological mechanisms of radicalization and why extremism can be appealing to young people;
- Youth activism and local and European level;
- Testimony and case studies of extremism and countering-extremism;
- The No Hate Speech Movement;
- Fundraising and project management;
- Planning follow-up actions.

In the second Study Session participants deepened their understanding of the concepts of violent extremism, radicalism and hate-speech and of their interrelations, got insight into psychological mechanism underlying violent extremism and radicalism and also got challenged by the real-life example/testimony of the violent extremist. With high commitment and high interest participants developed together 6 international common activities/projects that were all related to the topic of the activity and most of these follow up ideas are planned to use the framework of the Council of Europe Youth Department.

### BACKGROUND

“**United youth against violent extremism in Europe**” is a partnership activity organized by HREYN – Human Rights Education Youth Network, UNITED for Intercultural Action, EYP - European Youth Press and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

**HREYN – Human Rights Education Youth Network** is an independent non-governmental human rights education organization composed by youth associations as well as trainers, activists, youth workers, youth leaders, teachers, researchers, volunteers, professionals and other people committed to promoting human rights education and the protection of human rights.

**UNITED for Intercultural Action** is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants, refugees and minorities. Together with over 560 supporter organizations all around Europe, ranging from local grassroots associations to national and international NGOs, UNITED coordinates campaigns, organizes conferences, takes part in projects, produces publications and undertakes advocacy work to protest against discrimination and promote our shared vision for a diverse and inclusive society.

**EYP - European Youth Press** is a network of youth media organizations in Europe. It works to build a society where empowered young media makers are actively participating and contributing to the public sphere by creating fair, independent and responsible media, fostering the development of democracy, international development and a sustainable future.

This project is a result of the experience gained by the partner organisations and its members in different European contexts throughout the No Hate Speech Movement Campaign promoted by the Council of Europe and on the proposals collected by HREYN board during the Study Session “Building Peace in Europe – The Role of Civil Society and Young People” held in Budapest in March 2016. During this Study Session participants expressed the needs to further develop the capacity of the network in supporting local actions, fostering cooperation among international youth organisations and build bridges between international youth organisations, European institutions and young people at risk of social exclusion in Europe.

The extension of the No Hate Speech Movement for the years 2016-2017 gave us the opportunity to continue and further improve our activism for the protection of human rights in and through the online space, taking into account the new challenges that activists and educators are facing today compared to the Campaign kick-off in 2013. Such challenges include the recent conflicts at European borders, the “refugees’ crisis”, the escalation of global terrorism and the recent terror attacks in Europe, with the consequential raise of hate crimes and hate speech often targeting young people belonging to minorities as well as educators and activists working with minorities.

Moreover, these networks have expressed the need to further develop their skills in empowering young people at risk of social exclusion today, especially young people who are not yet engaged in

international youth activism, as a key tool to promote peace and social cohesion in Europe.

Taken the above challenges and opportunities, these three youth networks have expressed the need to take stock of the new context and join forces to assess success stories and lessons learnt, to adapt strategies and to better empower young people belonging to vulnerable groups through a long term educational project that involves youth trainers, activists, media makers and young people at risk of social exclusion.

## **AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT**

The aim of this project was to provide to youth trainers', youth activists' and young people competences to act against violent extremism and hate speech in Europe.

Objectives:

- Develop strategies and activities involving young people in combating hate and violence in response to the ongoing political and social events in Council of Europe member states;
- Encourage cooperation among youth networks and groups who may be targets of hate speech;
- Multiply the local impact of the No Hate Speech Movement by actively involving local communities in countering hate speech;
- Increase competences of youth trainers, activists and young people in the field of Human Rights Education and activism;
- Enhance youth participation and facilitate access to international youth activism for young people (who are usually not involved in HRE and youth work)
- Mainstream anti-hate speech and HRE methods and tools developed during the No Hate Speech Movement, with specific focus on Bookmarks and the updated version of Compass;
- Create and develop projects that will be implemented by young people and the partner youth organizations.

## **PHASES AND METHODOLOGY**

**1st Study Session:** April 23-29, 2017. The First Study Session was open to youth trainers, activists and young media makers already engaged and experienced in countering hate speech within the No Hate Speech Movement and through the partner organizations.

**Intermediate phase:** April-September 2017. Participants implemented local and international actions defined during the first Study Session.

**2nd Study Session:** September 10-16, 2017. The Second Study Session was open to youth trainers/activists and young people engaged during the intermediate phase.

The educational approaches followed the principles of non-formal education, mainly through experiential learning where participants learn from one another and explore the themes through inputs and discussions, simulation activities and work in smaller working groups. The experience of participants has been the starting point, but methods varied in the project phases and have been adapted to the needs of the selected groups of participants throughout the process

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The profile of participants varied in the three phases of the project. For the First Study Session priority was given to youth workers, activists and media makers already engaged and experienced in the topic, and able to attend the overall project and implement the intermediate phase actions.

Selection of the first group of participants was made by the preparatory team with the support of representatives of the three partner organisations, aiming to reach a group of participants who could integrate different experiences, competences and socio-geographical backgrounds. Particular attention has been given to youth workers, trainers and media makers working with young people at risk of social exclusion, belonging to minority groups and/or motivated to reach out to young people who are not yet engaged in international youth work. The First Study Session gathered 24 participants (including the team of facilitators) from 15 countries, 10 males and 14 females, with an average age of 28 years old.

The intermediate phase activities reached a very diverse range of participants and beneficiaries, as the actions implemented included meetings and workshops in local youth associations and formal education settings, street actions, online actions, etc.

During the intermediate phase, participants to the First Session identified and invited the young people to the Second Session with the support of the preparatory team to again ensure diversity in experiences, competences and backgrounds. The Second Study Session gathered 34 participants from 15 countries, 19 males and 15 females with an average age of 28 years old. It included participants from the First Study Session, young people engaged during the Intermediate Phase and also new youth workers, youth activists and young people with priority to young people belonging to vulnerable groups and/or at risk of social exclusion. Most participants reside in States parties to the European Cultural Convention, participants from Palestine and Morocco were also invited.

## THE FIRST STUDY SESSION

### OBJECTIVES

In order to reach the overall aim and objectives, the preparatory team set the following objectives for the First Session:

- Explore key concepts and deepen participants' understanding of hate and violent extremism;
- Enable participants to share information and their own experiences on their local contexts and the needs of young people they work with, focusing on young people at risk of social exclusion;
- Provide a space for reflection on the roles of participants as youth workers, trainers and activists and enhance their competences to act against hate and violent extremism;
- Critically analyse ongoing challenges and practices in addressing hate and violent extremism;
- To mainstream the approaches and principles of the No Hate Speech Movement of the Council of Europe and examine tools and educational resources that can be used for action in local communities as well as at an international level;
- Provide a framework and support to plan and develop a common action as well as local activities engaging young people at risk of social exclusion during the intermediate phase of the project.



## PREPARATORY TEAM AND EXPERTS

The team was defined by representatives of the partner organizations with the support of the educational advisor. An open call for facilitators was launched during preparation and selection was conducted considering gender and geographical balance, ability to work in English, relevance of facilitators backgrounds in relation to the project's themes and experience within the three networks, giving priority to young trainers/facilitators.

The team of the first study session was composed by:

- Emilia ASTORE, President of HREYN, course director;
- Nika BAKHSOLIANI, representative of Youth Association DRONI and HREYN member, team member
- Annamaria SIMEONE, representative of Giosef-Unito association and HREYN member, team member
- Jonathan KARSTADT, representative of United, team member
- Catalina DUMBRAVEANU, Board member of European Youth Press, project coordinator
- Vojislava TOMIC RADIVOJSA, External Educational Advisor

The team was supported by the following external experts:

- Simone RAFAEL - Amadeu Antonio Foundation: after an editorial department traineeship with main focus on online journalism at Henri Nannen School of Journalism (Gruner & Jahr Verlag) in Hamburg, Simone developed the internet portal [www.mut-gegen-rechtegewalt.de](http://www.mut-gegen-rechtegewalt.de) (courage against right-wing violence) about best practice against Neonazis for the Amadeu Antonio Foundation and the German Newsmagazine "stern". Since 2009, she is chief editor of [www.Belltower.News](http://www.Belltower.News) – Network for digital civil society (formerly [www.netz-gegen-nazis.de](http://www.netz-gegen-nazis.de)), the journalistic internet portal against right-wing extremism of the Amadeu Antonio Foundation, founded by German weekly "Die ZEIT".
- Ron SALAJ - Online activist, trainer and consultant: Ron Salaj is a human rights and environmental activist. Among his experiences he has been leading the Digital team of UNICEF Innovations Lab Kosovo and co-lead Citizen Science Kosovo, a youth-led environmental movement in Kosovo. He has extensive experience on human rights education and campaigning and is one of the co-authors of the manual *WE CAN! Taking Action against Hate Speech through Counter and Alternative Narratives*.
- Balint JOSA - United for Intercultural Action, NHS Campaign online activist: Balint ran more than 50 national and 20 international trainings, and facilitated countless workshops. He is an experienced intercultural trainer and coach for Roma and migrant issues and worked for 7 years on the topic of hate speech and counter narrative. He became the program coordinator of UNITED in 2016.

## **PROGRAMME FLOW AND MAIN CONTENT**

The programme of the first Study Session covered several topics and had the following flow:

### **DAY 1**

- Introduction to the project and programme of the first study session
- Council of Europe Youth Department structure and activities
- Team building and getting to know each other
- Violent extremism in European media and public discourse

### **DAY 2**

- Hate and Violent Extremism in Europe and sharing participants' experiences
- Challenges and needs of young people
- Sharing participants' practices

### **DAY 3**

- Human rights protection and freedom of speech
- Study cases on right wing extremism in Europe
- Mid-term evaluation

### **DAY 4**

- The No Hate Speech Movement
- Online activism, internet and human rights
- Common framework for intermediate phase actions

### **DAY 5**

- Planning intermediate phase actions
- Final evaluation and closing.

The first activities were dedicated to setting the learning space and framework and giving participants the opportunity to start reflecting on their understandings on violent extremism and how narratives on radicalism and marginalization can be spread in European media and public discourse.

With the help of Simone Rafael from the Amadeu Antonio Stiftung, we then had an overview of the current situation of extremisms in Europe, introducing diverse kinds of prejudices and anti-democratic viewpoints using the Group-Focused Enmity approach.

Participants then reflected on and shared information about their contexts and communities, the young people they work with and the measures taken to tackle social exclusion and radicalization.

Turning their minds to the young people they work with in their local communities, participants created "Rubbish Youths" - models of young people made from upcycled rubbish, for which they then created stories. The four youths created were diverse in appearance and life stories, but all the stories shared the common theme of young people looking for acceptance and a sense of belonging in their communities and among their peers.

The programme included several debates and discussions on burning issues, including concepts like "political correctness", and the effectiveness of youth work in tackling violent extremism. Participants found that, while they largely agreed on most key issues, their understanding of certain terms, and the associations they made with them, sometimes differed.

Following these discussions, the preparatory team proposed a case study activity where participants examined and discussed a story about a right-wing extremist march in a small town, linking it with

similar examples from their own local contexts and giving examples of how such actions can be countered. The case study was based on the real-life case of the small town of Wunsiedel in Germany, where antifascists and residents came up with an innovative way of countering far-right demonstrations by raising money and turning the march into a sponsored “involuntary walkathon”, where money was donated to the antifascist NGO Exit Deutschland for each kilometre that the neo-Nazis walked. The effectiveness of such methods was discussed by participants, particularly in relation to adaptability to different local contexts.

The No Hate Speech Movement was introduced UNITED programme coordinator Balint Josa. Since many of the participants also had experience as activists on No Hate Speech Movement campaigns, they were invited to summarize and share their experience with other participants, who asked questions related to their experience, what they learned from it and how it can be applied to future activities and campaigns, particularly in light of the upcoming intermediate phase of the current project, which participants would begin planning for in the afternoon.

This session was followed by the presentation of Ron Salaj, online activist and co-author of the manual *We CAN! Taking action against hate speech through counter and alternative narratives*. The presentation looked at the recent developments in online culture over the past two decades, and the transformation from Web 1.0 to Web 2.0, which has given many more opportunities to create and share media, but also opened up the internet to propagators of hate speech.

Before planning their activities, participants used the recently published European Commission Document “*The Contribution of Youth Work to Preventing Marginalization and Violent Radicalization*” to reflect upon their local communities and target groups. The programme also included an informal “Digital Bootcamp” exploring different tools that can be used for online activism, like *Canvas*, *Storymap*, *Bambuser*.

As a result of the first Study Session several actions and activities were planned by the participants to be executed during the intermediate phase (April-September) of the project and especially related to the 20 June, European Day for Refugees and 22 July, the European Day for Victims of Hate Crimes. Activities were to take place mainly at local level, including workshops on how to act against violent extremism and online hate speech or against discrimination and stereotypes, training courses, awareness raising activities in high-schools, public street shows, flash-mobs, graffiti, seminars, commemoration events of the European Action Days, informational video-clips and online actions.

A Facebook group was created in order to share the different actions and activities developed and to facilitate communication between those developing joint actions.

There is also special edition of the European Youth Press Orange Magazine that has been devoted to this study session with related interviews and articles - [Orange Magazine April 2017](#)

## THE INTERMEDIATE PHASE

During the last week of June, the preparatory team had a meeting to discuss the first phases, comment the situation of the project, its changes and prepare its following phases.

Participants were split in five groups and each one of the team members supported four or five of them in a closer way through email, Skype, Facebook, locally when possible to promote the execution of the actions planned and support all the participants in what they needed: technically, on content, communication. Workshops, open-discussions, public events and street actions were organized between May and September. Most activities were connected to the No Hate Speech Movement Campaign and/or have used and adapted to different local contexts the existing manuals Bookmarks, Compass and We Can!

Action days such as the International Day against Homophobia on May 17<sup>th</sup> were a common framework for international cooperation, in particular the Action Day for the Victims of Hate Crime on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Some of the main challenges faced by participants during this phase of the project have been finding a location and speakers able to participate during summer time, exams from the youngsters, language barriers, coming up with a stable team, finding an approach to present the activity in a funny way etc. Many of the activities developed by participants in their own realities reached youngsters that were not already involved in this kind of environment and started to show interest on the topics of the project.

For more information on the activities implemented see *Appendices – Intermediate phase actions*.

## THE SECOND STUDY SESSION

### OBJECTIVES

Following the evaluation of the First Session and Intermediate Phase actions, the preparatory team set the following objectives for the Second Session:

- Share and critically reflect on the activities implemented during the intermediate phase of the project;
- Explore key concepts related to hate and violent extremism and their interrelations, focusing on the perception by the young people and impact it has in their everyday lives;
- Explore the reasons why young people are attracted and involved in acts of hate and violent extremism and discuss possible responses through human rights activism and education;
- Reflect on the role of young people and enhance youth participation in Europe to prevent and act against hate and violent extremism at local and international levels;
- Provide space, information and support to plan common strategies and develop follow-up actions to prevent and act against hate and violent extremism in Europe.



## **PREPARATORY TEAM AND EXPERTS**

The Second Study Session team was composed by:

- Emilia ASTORE, President of HREYN, course director;
- Nika BAKHSOLIANI, representative of Youth Association DRONI and HREYN member, team member
- Annamaria SIMEONE, representative of Giosef-Unito association and HREYN member, team member
- Ana Laura Lopez CARLASSARE, representative of United, team member
- Catalina DUMBRAVEANU, Board member of European Youth Press, project coordinator
- Vojislava TOMIC RADIVOJSA, External Educational Advisor

The team was supported by the following external experts:

- Cristina CIVILOTTI - PhD, psychologist, psychotherapist, adjunct professor (University of Turin): in her session "*Psychological mechanisms of radicalization: why is violent extremism appealing?*" the expert gave an overview of potential causes and psychological mechanisms that can lead young people feel attracted to violent extremist groups, with a focus on attachment and to complex Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder (PTSD).
- Matthew COLLINS - researcher for Hope Not Hate and author of the book *My Life in the British Far Right.*: Matthew is a former member of the National Front and British National Party and now anti-fascist and human rights activist. In his speech, the expert shared his life experience, the process of becoming part of a far-right group and decision to get out of it, possible strategies to prevent and combat far right extremism in Europe.

## **PROGRAMME FLOW AND MAIN CONTENT**

The programme of the second Study Session included the following elements:

### **DAY 1**

- Introduction to the project and programme of the second study session
- Council of Europe Youth Department structure and activities (introduction)
- Team building, reconnecting and getting to know each other
- Sharing participants' projects implemented in the Intermediate phase and other relevant practices

### **DAY 2**

- Common understanding of concepts of hate speech, violent extremism and radicalization and sharing realities;
- Psychological mechanisms of radicalization and why extremism can be appealing to young people

### **DAY 3**

- Youth activism at local and European level
- Mid-term evaluation

#### DAY 4

- Testimony and case studies of extremism and countering-extremism;
- The No Hate Speech Movement;
- Fundraising and project management;

#### DAY 5

- Planning intermediate phase actions
- Council of Europe Youth Department structure and activities (relevance to participants actions)
- Final evaluation and closing.

The first day of the programme focused on building the new group and allow participants to share the actions and methodologies implemented in the intermediate phase, as well as any other relevant actions and practices connected to the topics of the project.



The Second day kicked off with a group reflection on the understandings and interrelations of concepts such as *extremism*, *radicalization*, *hate speech*. With the help of Cristina CIVILOTTI, PhD, psychologist, psychotherapist, adjunct professor, participants were then given space to understand why violent extremism can be appealing from a psychological perspective. During the input, examples of extremists and recurrent psychological patterns were introduced, followed by a debate based on participants experiences and a final reflection on the role of youth to prevent and take action against violent extremism.

The day ended with an Intercultural party where the groups shared their specialties, music and games, contributing to the group development and getting to know more about each other's cultures and communities.

The programme continued with a group activity to connect international and local dimensions of youth work. Through an adaptation of the activity *Making Links* from Compass, participants experienced an active citizenship exercise in which they were asked to negotiate mutual requests in the roles of media, governments, youth NGO and young people. The activity was a trigger to discuss how social actors can cooperate to reach common aims through different strategies, as well as reflect on the role the youth NGOs can have to support young people in voicing out their needs and ideas in society.

The fourth day started with the testimony of Matthew COLLINS, researcher for Hope Not Hate and author of *Hate: My Life in the British Far Right*. Matthew shared his real-life experience as former member of a neo-Nazi group, how he started being attracted to a far-right group as a teenager and how he decided to exit from it. The emotionally intense speech gave the group the opportunity to connect theoretical concepts to real life, and to get to know a story of “way-out” from extremism and possible ways to support youth with similar life stories.

Participants were then given a common framework to start planning their follow-up actions and an overview of opportunities by the Youth Department, the European Youth Foundation, Anna Lindh Foundation and Erasmus+ Programme.

The final day was fully dedicated to plan follow-up activities, provide mutual feedback and define how to cooperate after the end of the project. Participants worked on project planning modules where they were asked to define main issues and needs to address, aims and objectives, methodologies and implementation, expected impact and evaluation methods.

A video of the Study Session was produced by participants and will be published on HREYN website and social media, as well as illustrative material using images and charts during the follow up implementation.

## FOLLOW UP

During the second Study Session the following project ideas were elaborated:

### 1. "The Process of Recruitment of Radicals"

The project is an International Activity (EYF) or KA1 - Mobility of Youth Workers under Erasmus+ KA1 with partners from Morocco, France, Italy and Georgia.

It aims to prevent the recruitment of youth at risk/vulnerable young people by extremist groups. Overall objectives are:

- Understand and analyse the recruitment process
- Improve capacities and competences of youth workers to be able to make a prevention plan on the subject
- Exchange good practices from different contexts

### 2. "Balkan Connection"

The project is designed by participants from Croatia, Albania, FYROM, France.

The aim is to foster capacity building among partner organizations with the goal of providing professional development opportunities to intercultural mediators and educators working with children and youth from migrant or multicultural backgrounds. Objectives are:

- Mapping good practices across partner countries by conducting research across organizations from participant countries; gathering information to design and implement study sessions based on the mapping outcomes by identifying the key competences to develop for the learning needs of the participants
- Transform good practices into concrete tools for intercultural mediators and educators through non-formal education
- Development of skills among intercultural mediators and educators
- Creating tools used for intercultural mediation to facilitate the intercultural learning process among young people

### 3. "TOT HRE"

Project under Erasmus+ aiming to increase the skills of facilitation and equipping with the basis for human rights education. The training should be open to youth workers/youth leaders to:

- Provide facilitation skills
- Give an overview theoretical knowledge on Human Rights and Human Rights Education
- Provide necessary training skills in HRE through experiential learning

### 4. "NTC HRE"

The activity is a National Training Course on Human Rights Education in the UK, possibly be supported by the EYF. The project should be open to youth workers, trainers, activists based in the UK and provide competences on HRE in accordance to the needs of the local communities/contexts

5. “The Spider Effect”

The project is an international activity possibly supported by EYF designed by participants from UK, France, Portugal, Croatia, Spain, Georgia.

It aims to deconstruct stereotypes about gender roles in youth, with the following objectives:

- Provide information to make youth more aware of negative and non-inclusive gender stereotypes
- Enhance skills to deconstruct the myths of romantic love for youth through workshops and interactive games
- Train young people to promote education through/about/for equality in their local contexts through workshops and interactive games
- Provide a space for participants to create follow up projects in their local context

6. “HREYN 2018 Study Session”

The new elected HREYN Board started planning a Study Session to be applied on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 as part of its biannual working plan.

After the Study Session participants used the Facebook group and a shared Drive folder to continue working on their project templates. As a result of the project new partnerships among organisers and participants were also established, in relation to the follow-up of the No Hate Speech Movement and by building new alliances (e.g. involving the EMDR Psychotherapists’ association for consultancies in participants projects and many participants applied to become HREYN, UNITED, EYP members at the end of the project).

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The main outcomes of the project are development of participants' competences, reinforcement of the partnership between the three organizers and creation of a joint group of activists and youth workers implementing local and common actions related to combating hate-speech and violent extremism through Human Right Education approach.

Learning points for participants were primarily linked to the project aims and objectives. According to participants' evaluations and feedback received, the programme of the whole project successfully met and even exceeded expectations of participants. In the first Study Session sharing practices and concrete tools have been particularly appreciated, while a deeper analysis of causes of extremism in Europe has been identified as a learning need to better address in the second study session of the project. This is one of the reasons why particular attention in the second Study Session was placed to development of participants' knowledge related to concepts and their interrelations and further share participants realities in relation to violent extremism, radicalisation and hate speech. These were the strongest learning points for most of participants in the second Study Session.

In general, most participants got increased skills to implement Human Rights Education activities in addressing hate speech and violent extremism with young people. Participants also got in depth information and overview of good practices of the No Hate Speech Movement in addressing hate-speech online and inspiration and motivation to develop activities related to addressing hate and violent extremism of youth, particularly targeting young people with risk of social exclusion.

There were 10 follow up plans for practice ideas that have been implemented through Intermediate phase that included activities at local level, international and common action days at European level with active contribution to No Hate Movement Action Days (such as 22. July). At the end of the project there were 5 international project ideas all related to combating hate-speech and violent extremism of young people at risk. In general, all participants improved their skills to plan and implement international youth educational activities and projects.

Participating NGO's and youth workers have been supported in their work on intercultural dialogue and peace-building in different ways according to the phases of the project: the first study session primarily contributed to development of knowledge, raising awareness and attitudes of participants to address hate and violent extremism, reflect on the needs and challenges to better involve marginalized youth in human rights activism.

The Intermediate phase and the second Study session focused more on developing youth trainers, activists, media makers and young people skills but also building up the knowledge from the "groundwork" laid in the first Study Session.

We believe this whole project can be considered a good practice for the partner organisations. It was not only a very motivating and inspiring experience for participants and team members but is also contributed to the capacity building of the three partner organisations in different ways, in particular because of its structure.

Being comprised of two study sessions and an intermediate phase which provided adequate space for learning, participants had the opportunity to directly try out and practice new activities, and organisers

could adapt the methods to use (especially in the second Study Session) in relations to new learning points identified and thanks to a deeper knowledge of the contexts in which participate are active.

Another added value was for sure the composition of the group. Having multipliers and young people together, in particular young people who were not (yet) actively involved in international youth work was particularly useful and enriching.

This mixed group composition would be a recommendation for similar activities, starting from the different strategies to reach out to youth at risk of marginalization which have been adapted by the team of trainers and especially the youth workers throughout the project in their local contexts and communities.

The result of follow-up activities which in most cases are based on interdisciplinary approaches, building new alliances between media makers, campaigners, youth workers, trainers psychotherapists, young people across Europe could have not happened without a long-term process bringing together different organisations and perspectives. We therefore would recommend the organisers to further strengthen the partnership establish and invite other youth organisations and networks to run similar joint activities.

## FINAL NOTE

The preparatory team would like to thank HREYN – Human Rights Education Youth Network, UNITED for Intercultural Action, European Youth Press and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe for the fruitful cooperation. We look forward to working together again in the near future. We would like to thank all the participants who contributed with their knowledge, ideas, energy and efforts to make this project possible in all its phases, the experts involved and all the trainers and activists who have been consulted and gave us precious feedback during planning and preparation of the activities.

We also would like to thank the local offices of UNITED for Intercultural Action in Budapest and GIOSEF-UNITO Association in Torino for the administrative and logistic support given to organisers and participants, EYP - European Youth Press for the support in production and dissemination of material and all the local organisations and groups which made the implementation of intermediate phase actions possible.

Special thanks go to our Supervising Educational Advisor Anca-Ruanda Pandean and to the European Youth Centre Budapest for the continuous support and to our Educational Advisor Vojislava for her irreparable encouragement, inspiration and guidance throughout all the phases of this adventure.

## APPENDICES

### USEFUL LINKS

Youth Department of the Council of Europe [www.coe.int/en/web/youth](http://www.coe.int/en/web/youth)

NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT [www.nohatespeechmovement.org](http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org)

HREYN – Human Rights Education Youth Network [www.hre-youth.net](http://www.hre-youth.net)

UNITED for Intercultural Action [www.unitedagainstracism.org](http://www.unitedagainstracism.org)

EYP – European Youth Press [www.youthpress.org](http://www.youthpress.org)

ORANGE Magazine [www.orangemagazine.eu](http://www.orangemagazine.eu)

NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT [www.nohatespeechmovement.org](http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org)

EXIT Germany [www.exit-deutschland.de](http://www.exit-deutschland.de)

Amadeu Antonio Stiftung [www.amadeu-antonio-stiftung.de](http://www.amadeu-antonio-stiftung.de)

COMPASS - Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People  
[www.coe.int/en/web/compass](http://www.coe.int/en/web/compass)

BOOKMARKS – Manual for Combating Hate Speech Online through Human Rights Education  
<https://www.nohatespeechmovement.org/bookmarks?bookmarks>

We CAN! Taking action against hate speech through counter and alternative narratives  
[www.coe.int/en/web/no-hate-campaign/we-can-alternatives](http://www.coe.int/en/web/no-hate-campaign/we-can-alternatives)

SALTO Young People and Extremism Resource Packs for Youth Workers  
[www.salto-youth.net/rc/cultural-diversity/publications/youngpeopleandextremismpack](http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/cultural-diversity/publications/youngpeopleandextremismpack)

The contribution of youth work to preventing marginalization and violent radicalization  
<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7f9cdb66-19c4-11e7-808e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

HOPE NOT HATE UK <http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/>

EMDR Europe <http://www.emdr-europe.org>

## TIMETABLE 1<sup>ST</sup> STUDY SESSION

### *Sunday, 23rd April 2017*

Arrival of participants  
19:00 Dinner  
21:00 Welcome evening

### *Monday, 24th April 2017*

09:30 Official welcome  
Introduction to the team and programme  
11:00 Break  
11:30 Getting to know each other  
13:00 Lunch  
14:30 Team building  
16:00 Break  
16:30 Danger of Words  
18:00 Reflection groups  
19:00 Dinner

### *Tuesday, 25th April 2017*

09:30 “*Hate and Violent Extremism in Europe – examples, causes, similarities*”  
Input by Simone Rafael (Amadeu Antonio Stiftung, Berlin)  
11:00 Break  
11:30 Hate and violent extremism: sharing our local dimension  
13:00 Lunch break  
14:30 Challenges and needs of young people  
16:00 Break  
16:30 My role as youth trainer and activist  
18:00 Reflection groups  
19:00 Dinner  
20:30 Sharing practices

### *Wednesday, 26th April 2017*

09:30 Workshop on social exclusion – Part I  
11:00 Break  
11:30 Workshop on social exclusion – Part II  
Mid-term evaluation  
13:00 Lunch  
14:30 Free time  
19:00 Dinner out in the city

***Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017***

- 09:30 No Hate Speech Movement – Introduction and participants experiences
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 *“Hashta(g)ctivism, internet and human rights”*  
Input by Ron Salaj (Social Media consultant and trainer)
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:30 Framework for the intermediate phase
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Addressing the needs of young people
- 18:00 Reflection groups
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Digital Bootcamp

***Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017***

- 09:30 Planning intermediate phase actions
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Planning intermediate phase actions
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Presentation of results and next steps
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Final evaluation
- 19:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Closing and farewell party

***Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017***

Departure of participants

## **TIMETABLE 2<sup>ND</sup> STUDY SESSION**

### ***Sunday, 10th September 2017***

Arrival of participants  
19:00 Dinner  
21:00 Welcome evening

### ***Monday, 11th April 2017***

09:30 Official welcome  
Introduction to the team and programme  
Summary of previous phases  
11:00 Break  
11:30 Getting to know and reconnecting to each other  
13:00 Lunch  
14:30 Sharing actions and methodologies  
16:00 Break  
16:30 Sharing actions and methodologies  
18:00 Reflection groups  
19:00 Dinner

### ***Tuesday, 12th September 2017***

09:30 Hate and Violent Extremism: concepts and interrelations  
11:00 Break  
11:30 Hate and Violent Extremism: sharing participants realities  
13:00 Lunch break  
14:30 *"Psychological mechanisms of radicalization: why is violent extremism appealing?"*  
Cristina Civilotti, PhD, psychologist, psychotherapist, adjunct professor (University of Turin).  
16:00 Break  
16:30 Prevention and actions against violent extremism: the role of youth  
18:00 Reflection groups  
19:00 Dinner  
20:30 Intercultural party

### ***Wednesday, 13th September 2017***

09:30 Youth Activism: connecting international and local dimensions Part I  
11:00 Break  
11:30 Youth Activism: connecting international and local dimensions Part II  
Mid-term evaluation  
13:00 Lunch  
14:30 Free time  
19:00 Dinner out in the city

***Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017***

- 09:30 Case Studies and Testimonies Part I  
Matthew Collins, researcher for Hope Not Hate and author of *Hate: My Life in the British Far Right*
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Case Studies and Testimonies Part II
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:30 Youth Activism: sharing resources for follow-up
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Introduction to project planning and management
- 18:00 Reflection groups
- 19:00 Dinner

***Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017***

- 09:30 Planning follow-up projects
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Planning follow-up projects
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Presentation of results and next steps
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Final evaluation
- 19:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Closing and farewell party

***Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017***

Departure of participants

## **INTERMEDIATE PHASE ACTIONS**

### **ARMENIA - FRIENDSHIP BEYOND BORDERS**

In the second Study Session Nelli explained to the other participants the activities developed during the intermediate phase and showed some pictures about them. During this phase, they welcomed guests in their office and took the chance to talk openly about different topics, specifically the occasions of further cooperation for Erasmus+ and related projects with people from neighbor countries.



After a visit to the office, participants had the chance to visit Khor Virap, an important historical and religious site for Armenians. Instead of searching for an answer on the differences that divide them, they chose not to see the borders but to enjoy the moment and understand that love has no borders.

### **ITALY - HUMAN LIBRARY**

The first activity implemented was a workshop on prejudices, stereotypes and awareness about discrimination. After the introductory part the students were asked to think on some sentences about discrimination to use in the second workshop.

During the second workshop the organisers explained what it is the Human Library (tool designed to build a positive framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue.

The Human Library is a place where real people are on loan to readers) and after this first part created a photo gallery shooting some photos of them, using as captions the sentences about discrimination that we asked in the first workshop. After the activity in the school a couple of workshops at the University were done in order to explain to the students what the Human Library

is and how to organise one. The second step was to show a real example. in the University campus in Turin.

The last activity was implemented in Casarcobaleno (a co-working space with 15 associations dealing with LGBTQI issues, culture and intercultural, communication and human rights), where a photo exhibition was organised with the pics taken with the high school's students.

## UNITED KINGDOM - RAISING AWARENESS EVENTS

The Euro Mediterranean Resources Network promoted three initiatives in Brighton & Hove (United Kingdom).

To mark the start of the national Refugee Week, on the 19th of June, they held “*Different past a shared future*”, a multi-format event to explore the cultural heritage of refugee communities and discuss some burning issues regarding the status of refugees at a local and national level. The event featured poetry readings and performances from artists belonging to refugee communities. An open debate also took place with featured representatives of local and national NGOs and media experts which focused mainly on legal aid and housing issues faced by refugees in the local reality and how the portraits of refugees in mainstream media influences negatives stereotypes against them.



On World Refugee Day (20 June) they carried out a “*Red Umbrella Action*”, a street action that was planned by a group of participants attending the first Study Session. The teams of volunteers placed a stand in the main square of the city showcasing publications and materials of No Hate Speech Movement. Passers-by were invited to join under the red umbrellas, take part in a photo action in support of refugees and learn more about the No Hate Speech Movement campaign.

On the 22nd of July, to mark the Action Day for the Victims of Hate Crimes, they organised a workshop on human rights which was open to all members of Brighton & Hove community.

The activity provided guests with more information about hate crime and hate speech and foster a debate about how local communities and active citizens can work together to counter them.

Each activity was facilitated by one of the young volunteers of the organisation, using techniques and methodologies developed by the Council of Europe and included in publications such as Bookmarks and Compass.

## MOROCCO AND ITALY - NO HATE, ACROSS THE BORDERS

During the first Study Session a group was created to work with young people in Italy and Morocco. The project aim was to analyse radicalization as a process and focus in the reasons why it happens. During the workshop they started all together by analysing realities and how the young people understood the concept of hate and then proposed them to be part of the solution of radicalization 'factors'.



Fifteen youngsters per country benefited from the workshop. They focused mainly on the concepts of hatred, the types and reasons. The discussion about extremism in their context was described as a reaction to their social problems. Four role-plays took place to illustrate different types of hatred and social discrimination.



## GEORGIA – WORKSHOPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND LGBT RIGHTS

The activity aimed at increasing awareness about Hate Speech, its recurrent mechanisms, Homo/Bi/Trans Phobia, Extremism, Nationalism, Problems of Sex workers in Georgia, Violence and Queer theory in young People between 16-35.

Contents of the workshop included: What is Hate Speech? Regulation mechanisms; Analysis of Homo/Bi/Trans Phobic hate speech; Queer theory an intersectional oppression; Situational analysis of persons engaged in sex work towards hate speech; Stigma/Discrimination and Extremism in Europe and in Georgia; Nationalism and Masculinity; Activism Against Hate Speech.

Participants were young people aged 16-33 including queer people, allies, students, youth workers for a total of 71 participants.

Impact of the activities have been the increased sensitivity about Hate Speech and Extremism among young people; participants desire to be involved in the organization's next activities relating Hate Speech; a group of participants being involved as online activists against hate speech

## **MACEDONIA – PROMOTING THE NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT**

The group organised an activity to promote the 22 of July Action Day. The workshop on 22 of July in Kumanovo gathered young people, representatives of organizations and youth activists who are interested in advocating against hate and work on improving the campaign on 22 of July the international Europe day of remembrance of Hate Crime victims. The Workshops consisted of 3 sessions that aimed at informing young people about the 22 of July and create a workplan for possible activities that would advocate for better recognition of the action day at local level.



The first session was aimed at introducing participants to the action day and the activities done regarding the Campaign.

During the second session the concept of Hate Speech was presented, how it can be recognized and its link to Hate Crime. The session started with a presentation on what is hate speech, its definitions and concepts, what are hate speech elements, and how it can be recognized. Furthermore, the participants had a chance through an interactive activity to explore different cases of hate speech and recognizing its elements. During the next session the participants got to know more about Hate Crime, and got a presentation on different mechanisms on how to report hate crime in their local communities, as well as defining common actions to undertake during the NHSM upcoming action days.

## HUNGARY - NO HATE UMBRELLAS

The idea was designed during the first Study Session by participants from UK, the Netherlands, France and Hungary. The idea was supported by the local NGO Útilapu and by the Open doors work group.

During this process they identified, specified more tasks, subtasks, materials needed for the success of the flash mob.



Making the umbrellas wasn't an easy process. To create and cut the 2D stencil on a sticky paper was easy but the most challenging part was how to put the 2D stencil accurately on the 3D umbrella. The most fun part was spraying on the umbrellas the red paint.

They also got support from the Council of Europe giving No hate flyers, badges, balloons. The next step was reaching, involving, mobilizing people volunteering for the flash mob. They created a Facebook event for this and also spread the word among other NGOs working on the same field.

More photos and videos:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B\\_VtaJdrbsvkY3IyRnZTSUg1bGc?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_VtaJdrbsvkY3IyRnZTSUg1bGc?usp=sharing)

## ALBANIA - COUNTERACTING HATE SPEECH ONLINE

The activities were organized with Action for Change and Transformation -ACT, and PVN Albania.

The workshop was held in High School of Ndroq, a village of Tirana, in a classroom of young people of age 16 -17 years old.

The activities were based on non-formal methods, using Bookmarks manual. Being in limited space as classroom and having only 2 hours in disposition, the activities were adapted according to tight space and short time, by organizing energizer/ activities without moving their chairs. At the end of session, the 22 pupils gained knowledge and skills to be online active citizen and combat online hate speech.

### **Activity 1: Understanding hate speech online and No Hate Speech Campaign**

In order to understand hate speech online, participants were given a task to contribute with ideas (brainstorming) what they understand with terms:

- *“Freedom of expression”*
- *“Hate speech”*

They actively expressed their opinions till we had a definition for each term and pointed out the fine line between freedom of expression and hate speech, followed by an introduction of the No Hate Speech Campaign from 2013 -2017.

### **Activity 2: Agree / Disagree/ Between**

The participants were given the statement and were asked if they agree or not, and also to give reasons of their position.

*Statements:*

- *Freedom of Expression means to express whatever we think.*
- *Hate Speech should be allowed as freedom of expression.*
- *Hate speech online isn't the same as hate speech offline.*
- *Hate Speech should be considered as a crime.*

### **Activity 2: Roots and Branches**

Facilitators draw a hate speech tree on the board with the statement: *“They (x) are criminals: they steal. They don't belong here so make them leave”*

Participants were asked to actively take part by sharing their opinion on causes and effects of hate speech online:

- *Why do people say this?*
- *What could happen as result of this statement?*

After participants identified some causes and effects, they received information on how to take action for human rights online e.g.:

- Contacting Albanian Campaign Committee
- Download Compass for detailed information.
- Online participation (Bookmarks)

### **Activity 3: How you use the internet and what role would you like to have online in the future?**

Facilitators wrote on the board the words: *creator, discusser, critic, collector, joiner, spectator, inactive, viewer, member.*

Participants were asked about their actual role online now and in what role they see themselves after one or two years from that day to contrast hate speech online.

After a productive interactive session, young people were invited to be part of the campaign by engagement in activities such as:

- Education and awareness rising;
- Addressing the hate online;
- Expressing solidarity with victims or common target group;
- Mobilizing others.
- Join the Campaign

By writing on the board main web and social media addresses, participants were then invited to navigate on the official page of the Campaign, to learn more about it and join it. They were given some materials of NHS campaign, as brochures, cards, logo stickers etc.

The activity ended with the following closing questions:

- What's Hate Speech?
- What's No Hate Speech Campaign?
- How can you join the Campaign?

## **INDIVIDUAL ONLINE ACTIVISM**

In addition to the local and joint actions, participants individually took action online on May 17<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 22<sup>nd</sup> through their social media and/or the social media channels of their local organisations.

## LISTS OF PARTICIPANTS

### First Study Session

PARTICIPANTS				
N.	Country	Name, Surname	Organization	Website/email
1	Albania	Matilda Salla	International Voluntary Projects	www.pvnalbania.org
2	Armenia	Nelli Gishyan	Youth Alliance Networking (YAN)	youthalliancetworking@outllok.com
3	Croatia	Andreja Aušperger	Association Impress	www.udruga-impress.hr
4	France	Adrián Almorín	ADIF Interculturalité	www.adif-interculturalite.eu
5	France	Jessica Walker	The European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA)	www.eryica.org
6	Georgia	Sopio Gogsadze	Youth Association DRONI	www.droniyouth.org
7	Georgia	Ketevani Jinoridze	Youth for Peace and Equality (YPE)	www.ype-ngo.org
8	Georgia	Koba Bitsadze	LGBTQI Association-TEMIDA	http://www.temida.org.ge/
9	Hungary	András Marosi	Útilapu hálózat - SCI Hungary	Utilapu.hu
10	Italy	Indrit Aliu	Cooperativa Sociale Esserci	www.esserci.net
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13	Kosovo	Erblin Ajdini	Peer Educators Network	www.ngo-pen.org

14	Netherlands	Andreia Bessa	Stichting CAAT Projects	www.caatprojects.eu
15	Romania	Alina Afleailor	Service Civil International (SCI)-Romania	www.sci.ro
16	Serbia	Ivana Kostadinovic	Service Civil Internationa	www.sci.ngo
17	Spain	Zineb Emrane	University Pablo de Olavide in Seville	edupo@upo.es
18	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Florim Rexhepi	Centre for Intercultural Dialogue	www.cid.mk
19	Ukraine	Anna Romandash	Orange (EYP)	www.orangemagazine.eu
20	United Kingdom	Matteo Haenen	Euro-Mediterranean Resources Network	www.euromernet.org

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22	Georgia	Nika Bakhsoliani	Youth Association DRONI
23	Italy	Annamaria Simeone	Associazione Giosef Unito
24	Hungary	Jonathan Karstadt	UNITED
25	Serbia	Vojislava Tomic Radivojsa	Council of Europe – External Educational Advisor

## Second Study Session

PARTICIPANTS				
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1	Armenia	Nelli Gishyan	Youth Alliance Networking (YAN)	youthalliancenenetworking@outllok.com
2	Armenia	Johny Kondkjian		
3		Maxim Burmitskiy	HREYN	www.hre-youth.net
4	Croatia	Andreja Aušperger	Association Impress	www.udruga-impress.hr
5	Croatia	Amalia Bozicek		
6	France	Yanis Lammari		
7	France	Barbara Santibañez		
8	France	Marie Rodriguez		
9	Georgia	Elguja Gogoberishvili	Youth Association DRONI	www.droniyouth.org
10	Georgia	Ketevani Jinoridze	Youth for Peace and Equality (YPE)	www.ype-ngo.org
11	Georgia	Koba Bitsadze	LGBTQI Association-TEMIDA	http://www.temida.org.ge/
12	Georgia	Anton Belousov		
13	Hungary	András Marosi	Útilapu hálózat - SCI Hungary	Utilapu.hu
14	Italy	Indrit Aliu	Cooperativa Sociale Esserci	www.esserci.net
15	Italy	Francesco Lisciandra	Associazione Giosef Unito	www.giosefunito.eu
16	Italy	Diego Cetino		
17	Italy	Luca Pons		
18	Italy	Muna Khozom		
19	Morocco	Hayat Zaanoun		
20	Morocco	Marouan Ben Larbi		
21	Palestine	Mary Shaheen		

22	Portugal	Nuno Paixao		
23	Portugal	Pedro Nuno Evaristo Soares Portada		
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25	Spain	Guillermo Perez Munoz		
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30	United Kingdom	María Isabel Simón Partal		

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33	Italy	Annamaria Simeone	Associazione Giosef Unito
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35	Serbia	Vojislava Tomic Radivojsa	Council of Europe – External Educational Advisor