Bridging the Gap – Project Results
2014-1-EL02-KA105-000515
Erasmus+ KA1 Mobility of Youth Workers

One main feature of modern societies is diversity. Diversity in terms of religious, ethnic, financial, social, cultural, or political backgrounds. People tend to fear and exclude anything that is not similar to them. Especially in periods of crisis, like the one that Europe is experiencing the last six years, people are looking for scapegoats, stigmatizing without second thoughts specific social groups according to ethnicity, religious beliefs etc.

The project **"Bridging the Gap"** which was implemented by the Informal Group ***CHANCE*** and was funded by Erasmus+ program, sub-action KA1 – Mobility of Youth Workers, attempted to encourage young people to establish bridges of communication with different groups which are experiencing social isolation and prejudices by some parts of the society, as well as to suggest new ways of living together with these groups and enhance mutual cooperation.

Experiential learning, which applies in non- formal educational settings, was used to achieve the abovementioned goals. Particular emphasis was given in the personal needs of the participants, as well as their differencies.
The Mobility of Youth Workers was implement in Thessaloniki, Greece (3-11 December 2014) at hotel "Vergina" where 43 beneficiaries from 10 European Union countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Turkey) were able to interact, get sensitive and adapt into the group in order to learn and develop their personal creativity. The participants got familiar with concepts such as acceptance of social/cultural diversity and equal opportunities for personal development.

Clapping in Sign Language

Outcomes of the project

The participants:

- ✓ Facilitated dialogue and communication between diverse groups of people.
- ✓ Became familiar, accepted and respected differences.
- ✓ Developed a deeper understanding on mutual cooperation and inclusion of different social groups.
- ✓ Experienced a training course through methods and principles of non-formal education.
- ✓ Worked in a safe environment.
- ✓ Used learning methods that enable participation, cooperation and problem- solving.
- ✓ Got in contact with people, when visited the Forum of Immigrants in Thessaloniki, who are facing difficulties in adjusting to the Greek political and social environment.
- ✓ Learned about aspects and difficulties in everyday life as well as inclusion of deaf people in the society, by the Principal Teacher of the Hellenic Sign Language Center in Thessaloniki.

The overall outcome of the project was a theatrical play using Augusto Boal's technique of the *"Theatre of the Oppressed"* that was prepared by the participants and presented at the Forum of Immigrants in Thessaloniki.

Bridging the Gap video available @ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh7LoCUSpss&feature=youtu.be
Photo gallery available @ https://picasaweb.google.com/103214691407825327131/ErasmusKA1BridgingTheGaPByCHANCE

Το σχέδιο αυτό χρηματοδοτήθηκε με την υποστήριξη της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής. Η παρούσα δημοσίευση [ανακοίνωση] δεσμεύει μόνο τον συντάκτη της και η Επιτροπή δεν ευθύνεται για τυχόν χρήση των πληροφοριών που περιέχονται σε αυτήν.

Erasmus+

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Informal Group *CHANCE*