

## 1. Newsletter, October 2017

# “Creative Tools for Youth Initiatives against Radicalization and Populism”



### Who we are!

What is culture? What is identity? How do stereotypes and prejudices arise? And how can youth workers prevent radical thinking of youngsters?

These are just few of many questions, which participants discussed during the training course “Creative Tools for Youth Initiatives against Radicalization and Populism” in July 2017.

26 people from 7 countries (Italy, Portugal, Hungary, Spain, Bulgaria, Germany and Turkey) gathered in the house of “Youth and Change Association” in the city-centre of Diyarbakir to find out how we can promote tolerance and use cultural diversity as a positive tool in youth work.

**In this monthly Newsletter we want to document and publish our working steps und results back in our home countries.** The first one is written by the German participants. <http://www.youar.eu/>

**This project is support by the European Union**



### Topic: Integration of Refugees in society

As you know in the last years about 1 Mio. Refugees came to Germany.

The Youth-Organization JANUN e.V. from Hannover/Germany started two years ago to invite young refugees to join some activities at JANUN. For the refugees who staid often in Germany already for more than one year it was sometimes the first real contact with Germans on a private level.

A lot of friendships developed out of this contacts.

### Some of the activities

#### Weekend-Seminar

Three times already JANUN e.V. organized weekend-seminars in the mountains near Hannover in winter-time. Mostly it was short before Christmas, a good opportunity to talk about traditions like Christmas etc. We cooked together dishes from the different cultures of the participants, went ice-skating, hiking in the forest and especially to have time for games and to get to know each other. In the end of the weekend we always used the opportunity to discuss future ideas together.

### **Film-Evenings / Favourite movies of refugees**

Usually if you talk about countries like Syria you talk about the war, killing and violence. But the refugees who came had a youth,



friends, favourite movies before the war started. Our idea was to invite refugees to watch with us their favourite movie, to explain a little bit the background of the movie. In the end it came out that we always first cooked together a traditional meal that was somehow connected to the movie, to eat together, to play one or two energisers and to watch the movie together.

30 - 40 people usually.

### **Tandem - School-Project**

Our new big project is called Tandem: Refugees and Locals are running workshops in school. This project is initiated by the Ministry of Education in our province of Lower Saxony. Five teams in different regions of our province got formed, always with five refugees and five locals in the age from 16 - 26 years.

After two very exiting weekend-seminars with around 50 participants, where the participants learned how to run a workshop, we started to develop now the workshops, that we are going to over to the schools. The topic is open, it can be about the reason why the refugee left home, what he experienced on the way to Europe. But it can be also a workshop about Racism, Tolerance ...the teams decide. Each team is asked to run 5 workshops in schools.

In the end we will have a final weekend-seminar to celebrate the success of the project.

### **Learning Arabic**

Our German volunteers started to teach German especially before some of the refugees had to take language exams to enter university for example. They helped to translate and understand official letters. That

way the idea appeared to learn some Arabic. Now ones a week two young refugees are

teaching Arabic to the ones who would like to learn a little bit of Arabic and to understand the culture better.

سلام

### **Talking to each other**

The starting point was ...

Refugee: "I moved to a new place, but the neighbour in our big apartment-house, they do not talk to

me, they just say hello. I think they do not like me."

German (smiling): "That is normal, in this big apartment-houses the people do not talk to each other. Often they do not know each other. It is not because of you"

Refugee (surprised): "Wow, what a petty, they don't know each other!"

In the end we did one action in the pedestrian-zone of our neighbourhood.

We made small cards with questions and gave them to the people passing by and asked them to talk with us or others about this question. In the first moment people were shy but in the end a lot of people used the chance to talk with unknown persons about questions like "What is nice today" "What do you like to do today" "What is your wish for today"

In the end the people smiled and felt good, also us who organized it.

## What is going on in Germany ... after the Federal Election

On 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 the German federal elections have been held. Since the 50s it happened the first time that a party, which is located far on the right position and speaks out in a nationalistic and xenophobic way, got elected into the parliament. You can read more about those results in the following link.

[https://deref-web-02.de/mail/client/pxLs8tF\\_PmU/dereferrer/?redirectUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fcommentisfree%2F2017%2Fsep%2F24%2Fgermany-elections-afd-europe-immigration-merkel-radical-right](https://deref-web-02.de/mail/client/pxLs8tF_PmU/dereferrer/?redirectUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fcommentisfree%2F2017%2Fsep%2F24%2Fgermany-elections-afd-europe-immigration-merkel-radical-right)

Your food Italian
Your car French
Your coffee Brazilian
Your religion Hebrew
Your numbers Arabic
Your letters Latin
Your democracy Greek
Your neighbour just a foreigner

### Organisations involved in this network are:

Genclik ve Degisim Dernegi (Turkey/Kurdistan) ([www.genclikvedegisim.org](http://www.genclikvedegisim.org))

YOUTH FOR PARTICIPATION ASSOCIATION (Hungary) ([www.facebook.com/YOPA.NGO](https://www.facebook.com/YOPA.NGO))

AL Teatro (Portugal) (<https://www.facebook.com/alteatro.teatrodoarade>)

SERVEI CIVIL INTERNACIONAL DE CATALUNYA ASOCIACION (Catalunya) ([www.sci-cat.org](http://www.sci-cat.org))

SERVIZIO CIVILE INTERNAZIONALE (Italia) ([www.sci-italia.it](http://www.sci-italia.it))

Fondatsia "Detsa na Balkanite" (Bulgaria) (<https://balkankidsfoundation.jimdo.com>)

JANUN e.V. (Germany) ([www.janun-hannover.de](http://www.janun-hannover.de))

Website of the project: <http://www.youar.eu/>

Facebook of the project: <https://www.facebook.com/Youareu-138643850059639/>

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