



YOUTH CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION  
AND COMMUNICATION

## Results from the workshop on “intercultural dialogue in social communities” in Stare Jablonki 2009-11-05

### Intercultural dialogue

Intercultural dialogue is a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange between individuals, groups and organisations with different cultural backgrounds or world views. Among its aims are: to develop a deeper understanding of different perspectives and practices; to increase participation (or the freedom to make choices); to ensure equality; and to enhance creative processes

From the point of view of the cultural sector intercultural dialogue within a country involves public and private cultural / artistic initiatives which bring together individuals/groups from minority/migrant communities together with the majority population in order to enter into a multi-directional communication process.

Such dialogue ideally takes place in a shared space where attempts are made to address unequal power relations between those belonging to majority/minority groups.

The aim of an intercultural exchange is transformative of all those participating and can result in, for example, the creation of new or hybrid cultural expressions/forms, new image constructions, changed behaviour patterns etc.

The enlargement of the European Union, deregulation of employment laws and globalisation have increased the multicultural character of many countries, adding to the number of languages, religions, ethnic and cultural backgrounds found on the continent. As a result, intercultural dialogue has an increasingly important role to play in fostering European identity and citizenship throughout the centuries, since the times of a legendary Babel Tower, people were trying to communicate among themselves using various methods...

for example:

- Latin as „lingua franca”
- creating artificial esperanto language
- establishing special rights for immigrants and people of other religions

Lead Partner:



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6. Micro blogging
7. Yes!
8. Yes!
9. Youth Cross-border Cooperation and Communication
10. Updates, communication and information
11. 300 million people
12. 140 characters
13. Myspace (2003)
14. youtube, google, live, facebook, yahoo
15. 216
16. Around 1985
17. For example, online dating costs money
18. Estonia
19. Tokbox
20. Sign language

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The groups then discussed three questions about intercultural dialogue in social communities, with the starting point in one of the pictures below;



- Which values are important if talking about intercultural dialogue?

It is important with tolerance, understanding and being open. Culture, agreement and cooperation are also important. Other important values are respect, freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of choice, involvement and common space. Other words that came up were; friendship, joke, carpe diem, running away, rebel, party and fun together with different ideas, different background and different ideas.

-What must we avoid?

We must avoid stereotypes, xenophobia, unopened minds and bad attitudes. We should also avoid language barriers, border limits and age limits. Don't forget to avoid arrogance as well!

- What can we do to improve the intercultural dialogue?

To improve intercultural dialogue in social communities we should learn more language, learn about each others culture and be more open minded. We should cooperate more, increase mobility, be patient and keep talking!

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