



Mate

Newsletter April 2021

About MATE Project

MATE

is an EU-funded project (Erasmus+, KA203, 2018), coordinated by MMC Management Centre from Cyprus, which was launched in December 2018 and will be completed in June 2021.

The project is an innovative, student-centred approach to intercultural skills' acquisition targeting local and foreign students in the partner countries and across Europe.

After researching the dominant forms of hate speech on the Internet (online) and in face-to-face interactions (offline), MATE's aim is to develop training material and tools which will empower students to combat hate speech, report racism and improve their intercultural skills. Additionally, through MATE, students are being trained on organising awareness raising campaigns against discrimination as well as on facilitating cultural events which cultivate a mindset of tolerance and respect for diversity.

All the MATE activities are being designed so that they bring together young members of the local and foreign communities of the partner countries in order that they get to know each other, overcome prejudices and comprehend their common and different worldviews.

The MATE material will be available on the [project website](#) and platform for students everywhere in the world as well as for interested academics and other stakeholders.

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the project are local and foreign students in the partner countries and across Europe, while MATE also targets intercultural skills' trainers, cultural events' facilitators, academics interested in issues related to the project and other stakeholders.

Objectives

To improve local and foreign students' intercultural skills and create multicultural student networks!

To combat racism, hate speech and discrimination and promote respect for diversity!

To create new methods of improving intercultural skills and offer to students of different backgrounds opportunities to meet, interact and make university a discrimination-free space!

Current Phase

From December 2020 to January 2021 the project partners were training the MATE Facilitators (Students) (IO4) on the MATE Activities who then, in February and March 2021, conducted the "MATEvents" on the human commonalities (IO4) – 4 events in each partner country – with the participation of local and foreign students. Also, the Training Material on How to Organise Small-scale Awareness-raising Campaigns against Discrimination with the Use of Audio-visual Material (IO5), which had already been prepared, was used in April for the implementation of the relevant Workshops – 1 in each partner country – in which students produced short spots on the different topics that were examined under the project (IO5). The following period partners will work on the development of the MATE platform, its enrichment and its dissemination.

Main Achievements

Developed:

- Intercultural Skills' Assessment Online Tool (IO2)
- Curriculum and Training Material for the "Report Racism" Pilot Workshops in Five Modules: 1. Hate Speech, 2. Hate Speech vs Freedom of Speech, 3. Understanding the Legal Framework and Reporting Hate Speech, 4. Media Literacy and 5. Intercultural Communication (IO3)
- "Report Racism" Methodological Guide (for implementing the Workshops) (IO3)
- MATE Activities based on 30 Selected Human Universals (Commonalities) for being implemented in the form of "MATEvents" (IO4)
- Methodological Guide for the MATE Facilitators (for implementing the "MATEvents") (IO4)
- Training Material on How to Organise Small-scale Awareness Raising Campaigns against Discrimination with the Use of Audio-visual Material (IO5)
- Awareness Raising Short Spots and Other Material against Discrimination (by Students)

Organised:

- 1st Piloting of the Intercultural Skills' Assessment Online Tool (IO2)
- Training of the Trainers of the "Report Racism" Pilot Workshops (IO3)
 - "Report Racism" Pilot Workshops (IO3)
- Learning Activity among the Project Partners on the developed MATE Activities (1st Piloting of the MATE Activities) (IO4)
 - Train the MATE Facilitator (Student) Workshop (IO4)
 - "MATEvents" (2nd Piloting of the MATE Activities) (IO4)
- 2nd Piloting of the Intercultural Skills' Assessment Online Tool (IO2)
- Workshops aiming to Train the Students on Organising Small-scale Awareness Raising Campaigns against Discrimination (IO5)

Upcoming Activities

- Development of Guidebook for Effective Campaigning (IO5)
- Composition of an Installation and Replication Manual (Interactive Guide) for the Project which will be available on the project platform (IO6)
- Development of the MATE Platform which will include all the developed material and will be connected to the project website (IO6)
 - Pilot Testing of the MATE Platform (IO6)

Coordinator:

MMC Mediterranean Management Centre

Partners:

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