

Equality Ambassadors – Using creativity and new digital technologies to promote democracy, equality and human rights with youth workers and young people in an Equal Europe

Equality Ambassadors is an innovative transnational partnership project bringing together five partner organisations from Ireland, Croatia, Serbia, Greece and Spain who work with young people including those most marginalised. The project promotes an exchange and transfer of good practice and the sharing of ideas at a European level between five partner organisations involved in youth work, bringing them together to collaboratively design a new European Equality Ambassador Peer Leadership Training Programme, book and digital app.

The Equality Ambassadors Peer Leadership training curriculum is designed as an innovative training programme using creative processes of theatre and new digital technologies to promote democracy, equality and human rights. The curriculum provides young people with a knowledge of democracy, equality and human rights and the role of the EU in promoting these issues and develops a range of skills with young people in order to train them as Equality Ambassadors.

An Equality Ambassador is a young person who receives training in the use of creative processes and new digital technologies to engage with other young people to promote democracy, equality and human rights and active civic engagement at a European level. The training promotes personal and social development, leadership and communication skills, and the active participation of youth workers and young people in working together to make society a better place for all exploring how to promote democracy, equality and human rights using creative processes and new digital technologies.

Growing consensus around the world recognizes education for human rights as essential. It can contribute to the building of free, just, and peaceful societies. Equality and Human rights education is increasingly recognized as an effective strategy to prevent human rights abuses and assists in promoting a more inclusive, tolerant and diverse society. The Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) exhorts every individual and every organ of society to "strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms".

The EU is founded on principles of liberty, democracy, gender equality, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. This project uses the creative mediums of theatre and new digital technologies to promote democracy, equality and human rights, all key values underpinning the EU. Young people are actively involved in the democratic life of Europe and gain expertise in supporting the role of the EU to promote diversity and respect for all.

Six international partner exchanges are held and ten Youth Workers are trained in how to conduct the Equality Ambassador Curriculum which is then rolled out with 200 youth across Europe to train them as Equality Ambassadors. A Communications strategy is conducted and the project culminates in an International Youth Symposium held in Dublin, Ireland in October 2021. Activities are open to youth workers, leaders, educators, teachers, facilitators, artists, young people and all those interested in the creative arts, youth work and the promotion of democracy, equality and human rights. Equality Ambassadors is supported by Erasmus+ and the partners are Smashing Times, Dublin, Ireland (lead); Dah Theatre, Belgrade, Serbia; Youth Peace Group (Danube), Vukovar, Croatia, KANE, Kalamata, Greece; and IFESCOOP, Valencia, Spain.