



About MATE Project

MATE is an EU project (Erasmus+, Key Action 2, KA203) coordinated by the Mediterranean Management Centre (M.M.C.) of Cyprus. Its duration is December 2018-2020.

The project is an innovative, student-centred approach to intercultural skills acquisition for local and migrant students. It aims to develop tools that will empower students to combat hate speech, report racism, and improve their intercultural skills. Therefore, a European Report on Hate Speech will be prepared, analysing the current situation in all partner countries. Also, an Intercultural Skills Assessment Online Tool will be developed, which will permit students to evaluate their level of intercultural competence. Consequently, the students will be trained on strategies to Report Racism at universities and in general based on a Curriculum and Training Materials produced by the project, on how to organise "MATEvents", where local and migrant students can meet and implement activities designed by the project, as well as on the implementation of Online Awareness Campaigns against discriminatory behaviour. All MATE materials and tools will be accessible on the Project Website!

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the project are higher education students in the partner countries and in Europe in general. The project target group is primarily local and migrant students, as its activities aim to connect these two groups of students in order to overcome prejudices. Nevertheless, all the methods and materials produced during the project will be accessible on the project website for students everywhere in the world as well as for academics and other stakeholders having the same aim.

Objectives

To develop intercultural skills and social networks among local and migrant students!
To combat discrimination, hate speech, and promote respect and diversity!
To create new methods and opportunities for students of different backgrounds to meet and make university a discrimination free space!

Current Phase

Euro-pean Report on Hate Speech: the first step of the project is a research and preparation of a report in all partner countries on common forms of anti-migrant discourses and hate speech online (over the Internet and through the social media) and offline (in face to face communication) in a student context. **Intercultural Skills Assessment Tool:** the second step of the project is the development of a tool to assess the intercultural competence of the students before the MATE learning and experiential activities (needs analysis) and after them (project's impact analysis). The tool has been developed and will soon be available online.

Main Achievements

The first phase of the project has been completed. The European Report on Common Forms on Hate Speech Online and Offline is now accessible on the project website! In every partner country, an analysis of common forms of hate speech was implemented in three steps. A desk research on hate speech on student-centred websites and social media as well as through situations of face to face communication at universities was conducted. Mixed focus groups of local and migrant students were then conducted, giving first-hand testimonies on hate speech observed, endured, or expressed by students. Finally, an online questionnaire on the topic was filled in on a broader scale, giving a larger image of the current situation.

Upcoming Activities

In the upcoming months, the Intercultural Skills Assessment Online Tool will be finalised in all five languages of the consortium (French, Spanish, Greek, German, and Swedish). Consequently, a pilot test will be done with students already engaged in the project. Upon its finalisation, it will be accessible to everyone, giving automatic feedback (results and analysis) on the level of intercultural competence.

Coordinator:

 **MMC** Mediterranean Management Centre

Partners:

 **FH JOANNEUM**
University of Applied Sciences

 **Folkuniversitetet**

 **ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI**

 **Cyprus University of Technology**

 **Euro circle**  **Europe Direct Provence**

 **Universitat d'Alacant**
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