



## About MATE Project

MATE is an EU project (Erasmus+, Key Action 2, KA203, 2018), coordinated by M.M.C. Mediterranean Management Centre, in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Its duration is December 2018 – June 2021. The project is an innovative, student-centred approach to intercultural skills acquisition for local and foreign students.

After researching the dominant forms of hate speech encountered online and offline, MATE's goal is to develop tools that will empower students to combat hate speech, report racism, and improve their intercultural skills. Additionally, it aims to train students in organising campaigns and events which cultivate a culture of tolerance and respect to difference.

## Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the project are higher education students in the partner countries and in Europe in general. Its target group is local and foreign students; the main idea behind MATE's activities is to bring together members of the local and foreign community so that they can get to know each other and have the opportunity to comprehend their worldviews and differences. All the material produced during the project will be accessible on the project website for students anywhere in the world as well as for interested academics and other stakeholders.

## Objectives

To develop intercultural skills and social networks among local and foreign 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

The first piloting of the Intercultural Skills Online Assessment Tool (IO2) was performed successfully. Five persons of relevant expertise were trained further to implement the "Report Racism" Pilot Workshops (IO3) in each partner country, which were held in October 2020; although scheduled to be conducted offline, the Covid-19 restrictions resulted in most of them being held online. Approximately 100 students (20 from each partner country) attended the workshops which focused respectively on five topics: Hate Speech, Hate Speech vs Freedom of Speech, Understanding the Legal Framework of Hate Speech and Reporting Hate Speech, Media Literacy and Intercultural Communication. In the context of IO4, ice-breaking and bonding activities were prepared, inspired by 30 Human Universals or Commonalities aiming to shed light on shared values and human ideals. The Training Material on how to organise Small-scale Campaigns (IO5) was prepared and finalised. Due to restrictions posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Training of the MATE Facilitators (Students) (IO4) and the organisation of the "MATEvents" (IO4) were moved to the beginning of 2021. The Workshops and Campaigns for Citizens' Engagement to Fight Discrimination (IO5) will be held in spring 2021.

## Main Achievements

### Developed:

- Intercultural Skills Assessment Online Tool (IO2)
- Training Material for the "Report Racism" Pilot Workshops divided into Five Modules/Thematic Areas (IO3)
- "Report Racism" Methodological Guide (IO3)
- MATE Activities based on 30 Selected Human Universals/Commonalities (IO4) to be implemented in the "MATEvents" (IO4)
- Methodological Guide for the MATE Facilitators (IO4)
- Material for Workshops aiming to Train Students in organising Small-scale Campaigns against Discrimination (IO5)

### Organised:

- 1st Stage of Piloting of the Intercultural Skills Online Assessment Tool (IO2)
- Training of the Trainers (IO3)
- "Report Racism" Pilot Workshops (IO3)
- Learning Activity among the Project Partners on the developed MATE Activities through the Zoom platform (1st Stage of Piloting of MATE)

## Upcoming Activities

- Optimisation of the "Report Racism" Methodological Guide and Curriculum (IO3)
- Train the Facilitator (Student) Workshop (IO4)
- The "MATEvents" (IO4)
- 2nd Stage of Piloting of the Intercultural Skills Online Assessment Tool (IO2)
- Workshops and Campaigns for Citizens' Engagement to Fight Discrimination (IO5), scheduled for spring 2021 in each partner country.

### Coordinator:

**MMC** Mediterranean Management Centre

### Partners:

**FH JOANNEUM**  
University of Applied Sciences

**Folkuniversitetet**



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