



Mate

Newsletter June 2021

About MATE Project

MATE

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

The project is an innovative, student-centered approach to intercultural skills' acquisition targeting local and foreign/migrant 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 objective was to develop training material and tools which would empower students to combat hate speech, report racism and improve their intercultural skills. Additionally, through MATE, students were 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 have been designed so as to bring together young members of the local and foreign/migrant 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 is available on the project **website** and **platform** for students around the world as well as for interested academics and other stakeholders.

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the project are local and foreign/migrant students in the partner countries and across Europe.

MATE also targets intercultural skills' trainers, cultural events' facilitators, academics interested in issues related to the project and other stakeholders.

Objectives

To improve the intercultural skills of local and foreign/migrant students 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 cultural backgrounds opportunities to meet, interact and make universities discrimination-free spaces!

Current Phase

In the final phase of MATE, the intercultural "MATEvents" (IO4) – the most innovative activity of the project – were completed successfully. At one of the most critical points of the project, local and foreign/migrant students in each partner country had the opportunity to mingle and share their views on human commonalities. The students who had been trained on intercultural issues through the Report Racism Workshops of IO3, transferred this knowledge to other students on their own and implemented together experiential activities. The "MATEvents" led to IO5, in which the students attended Workshops on Campaigning Strategies and the Production of Audio-Visual Material for Campaigns. The outcome of these workshops were short awareness-raising spots against racism or promoting diversity. At the end of the project, a platform aiming to present all the work done during the lifetime of MATE is being developed (IO6). The MATE platform has been modified based on feedback received by the partners, students and stakeholders and is now accessible to everyone interested in the MATE approach and results. All of the project activities and tasks were performed and finalised in success.

Main Achievements

Developed:

- 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) (IO5)
 - Guidebook for Effective Campaigning (IO5)
- Detailed Specification Document for the Development of the MATE Platform (IO6)
- Replication Manual for the Project Results available on the MATE Platform (IO6)
 - MATE Platform (IO6)

Organised:

- "MATEvents" (2nd Piloting Testing of the MATE Activities) (IO4)
- Workshops aiming to Train the Students on Organising Small-Scale Awareness Raising Campaigns against Discrimination (IO5)
- Pilot Testing of the Platform (by the Partners, Students and Stakeholders) (IO6)

The MATE Platform

Visit the MATE Platform and learn about the MATE approach to the acquisition or improvement of intercultural skills and how you may benefit from it!

The platform is the final result of the project and it was developed with the aim to provide stakeholders with an easy-to-follow guide to how to apply the MATE approach to different contexts, with different target groups. It presents the main project activities in a structured and user-friendly way and it grants access to the main project results, which can be found on the platform in downloadable form.

Through the platform, the MATE results will be sustained and may easily be transferred to other contexts and have an impact on different target groups after the lifetime of the project.

Coordinator:

MMC Mediterranean Management Centre

Partners:

FH JOANNEUM
University of Applied Sciences

Folkuniversitetet



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