

SCENARIO



Social Solidarity



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Introduction

MINI LECTURE: PROMOTING SOCIAL SOLIDARITY THROUGH COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Today, we will explore an impactful Irish method for working with youth: Promoting Social Solidarity Through Community Projects. This approach is rooted in the belief that meaningful participation in community life fosters empathy, teamwork, and a strong sense of collective responsibility among young people. By addressing local social challenges, youth not only contribute to their communities but also grow as individuals and future leaders.

What Is Social Solidarity?

At its core, social solidarity means unity and mutual support within a group or society. It's about understanding that everyone has a role to play in helping their community thrive. This concept is particularly important for youth, as it teaches them that their actions, no matter how small, can make a real difference.

The method in action

The Promoting Social Solidarity through community projects method provides youth with opportunities to work together to solve pressing social issues in their local areas.

1. Identifying a community issue:

- The process begins by involving youth in identifying issues that matter to their community. these could include helping vulnerable populations, addressing environmental concerns, or fostering inclusivity.
- For example, in Ireland, young people have organized initiatives like food drives for the homeless or campaigns to promote mental health awareness.

2. Designing and planning the project:

- Youth collaborate to design a project that addresses the chosen issue. this step is crucial because it gives them ownership of the initiative, empowering them to think critically and creatively.
- Activities are often hands-on, such as hosting workshops, creating public awareness campaigns, or leading community clean-ups.

3. Carrying out the project:

- Roles are assigned based on participants' strengths and interests, ensuring equal involvement.
- Projects are implemented with the support of educators and community members, allowing youth to learn teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills in real time.

4. Reflection and evaluation:

- After completing the project, youth reflect on their experiences through group discussions or presentations.
- This helps them process what they've learned, recognize the impact of their efforts, and understand the value of solidarity in addressing social challenges.

Benefits for Youth

This method is incredibly effective in building a range of essential skills and values:



Empathy

Youth develop a deeper understanding of the needs and struggles of others.



Teamwork

Collaborative work fosters communication and cooperation.



Responsibility

By taking ownership of their projects, they learn accountability and the importance of civic engagement.



Confidence

Seeing the tangible results of their efforts gives participants a sense of accomplishment and empowerment.

Global relevance

One of the strengths of this method is its adaptability. Although rooted in Irish practice, it can be applied anywhere in Europe by tailoring projects to local issues. For example:



In urban areas, projects might focus on social inclusion for migrants.



In rural settings, activities could address environmental preservation or support for isolated elderly populations.

The 'Promoting Social Solidarity through community projects' method teaches youth that solidarity is not just a concept but a lived practice. By working together to address real-world problems, they not only improve their communities but also gain skills and values that will serve them throughout their lives. It's a powerful way to prepare young people to be active, empathetic, and responsible citizens of their societies.



Program

PROGRAM FOR A 4-HOUR WEBINAR ON PROMOTING INCLUSION AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THREE METHODS

Organized by: AUTPOST Limited (Ireland) & FERI (Poland)

Audience: Youth educators and teachers

Duration: 4 hours

Total participants: 20

Objectives of the webinar:

- To introduce the three methods: social solidarity, intercultural willingness, and multicultural existence
- To equip youth educators and teachers with practical tools for addressing diversity, inclusion, and prejudice in educational settings
- To provide insight into the benefits and applications of these methods for youth development
- To facilitate collaborative discussions and networking between participants.

Webinar program:

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM: welcome & introduction (10 minutes)

Moderator:

- Overview of webinar agenda

Introduction to organizers:

- AUTPOST Limited (Ireland)
- FERI (Poland)

Objectives of the webinar

Icebreaker activity:

- A short introduction from each participant (name, role, and one expectation from the webinar)

10:10 AM – 10:40 AM: Introduction to the Project and Its Goals (30 minutes)

Speaker 1: Project coordinator, AUTPOST or FERI

Content:

- Overview of the project's purpose and the need for promoting inclusivity and cultural understanding among youth.
- The importance of equipping educators with tools to manage and nurture a multicultural environment.
- The broader impact of these methods on social cohesion and youth development in schools and communities.

Interactive segment (5 minutes):

Open the floor for participants to ask questions about the project's background and goals.

10:40 AM – 11:20 AM: Method 1 – Social Solidarity (40 minutes)

Speaker 2: Expert in Social Solidarity or diversity education

Content:

- Explanation of the social solidarity method.
- How to view "problematic" behaviours as signs of prejudice and address them through empathy and inclusion.
- Practical examples of activities and strategies for youth educators to use in their classrooms.
- Tools to help students recognize and challenge prejudice and exclusion and promote social cohesion.

Interactive Segment (5 minutes):

- Poll or reflection: Participants will reflect on their own experiences with prejudice and exclusion in their educational settings and share how they would apply Social Solidarity in their teaching practices.

11:20 AM – 12:00 PM: Method 2 – Intercultural Willingness (40 minutes)

Speaker 3: Expert in intercultural education or youth development

Content:

- Explanation of the intercultural willingness method and its relevance in today's globalized world.
- How to foster openness and adaptability in youth to engage with people from different cultural backgrounds.
- Practical tools and activities for educators to integrate into their curriculum, such as self-awareness exercises, knowledge-building on intercultural communication, and multicultural teamwork.
- The role of intercultural competence in preparing youth for the workforce and social interactions in diverse environments.

Interactive Segment (5 minutes):

- Group discussion: participants break into small groups (via breakout rooms) to discuss how they could use the intercultural willingness method in their classrooms. They will then share one idea or strategy with the whole group.

12:00 PM – 12:40 PM: Method 3 – Multicultural Existence (40 minutes)

Speaker 4: Expert in multicultural education or human rights

Content:

- Introduction to the multicultural existence method and its focus on equality, dignity, and cultural cooperation.
- Key strategies for educators to use in promoting cultural cooperation and raising awareness about human rights in their classrooms.
- Tools for analyzing cultural diversity and fostering respect for human rights through educational programs and community initiatives.
- Practical examples and success stories from schools or communities where these methods have been implemented.

Interactive Segment (5 minutes):

- Case study reflection: participants will be given a brief multicultural case study and will reflect in small groups on how to approach the case using the multicultural existence method. Each group will then share their insights with the larger group.

12:40 PM – 12:50 PM: Break (10 minutes)

12:50 PM – 1:30 PM: Applying the methods in practice (40 minutes)

Facilitator-led discussion:

- Participants will break into groups and be tasked with developing a brief lesson plan or activity for their students that integrates one or more of the three methods.
- They will work collaboratively to design practical strategies and share their ideas with the group.

Interactive Segment (5 minutes):

- Groups will present their ideas to the rest of the participants, receiving feedback and suggestions for improvement.

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM: Collaborative Q&A and closing remarks (30 minutes)

Moderator & speakers:

- Open floor for final questions and reflections.
- Discussion on how educators can further implement these methods and sustain cultural diversity education in their classrooms.
- Sharing of additional resources, tools, and networks for educators looking to continue the work.

Final feedback & evaluation (5 minutes):

- Quick anonymous survey or live poll for participants to share their feedback on the webinar and suggestions for future events.

Closing remarks (5 minutes):

- Thank participants for attending and encourage them to continue exploring and applying the methods in their educational practices.
- Mention any follow-up resources, contacts, or upcoming events related to the project.

Materials and resources:

- Webinar presentation slide
- Handouts on each method
- Recommended reading list on social solidarity, intercultural willingness, and multicultural existence
- Links to further resources and research
- Recording of the webinar for participants

Technical notes:

- Use a platform such as zoom or Microsoft teams for smooth interaction, screen-sharing, and breakout sessions.
- Ensure that participants have access to all materials before the webinar, including handouts, readings, and links for breakout rooms.
- Assign co-facilitators to manage breakout rooms, monitor questions in the chat, and ensure active participation.

End of Program

This structured program provides youth educators and teachers with an engaging, interactive, and practical experience to understand and apply the three methods. It ensures that they leave the webinar with actionable strategies and ideas for fostering inclusivity, tolerance, and intercultural understanding in their classrooms and communities.



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