



Erasmus+

**CITIZENSHIP
EDUCATION In 15 LO
Kraków, Poland**

Best Practices

2018 Kraków

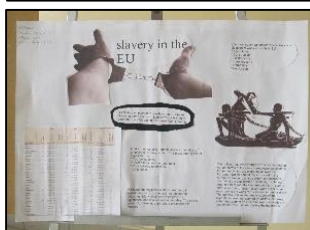
Citizenship Education in 15 Liceum Ogólnokształcące in Kraków is focused on teaching open-mindedness and tolerance towards other people.

One of the characteristic features of contemporary times is the emergence of multi-cultural and multi-national societies. This requires developing tolerance toward the others, and making students aware of such negative phenomena as racism and xenophobia. It is then extremely important to help students learn about these issues, to help them protect themselves against such negative attitudes.

Students are taught what it means to be a responsible and ethical citizen. Their citizenship awareness is raised through the syllabuses, workshops or local and international projects such as Erasmus+. Teachers work hard to set a good example through their actions and attitude of tolerance and fairness.

Citizenship education:

learning being a good, active and aware citizen. Shaping an aware citizen who is sensitive and pro-active in everyday life, taking action, if necessary, against any form of injustice. Methods: competitions and the exhibitions, sharing the knowledge about our culture. Developing attitudes of responsible consuming - students will not easily be manipulated by advertising and wisely choose products, taking into consideration the influence of individual choices on the environment, fair market place, etc.



Making students aware of such issues as workers' exploitation, unethical practices (a consumer boycott as a powerful tool of influence), fair trade, modern slavery and child labour.



Sharing the knowledge of one's own culture and traditions is significant with the massive influx of

migrants to a country. It is also crucial in the countries where in the consequence of various conflicts many ethnic minorities must co-exist together. For a multicultural country to prosper in peace and harmony it is necessary to get to know "the other", to understand that it is together that we build a community and to realize that being different does not mean being an enemy. We should be aware of the common elements that draw us together and help build a better future for us all.

Discovering other cultures does not only broaden our knowledge but enables us to understand the others as well. Thanks to this we may overcome stereotypes and prejudice.



And what about your goals. Did you manage to achieve the goals you had in mind during your campaign to the local council?

interviewing local activists

Interviews with local activists make students aware of the local policies and help them see how local representatives understand social issues both in a micro and macro scale. Finally, students learn what activists really do. This may help them get involved in activities aimed at improving or changing some aspects of life in local communities. Being a good citizen implies being an active person especially, if one is a member of a minority, and to defend others, who may be less fortunate in life. This, in turn, helps develop a sense of civic courage indispensable in such struggle.

Citizenship education: fighting exclusion, overcoming students' disabilities.

To overcome social exclusion we focus on activating students who are threatened with such an exclusion. That is why we involve them in our projects, offer them a chance to work in a team, where they can learn how to cooperate, integrate and act. For instance, including a disabled student in a team helps other students understand what disability is and to get rid of a fear towards a disabled person. Such a process brings benefits for both sides.



School nr 15 in Kraków enables education to all students especially students with special needs. School adjusts educational requirements to individual needs and capabilities finds out about students' special need and offers assistance in overcoming their problems and disabilities (to the extent it is possible). Helps students to succeed – pass final exams,

get better grades and find a satisfying place in school community.

Educational teaching actions

Pedagogical support

Motivational, psychological and psychiatric therapy.

Organizing an individual process of teaching at school – making relationships with other students.

Permanent contact with the educator, solving current problems, supporting the student and parents.

Teaching conditions are adapted to the capabilities and disabilities of students with special needs.



Citizenship education - breaking human rights, racism, xenophobia, teaching tolerance

Meetings with the representatives of NGOs such as Amnesty International, MIFGASH or „Never again” - on the present threats: growth of more and more radical populist right-wing movements, an increasing number of hate crimes caused by prejudice and intolerance stemming from ignorance or stereotypes



Meetings with the witnesses of history



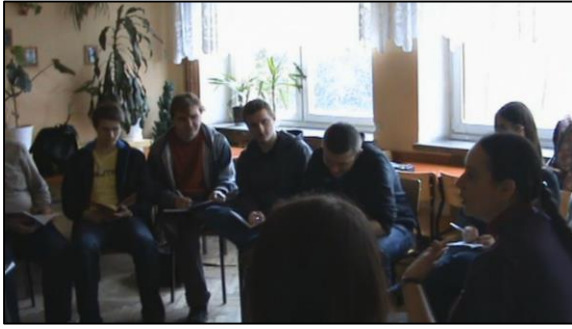
Ms Lidia Maksymowicz is a living witness to the tragic events of WWII. As a child she was a prisoner in a concentration camp. Her stories of an eye-witness provoke extreme emotions in her listeners, sometimes even shock. Such meetings make young people realize that these events were real and true, that they did happen and that they are not just a story or a theory in a history course book. The meetings like this also make students sensitive to evil and help them fight against it.

Visiting places of remembrance

Visiting such places of memory as the ghetto or Oscar Schindler's factory is important for young people as it makes them realize the truth of the past events. It does not only show a tragic fate of the Jewish nation but also helps them see that Germans' attitudes towards Jews were varied. Facing the history of WWII students may learn respect and humility. At the same time they may learn to appreciate their own lives now when they do not have to experience wars or starvation.



Tolerance game lessons



The objectives of the game: to point out the socially accepted attitudes and behaviors; to make students aware of the issues of tolerance, and to help students understand the idea and significance of tolerance. Students also distinguish tolerant and intolerant attitudes, and learn to express their opinions in a group.

Workshop – changing stereotypes

Stereotypes are not always true, sometimes they distort and falsify reality. Using stereotypes may lead to discrimination, exclusion, intolerance, sometimes even aggression, killings or genocide. Changing stereotypes is necessary if we want to build positive relations between individuals and between peoples. It helps overcome the barriers and prejudice. Changing the attitudes enables us to discover positive features of a given group, to accept them and abandon the previous way of thinking.

