



Think Diverse



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Newsletter

Think Diverse!

N°4



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Looking for Paris

Started in May 2021, the Think Diverse project should finish in April 2023 after two years of creative thinking and brainstorming among a team that gathers experts of lifelong learning (Eurosviluppo & Skill up for Italy ; Neotalentway ofr Spain and iriv for France) and artistic partners (TAG for Italy, CurvaPolar for Spain, Lirac for France). The diversity of the team has been a main asset to exchange and compare different perspectives.

The Think Diverse project was designed for a special call for proposal published by the European Commission (in September 2020) after the first lockdown caused by the Covid 19 pandemic has paved the way for a dramatic hate speech and conspiracy theories attached to it. Youngsters have been main targets , they may be both victims (bullying, cyberharrassment..) or authors of such unfair behaviours.

The European Union and Europeans couldn't anticipate that a war would start in February 2022 after Ukraine was brutally and unfairly attacked by Russia. The disinformation that is part of the cyberwar has even increased fake news and most of the time insulting attacks against people of the adverse camp considered as „enemies”. This is not a traditional war - what is at stake is our democratic values – and diversity is a main touchstone of democracy.

The European Union was built on the respect and mutual recognition of diverse countries, with different cultures and languages, sharing common values: freedom of speech and expression, pluralism of the media and political parties, equality of chances, social justice, and the defense of fundamuntal rights... As proclaimed by many people in protests that have denounced discriminations and violence against minorities (linked to religion, ethnic origin, culture, gender or sexuality...): „No justice, no peace”.

The first step of the project was dedicated to the design of creative sets – videos illustrating different aspects of diversity selected by the 3 countries – gender and sexual orientation for Italy, mental health for Spain and culture & religion for France. The Italian video is based on performance art, the French video on Improvisation theater and the Spanish video on a creation by a student of a school of audiovisual. A second step of the project was meant to test these .creative sets among youngsters and professionals working with them with the support of a methodological guide. The last step is the editing of a handbook on management of diversity that should combine a theoretical part (definitions, institutions and its political impact), a practical part (feedback gathered during the testing in the 3 countries) and a prospective part (how to enhance a relevant sustainability for the Think Diverse project).This fourth issue of the newsletter illustrates a last step including a conference to be held in Paris the 24th of March 2023 gathering the European team and French stakeholders.

I01: Creative Sets

The project has designed learning tools and resources, materials, modules and training courses to promote creativity, culture and multiculturalism.

For this creation, partnerships were created reflecting the priorities of the call, each creative set was dedicated to a type of diversity: gender diversity (Skill up & TAG, Italy), mental/health diversity (Neotalentway & Curva Polar, Spain) and inter-religious and intercultural diversity (iriv & Lirac, France).



Gender Diversity (Italy)-

The project features two relevant artistic performances, which capture some of the facts about gender diversity and can serve to initiate debate with Barbara Lalle's performance "Dressed by you" to combat sexist clichés and Marco Marassi and Barbara Lalle's performance "Buck Up and Cry!" to destroy taboos associated with white heterosexual men in the Western world.



Mental Diversity (Spain)-

Through this tool designed by CurvaPolar, a clear and visual message is presented that can be easily understood by the receiver. With the use of audiovisual elements, it is possible to see the emotions on the faces of the participants, perceive the tone of voice and hear the message, which increases empathy with the problem, helping to raise awareness of it.



Cultural Diversity (France)-

a video was designed presenting a show of improvisation theater organised by the Lirac as an innovative and creative approach to enhance freedom of expression and so make young people express themselves; a roundtable of players illustrates different examples of discrimination linked to religion and culture to denounce clichés and stereotypes and, promote intercultural and interreligious diversity.

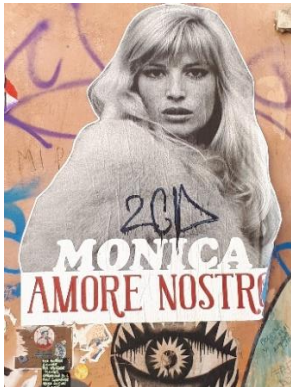
Videos available on : <https://thinkdiverse.eu/creative-toolkit/>



Transnational Meetings:

The European team met three times in Rome (Italy), Granada (Spain) and is to meet in Paris (France). Each transnational meeting was the occasion to think on the diversity of our cities that provide meaningful illustrations of cultural and religious diversity ; combining both traditional and modern parts, open to youngsters (many Universities in the 3 cities) and with examples of interreligious and intercultural dialogues

Rome - The „capital” of catholicism with the Vatican (an independant State) and the Pope but also the place for other religious institutions such as the Great synagogue (built in the early XXth century in a Liberty style) or the biggest mosque in Europe (built in 1974 with the financial support of Saudi Arabia).The first reason for tourits to visit Rome is no more the religious motive (pilgrimage) but to visit the Antique part , a city of fashion (behind Milan...). the many churches or fountains that are more a cultural than a religious heritage. Cinecitta for cinema was in Rome.



the glamour is certainly associated to Italian actress

Granada- the city gathers different elements combining a rich past with various religious and cultural identities – Islam with the amazing Alhambra built by the Nasrid Dynasty, Christianity and Judaism. It is a perfect legacy of Al-Andalous, a term designating times and territories of the Iberic peninsula and South of France that perfectly illustrated a peaceful and friendly cohabitation between Jews, Christians and Muslims Granada has also many Universities and youngsters.



Spain is famous for sport champions such as Indurain among many sportsmen (Nadal for Tennis, or the team of handball)

Paris Being the first destination of tourism in the world creates some obligations with an historical center highly cultural (Notre Dame both a cultural and religious heritage), the Sorbonne and the Latin quarter for the many Universities. The most romantic city in the world has the highest proportion of bachelors in France (reality versus clichés). The competition is high with Milan or New York for the fashion. The Louvres is the first museum in the world for the number of its visitors. Paris has also many other various districts - in the North , the Cité of Science and the Industry in Parc of La Villette is emblematic of changing Paris.



the rooster is supposed to illustrate the „Frenchy ” spirit

I02: the testing of the creative Sets

The three teams conducted the testing among youngsters and professionals working with them. In France, the association Zup de Co kindly accepted that the French team (iriv & Lirac) would test the Think Diverse strategy in October 2023 in Paris



Youngsters at Zup de Co support pupils (aged 11 to 14 years) for school mentoring. They could discuss on the discriminations linked to gender & social orientation, culture and religion and mental health (the less controversial issue); they will use the creative exercises suggested in the Think Diverse guide and by the Lirac team.

Conference in Paris – „Creativity to defend diversity”

The third and last meeting of the European team will be the occasion of a .last multiplier event that associates the Think Diverse team with French stakeholders who will meet at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industre- Salle Agora, the name of a greek place to exchange in the Antiquity.

10h- arrival of the participants

10h15- Opening of the conference by Dr Bénédicte Halba, president of the iriv & presentation of the European team (France, Spain, Italy)

10h30- the project in pictures – youngsters (interns) at iriv team with Lirac

10h 35 – Diversity in France by the French team



10h 50 – Diversity in Italy by the Italian team



11h 05 – Diversity in Spain by the Spanish team



11h 20 – Questions/answers with the participants

11h30- diversity in pictures – youngsters (interns) at iriv team with Lirac

11h35 -Festival of short videos on diversity- Faisceau convergent



11h 50 „ Fresque de la diversité” – a pedagogical approach -



12h 05 – Questions/answers with the participants

12h 15 – Future of the Think Diverse- Ideas and perspectives -

An international perspective with dr Paula El-Khoury , researcher at the EHES- the emblematic case of the Lebanon in the Middle East

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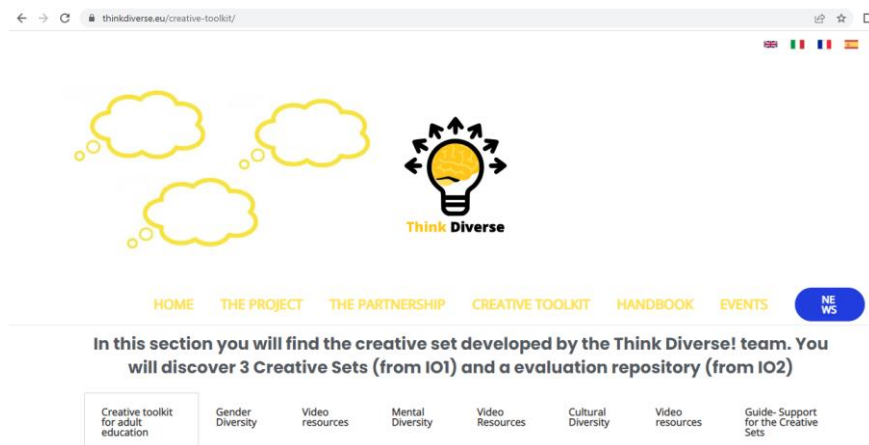
A Guide: Supporting creative sets, a theoretical and practical approach to creativity and diversity

Edited by dr Benedicte Halba , from IRIV, to support the creative sets of Intellectual Output 1, which touches on several points: she goes into the idea of creativity, the evolution of diversity in Europe, then goes through the different types of diversity covered by the project, some practical activities and a glossary.

Available on <https://thinkdiverse.eu/creative-toolkit/>

Website

The Think Diverse Project has developed a website available on <https://thinkdiverse.eu/> with all the information about the project, news, the guide, the content of the Creative Toolkits and some videos of the performances.



The final handbook on management of diversity edited by iriv will be available online in English, Italian, French and Spanish- linguistic diversity...