

Peace of Arts | Guidebook

Peacebuilding through Community Arts



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Project & Contributors

Non-Formal Education Guidebook on Peacebuilding through Community Arts
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Partners and Contributors:

BALTURKA (Asociacija Baltic Turkish Culture Academy)
balturka@gmail.com

ART4WORK (TOV WORK SPÓLKA Z OGRANICZONA ODPOWIEDZIALNOSCIA)
hello@art4.work

JUBUK (JUGEND, BILDUNG UND KULTUR EV)
jubuk.germany@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

This guidebook is rooted in a project designed to harness the power of community arts for peacebuilding. The project brings together diverse community members—artists, educators, activists, and local residents - to engage in a series of creative workshops and collaborative art-making activities. By focusing on themes such as identity, conflict resolution, and social cohesion, participants will explore their shared experiences and develop artistic expressions that reflect their collective aspirations for peace.

Activities include community mural projects, storytelling sessions, music and dance workshops, and interactive theater performances. Each activity aims to foster dialogue, build trust, and empower participants to become active agents of change within their communities. The project emphasizes inclusivity, ensuring that voices from all backgrounds are heard and valued.

What You Can Find in This Guidebook?

This guidebook serves as a comprehensive resource for educators, community leaders, and artists interested in navigating community arts for peacebuilding. Inside, you will find a variety of tools, methodologies, and best practices for implementing community arts projects in your own context.

The guidebook includes:

Module 1 - Introduction to Community Arts in Peace Building.

- Definition and significance of community arts in the context of peacebuilding.
- Historical overview of successful community arts projects contributing to peace.

Module 2 - Best Practices on Community Arts.

- In-depth examination of successful case studies where community arts have contributed to peacebuilding.
- Analysis of best practices, highlighting key elements that led to positive outcomes.



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Module 3 - Inclusive Practices and Intercultural Understanding

- Importance of inclusivity in community arts projects for ensuring diverse participation.
- Strategies for creating inclusive spaces and addressing potential challenges.

Module 4 - Non-Formal Education Approaches.

- Non-formal education activities for integrating community arts into non-formal educational settings.

Module 5 - Youth Empowerment in Community Art Practices.

- Empowering young people through community arts for active participation in peacebuilding efforts.
- Youth-led initiatives and projects that have made a positive impact on peace in communities.

Module 6 - Sustainability and Evaluation Strategies.

- Guidelines for ensuring the sustainability of community arts initiatives beyond the project duration.
- Methods for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of community arts on peacebuilding.

By engaging with this guidebook, you will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to leverage the transformative power of community arts to promote peace and foster a sense of belonging within your community.



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Module 1

Introduction to Community Arts in Peace Building



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Module 1 - Introduction to Community Arts in Peace Building Definition and Significance of Community Arts in Peacebuilding

Community arts encompass a range of creative activities that engage individuals and groups in artistic expression to address social issues and foster community development. In the context of peacebuilding, community arts play a vital role by promoting dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation among diverse groups. These artistic initiatives can serve as a powerful platform for marginalized voices, enabling them to share their experiences and perspectives.

The significance of community arts in peacebuilding lies in their ability to transcend cultural and social barriers. By encouraging collaboration and participation, these projects foster a sense of belonging and shared identity, which is crucial in conflict-affected areas. Artistic expressions—be it through music, dance, visual arts, or theater—can help individuals process trauma, communicate emotions, and build empathy. Ultimately, community arts not only contribute to healing and resilience but also pave the way for constructive conversations that can lead to lasting peace



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Historical Overview of Successful Community Arts Projects Contributing to Peace

Throughout history, various community arts projects have demonstrated their potential to contribute to peacebuilding. One notable example is the “New Belfast Community Arts Initiative” in Northern Ireland, which takes the lead in the promotion, development and delivery of community arts practice in Northern Ireland to affect positive change. The initiative’s vision is to see the emergence of a just, inclusive, peaceful and creative society, where difference is welcomed, and participation is valued. The initiative includes the widest range of art forms including visual, verbal and literary, carnival and performing arts, traditional and digital media, fashion and street art (1).

Another impactful project is the “Street Art for Peace” movement in Colombia, where artists use murals and graffiti to address social issues and foster dialogue in post-conflict communities. These vibrant public artworks serve not only as a means of expression but also as tools for community engagement, helping to rebuild trust and solidarity among residents (2).

In South Africa, the *Freedom Park* project combined historical narratives with artistic expression to promote healing and reconciliation post-apartheid. Through exhibitions and cultural performances, the project encouraged citizens to confront their past collectively while envisioning a peaceful future. “Freedom Park” is a space where South Africa’s unique heritage and cultures can be remembered, cherished and celebrated (3).

These historical examples highlight how community arts can effectively contribute to peacebuilding by fostering dialogue, promoting inclusivity, and facilitating inclusion and positive development in the society.

References:

1. New Belfast community arts initiative (2016) accessed on 15/10/2024 from <https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/charity-details/?regid=105169&subid=0>
2. “Graffiti for peace by Colombian street artists” (2016) accessed on 17/10/2024 from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1288191>
3. Freedom Park (2024) accessed on 17/10/2024 from <https://www.freedompark.co.za/>



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Module 2

Best Practices on Community Arts



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Community Arts in Poland

Poland has a rich tradition of using community arts as a means to promote cultural engagement and social cohesion, deeply rooted in its historical and cultural heritage. As a country with a complex past marked by partitions, occupations, and resilience, Poland has consistently turned to cultural expression as a unifying force during times of adversity and transformation. This reliance on the arts has enabled the nation to preserve its identity and foster solidarity, even amidst significant challenges. Over the centuries, Poland has built a strong cultural foundation, with art serving not only as a form of creative expression but also as a vehicle for social and political commentary, as well as a tool for bringing communities together. Today, this tradition thrives in modern Poland, with community art initiatives addressing contemporary social issues in innovative and inclusive ways. In an era of increasing migration, urbanization, and demographic changes, these initiatives have become more relevant than ever, helping to foster dialogue, build understanding, and strengthen social bonds.

Two notable examples that highlight the potential of community art practices to foster peace, cultural dialogue, and social integration are the Bródno Sculpture Park in Warsaw and the Kraków Street Theatre Festival. Both practices have demonstrated significant results in promoting cultural participation and social integration. They provide valuable insights into how community arts can be used as a tool for peacebuilding and social transformation, particularly in urban settings where cultural and social challenges are prevalent.



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Best Practice 1

BRODNO PARK ART PROJECT (Projekt Sztuki w Parku Bródno)



Location/ Date

- Country: Poland
- Region/Province: Masovian Voivodeship, Warsaw
- District: Bródno
- Date: 2009 - Ongoing (23 June-17 September 2023)



Stakeholders

- Implementing Partners/Actors: The Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, local artists, and the Warsaw City Council.
- Financial Partners: Warsaw City Council, private sponsors, and cultural grants.



Target Groups

- Direct Beneficiaries: Local community members, especially residents of the Bródno district, including families, young people, and elderly citizens.
- Indirect Beneficiaries: Visitors from other districts and tourists interested in contemporary art.
- Demographics: Mixed gender, diverse age groups ranging from children to elderly.



Context

- Initial Situation: The Bródno district was known for its socio-economic challenges, including limited access to cultural and artistic activities.
- Challenges Addressed: The project aimed to improve the social environment by making contemporary art accessible, fostering community engagement, and addressing cultural disparities.



Objectives

- To transform the Bródno Park into an open-air contemporary art gallery.
- To make art accessible to all and encourage community participation.
- To enhance cultural engagement and promote social cohesion in the area.



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Best Practice 1

BRODNO PARK ART PROJECT (Projekt Sztuki w Parku Bródno)



Methods

- Installation of various contemporary art pieces throughout the park.
- Regularly changing exhibitions and the addition of new sculptures over time.
- Organizing interactive workshops, guided tours, and educational activities to involve the local community.



Results

- The park became a well-known cultural landmark in Warsaw, attracting both locals and tourists.
- Increased cultural participation among local residents, with regular community events and art workshops.
- Positive social impact, including a strengthened sense of community and improved public space utilization.



Impact

- Positive: Enhanced cultural identity and pride among residents, increased foot traffic and tourism in the area, and improved public perception of the district.
- Negative: Some initial resistance from local residents unfamiliar with contemporary art.



Success factors

- Institutional Support: Strong backing from the Warsaw City Council and collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art.
- Economic Support: Securing funding from public and private sources.
- Social Conditions: Active involvement of the local community in the project's development and activities.



Related Links

- Projekt Sztuki w Parku Bródno - Muzeum Sztuki Nowoczesnej w Warszawie
- Photos, videos, and more information can be found on the museum's website and associated social media channels.
- <https://park.artmuseum.pl/pl/o-parku/sztuka-na-swiezym-powietrzu>



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Best Practice 2

KRAKOW STREET THEATRE FESTIVAL (Krakowski Festiwal Teatrów Ulicznych)



Location/ Date

- Country: Poland
- Region/Province: Lesser Poland Voivodeship, Kraków
- Date: Annually held since 1988



Stakeholders

- Implementing Partners/Actors: Kraków Cultural Centre, local theatre groups, and international artists.
- Financial Partners: Kraków City Council, private sponsors, and cultural funds.



Target Groups

- Direct Beneficiaries: Residents of Kraków and visitors, particularly young people, families, and theatre enthusiasts.
- Indirect Beneficiaries: Tourists and theatre lovers coming from outside Kraków.
- Demographics: Mixed gender, diverse age groups (children, youth, adults, and seniors).



Context

- Initial Situation: The festival was initiated to increase cultural participation in Kraków and make art a part of everyday life.
- Challenges Addressed: Aimed to expand access to street art and strengthen interactions between different communities.



Objectives

- To make street theatre an integral part of the city's cultural life.
- To foster dialogue between artists and audiences from different cultural backgrounds.
- To enhance social interaction and strengthen social cohesion.



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Best Practice 2

KRAKOW STREET THEATRE FESTIVAL (Krakowski Festiwal Teatrów Ulicznych)



Methods

- Performances by local and international theatre groups in squares and streets across the city.
- Workshops, seminars, and direct interactions between artists and the public to broaden the festival's reach.
- Offering a different experience each year through regularly changing performances and programs.



Results

- The festival attracted significant interest from both locals and tourists, boosting Kraków's cultural appeal.
- It provided a platform for local artists, supporting diversity in the arts and cultural scene.
- On a societal level, it raised cultural awareness and increased participation in the arts.



Impact

- Positive: Contribution to the local economy, support for arts and cultural tourism, and strengthened social cohesion.
- Negative: Occasionally, some local residents experienced discomfort due to crowds and noise.



Success factors

- Institutional Support: Strong backing from Kraków City Council and local cultural centres.
- Economic Support: Financial support from private and public funds.
- Social Conditions: The festival's broad appeal and regular annual occurrence.



Related Links

- Kraków Cultural Centre - Street Theatre Festival - <https://miastoarchipelag.pl/>
- More information about the festival, including programs and event details, can be found on this website. <https://teatrko.pl/ulica-festival/>



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Community Arts in Germany

Germany has a rich tradition of using community art as a tool for promoting peace, fostering dialogue, and enhancing social cohesion. In recent years, initiatives that focus on integrating refugees, promoting intercultural dialogue, and addressing social exclusion have gained prominence. One of the main challenges has been the social integration of refugees and migrants who arrived during the migration crisis of 2015.

Many community art initiatives have focused on using creative expression to bridge cultural divides, facilitate communication, and create shared spaces for interaction. Community art projects in Germany have taken various forms to promote peace and social cohesion:

Theater and Performance: Theater groups have emerged that bring together refugees, migrants, and local Germans to create productions that explore themes of identity, belonging, and cultural exchange⁴. These performances provide a platform for sharing diverse experiences and breaking down stereotypes.

Public Art Installations: Collaborative public art projects have transformed urban spaces into sites of intercultural dialogue. These installations often involve community participation, creating a sense of shared ownership and pride in the local environment⁴.

Mural Painting: Large-scale murals created by diverse groups of artists and community members have become powerful symbols of unity in many German cities. These visual narratives often celebrate multiculturalism and promote messages of tolerance⁴.

The impact of these initiatives has been significant:

- Breaking down barriers between cultural groups
- Promoting tolerance and understanding
- Fostering a sense of belonging among marginalized populations
- Facilitating communication between Germans and migrant communities



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Community Arts in Germany

However, challenges persist:

- Social exclusion remains an issue for some migrant communities
- Economic disparities continue to affect integration efforts
- Instances of xenophobia still occur, highlighting the need for ongoing dialogue

With over 1.8 million people with refugee backgrounds living in Germany, the importance of these community art initiatives cannot be overstated⁵. The country's commitment to cultural integration is evident in its substantial investment in the arts and cultural sector. In 2020 alone, Germany allocated €14.5 billion (\$15.5 billion) to funding museums, theaters, cultural exchange programs, and artists⁵. Despite these challenges, Germany's commitment to using community art as a tool for social cohesion remains strong. The country continues to recognize the power of creative expression in building bridges between diverse communities and fostering a more inclusive society¹³.

References:

1- <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/76545.html>

3- <https://www.ifa.de/en/organisation/>

4- <https://www.kubi-online.de/artikel/art-for-arts-sake-international-patterns-of-legitimizing-arts-education>

5 - <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/germany-cancellations-2407316>



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Best Practice 1

"50 Cities 50 Traces" Project



Location/ Date

- Germany (Stuttgart)
- 2018 - Ongoing



Stakeholders

- Implementing Partners: Mayors for Peace, Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen e.V., Kontur Kunstverein Stuttgart e.V., Delta MB Stuttgart, Die AnStifter e.V. Stuttgart, City of Stuttgart, City of Hannover
- Financial Partners: Delta MB Stuttgart, Local sponsors from host cities



Target Groups

- Direct Beneficiaries: Citizens of Mayors for Peace cities, especially youth and community members interested in disarmament and peace education
- Indirect Beneficiaries: International audience, participants from host cities, art communities
- Gender/Age Group: All genders, inclusive of children and youth (with school involvement), community members, and international visitors



Context

- The "50 Cities 50 Traces" project was developed to contribute to disarmament education and peacebuilding by commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Initiated as part of the Mayors for Peace movement, the project leverages art as a medium to express the devastation of cities by war, especially nuclear conflict, and the importance of preserving culture, history, and collective memory. The context emphasizes disarmament and the prevention of the annihilation of cities through nuclear attacks.



Objectives

- To support and disseminate the central idea of Mayors for Peace: "Cities are not targets."
- To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- To promote international disarmament education, peacebuilding, and cultural dialogue through art.



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Best Practice 1

"50 Cities 50 Traces" Project



Methods

- The project involves a traveling exhibition featuring 50 traces from different cities. Each trace represents a symbolic piece of a city affected by war or devastation. Artworks are displayed alongside written statements from the participating cities' mayors. The exhibition travels to various cities, fostering international collaboration and dialogue on disarmament. The project also incorporates collateral local events and encourages participation from schools and local communities.



Results

- Successful hosting in cities such as Stuttgart and Hannover, contributing to local and international discourse on nuclear disarmament.
- Educational materials developed in collaboration with schools, including stories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors.
- Creation of lasting artworks in each city as part of the ongoing legacy of the project.



Impact

- Positive impact on awareness of nuclear disarmament and the preservation of cities as cultural and historical hubs.
- Increased public engagement in peace education, particularly among young people.
- Strengthened international ties among Mayors for Peace cities.



Success factors

- Strong institutional support from the Mayors for Peace network and local governments.
- Active involvement of local communities and artists.
- Ongoing sponsorship and logistical support for travelling exhibitions.



Related Links

- <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/activities/2016/former-160311-activity-3-en/>



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Best Practice 2

The Young Pathos Collective



Location/ Date

- Munich, Germany
- Ongoing (2023-2024)



Stakeholders

- Implementing Partners: Pathos Munich e.V., Young Pathos Collective
- Financial Partners: The Power of the Arts initiative (funding: €50,000)



Target Groups

- Direct Beneficiaries: Young adults under 26, particularly those from diverse backgrounds
- Indirect Beneficiaries: Local communities, artistic and cultural audiences
- Gender/Age Group: Inclusive of all genders, focused on youth under 26



Context

- In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, young people found their voices largely marginalized in society. The Young Pathos Collective, a project supported by Pathos Munich e.V., aims to create a platform where young people can express themselves artistically and address the urgent issues of their generation. The project acknowledges the need for self-organized and authentic spaces for youth, empowering them to tackle topics through theater and interdisciplinary art forms.



Objectives

- To create a safe, self-organized artistic space for young adults under 26 to explore and express their voices.
- To develop two transdisciplinary artistic pieces per year that focus on the real-life experiences and concerns of youth.
- To foster empathy, creativity, and social inclusion through collaborative artistic practices.



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Best Practice 2

The Young Pathos Collective



Methods

- The Young Pathos Collective adopts an inclusive, participatory approach, inviting young artists to collaborate on interdisciplinary theater projects. The platform encourages dialogue and creativity, offering workshops and creative residencies. The participants work on two major pieces annually, addressing socially relevant topics like identity, community, and equality. The project fosters a risk-taking and creative environment where young people are the decision-makers and leaders..



Results

- The creation of two theater productions each year, showcasing young adults' perspectives and talents.
- Increased visibility and representation of youth voices, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds, in the arts community.
- Empowerment of young participants by providing them with artistic autonomy and decision-making power.



Impact

- Strengthened the role of youth as active contributors to cultural and social dialogue in Munich.
- Enhanced empathy and understanding across generations through artistic engagement.
- Created a lasting platform for youth expression, fostering a culture of inclusion and respect for diverse perspectives.



Success factors

- Strong support from Pathos Munich e.V. and the Power of the Arts funding.
- A youth-centered, risk-taking approach to theater, allowing for authentic and powerful storytelling.
- Commitment to social inclusion, diversity, and addressing real-world issues faced by young people.



Related Links

- <https://www.thepowerofthearts.de/en/young-pathos-collective/>
- <https://www.pathos.theater/>



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Community Arts in Lithuania

In Lithuania, community art initiatives have increasingly become an essential tool in fostering peace dialogue and promoting social cohesion, particularly in a society undergoing significant demographic and cultural changes. With the rise of migration and a more diverse population, art has been brought into service as a medium to bridge gaps between local citizens and immigrant communities.

One of the most notable projects is the "Dreamland" initiative by the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, which uses personal immigrant stories to challenge stereotypes and foster understanding. The success of such performances highlights the power of art in addressing sensitive topics like immigration, integration, and cultural diversity. Art initiatives, like "Dreamland," enable communities to engage in constructive dialogues about the experiences of refugees and immigrants, helping to break down cultural barriers and foster empathy. By sharing personal stories through performance, these initiatives humanize abstract social issues, making them more relatable and easier to understand.

According to data from the Lithuanian Migration Department, approximately 10 % of Lithuania's population is foreigners (Migration Department, 2024). This increasing diversity has brought with it social challenges, such as integration difficulties and public mistrust toward migrants, especially refugees. Community arts projects are addressing these challenges by offering platforms for both local and migrant communities to express themselves, share their cultures, and engage in dialogues that promote mutual understanding. These initiatives include art exhibitions, theater performances, and workshops focused on themes of migration, identity, and inclusion.

These efforts demonstrate that while there are still hurdles to overcome, community art remains a vital tool for fostering social cohesion and promoting peace in Lithuania.



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Best Practice 1

“Dreamland” – A Play on Migration and Identity



Location/ Date

- Country: Lithuania
- Region/Province: Vilnius
- District: Vilnius County
- Date: 2016, November - 2017, June



Stakeholders

- Implementing Partners/Actors: Lithuanian National Drama Theatre (LNDR), directed by Mantas Jančiauskas, a common project of the Arts Agency ARTSCAPE and the LNDR, presented at the LNDR Studio in November 2016. At its core - information collected during an artistic research carried out at the Pabradė Foreigners' Registration Center, internet articles from Lithuania and abroad, politicians' speeches and videos. The play is based on the real stories of five immigrants: an Afghan small business owner, two Russian opposition members, a Turkish student, and a “love migrant” from Lebanon.
- Financial Partners: LNDR's regular funding and national cultural grants.



Target Groups

- Direct Beneficiaries: Lithuanian audience members, with a focus on educating them about migration issues and challenging stereotypes.
- Indirect Beneficiaries: The five immigrants featured in the play, whose stories were shared to raise awareness and foster dialogue about their experiences.
- Demographics: The play's characters include 3 men and 2 women from Afghanistan, Turkey, Russia, and Lebanon



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Best Practice 1

“Dreamland” – A Play on Migration and Identity



Context

- Initial situation/specific context: The play reflects the challenges of migration and integration, especially in a region that struggles with accepting migrants. The Lithuanian audience, in some cases holds preconceived notions about immigrants and refugees, often associating Muslims with terrorism.
- Specific challenges addressed: It aims to break stereotypes about immigrants, particularly Muslims, and to raise awareness of the complex personal stories behind migration, showing that refugees come from diverse backgrounds, including Europe itself.



Objectives

- To foster empathy and understanding of the immigrant experience, especially among Lithuanians who may have limited exposure to immigrants.
- To challenge cultural and religious stereotypes, particularly regarding Muslim communities



Methods

- The play employs personal narratives, where real-life testimonies from five immigrants are dramatized on stage. Each individual shares their migration story, highlighting different aspects of displacement, identity, and integration. The use of first-person storytelling creates an emotional connection with the audience, helping them relate to the migrants' struggles and successes.



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Best Practice 1

“Dreamland” – A Play on Migration and Identity



Results

- The play successfully initiated conversations about migration in Lithuania, helping to humanise the experience of refugees.
- The stories, particularly from Muslim and political refugee perspectives, helped to challenge prevailing stereotypes, promoting a more inclusive understanding of immigrants



Impact

- Positive impact: Audiences gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of migration, leading to increased empathy toward immigrants and a shift in perspectives on Muslim and refugee populations.
- Negative impact: No significant negative impacts were noted, but confronting sensitive social issues can sometimes provoke resistance or discomfort among certain audience members



Success factors

- Institutional: Strong support from the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, along with collaboration from cultural and migration experts like Karolis Žibas.
- Social: Willingness of immigrant participants to share personal, often painful stories, which contributed to the authenticity of the play.
- Political: The play indirectly comments on the broader European and Lithuanian response to immigration, suggesting that solidarity and integration are possible with the right cultural tools.



Related Links

- https://www.inyourpocket.com/vilnius/dreamland_19257e



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Best Practice 2

“Cloth of Violence” - Youth Exchange Project



Location / Date

- Country: Lithuania
- Region/Province: Trakai
- District: Trakai District
- Date: June 19-24, 2016



Stakeholders

- Baltic Turkish Culture Academy, Nedre Eiker Kommune `Down Under`, Karsiyaka Municipality and Amigos de Europa
- Erasmus+



Target Groups

- Direct beneficiaries: Young participants from different countries, specifically those interested in social issues and peacebuilding.
- Indirect beneficiaries: Local communities where the participants engage, sharing the knowledge and experiences gained.
- Groups of around 20-25 youth participants from diverse backgrounds.



Context

- Youth violence and social unrest were significant issues, prompting the need for projects that promote understanding and peaceful conflict resolution among youth.
- The project aimed to address youth violence, stereotypes, and social division by fostering dialogue and intercultural understanding.



Objectives

- To educate youth about the consequences of violence and empower them to become advocates for peace within their communities.
- To promote intercultural dialogue and collaboration among participants from different backgrounds.



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“Cloth of Violence” - Youth Exchange Project



Methods

- The project utilised workshops, group discussions, and creative activities, including art and drama, to facilitate engagement and learning. Participants shared personal stories related to violence and conflict, allowing for reflection and dialogue.



Results

- Participants reported increased awareness of social issues related to violence and a better understanding of the importance of peaceful coexistence.
- The project also fostered lasting friendships and networks among young people from diverse cultural backgrounds..



Impact

- Positive impact: Enhanced skills in conflict resolution and dialogue among participants, leading to a ripple effect in their local communities.
- Negative impact: Potential challenges in addressing deeply rooted social issues may lead to discomfort among some participants.



Success factors

- Strong collaboration between participating organisations, as well as support from local authorities and community members.
- Effective facilitation by trained educators and community leaders who can navigate sensitive topics related to youth violence and social issues.



Related Links

- <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/vanity=100010151327128&set=a.297534820594893>

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Module 3

Inclusive Practices and Intercultural Understanding



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Introduction

Inclusivity is at the heart of the Peace of Arts project, which aims to foster social cohesion, dialogue, and mutual understanding through community arts. By ensuring that community art projects are inclusive, diverse voices are amplified, and participation is broadened to encompass underrepresented groups. Inclusivity not only enriches the creative process but also strengthens the social fabric of communities by promoting empathy, collaboration, and respect for diversity.

This module explores the importance of inclusivity in community arts, provides strategies for creating inclusive spaces, and addresses the challenges that may arise. It serves as a guide for facilitators, educators, and community leaders to implement practices that encourage participation from all sectors of society.

Moreover, fostering inclusivity in community arts requires intentional engagement with diverse cultural backgrounds, abilities, and experiences. By designing accessible spaces, adapting artistic methods to accommodate different needs, and promoting equitable representation, communities can create transformative experiences for all participants. This approach not only empowers individuals but also nurtures a collective sense of belonging, reinforcing the role of art as a powerful tool for peacebuilding and social change.

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The Importance of Inclusivity in Community Arts

Creating inclusive community arts spaces is essential for fostering social cohesion, diversity, and participation among individuals from various backgrounds. By implementing strategic approaches, we can ensure that community arts initiatives are accessible, welcoming, and impactful for all. This guide outlines key strategies to develop inclusive spaces, engage diverse groups, and encourage intercultural dialogue.

Benefits of Creating Inclusive Community Arts Spaces

- 1. Marginalized Voices Are Heard:** Providing platforms for underrepresented individuals empowers them to share their experiences and contribute to the community narrative.
- 2. Cultural Bridges Are Built:** Intercultural understanding is fostered by bringing together participants from diverse backgrounds to collaborate on artistic projects.
- 3. Creativity Flourishes:** Diverse perspectives and skills lead to innovative and meaningful artistic expressions.
- 4. Social Cohesion is Strengthened:** Inclusive projects create opportunities for dialogue, trust-building, and collaboration, which contribute to long-term peace and resilience.

Strategies for Creating Inclusive Community Arts Spaces. Understanding the Community

- Conduct community assessments to identify the specific needs, challenges, and cultural dynamics of the target group.
- Engage local stakeholders, such as youth groups, cultural leaders, and organizations, to ensure diverse representation.
- Develop participatory approaches where community members can voice their expectations and contribute to shaping the space.



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Designing Accessible Environments

- Ensure physical spaces are accessible to people with disabilities by providing ramps, sign language interpreters, and visual aids.
- Offer multilingual resources to engage non-native speakers and make information accessible.
- Utilize both online and offline platforms to reach different audiences, ensuring digital accessibility for those with limited technological access.

Fostering Participation from All Groups

- Use targeted outreach strategies to involve marginalized groups, such as migrants, refugees, and economically disadvantaged individuals.
- Offer free participation or subsidized resources to remove financial barriers and encourage inclusivity.
- Develop mentorship programs that connect established artists with emerging talents from diverse backgrounds.

Encouraging Intercultural Dialogue

- Facilitate interactive activities that encourage participants to share their cultural stories, experiences, and artistic expressions.
- Utilize universal art forms—such as music, dance, or visual arts—to bridge language and cultural gaps.
- Create collaborative art projects where individuals from different backgrounds work together on a shared artistic vision.



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Case Study: Mural for Peace - Warsaw

To illustrate the real-world impact of inclusive community arts spaces, we present case studies showcasing successful approaches. These examples provide insights into how arts initiatives foster peacebuilding and cultural exchange.

- **Context:** In response to the need for intercultural dialogue in Warsaw, a community-driven mural project was initiated to bring together local and migrant youth.
- **Approach:** Through collaborative workshops, participants shared their personal stories, cultural backgrounds, and artistic ideas to co-create a large-scale public mural.
- **Impact:** The project fostered social inclusion, strengthened community bonds, and transformed a public space into a lasting symbol of unity and cultural diversity.

Conclusion

Inclusivity is essential for the success and sustainability of community arts initiatives like Peace of Arts. By addressing barriers, fostering participation, and promoting cultural dialogue, facilitators can create environments where every individual feels valued and empowered. The strategies outlined in this module offer practical steps to ensure that community art projects not only reflect the diversity of the communities they serve but also inspire lasting connections and mutual respect.



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Activity 1: Color Bridges

When to use it?	Empowering Young Artists Through Connections with Experienced Art Communities
Activity Type	Offline: Mixed art exhibition and interactive discussions between young and experienced artists.
Target Group	25 participants: Young artists (18-30 years old) and experienced artists from diverse artistic communities.
Skills Addressed	Artistic critique, communication, networking, and mentorship in art practices.
Materials Needed	Exhibition space, artwork display materials (easels, boards), name tags for participants, feedback forms, and audio-visual setup for presentations.
Description	Color Bridges brings 25 young and experienced artists together in a shared art exhibition, showcasing a variety of artistic disciplines, including drawing, painting, sculpture, digital art, music performances, and handicrafts. Participants display their artworks in a collaborative setting, encouraging dialogue about artistic processes, inspirations, and techniques. The session emphasizes mutual learning and mentorship, empowering young artists by connecting them with experienced professionals in the art community.

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Activity 1: Color Bridges

How to use it?

Art Exhibition: Participants showcase their artworks in a shared space, with each piece labeled with the artist's name and a brief description.

Discussion Circles: Small groups of young and experienced artists engage in guided discussions about the displayed artworks. Experienced artists provide constructive feedback and share insights, while young artists explain their inspirations and techniques.

Mentorship Networking: Artists are encouraged to form mentor-mentee connections for future collaborations.

Reflection: Participants share their takeaways from the discussions and reflect on how the experience can influence their artistic journey.

Connection to Non-Formal Education:

Mentorship: Young artists gain guidance and inspiration from experienced professionals.

Community Building: The event fosters a supportive art community where artists of different experience levels collaborate.

Skill Development: Participants improve their ability to communicate their artistic vision and receive constructive critique.

Tips for learners

Be open to feedback and share your artistic inspirations honestly. Use the opportunity to ask questions and build connections with experienced artists.

Resources

- Erasmus+ Community Arts Guide (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu>)
- Peace Communication in Art Education (<https://peaceofarts.eu/>)
- Intercultural exchange guides, and community-based art resources.



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Activity 2: Cultural Mosaic Adventure: Pathways to Peace

When to use it?

This interactive activity is ideal for groups working towards intercultural dialogue, inclusivity, and collective solutions to promote peace. It's suitable for workshops, community-building sessions, or youth activities focused on collaboration and understanding.

Activity Type

Interactive role-playing, group collaboration, and creative expression for peacebuilding.

Target Group

Youth aged 18-30, educators, community leaders, and individuals seeking creative ways to engage in peace dialogue.

Skills Addressed

- Team Working
- Empathy and Intercultural Awareness
- Communication and Negotiation

Materials Needed

Cultural Identity Cards: Fictional cultures inspired by global peacebuilding traditions. Each card includes:

- Core values (e.g., mediation, community service, creative expression).
- Peace-related challenges (e.g., rebuilding trust, addressing social exclusion).
- Large sheets of paper, markers, stickers, and craft materials.
- Props or symbolic items for cultural artifacts (optional).
- Scenario cards describing peace challenges.



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Activity 2: Cultural Mosaic Adventure: Pathways to Peace

Description Participants represent fictional cultures and role-play as cultural ambassadors tasked with designing a shared peace initiative: The Pathways to Peace Festival. By negotiating, collaborating, and creating, they address cultural misunderstandings and collectively find solutions for promoting peace.

How to use it?

1. Introduce the activity and the goal: To collaboratively design a festival that symbolizes pathways to lasting peace while respecting the values and traditions of all cultures.
2. Divide participants into groups and assign each a Cultural Identity Card.
 - Example cards (see at Annexes):
 - Culture A: Mediators who value listening and compromise.
 - Culture B: Artists who express peace through creativity.
 - Culture C: Healers who focus on emotional and physical well-being.
 - Culture D: Visionaries who emphasize innovation and future planning.
3. Groups read and discuss their cultural values and unique approaches to peacebuilding.

Tips for learners

- Observe group dynamics and provide support if conflicts arise during planning.
- Emphasize the importance of balancing cultural identity with collective goals.
- Incorporate symbolic music or visuals to enhance the theme of peace.



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Activity 2: Cultural Mosaic Adventure: Pathways to Peace

Annexes

Example Cultural Identity Cards:

Culture A (Mediators of Harmony):

- Core Values: Active listening, conflict resolution, and compromise.
- Peace Artifact: A circle symbolizing dialogue and unity.
- Festival Contribution: Facilitating Peace Circles where participants share stories of reconciliation.

Culture B (Artists of Unity):

- Core Values: Creativity, emotional expression, and beauty.
- Peace Artifact: A colorful canvas depicting peace symbols.
- Festival Contribution: Leading a collaborative mural-painting activity.

Culture C (Healers of Renewal):

- Core Values: Well-being, care, and restoration.
- Peace Artifact: A candle representing healing light.
- Festival Contribution: Hosting meditation and wellness sessions.

Culture D (Visionaries of Tomorrow):

- Core Values: Innovation, future focus, and leadership.
- Peace Artifact: A paper crane symbolizing hope and new beginnings.
- Festival Contribution: Presenting a vision board for sustainable peace.

Step 2: Introducing the Challenge

1. Present a peace-themed challenge for the festival:

- Scenario Example: "Your community has experienced a period of division and conflict. To rebuild trust, each culture must contribute a peacebuilding activity to the Pathways to Peace Festival."

2. Set clear festival goals:

- Highlight diverse approaches to peace (e.g., dialogue, art, healing).
- Ensure activities reflect inclusivity and collaboration.



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Cultural Mosaic Adventure: Pathways to Peace

Annexes

Conflict Case 1: Language Barrier

Scenario: Two cultures in your community speak entirely different languages, and misunderstandings often arise due to poor communication. During festival planning meetings, one group feels left out because their language isn't represented. Tensions rise when some members accuse others of ignoring their input.

Challenge for the Festival: Find a way to ensure everyone's voice is heard and respected, regardless of language barriers.

Possible Solutions:

- Use visual communication tools like drawings or symbols during discussions.
- Assign multilingual interpreters or facilitators to bridge language gaps.
- Create bilingual or multilingual materials for the festival to represent diverse languages equally.

Conflict Case 2: Exclusion of a Minority Group

Scenario: A minority group in the community feels excluded from the festival planning process because their culture is less known or visible. When they try to contribute, they are dismissed or overlooked by other groups. This leads to feelings of alienation and withdrawal from the process.

Challenge for the Festival: Ensure the minority group feels included and their cultural contribution is valued in the festival.

Possible Solutions:

- Actively invite the minority group to lead a specific part of the festival.
- Highlight their cultural identity in a dedicated section of the festival (e.g., a special performance or exhibit).
- Use storytelling or personal narratives from the minority group to create empathy and understanding among other groups.



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Cultural Mosaic Adventure: Pathways to Peace

Annexes

Step 3: Building the Cultural Mosaic

1. Groups work together to create a visual representation of the Pathways to Peace Festival:
 - Use craft materials to design symbolic spaces or pathways connecting their contributions.
 - Each group contributes a “peace artifact” (e.g., a drawing, poem, or symbol) to represent their culture’s role.
2. Assemble the mosaic collaboratively, ensuring all voices are represented.

Step 4: Presentation

1. Groups present their peace contributions and explain:
 - How their culture approaches peacebuilding.
 - The challenges they faced and how they overcame them.
2. Display the completed mosaic and reflect on its symbolism for peace and unity.

Step 5: Reflection

1. Facilitate a group discussion:
 - “What did you learn about different approaches to peace?”
 - “How did collaborating with others change your perspective?”
 - “What aspects of this activity can be applied to real-world peacebuilding?”
2. Highlight lessons about empathy, dialogue, and inclusion in fostering peace.



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Activity 3:

Peace-themed poetry event

When to use it? This event is ideal for individuals and communities seeking to foster intercultural understanding and promote the themes of peace and unity. It is particularly suited for non-formal education settings, workshops, or community gatherings in Lithuania, aimed at building bridges through the shared experience of poetry.

Activity Type A live event featuring:

- Poetry readings / songs
- Group discussions
- Collaborative reflections

Target Group

- Foreign-born or foreign-arrived residents in Lithuania
- Local community members interested in poetry, singing and peacebuilding
- Individuals seeking to engage in intercultural dialogue

Skills Adressed

- Intercultural Understanding and Dialogue, Peaceful co-existing
- Active Listening and Expression
- Empathy and Reflection
- Critical Thinking

Materials Needed

- Printed copies of Lithuanian poems and songs (with translations if necessary)
- Name tags and participant guides
- Audio equipment (microphones, speakers)
- Comfortable seating and tables for group discussions
- Refreshments (e.g., coffee, tea, snacks)
- Notebooks and pens for reflections and notes
- Optional: Visual aids (e.g., projector or whiteboard) for poem / song context and discussion summaries



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Activity 3:

Peace-themed poetry event

- Description**
- Printed copies of Lithuanian poems and songs (with translations if necessary)
 - Name tags and participant guides
 - Audio equipment (microphones, speakers)
 - Comfortable seating and tables for group discussions
 - Refreshments (e.g., coffee, tea, snacks)
 - Notebooks and pens for reflections and notes
 - Optional: Visual aids (e.g., projector or whiteboard) for poem / song context and discussion summaries

**How to
use it?**

STEP 1: Introduction

- Begin with a brief welcome and outline the event's goals of promoting peace and intercultural dialogue.
- Share an overview of the selected poems / songs and their thematic significance.

STEP 2: Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere

- Conduct an icebreaker activity where participants share their favorite word or phrase related to peace.
- Encourage participants to share what attracted them to the event.

STEP 3: Poetry Reading

- Provide printed copies of selected Lithuanian poems / songs, ensuring clarity on pronunciation and meaning.
- Invite participants to take turns reading aloud, fostering an environment of mutual respect and learning.
- Briefly introduce each poem / song and its context, encouraging participants to reflect on its message.



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Activity 3:

Peace-themed poetry event

How to use it?

STEP 4: Group Discussions

- Divide participants into small groups (4-6 people).
- Assign discussion topics, such as:
 - "How do the themes of this poem / song resonate with your personal experiences?"
 - "What does peace mean in your cultural background?"
- Facilitate discussions and ensure inclusivity.

STEP 5: Sharing and Collaboration

- Reconvene for a group sharing session where participants summarize their discussions.
- Optionally, encourage creative presentations of group insights, such as through drawings or symbolic representations.

STEP 6: Reflection and Closing

- Lead a reflection session where participants share their takeaways and learning experiences.
- Express gratitude to participants and encourage continued engagement with poetry and cultural exchange.

Tips for learners /

organisers ???

- Ensure the event is inclusive, with materials and support available for those unfamiliar with Lithuanian.
- Select poems / songs that are diverse in tone and style but unified by themes of peace and unity.
- Provide a warm, inviting environment to encourage openness and participation.

Resources

- Local libraries or cultural organizations for sourcing poetry
- Online tools for poem / song translations and context (e.g., Lithuanian literature archives)
- Community centers or public spaces for hosting the event
- Erasmus+ Community Arts Guide (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu>)
- Peace Communication in Art Education (<https://peaceofarts.eu/>)



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Module 4

Non-Formal Education Approaches



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Introduction

Non-formal education (NFE) plays a crucial role in empowering communities through creative and participatory methods. In the Peace of Arts project, NFE serves as a bridge to engage individuals from diverse backgrounds in meaningful learning experiences outside traditional classroom settings. By integrating artistic practices with experiential learning, NFE fosters critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, while promoting the values of peace, inclusion, and intercultural understanding.

This module outlines the principles of NFE, strategies for incorporating it into community art practices, and examples of activities that align with its objectives.

The Importance of Non-Formal Education in Community Arts

Non-formal education emphasizes:

- **Flexibility:** Adapting to the unique needs and interests of participants.
- **Participation:** Encouraging active involvement and collaboration in learning processes.
- **Practical Learning:** Focusing on hands-on experiences and real-world applications.
- **Inclusion:** Creating accessible environments that welcome individuals of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
- **Empowerment:** Building skills and confidence through self-expression and creativity.

NFE aligns seamlessly with community arts by transforming artistic practices into dynamic tools for learning and dialogue. UNESCO (2018) highlights the potential of NFE in fostering intercultural competence, critical to peacebuilding efforts globally.



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Non-formal education is a powerful tool in community arts, transforming learning into an active, participatory process. By emphasizing creativity, collaboration, and inclusivity, NFE enriches the Peace of Arts project, empowering participants to explore and express their unique perspectives. Integrating NFE approaches ensures that community art initiatives not only educate but also inspire and connect, fostering resilience and harmony.

Below are three key activities developed by project partners to integrate NFE approaches into peace-focused arts education.

Examples of Non-Formal Education Activities:

Each project partner has contributed unique educational strategies to enhance peacebuilding through the arts. These include:

1. Art4Work (Poland) - Peer Learning Night: Bridging Cultures Through Art

- Objective: Connect young migrant artists with experienced professionals to foster collaboration and cultural exchange.
- Method: Artists share their creative journeys, techniques, and inspirations in an interactive learning environment.

2. JuBuK (Germany) - Act for Change: Peacebuilding Theater

- Objective: Develop empathy and problem-solving skills through role-playing and collaborative storytelling.
- Method: Participants act out real-life conflict scenarios and explore peaceful solutions through guided discussion.

3. Balturka (Lithuania) - Peace-Themed Tote Bag Painting Event

- Objective: Encourage creativity and cultural expression by painting peace-themed tote bags, fostering dialogue on harmony and unity.
- Method: Participants design and paint tote bags inspired by symbols and messages of peace, drawing from personal reflections and cultural influences.



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Activity 1: Peer Learning Night

When to use it?	Events designed to promote cultural exchange and mutual learning among young migrant artists.
Activity Type	Offline: Peer presentations, group discussions, and participatory learning activities.
Target Group	Young migrant artists with an interest in art (15-25 participants), aged 18-30 years.
Skills Addressed	Peer learning, intercultural communication, community building, and collaborative problem-solving skills.
Materials Needed	Projector, laptop, presentation slides, flipcharts, markers, notebooks, art-related handouts, and feedback forms.
Description	The event uses a non-formal peer education approach to foster knowledge-sharing and community building among young migrant artists. Participants share their artistic experiences, techniques, and cultural stories with their peers. This process encourages participants to learn from each other, enhancing individual skills while fostering connections within a broader community. Discussions and feedback sessions deepen the learning process.

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Activity 1: Peer Learning Night

How to use it?

Peer Presentations: Young migrant artists present their artistic works, techniques, and cultural stories, highlighting the challenges and opportunities in their artistic journeys.

Group Reflection Activity: After each presentation, small groups discuss how the presented experiences resonate with their own, fostering empathy and mutual understanding.

Feedback and Reflection: Participants share insights gained from the activity and discuss how they can integrate these into their own artistic practices.

Connection to Non-Formal Education:

Peer Learning: The event focuses on participants learning from each other's experiences.

Interactive Dialogue: Facilitated discussions encourage active participation and intercultural understanding.

Community Building: Activities are designed to foster connections and build long-term networks among participants.

Tips for learners

Actively participate by sharing your story and listening to others. Be open to new techniques and perspectives. Focus on expanding your network by building meaningful connections.

Resources

- Peace Communication in Art Education (<https://peaceofarts.eu/>)
- Intercultural exchange guides, and community-based art resources.



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Activity 2: Peacebuilding Theater

When to use it?

This activity is perfect for fostering conflict resolution and peacebuilding skills in diverse groups through the engaging medium of role-playing. It suits workshops, training sessions, or community-building events.

Activity Type

Role-playing, interactive theater, and group dialogue.

Target Group

Youth (16-30 years), educators, community leaders, and anyone keen to explore non-formal education for peace.

Skills Adressed

- Conflict Resolution
- Active Listening and Empathy
- Creative Collaboration
- Leadership and Mediation

Materials Needed

- Open space for acting and group work.
- Scenario cards describing conflicts.
- Props or simple costume pieces to enhance role-playing (optional but recommended).
- Paper, pens, or whiteboards for brainstorming solutions.

Description

Participants use role-playing to explore realistic conflict scenarios centered around peacebuilding themes, acting out both the problem and its resolution. The activity emphasizes empathy, dialogue, and creativity to foster understanding and teamwork (See Annexes).



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Activity 2: Peacebuilding Theater

How to use it?

Step 1: Setting the Stage

1. Explain the purpose of the activity: to explore real-world conflicts through role-playing and creative problem-solving.
2. Divide participants into small groups and assign each group a scenario.
3. Allow groups time to read and discuss their scenario, ensuring they understand both the conflict and the peacebuilding theme.

Step 2: Role-Playing the Conflict

1. Groups act out the conflict in their scenario, emphasizing the emotions and challenges involved.
2. Keep performances short (3-5 minutes) and realistic.

Step 3: Crafting the Resolution

1. After the initial performance, each group brainstorms a resolution to their conflict:
 - Focus on dialogue, empathy, and collaboration.
 - Ensure the solution aligns with the peacebuilding theme.
2. Groups then act out the resolution, demonstrating how the conflict can be transformed.

Step 4: Reflection and Group Discussion

1. After all performances, facilitate a group discussion:
 - "What common challenges did we see across the scenarios?"
 - "What peacebuilding strategies were most effective?"
 - "How can these lessons apply to real-life situations?"
2. Highlight the importance of creativity and non-violent communication in resolving conflicts.

Tips for learners

- Allow the audience to pause performances and suggest alternative resolutions or explore "what if" scenarios.
- Combine the activity with art by having groups create symbolic visuals (e.g., posters, drawings) of their resolutions.

Resources

- UNESCO Guidelines on Peace Education
- Role-Playing Techniques for Conflict Resolution



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Activity 2: Peacebuilding Theater

Annexes

Detailed Scenarios with Peacebuilding Themes:

Scenario 1: Shared Resources Conflict

Peacebuilding Theme: Collaboration and Equity

- **Setting:** Two neighboring communities must share a public space (e.g., a park) for different purposes. One group wants to use it for quiet meditation and cultural rituals, while the other wants to host loud music festivals.
- **Conflict:** Tensions rise when both groups schedule events on the same day, accusing each other of selfishness.
- **Challenge:** Act out the conflict, and collaboratively design a fair system for sharing the space to ensure both groups' needs are respected.

Scenario 2: Generational Divide

Peacebuilding Theme: Inclusion and Bridging Differences

- **Setting:** A youth group proposes a modern peace mural in the town square. Older residents resist, wanting a more traditional war memorial instead.
- **Conflict:** Accusations of disrespect and unwillingness to change fly between the groups.
- **Challenge:** Act out the disagreement, and craft a solution that bridges the generational gap, integrating elements from both perspectives.

Scenario 3: Misinformation and Stereotyping

Peacebuilding Theme: Combating Bias

- **Setting:** In a multicultural school, a rumor spreads that one group is "stealing" opportunities from others, leading to stereotyping and division.
- **Conflict:** Students form cliques, refusing to work together in class projects.
- **Challenge:** Act out the conflict, then create a strategy for rebuilding trust and countering misinformation through dialogue and understanding.



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Activity 3: Peace-Themed Tote Bag Painting Event

When to use it?

This event is suitable for promoting peace and creative collaboration among young people and community members. It can be particularly useful in peace and art-focused workshops, community events, or Erasmus+ projects.

Activity Type

- Offline event (in-person workshop)
- Interactive group activity

Target Group

- Young people aged 18-30
- Youth workers interested in peacebuilding and community arts
- Community members engaged in peace and cultural diversity activities

Skills Addressed

- Creative expression
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Awareness of peace and cultural symbols
- Artistic and manual skills

Materials Needed

- Canvas tote bags (one per participant)
- Fabric paints and brushes
- Stencils and templates with peace-themed symbols (dove, olive branch, world map, etc.)
- Pencils and sketching papers
- Newspapers or protective covers for workspace
- Water containers and cleaning materials

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Peace-Themed Tote Bag Painting Event

Description The Peace-Themed Tote Bag Painting Event allows participants to create and share peace messages through art. This event fosters a creative atmosphere where individuals can express their perspectives on peace and its significance. It also strengthens dialogue and collaboration among participants.

How to use it?

Step 1: Introduction

- Welcome participants and explain the purpose of the event.
- Provide a brief discussion on the importance of peace symbols and themes.

Step 2: Sketching and Preparation

- Participants sketch their peace-themed designs on paper before applying them to the tote bags.
- Sample symbols and messages related to peace are shared as inspiration.

Step 3: Tote Bag Painting

- Participants transfer their designs onto tote bags using fabric paints.
- Group leaders assist and guide participants through the process as needed.

Step 4: Sharing and Reflection

- Each participant presents their tote bag and explains its meaning.
- Group members engage in discussions and provide feedback on peace-themed designs.

Step 5: Support for the Ukrainian Community

- A donation program is organized to distribute some of the tote bags to Ukrainian refugees and war-affected individuals.
- Collaboration is established with Ukrainian community centers, refugee organisations and organizations in your country/city/town to deliver the tote bags to those in need.
- Participants are encouraged to spread peace messages within their communities through art and creative expression.

Peace-Themed Tote Bag Painting Event

Tips for learners

1. Plan Your Design:

- Think about what peace means to you. It could be symbols like doves, hands shaking, or a peaceful landscape.
- Sketch your idea on paper before painting to visualize your design.

2. Choose Your Colors Wisely:

- Soft, harmonious colors often represent peace, while bold colors can make a strong statement.
- Consider color combinations that enhance your message.

3. Use Simple and Clear Messages:

- If adding text, keep it short and impactful (e.g., “Peace Begins with Us” or “Harmony in Diversity”).
- Ensure the letters are readable and well-spaced.

4. Experiment with Different Techniques:

- Try sponging, stenciling, or freehand painting for unique effects.
- Layer colors carefully to avoid smudging.

5. Be Patient and Let the Paint Dry:

- Allow layers to dry before adding details to prevent mixing colors unintentionally.
- If using fabric markers, apply steady pressure for clear lines.

6. Engage in Conversations:

- Share your ideas with fellow participants and discuss different perspectives on peace.
- Collaborate with others to create a collective artwork.

7. Have Fun and Express Yourself

- There are no wrong designs—every artwork is unique!
- Enjoy the process and let your creativity flow.

Resources

- Erasmus+ Community Arts Guide (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu>)
- Studies on Peace and Art Education (<https://peaceofarts.eu>)



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Module 5

Youth Empowerment in Community Art Practises



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Description

Youth engagement in peacebuilding through art has garnered significant attention in recent years, with global reports highlighting the transformative impact of such initiatives. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) emphasizes that youth, constituting a substantial portion of the global population, are pivotal in fostering peace and security. Their active participation in artistic endeavors not only facilitates personal development but also contributes to societal resilience and cohesion (UNESCO, 2016).

Art serves as a powerful medium for youth to express their experiences, aspirations, and perspectives, especially in post-conflict settings. Engaging in creative practices enables young individuals to process trauma, build empathy, and promote reconciliation within their communities. For instance, arts-based peacebuilding projects in countries like Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Rwanda have demonstrated the capacity of youth to lead initiatives that strengthen community relations and foster a culture of peace (Hart & Tyrer, 2019).

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To effectively empower youth through art, several strategies have been identified:

1. Providing Platforms for Expression: Establishing safe and inclusive spaces where young people can share their stories and creativity is essential. This approach not only amplifies their voices but also encourages active participation in peacebuilding processes (UNOY Peacebuilders, 2019).

2. Promoting Youth Leadership: Encouraging youth to take on leadership roles in art initiatives fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility. Such involvement enhances their skills in project management and decision-making, which are crucial for sustaining peace efforts (Global Peace Foundation, 2019).

3. Fostering Collaboration: Facilitating partnerships between young artists, community members, and organizations can lead to more impactful and sustainable outcomes. Collaborative efforts harness diverse talents and resources, promoting unity and shared goals (UNDP, 2015).

4. Supporting Inclusivity: Ensuring that art programs are accessible to all youth, including marginalized and underrepresented groups, is vital. Inclusive practices contribute to social cohesion and prevent the exclusion that can lead to conflict (UNICEF, 2016).

5. Integrating Peace Education: Combining artistic activities with peace education curricula helps youth understand the principles of non-violence, tolerance, and conflict resolution. This integration equips them with the knowledge to actively contribute to peacebuilding (UNESCO, 2016).

6. Leveraging Technology: Utilizing digital platforms and social media can expand the reach of youth-led art initiatives, connecting them with a global audience and fostering cross-cultural exchanges (Kofi Annan Foundation, 2023).

Implementing these strategies requires a concerted effort from policymakers, educators, and community leaders to create environments where youth can thrive as peacebuilders through art. By investing in the creative potential of young people, societies can cultivate resilient communities committed to sustaining peace.



Empowering youth through community art practices is a multifaceted approach that fosters personal development, social engagement, and community cohesion. Building upon previously discussed strategies, additional methods have been identified to enhance youth empowerment in the arts:

1. Integrating Art with Social Justice Education

Combining artistic endeavors with social justice education enables youth to explore and address societal issues creatively. Programs like BioJam Camp exemplify this integration by collaborating with youth from marginalized communities to co-learn topics that intersect culture, community, and creativity, thereby reframing traditional perceptions of science and art (Chappell et al., 2022).

2. Encouraging Participatory Art Projects

Engaging youth in participatory art projects fosters a sense of ownership and community involvement. Such initiatives encourage collaboration and collective expression, empowering participants to contribute actively to their communities (Local Trust, 2023).

3. Utilizing Street Art for Community Engagement

Street art serves as a dynamic tool for youth to engage with their communities. By participating in mural projects or graffiti art, young individuals can express their perspectives publicly, fostering dialogue and enhancing communal spaces (Street Buddha, 2023).

4. Establishing Community-Based Cultural Art Centers

Creating local art centers provides youth with accessible spaces to explore and develop their artistic talents. These centers act as hubs for cultural expression and community engagement, offering resources and support for young artists (Wikipedia, 2023).

5. Implementing After-School Arts Programs

After-school programs focused on the arts offer structured environments for youth to engage in creative activities. Such programs can address themes related to self-esteem, cultural identity, and social issues, contributing to holistic youth development (Wikipedia, 2023).



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6. Promoting Collaborative Art-Making

Collaborative art projects encourage teamwork and collective problem-solving among youth. By working together on artistic endeavors, young people can build relationships, share diverse perspectives, and strengthen community bonds (Aberline, 2023).

Implementing these strategies requires intentional efforts from educators, community leaders, and policymakers to create supportive environments where youth can thrive through artistic expression. By embracing a diverse range of art practices, communities can empower young individuals to become active contributors to social change and cultural enrichment.

Empowering youth through community art practices is a transformative approach to fostering peace and building resilient communities. By providing platforms for creative expression, promoting leadership, and integrating arts with social justice education, young people are equipped to drive meaningful change and address complex societal challenges. Youth-led initiatives not only amplify diverse voices but also create inclusive spaces for dialogue and collaboration, laying the groundwork for sustainable peacebuilding efforts. Through strategic support and engagement, organizations can unlock the vast potential of youth as agents of transformation in their communities.



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Module 6

Sustainability and Evaluation Strategies



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Introduction

Guidelines for ensuring the sustainability of community arts initiatives beyond the project duration.

Methods for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of community arts on peacebuilding.

The Peace of Arts project harnesses the transformative power of community arts to foster peacebuilding, social cohesion, and dialogue. Ensuring the sustainability of these initiatives is essential to maintaining their impact over time, while effective evaluation strategies are key to understanding their contributions to peacebuilding and guiding future efforts.

Sustainability Strategies for Peace of Arts

1. *Fostering Community Ownership and Leadership*

Sustainability in the Peace of Arts project relies heavily on embedding a sense of ownership within the community. By involving local artists, youth, and stakeholders in every stage of the project—planning, execution, and follow-up—the initiative ensures that it remains rooted in the community's needs and values. Training programs for local leaders and volunteers are key to this strategy. These individuals become advocates and facilitators, capable of continuing the project independently. Organizations can also establish community art committees to oversee future initiatives, providing continuity and local accountability. When the community sees the project as "theirs," they are more likely to maintain and evolve it beyond the formal project lifecycle.



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2. Integrating with Local Cultural Practices

To achieve sustainability, community arts initiatives like Peace of Arts must align with the cultural and social rhythms of the communities they serve. This means embedding projects into local traditions, such as festivals, ceremonies, or annual cultural events. For example, a mural created during the project could be unveiled during a town festival, or a theater performance could become an annual event celebrating local history. Such integration ensures the project's visibility and relevance, while also reinforcing community pride. Organizations can collaborate with cultural leaders to identify opportunities for synergy between the project and local customs, ensuring that the initiative feels like a natural extension of the community's identity rather than an external intervention.

3. Building a Digital Legacy and Network

In the digital age, creating an online presence is essential for the sustainability of arts initiatives. For Peace of Arts, this could mean establishing a dedicated website or social media platform to document and showcase project outcomes, such as artwork, performances, and participant testimonials. A digital archive allows the project to live on as a source of inspiration, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration. Furthermore, the platform can serve as a network for participants, connecting them to resources, opportunities, and similar initiatives globally. Organizations should also consider virtual events, online galleries, and digital toolkits to keep the project accessible to wider audiences and adaptable to future needs. This approach not only preserves the project's legacy but also amplifies its reach and influence over time.



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How Organizations Can Apply These Strategies:

- **Prioritize Engagement:** Actively involve community members in decision-making processes to foster genuine ownership.
- **Collaborate with Cultural Stakeholders:** Partner with local leaders and groups to align project goals with cultural priorities.
- **Leverage Technology:** Invest in user-friendly digital tools and platforms to document, promote, and expand the project's impact.

Evaluation Strategies for Peace of Arts

Participatory Evaluation: Engaging the Community in the Process

Participatory evaluation involves directly engaging community members—artists, youth, and other stakeholders—in assessing the project's outcomes and processes. This approach ensures that the evaluation reflects the diverse perspectives and needs of the community, making it culturally relevant and locally meaningful. Organizations can conduct focus groups, interactive workshops, or feedback sessions where participants share their experiences and insights. For example, a post-project storytelling session could allow participants to reflect on how the initiative affected their relationships and understanding of peacebuilding. By involving the community in defining success and identifying areas for improvement, participatory evaluation fosters trust, transparency, and shared ownership of the results, while also uncovering valuable insights for future initiatives.

Mixed-Methods Approach: Combining Data for a Holistic View

A mixed-methods approach combines quantitative and qualitative evaluation techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of a project's impact. Quantitative methods, such as tracking participant numbers, event attendance, and demographic data, offer measurable indicators of reach and participation. Qualitative methods, such as interviews, focus groups, and creative storytelling, capture personal experiences, emotional shifts, and community dynamics that are harder to quantify. For the Peace of Arts project, organizations might pair participant surveys with interviews and artistic outputs—such as analyzing themes in murals or performances. This dual approach ensures a balance between concrete metrics and the nuanced, emotional impact of arts-based initiatives, offering a richer evaluation of the project's effectiveness.



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3. Outcome Mapping: Measuring Behavioral and Social Changes

Outcome mapping focuses on tracking changes in behavior, relationships, and attitudes within the community as a result of the project. This strategy is particularly useful for peacebuilding initiatives like **Peace of Arts**, where the goal is to foster understanding, dialogue, and collaboration. Organizations can begin by identifying desired changes, such as increased cooperation between community groups or a reduction in inter-group tensions. During and after the project, evaluators can use interviews, surveys, and observation to assess whether these changes have occurred. For instance, has participation in the arts initiative led to greater interaction between previously divided groups? By focusing on tangible social and behavioral shifts, outcome mapping provides actionable insights into the project's long-term influence on peacebuilding.

Evaluation Strategies for Community Arts in Peacebuilding

1. **Theory of Change Framework:** Articulating a clear theory of change helps in understanding how specific activities lead to desired outcomes. This framework guides the evaluation process by linking actions to impacts. [Cnxus](#)
2. **Participatory Evaluation Methods:** Involving community members in the evaluation process ensures that assessments are culturally appropriate and reflective of local perspectives. Participatory methods enhance the accuracy and acceptance of evaluation findings. [Berghof Foundation](#)
3. **Mixed-Methods Approach:** Combining quantitative and qualitative data provides a comprehensive understanding of the project's impact. While quantitative data offers measurable outcomes, qualitative insights capture personal experiences and narratives. [BetterEvaluation](#)
4. **Outcome Mapping:** Focusing on behavioral changes in participants and the community helps in assessing the initiative's influence on peacebuilding. Outcome mapping tracks shifts in attitudes, relationships, and social norms.
5. **Longitudinal Studies:** Conducting evaluations over an extended period captures the long-term effects of arts initiatives on peacebuilding, providing insights into their sustainability and enduring impact.

Implementing these sustainability and evaluation strategies ensures that community arts initiatives in peacebuilding are effective, resilient, and capable of fostering lasting positive change.



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