

Grammar School Slobodan Skeroviv, Montenegro

“No hate offline, no hate online” by Vanja Rakocevic, school counselor

Question	Description
<p>Why did you/ your school choose to work on the issue of “Preventing violence and bullying”?</p>	<p>We recognized the problem of hate speech online in our school, but also in the surroundings, which very often escalated to conflicts and various forms of violence, including our students, and students from other schools, as well as our teachers. Thus, the project started by Volunteering Club of the Grammar school <i>Slobodan Škerović</i> involving 2 schools at the beginning, and in the period of 2014-2018 the network of schools was widening up to 20 high schools. In the center of the project were young people, and it was realized through complementary online and offline activities and initiatives to combat hate speech online through drawing attention to the problem, but also through building the capacity of young people and teachers to acquire the necessary competencies to recognize and act effectively against this kind of violation of human rights in online and offline world. We started to work believing that young people should know that the online world is also a public space where human rights principles and values must be equally respected as in the offline world.</p>
<p>What did you do and what went well? Who took part?</p> <p>Please describe some important steps of the process.</p>	<p>The project involved students, parents and teachers, and was implemented through the creation of offline and online platforms established in schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training for peer educators (students) and their mentors (teachers) • students’ activities: peer workshops, panel discussion, public debates, • research on attitudes and experiences with hate speech, • publishing printing and other material, • online and offline media campaign including creation and moderation of Facebook and Twitter accounts.
<p>What were main challenges you have experienced?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting the activities to local context (in regard to part of Montenegro). With recognizing local problems and focusing on it, it was easier to connect with the problem of HS and its resolution. • Lack of motivation of parents to attend activities. • Lack of free time to organize different activities in school: both teachers and students are overwhelmed with curricula over the school year. • Funding the activities: there are not many donors that will fund projects developed by school/school network .
<p>Did your project/ practice/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment in which young people learn and adopt core

<p>initiative bring some changes? What were the benefits?</p>	<p>values of human rights is created.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment free of hate speech in which teachers, parents and young people together take part in the prevention and intervention is created. • Relations of teachers and students are improved: they work together on the problem solving • Increased awareness and competences of young people and their teachers to recognize and confront hate speech in the online and offline world using existing mechanisms. • Providing teachers and students with concrete tools for combating hate speech. • Increased awareness of parents and teachers about the abuse of children online and how to protect them. • Educational and informational material as a permanent source of knowledge available (brochures, leaflets, training material, peer workshops, etc.). • Cooperation among secondary schools is fostered • Cooperation between secondary schools and other stakeholders (NGOs, media, institutions of the system) is improved.
<p>What would you say to a colleague who is about to start the same kind of project/ practice/ initiative to help them repeat your success?</p>	<p>Cooperation among different stakeholders is crucial for success. In order to have a comprehensive approach as much as possible, we cooperated with youth and other NGOs, institution and media representatives. This cooperation has helped us in the realization of the project: each of them, in its domain, dealt with the planned tasks during the implementation of the project.</p>
<p>Anything else you would like to highlight?</p>	<p>This project was a new experience for our Volunteering club and we realized that it is very important to realize similar projects because they give the opportunity to young people to cooperate with teachers and parents in solving problems, as well as this was a chance among schools to work closely.</p>