

# How to upscale peer learning activities



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# Peer Act

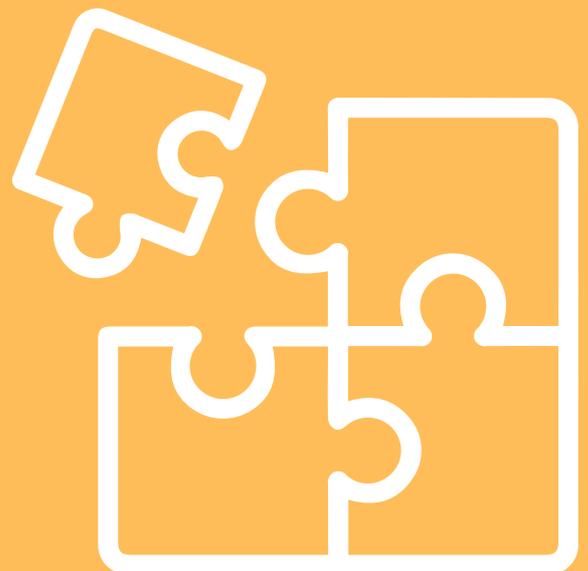
## CONTEXT

Young population in the countries of the partnership discriminate and show intolerance towards their peers, based on religion, gender, ethnicity, race, disability or sexual orientation or simply not fitting the social norms.



This situation is not compatible to the values on which the EU was founded and a solution for combating this phenomenon is needed. Youth NGOs need to tackle this issue and, for this, they need an effective solution that can be used at local level. Partners also need resources to implement a high-impact solution at local level.

Building on the latest discoveries in the field of anti-bias education and experiential learning, E.P.T.O. has developed a peer-to-peer solution to address these. At its foundation lies the "*A world of difference – AWOD*" (TM) training programme, which we have been using for more than 15 years and which has already proven its effectiveness in fostering non-discrimination, tolerance, solidarity and equality on more than 350.000 worldwide beneficiaries.



# Upscaling and Impact

The project will focus on the upscaling of the AWOD programme by implementing it in 7 local communities in which it was not present before from **Romania, North Macedonia, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Serbia.**



The same group of participants in the 3 trainings will be involved which means:



70+ new peer trainers - minimum 10 per country



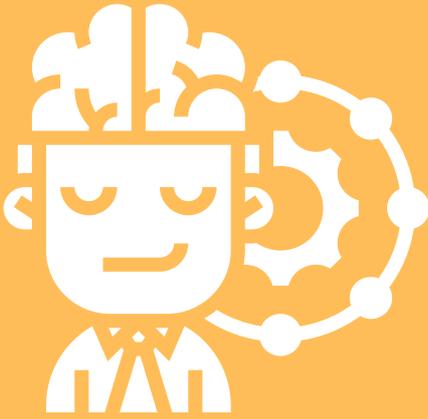
50 junior trainers trained in the Peers-to-Pro



Direct impact on 1300-1700 young people, aged 14 to 23



Medium term impact on at least another 2.000 youth



The programme uses interactive methods such as simulations, small and large groups discussion, role-plays, dramatizations, that generate experiences which later help participants reflect and draw conclusions about the ways in which differences impact our daily lives.

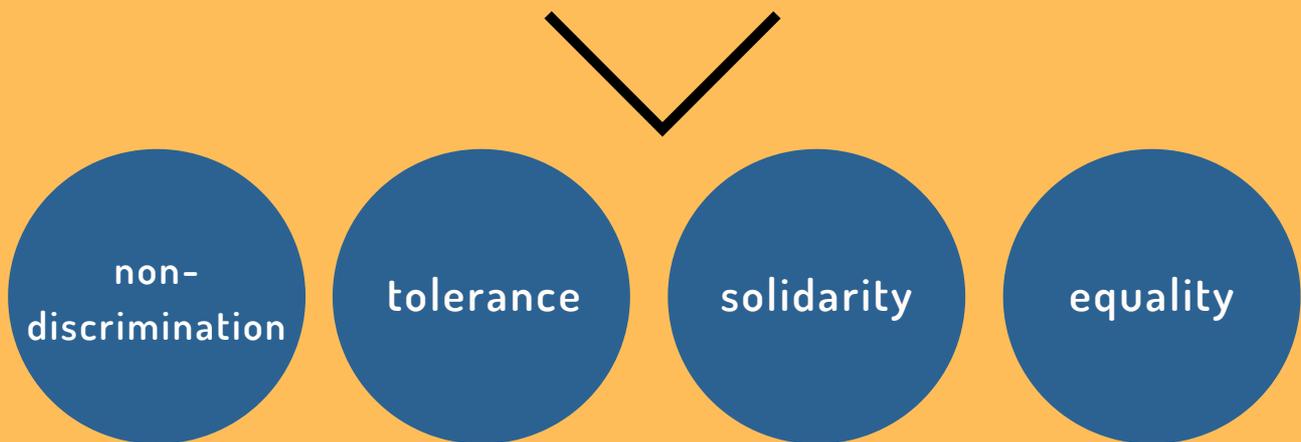
**Our solution is to scale-up the implementation of the AWOD programme to new communities of Europe.**



## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Inspired by our previous achievements, the solution we propose is to scale-up the implementation of the AWOD programme to new communities of Europe.

The theory of change is that by involving young people in the workshops that use the AWOD anti-bias methodology we will foster the knowledge, understanding and ownership of fundamental values



among at least 70% of the them.

- To equip 1300 young people from 6 European countries with necessary social and civic competences that will make them embrace the values of non-discrimination, tolerance, solidarity and equality;
- To provide 70 young people from 6 European countries with the competences and certification necessary to facilitate the process that leads to these acquisitions;
- To develop a framework for cooperation that will allow this non-formal learning process to be included in the European formal learning system as a complementary mean to facilitate the acquisition of the above competencies in the schools.

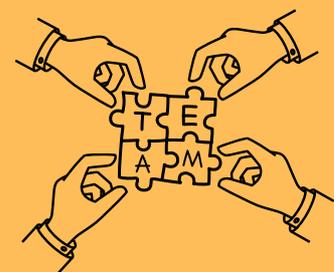
## WHAT EXACTLY IS PEER LEARNING?



Traditionally teaching was considered a one-way channel. Information flowed from the expert teacher to the novice pupil. Peer interaction was considered irrelevant, or even as a distraction from the serious business of absorbing knowledge, and therefore to be eliminated. However, more recently teachers and youth workers have come to regard education as a process of acquiring skills and motivations as well as knowledge - and this cannot be done without opportunities to practice which are engaging.

Peer learning, the cooperative social exchange between equal partners, represent situations in which participants are encouraged to work together in small groups on different tasks in order to develop mutual knowledge and skills.

In cooperative learning, the responsibilities developed by the participants are supposed to be relatively similar or have an equivalent level, based on their equal status. Therefore, in general, an equal reciprocal relationship is produced, although at certain times - through the team working - tutorial relations may take place. Any participant can act as a tutor for the rest of the team members at one moment and as a tutee later. Cooperative learning involves a certain division of responsibilities for mastering the task, which reduces mutuality because each member would work on one part before putting the different parts together.



Peer learning requires coordinated efforts to solve a joint problem, with members being mutually engaged in the joint task and working together with high coordination for synchronous activity during the whole process.



## WHY IS PEER LEARNING IMPORTANT?



### Enhances Participants' Knowledge

The first, and most obvious, benefit is that peer-to-peer learning enhances an individual's education and knowledge. By studying together with other peers, individuals get access to information outside the traditional forms of learning and classrooms. Studies show that this has served to benefit generic skills development and metacognitive training.

Receiving information and knowledge from a peer is different from receiving it from an authoritative figure like a teacher or professor. Peers are individuals that share the same knowledge and troubles as you. Meaning, a peer will understand what is hindering a particular student's ability to understand -in full- a certain subject or topic. That is also why a peer may be better suited to explain that topic to the student, by speaking their language and having understood the topic themselves.

## 2

### Increases Participants' Involvement

Traditional classrooms have the tendency to lose the attention of the student as things get dull and dormant. Students simply sit in class receiving instructions and information. The exchange is often unilateral, and that's even with teachers seeking student engagement through the occasional back and forth.

However, with peer-to-peer learning, individuals are much more involved, which benefits their education, as they are the ones exchanging the information. Cooperation and collaboration are the centers of any and every educational transaction. Students gather to learn from one another, studying together, to perfect a certain subject or skill.





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### Adds a Social Aspect to Learning

Peer-to-peer learning provides positives that go beyond just the educational ones. There are social benefits to the practice as well. The added time that students spend with one another helps build social bonds that transcend regular school hours. By learning together and engaging with one another, students enhance their social skills and build bonds and friendships.

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### ‘Two heads’ are always better than one

The purpose of education is to stimulate people’s natural talents and help them develop knowledge, understanding, and expertise. Education is required for any society to develop and expand. Education not only benefits individuals and their families, but it also promotes integrated and vibrant communities. Educational institutions, regardless of kind, have long played a major role in moulding society.

Successful collaborative peer-learning nurtures the strengths of each individual learner while strengthening the group through teamwork, cooperation and sharing resources. Students in a peer-to-peer learning and instruction context, according to Achology research, clear up misunderstandings and clarify misconceptions among themselves, much like the notion that ‘two heads’ are better than one.



# PARTNERS



OFENSIVA TINERILOR ASOCIATIA (ROMANIA)



Associação Par - Respostas Sociais (PORTUGAL)



DRUSTVO HUMANITAS-CENTER ZA GLOBALNO UCENJE  
IN SODELOVANJE (SLOVENIA)



Asociația Youth On The Move (ROMANIA)



ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTEERISM VOLONTERSKI  
CENTAR SKOPJE (NORTH MACEDONIA)



POMOC DECI UDRUZENJE GRADJANA (SERBIA)



INSTITUT EUROPEEN D'EDUCATION ET DE POLITIQUE  
SOCIALE (FRANCE)



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ORGANISATION

EUROPEAN PEER TRAINING ORGANISATION (BELGIUM)