

BOOKLET OF GOOD PRACTICES

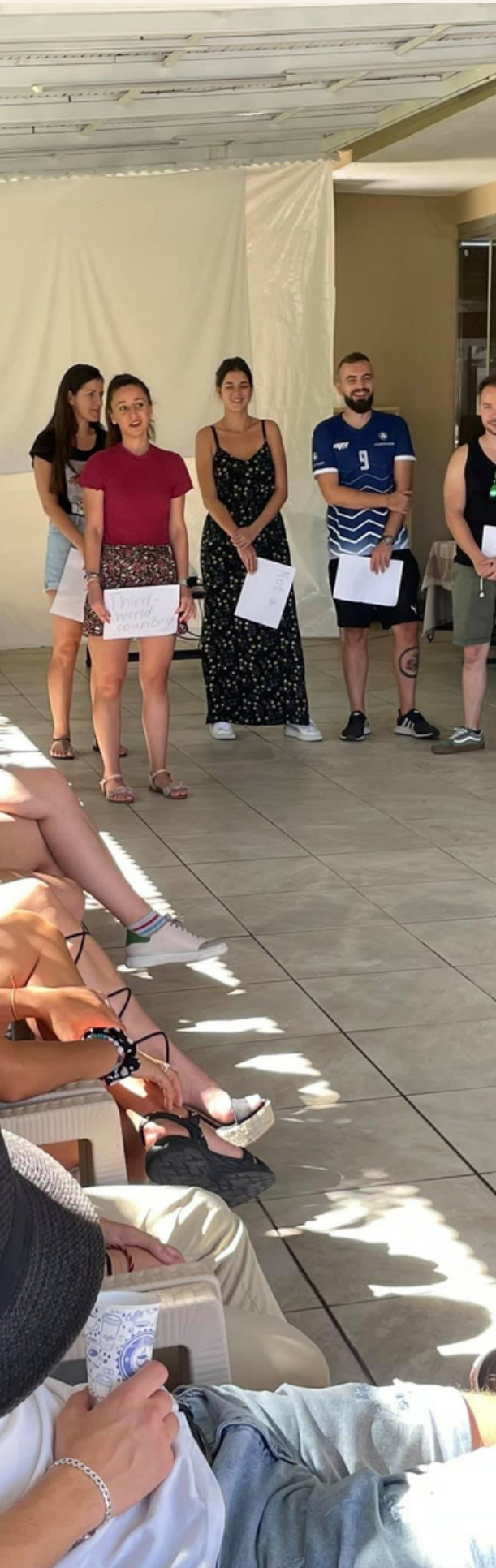
# Living Library

Where the books  
becoming alive

Erasmus+ Youth Exchange

27 Sept-2 Oct 2021, Mugla Turkey





# Table of Contents

- 01** Our Story
- 02** How did we prepare for it?
- 03** Process
- 04** How did we succeed?
- 05** Our Human Books



# Our story

We are a group of young people from the Netherlands, Turkey, Spain, North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Romania. Fighting hate speech, discrimination and social exclusion are some of the main working themes of our organizations.

With this project created in cooperation with all partner organizations, we would like to address hate speech, discrimination and social exclusion. We also wanted to learn and practice a tool in fighting stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination, as well as in creating awareness on diversity and inclusion. While designing this project, we thought the living library methodology could be a good tool for our goal. During the youth exchange in Mugla, Turkey, we experienced a living library event and saw how this methodology could help create inclusive communities.



This project took place in successful cooperation of the following organizations:

- Stichting Sunny Days (NL)
- Asociación Plus Project (ES)
- SDRUZHENIE OBZORART (BG)
- Engelsiz ve Mutlu Yasam Dernegi (TR)
- ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTEERISM- VOLONTERSKI CENTAR SKOPJE (MK)
- Asociatia MasterPeace (RO)





# How did we prepare for it?

## A one-week exchange

During one week, including plenty of joyful moments, we learned many things and had a unique experience with the participation and existence of diverse perspectives, ideas and life stories. By sharing our experiences with each other, our minds opened, and our ways of perceiving the world widened and enriched. Thus, the most important and wonderful was sharing, an honest exchange of ideas, beliefs and experiences.

Now, we know and trust those who don't look like ourselves more.

The process of preparing the event happened through three stages; (1) presentations, (2) group works and (3) creative output.



# Process

## 1 Presentations on defined topics

To start with the Living Library methodology and all the themes involved in the project, we needed to carry out informative sessions to be able to set the foundations of the project and inform all the participants in the project. Almost all the presentations were done by the participants in national or mixed teams.

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## 2 Group works

To know each other, work together and design a living library event, we had to learn about each other as much as possible. That's why we organized as much as workshops and groups work altogether, where everyone can translate their learning into practice side by side with other participants.

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## 3 Creative output

To prepare for the methodology and practice our learning, we created some creative content for the Living Library event. During the preparation, we had the chance to discuss further the main themes which make part of the project. We selected our highlighting stories that our human books should tell during our Living Library event during the content making.





# How did we succeed?

We approached the practice of Living Library as a tool through which the prejudices can be diminished, and the empathy and communication between people can be increased.

We designed our practice considering how we can open people's minds during the straightforward implementation of the event. That's why we chose our 'human books' among the most interesting personal stories within the group.



Our stories and human books were chosen by participants coming from different cultures. Also, their stories reflected various aspects related to social issues. For example, one was about tension lasting for centuries between the Muslim and Christian communities in North Macedonia, while another one focused on the challenges of a migrant single mother in the Netherlands.



# Some of our Human books



## **Francisca**

from the Netherlands

Francisca is a Dutch-Spanish young woman from the Netherlands. Her story and personal witnessing about a migrant single mother who faced many challenges in a foreign country inspired her readers.



## **Javier**

from Spain

Javier and his story about his bag that he keeps in every situation and wherever he goes with himself aroused a lot of curiosity. He is prepared for every problem he may encounter in various parts of the world. He received many questions from his readers.



## **Nela**

from North Macedonia

After telling her story in North Macedonia, which speaks about the tense situation between the Christian and Muslim communities, Nela highlighted how young people are aware and working to change things. Nela also received many questions from her readers about the historical background of this situation, lasting for centuries.



**You can learn more about the project on our social media accounts and website!**

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[instagram.com/stichtingsunnydays/](https://instagram.com/stichtingsunnydays/)  
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