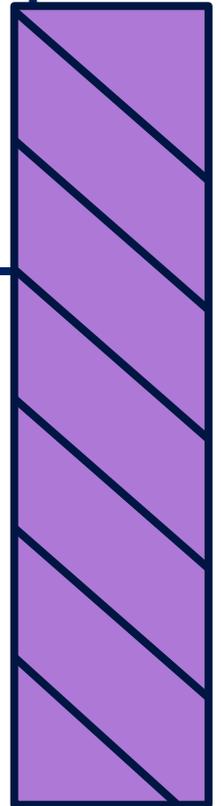


Safe spAces For LEarning | SAFE

IO1.A2: Collection of Good Practices

E8 CSO organization,
Programme “Y and M”



Project n°: 2020-1-PT01-KA204-078631

SAFE SPACES FOR LEARNING





E8 CSO organization, Programme “Y and M”

A short presentation of the project:

The overall goal of the Program Y and M is focused on education of young men and women, the topics of gender equality, prevention of gender-based violence, and promotion of healthy lifestyles and non-violent behavior. Programs seek to build the skills for young men and women in order to develop healthy relationships based on gender equality, in understanding their physical, sexual and emotional development, and to address all forms of violence in everyday life (E8, 2021).

Programs use the interactive methodology and experiential learning approach where the participants are actively involved in the training, sharing their experiences, and through activities that guide them to analyze and reflect on gender-based roles and behaviors. Experienced trainers and youth workers that lead the workshops create a learning environment that supports safe sharing space, and strengthen the participants' connections and relations, so after the training they can work together in actively changing their communities.

Programs also organize training for these participants to become peer educators and later work in their schools and local communities in straightening and broadening the values of gender equality, nonviolent behaviors and healthy lifestyles.

Educational activities are accompanied by campaigns / public actions involving the same young participants, at the level of schools or communities, in order to further expand our messages and values about non-violence, gender equality and healthy lifestyles (E8, 2021).

Additionally, an important component of “Program Y” are trainings for teachers and professional associates in schools, on the topics of violence prevention and especially gender-based violence, gender equality and harmful gender norms, as well as sexual and reproductive health and prevention of (mis) use of drugs and alcohol.

"Program Y - Youth - An Innovative Approach in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence and the Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles of Boys and Girls" is an accredited three-day program for professional development of employees in education, with public interest status, intended for high school staff (E8, 2021).



A short presentation of the organization / association:

E8 is a CSO with a team of young experts in the field of youth work and policy, human rights, non formal education and organization of public campaigns in Serbia. The topics that the organization is focused on are healthy lifestyles, gender equality, violence prevention and youth participation.

Aspects that make this practice a good example of safe learning space:

There are two main categories that provide a good insight into an example of good safe space for young people. One is closely connected to the overall organisational development and work on capacity building of the staff and trainers working closely with young people. Overall organisation is experienced, sensitized in working with young people and on the topics of youth work, gender equality and prevention of violence within the population of youth. This devoted team of people work closely in providing the safe learning and organisational space for themselves that enables further work in the broader communities with the sensitive topics of gender-based discrimination and violence.

Second aspect is closely related to training within the „Programs Y and M" where safe learning spaces are created in various ways. The handbook for training is created by experts within the topic of youth work and methodologies with clear guidelines and protocols for the participants as well as trainers. These protocols provide clear instructions how the learning space should look like, in terms of communication strategies, protocols on non-violence, discrimination and harassment. Trainers have the role in providing an open and relaxed atmosphere where personal experience can be shared, and the principle of 4 walls is quarantined (whatever is shared within the training only stays within the group). In this way participants have the shared responsibility in creating the safe space for learning as well as additional support from the experienced trainers. Moreover, a group has the capacity to continue developing as a collective force that can bring changes in the broader community.



Exploring the cross-border transferability:

Organizations such as E8 give an emphasis to a constant capacity building of youth workers and trainers in the field of youth work and gender studies. Bringing different groups of people into the pool of trainers and young participants from different schools and communities improves the network for broader cooperation and learning. In connection to safe spaces, this approach nurtures a safe and strong network of people that work together on creating a safe and open environment for personal and group development. Having the Handbook and Guidelines for work with the youth population, with clear protocols and communication strategies helps in creating stable and safe spaces for learning, and can be achieved in various contexts and within diverse communities.

Contacts and links for further reading:

<http://e8.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Case-Study-Using-social-media-and-the-arts-to-transform-gender-norms.pdf>

<http://e8.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Program-M-Priručnik-za-obuku-edukatora-i-profesionalnog-osoblja-za-rad-sa-mladićima.pdf>

[Program-Y-Inovativni-pristupi-u-prevenciji-rodno-zasnovanog-nasilja-i-promociji-zdravih-životnih-stilova-mladića-i-devojaka.pdf](http://e8.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Program-Y-Inovativni-pristupi-u-prevenciji-rodno-zasnovanog-nasilja-i-promociji-zdravih-životnih-stilova-mladića-i-devojaka.pdf)

