

"Cel svet se rad igra" - "The Whole World Likes to Play"



inclusive performance (Škuc)
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Location

Ljubljana, Nova Gorica, Radlje ob Dravi, Semič, Vipava

Country

Slovenia

Short summarizing description

The whole world likes to play is a project aiming at bringing an intercultural note to social inclusion. For many years our organisation has been the co-organiser of the festival "Play with me" which promotes inclusion of people with special needs. In recent events concerning the refugee crisis and negative media coverage that came with it, we decided that it is necessary to address the issue of inclusion and that it should be for everyone, no matter their gender, age, class, ethnical background or ability. We strive to promote this through workshops, festival events and with a personal approach. We apply the "Play with me" concept to a broader frame, but always with play, sports, artistic creativity and promotion of volunteering. Since the beginning of 2017 when the project started we have organised communicational workshops for volunteers, have hosted several musical, dance and theatre acts concerning ethnic diversity as well as organised workshops for children with special needs.

Key Terms

children, special needs, inclusion

Context and background, Which problems/challenges does your measure try to solve/cope with?

The project addresses the question of inclusion of refugees, migrants and ethnic minorities. The focus is on children and young people, but it also stretches further by implementing cross-generational activities. The idea is to address social exclusion that the above mentioned groups experience in Slovene society on multiple levels. Our activities aim towards prevention of stigmatisation by exposing children from the youngest age to people of different ethnicities so they can learn about their cultures and art through play. By this we strive to create a positive narrative about a stigmatised group

in the eyes of teachers, parents and a broader public. With this we wish to make a better environment for migrant children to be integrated in the school system and other aspects of society.

Which are the key objectives of your measure?

To empower volunteers as facilitators of an intercultural dialogue and as actors against hate speech. To showcase the creative input of different ethnic groups. Exposing children and the youth to different cultures through play, arts and storytelling. Fighting racism and stereotyping through personal contact and play. Creating a common space for better visibility of different ethnic groups, migrants and refugees, finding opportunities for a more positive media representation of these groups. Setting ground for a more inclusive society by focusing on migrants with special needs.

Who are the main target groups and beneficiaries of your measure?

Our main target group are young people and children. With the activities included in the »Play with me« festival as well as in our other activities, we reach out to more than 10000 of them. The basis of the project is inclusion, so this number includes representatives of the general population, people with special needs, migrants, refugees, different ethnic groups and people who are on the intersection of these markers. Besides these groups, we focus on teachers and youth workers.

Which actions have already been implemented and which results have been achieved so far?

The project, which was planned for 2017, has just finished. Following its success, but also seeing all which still remains to be done, we plan on implementing it in 2018 as well. So far we have executed the following activities: A communicational/intercultural workshop for volunteers and youth workers Intercultural workshops, musical, dance and theatre performances at the »Play with me« festival in different parts of Slovenia, inclusion of migrants as volunteers at the festival Two shows for young children and children with special needs which highlight different cultures Two communicational/intercultural workshops for children with special needs A final event gathering of volunteers, target groups and beneficiaries and the presentation of the project results All these activities were implemented to bring an intercultural dimension into the projects of social inclusion of people with special needs which has been organised by our organisation for many years.

Which were the main problems and challenges you were/are facing when implementing the project and how did/do you (try to) overcome them?

We have had some issues with the response of migrant groups and individuals, as not all of them who have agreed to take part in the activities, have shown up or took interest in the project in the first place. We had most luck when reaching out to individuals involved in language courses, since their wish to integrate was more substantial. Smaller issues such as language barriers were easier to overcome, since play as a tool helps to transcend these obstacles. The process of building personal connections between people through fun and play helps people to see beyond race and stereotypes.

Link to website

<http://drustvozakulturoinkluzije.eu/projekti/ostali-projekti/222-cel-svet-se-rad-igra>

Starting date

2017-03-01

Duration

8

Regional scale

4 - national

Other involved partners

we work with many institutions and NGOs but our main partners in this project were Center Janeza Levca, Društvo za kulturo in izobraževanje IMPRO and KUD Pravljičarija

Contact person

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Category 1, Managing social change

»Cel svet se rad igra« implements a model of inclusion through play, arts and music which we have been developing for the last 8 years. This model is based on the concept »Play with me« which is a series of events where people of all backgrounds and abilities gather to form complex bonds that promote inclusion. At first this concept was meant mostly for inclusion of people with special needs (through events such as the festival »Play with me«, an art exhibition, »Be a sportsman« and other activities). The idea is to promote the visibility of marginalized social groups through the concept of play and positive representation. The concept puts marginalised people in the role of content providers and volunteers at these events along with the general population. With the beginning of the refugee crisis and the negative representation of migrants in the media, we have recognised the need for an active implementation of a multi-ethnic approach to our model of inclusion.

Category 2: Integrating migrants into the local/,regional labour market

The project is founded on the ideal of volunteering as a means for gaining competences for employability. Most of the competences learned by all of the volunteers (people of different ethnicities as well as those who belong to the general population) are applicable in the fields of education, art, event planning and especially in the youth sector. Gaining new competences as well as creating a new social networks are the bases for bettering the chances for immigrants, refugees and people of different ethnicities to be successfully integrated in the labour market.

Category 4: Supporting change in the local / ,regional dual education system

The »Play with me« platform has been deeply connected with the educational system – the co-organiser of the festival is Center Janeza Levca Ljubljana (a centre for children and young people with mental disabilities). Most of the visitors and attendants at the events where »Cel svet se rad igra« workshops and activities took place are school groups – educators and children. By exposing them to models of social inclusion of migrants, refugees and different ethnic groups, we try to dissolve the stigma about these groups and aim to showcase the benefits of a diverse educational environment. We present educators, students of education and also young workers with methods for inclusion that they can use in their workplace, and we also try to break the general stereotypes about marginalised groups by giving them a positive personal experience.

Category 5, PR impact and awareness raising

Our project is directed first of all towards overthrowing stereotypes by personal contact, which we achieve by integrating it into large public activities such as the »Play with me« festival with over 12000 visitors. Because a large part of our efforts is on educating children and young people about diversity and its benefits, we also connect with schools and our partner NGOs and we communicate our message mostly through social media.

Category 6, Innovative dimension

The innovative thing about »Cel svet se rad igra« is mostly its focus on the quality of contact between people and on forming bonds and positive personal narratives. Its novelty is also in the focus on people with special needs and in finding a common denominator in play, sports and artistic expression. It connects children with special needs, who are often left behind and receive a very narrow view of the world with different cultures and gives them the chance to be the headlines in presenting an open-minded approach towards our cultural differences. The emphasis are on play and pointing out the intersectional discrimination migrants with special needs may face.

Category 7, Transferability

Similarly as with the festival »Play with me«, »Cel svet se rad igra« is also a simple model built on play which can be used in different environments in order to achieve better social inclusion for marginalized groups. »Play with me« was already implemented in Norway, Poland, Croatia and Macedonia as a tool for inclusion for people with special needs. »Cel svet

se rad igra” has only just finished its first year, and some aspects still need to be addressed, but it is an open concept and should be applied in various sectors and different regions. The challenge is to create an event (or a series of events) where all these different people would come to meet and play.

Further Information



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www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkJgXd9QgbA