

D.T2.5.2

PILOT FINAL REPORT

Szczecin

31.08.2021

Pilot action: EACH OF US IS UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT Multicultural Education in the Classroom

Project Partner: Westpomeranian Region and University of Szczecin (PP11 and PP10)

Contact Person: Marta Ciesielska, Paulina Chmielowska, Monika Klein

1. Short description of the activities implemented in 2021 .

Ambassador of Multiculturalism

The competition was aimed at school-age children and adolescents from the Westpomeranian Region. Competition participants submitted their competition works individually and as a team (e.g. one class, one family). The aim of the competition was, among others selecting the most interesting projects, related to the subject of multiculturalism at school, at home or in a housing estate, developing intercultural sensitivity and competencies, counteracting cultural discrimination, and introducing schoolchildren and teenagers to knowledge about various minority groups (national, ethnic) living in West Pomerania and introducing Polish culture to children who came to Poland from countries outside the EU. Participation in the competition involved the preparation of a competition project, which could be of two types:

- a) it could have been an artistic and technical work as well as film made in any technique, provided with information on the way of further use, such as prepared graphics, can be used for the production of ecological bags, stickers, posters.
- b) it could have been an original idea for self-government activities in the field of multiculturalism support, such as the organization of workshops, festivals, exhibitions, etc.

We have received 34 projects including drawings, videos, presentations and an album (set of drawings) whose main theme is multiculturalism. Competition winners received the titles of the MULTICULTURAL AMBASSADOR, vouchers, small gifts and the opportunity to participate in further activities of the Westpomeranian Region.

Nominated Multicultural Ambassadors

Age category 7-10 years

- Paweł Dobrowolski, Primary School no 1 of The White Eagle in Świdwin



- Marlena Krajs, Primary School no 1 of The White Eagle in Świdwin



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- Liwia Hendzel, Hubert Hendzel, Szczecin



- Hubert Kucharski, Primary School no 1 of The White Eagle in Świdwin



Age category 11-15 years

- Hanna Kafarska, Primary School No. 37 to them. A. Ledóchowski, Szczecin



- Anna Liszewska, Primary School No. 9, Kołobrzeg



- Zuzanna Daško, Primary School no 1 of The White Eagle in Świdwin

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- 7H class, Primary School No. 74, Szczecin



Special prize of the Arrival Regions project

- Marlena Krajs, Primary School no 1 of The White Eagle in Świdwin



- Liwia Strzałkowska, Primary School No 35, Szczecin



As part of the competition, an information and promotion campaign was carried out by the promotional agency. The aim of information and promotion campaign was to reach the widest possible group of children and teenagers from the Westpomerania Region as direct participants of the competition. In the framework of campaign implemented actions were realized and aimed at effectively encouraging participation in the competition and launching a message on strengthening the importance of multiculturalism in everyday life in contemporary society. The campaign was organized using mainly online media, social networks and mobile applications.

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The following communication actions have been taken:

- mailing to primary schools in the Westpomeranian Region with information and all documents needed to take a part in the Ambassador of Multiculturalism competition
- preparation of information and promotion tools - preparation of short animation, poster and two films that are used to promote pilot action. The tools were used on the PPs website, the website of regional institutions, on Facebook, etc. The promotion of the posts reached a total of approximately 39,000 people living in Western Pomerania and interested in the issues of teaching, education, working with children, and people who are parents of children aged 6-17. The ads gathered 39,225 reach and 103,477 views.

Information on the selection of the Ambassadors of Multiculturalism was also published on the Region's website and Facebook.

Workshops for children

In the period January-May 2021, a total of 20 workshops were organized

The aim of this workshop was to create a space where students understand the concept of multiculturalism and migration and to shape their attitude of openness for other cultures. The classes were also designed to respond to the challenges posed by contemporary students who are witnessing the transformation of their place of study and residence into a multicultural community.

During the workshops, children learned:

- how to behave when a new student comes to school and differs from others by country of origin, appearance, clothes, etc.;
- how to discover new cultures and meet students from other countries through play and activities, e.g. cooking, playing football, trips, joint initiatives;
- how to help immigrant children understand school rules;
- how not to socially exclude other children;
- how to ask adults for help;
- how to avoid discrimination;
- what are stereotypes and prejudices;
- how not to be guided by false information/fake news;
- how not to duplicate untrue opinions;
- what brings us openness to other people;
- how to establish lasting / good relationships with others;
- what is diversity;
- how to communicate without words.

The teachers could learn:

- how to be open minded and how to deliver equitable instruction without underlying biases;
- how to value their students' experiences, what is necessary for providing validation for the students who share similar experiences and introducing students to new perspectives;
- how to use various teaching styles;
- how to engage students in the process of immigrant integration;
- how to adapt lesson scenarios for multicultural classrooms.

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Lesson scenarios

Lesson scenarios were printed and sent out to schools in West Pomerania.

2. Difficulties encountered during the pilot action implementation (including those connected to the COVID-19 pandemic).

The need to increase information and promotion activities was noticed, which is due to the fact that during the remote lesson it is more difficult to communicate with students, parents and teachers.

3. Assessment of :

a. Success of the pilot action (Has the selected social innovation managed to support economic and social integration of non-EU nationals in your region?).

Towards the end of the implementation of the pilot activity, teachers informed us (Westpomerainia Region and cooperating partners) that the subject of immigration appeared more often in class and that young people were very interested in it. The topic aroused emotions and controversy, that are often fueled by media messages. Media messages are often based on emotions and do not provide reliable information; therefore, an important issue was to develop multicultural education tools adequate to the needs and possibilities of schools.

Westpomeranian Region wanted to encourage everyone to talk about refugees or, more broadly, about migration. It is a subject that deeply touches Polish values and often requires deeper reflection. Thanks to the implementation of the pilot action, Westpomeranian Region was able to start the process of shaping new attitudes among children and adolescents, as well as show teachers that young people also want to be heard.

Young residents of Westpomerainia Region could gain social competences including resilience, the ability to cope with uncertainty and complexity and how to show empathy to people of other cultures. Nowadays, the ability to understand one another across and beyond all types of cultural barriers is fundamental for societies; therefore, we consider that the pilot action was successful.

In Westpomerainia Region there is a strong need for a concerted effort to develop necessary attitudes, skills and knowledge that contribute to intercultural competence in everyday practice of teaching and learning, so that future generations may be equipped to participate in an increasingly complex society. First of all, intercultural competence addresses the root of a range of issues, local societies face: stereotyping, discrimination, all forms of racism, and so on, all of which are exacerbated in times of economic difficulty (pandemia). This is due to the fact that the majority of immigrants in our Region are economic immigrants.

The pilot action was successful thanks to the involvement of experts and stakeholders who helped us shape the education tools through their invaluable comments and feedback. The involvement of teachers who agreed to be involved in the whole process was also of great importance. Developing intercultural competence through education was very well received by local decision makers (mayors, who helped us promote pilot action) and by European Committee of the Regions.

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What is also interesting is the fact that the schools in villages and smaller towns became interested in workshops for children and the further use of lesson scenarios. Where schools in cities were mainly interested in participating in the competition for the Ambassador of Multiculturalism. This indicates that rural schools more often think about looking for long-term solutions. This points to the fact that rural schools are more looking for long-term solutions and that it was the right idea to propose diverse activities.

b. Involvement of local stakeholders in the pilot action.

Regional institutions played an important role in promoting the pilot project. Information on the pilot action was sent directly to 18 regional stakeholders, incl.: NGOs (such as Szczecin Incubator for Culture, Association of Polish Communes of the Pomerania Euroregion, Foundation Kamienia 1, NGO Support Center - Sektor 3, POLITES Association, Association of culture and social initiatives TWIKS), press (Echo Szczecina, Radio Szczecin, Prestiż, Radio Eska), West Pomeranian In-Service Teacher Training Center and others.

PP also received support from the “Dużo Dobrego” company and from mayors and starosts who became interested in the topic of multiculturalism at the local level.

Regional institutions engaged in the promotion of the pilot action. Institutions from the region willingly responded to the invitation to the competition jury, what shows that everyone sees the need to respond to the needs of the local community and grassroots initiatives.

c. Involvement of various target groups in the pilot action.

As part of the pilot action, among the target groups, we can find: children, teachers, parents and institutions from the region supporting multiculturalism. The most important target group were teachers, although the activities were not aimed at them, but at children. In the future, teachers will use the tools prepared as part of the pilot activity and support the development of multicultural competences, therefore their participation was strategic for the success of the pilot activity. There is a great variation in the participated schools and teachers. The schools participated in the workshops and the Multicultural Ambassador competition are from both rural and urban areas. Often these were bilingual schools, that more often encounter the issue of multiculturalism. Schools are both from municipalities with a large number of immigrants, such as Szczecin - (39.3% of all immigrants in the region), and from counties where the number of immigrants is low, but is constantly growing, such as the Police County (4.3%) and Stargard County (2.4%). Children participating in the workshops and the competition are primary school student. During the pilot action implementation, the needs of the youth were identified, but it will be possible to create and implement tools dedicated for them after the end of the project.

d. Transferability of the pilot action to other regional and national contexts.

The pilot action was a practical implementation and test of multicultural teaching tools. The activity helped PP 10 and PP11 to test, evaluate or demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of this novel solution. Since we live in a diverse world and multiple heritages and cultures are reflected in the school environment, we - as a regional administration together with schools - need to make sure that teachers have adequate supplies and multicultural teaching tools. Only in this case, all students, regardless their place of origin, will feel seen, appreciated, and celebrated.

The prepared tools can be implemented in any other region or in a smaller administrative unit or even in a single school that wants to increase the awareness about other cultures. The tools will help schools build intercultural capability and strengthen inclusion. And it should be emphasized that schools play a critical role in strengthening multicultural inclusion in local community by providing an environment where acceptance of diversity, knowledge of other cultures and an understanding of global and local issues can be developed.

The tools are general in nature and were designed with a diverse group of students in mind and teachers can use them without making changes or adjust them to the needs of a specific class. They are designed to allow the student to interact with each other in respectful and meaningful ways. Students know from the very beginning that their thoughts have a place in the classroom because each tool offers unique perspectives. It also affects the transferability of pilot action, which can be implemented in any country regardless of the method of teaching adopted.

4. Future development of the pilot action in your region.

Activities will be continued in the coming years by the associations that will be established to support multicultural and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Activities related to the development of multicultural competences of the youth will be transferred to the Secretariat for Youth of the Westpomeranian Region.

a. Progress regarding the pilot action's quantitative indicators (in reference to D.T2.2.3 – Evaluation Methodology). If you have managed to reach the original goal, please specify the main factors of your success in the Comments section. If the original goal was not reached, please specify the factors which led to the underperformance in the Comments section as well.

Indicator	Original Goal	Current Result	Comments
Number of workshops/lessons	20	20	
Number of students participating in the pilot action	300	399	
Number of teachers involved in the pilot action	15	34	

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Number of students participating in the young ambassador competition	15	34	The indicator shows the number of participants. The participant is understood as an individual, family (siblings) or class.
Number of tools for multicultural education needs (lesson plans and competition)	13	13	

b. Progress regarding the pilot action's qualitative indicators (in reference to D.T2.2.3 – Evaluation Methodology). If you have managed to reach the original goal, please specify the main factors of your success in the Comments section. If the original goal was not reached, please specify the factors that led to the underperformance in the Comments section as well.

Indicator	Original Goal	Current Result
Diversity of institutions involved in the pilot action	The project aimed to involve primary and secondary schools, West Pomeranian In-Service Teacher Training Center. The pilot aimed to attract min 2 schools from city with poviat rights and at least one school from 5 urban rural or rural communes	<p>West Pomeranian In-Service Teacher Training Center was involved in promoting the pilot activity, as other regional stakeholders. Schools from the following area have engaged in the implementation of the pilot action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 urban rural or rural units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dobra - a rural administrative district in Police County • Mierzyn - a village in Police County, • Grzędzice - a village in the administrative district of Gmina Stargard, • Kobylanka - a village in Stargard County • Morzyczyn - a village in the Stargard County, • Radziszewo - a village in the Stargard County, - cities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Połczyn-Zdrój, • Chojna, • Świdwin, • Kołobrzeg, • Stargard and • Szczecin - capital city. <p>The assumed indicators have been achieved. Rural schools were interested in participating in the workshops. while city schools in the Ambassador of Multiculturalism competition, which shows that it is necessary to implement various activities.</p>
Level institutions' involvement	The majority of involved institutions actively took part in the implementation of the pilot action and show interest to continue it	Schools actively participated in the activities and plan to further use of acquired knowledge and tools. Some of involved entities and teachers decided to create an association that would continue educational activities in the field of multiculturalism.

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Teachers response to the pilot action	Teachers from both primary and secondary schools, urban and rural areas are satisfied with the pilot action and will keep using newly acquired knowledge after the end of the pilot activity.	Teachers from primary urban and rural areas are satisfied with the pilot action and will keep using the newly acquired knowledge after the end of the pilot activity. However, for secondary schools teachers, other tools should be developed that better meet the needs of today's youth.
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c. Communication activities in progress

No.	Newspapers/Journals – Radio - TV	Date	Newspapers/Journals, Radio, TV
1	Facebook	15.02 and 15.03	The competition "Ambassador of Multiculturalism" was promoted on Facebook. 4 posts were created (2x announcing, 2x resembling). The promotion of posts reached a total number of about 39,000 people living in West Pomerania and interested in the issues of teaching, education, working with children, as well as parents of children aged 6-17. The posts gained 39 225 reach and 103 477 views.
2	Facebook	02.2021	Publication on Portals: „Społeczność Powiatu Gryfickiego“, „Koszalinianie“, „Jestem z zachodniopomorskiego - grupa mieszkańców“, „Gryfinianki“, „Szczecińskie mamy na pełen etat“, „MiastoDzieci.pl-Szczecin - wydarzenia dla rodzin“, „Konkursy dla MAMY i DZIECKA“.
3	Gazeta Wyborcza Szczecin	19.02	The advertising graphics were published in Friday issue of Gazeta Wyborcza Szczecin. It was placed on the third page and occupied ½ of the page exposure.
4	Youtube	15-21.02	Promotion of the competition. Number of views: 14 184
5	Facebook	13.07	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=121192840196445&set=a.106233265025736

*By the end of September 2021, 5 articles on Facebook (Pomorze Zachodnie News) dedicated to the pilot action will be published.