

Equalist Europe Face-to-Face Conference



EQUALIST
EUROPE



Project No:

2021-11CZ01-KA220-SCH-000023987



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Equalist Europe

The Equalist Europe project was initiated in response to several critical needs identified by the partner schools and institutions involved. These needs include the development of tools and strategies to make schools more sensitive to gender equality, transforming gender equality into a core aspect of school culture, and addressing issues such as early school leaving and peer bullying caused by gender inequality. The project aimed to integrate gender equality into the corporate culture of partner schools, influencing teacher attitudes, curriculum content, and school activities.



The project had two main intellectual outputs. **European School Guide Sensitive to Gender Equality**, made by professors from Goce Delčev University in Stip, North Macedonia, led by prof. Trajce Stojanov, addresses the critical need for standardized gender equality practices across European schools. It serves as a comprehensive resource aimed at creating educational environments that promote and sustain gender equality. Despite existing curricula that incorporate gender equality, there is a lack of standardized practices and scientific research in this area across European schools.

The guide addresses this gap by providing a unified approach to gender equality, making it an innovative and essential tool for educational institutions. The European Sensitive School Guide aims to establish standards for gender equality in educational settings and processes, integrate gender equality into the school culture, contribute to the



mainstreaming of gender equality in European society, or provide a certification (European School Sensitive to Gender Equality label) for schools that meet these standards. The guide was designed for European students and teachers and school administrations across European schools, with a particular focus on partner schools. The guide represents a significant advancement in the effort to achieve gender equality in education. Its comprehensive and standardized approach ensures that all students, regardless of gender, can benefit from an inclusive and

supportive learning environment. Through this guide, the Equalist Europe project makes a lasting impact on the educational landscape, fostering a culture of equality and respect in schools across Europe.

Other output, **The European Gender Equality Portal** was a significant milestone of the Equalist Europe project. Led by Adalya Koleji, the portal was developed to serve as a comprehensive online resource and networking platform dedicated to promoting gender equality across educational institutions in Europe. The primary objectives of the European Gender Equality Portal are to provide schools, universities, NGOs, and youth organizations with access to a wide range of resources, including best practices, research findings, policy guidelines, and educational materials related to gender equality. The other goals of the portal are to raise awareness about gender inequality issues and advocate for systemic changes in educational environments. The portal highlights successful initiatives and programs that have effectively addressed gender disparities. The Portal includes several key features designed to support its objectives, as a comprehensive collection of documents, toolkits, research papers, and policy briefs related to gender equality in education; interactive forums where members can engage in discussions, seek advice, and share their experiences and challenges.



During the final face-to-face conference of the Equalist Europe project, the European Gender Equality Portal was officially launched.

Partner Organizations

Europeans, z.s. (České Budějovice, Czech Republic) is a non-profit association established under the Czech Civil Code, with all staff working on a voluntary basis. The association is a voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit alliance of citizens focused on cooperation in education, culture, and active citizenship. The primary aims of Europeans, z.s. include education, cultural activities, active citizenship, charitable non-profit work and sports. The association's council comprises members with significant experience in Erasmus+ projects and many English-speaking coworkers in the Czech Republic.

Europeans, z.s. has developed a network of Czech, European, and Turkish institutions with similar goals, partnering with important institutions like the University Hospital in Pilsen and SZŠ a VOŠZ Plzeň (Secondary Medical School and Medical Upper-Secondary) in Plzeň, as well as private entities like SF Institut s.r.o.

The organization boasts a range of competencies, including managing Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 projects, risk management, utilizing European tools such as Youthpass and Europass Language Passport, organizing transnational meetings and learning training teaching activities, employing online tools for project dissemination, including the European dissemination platform. Europeans, z.s. excels in organizing international workshops, effective exercises, beneficial debates, informative seminars, and outdoor educational and practical activities. These activities foster key competencies and skills relevant to project objectives. The association motivates its volunteers to engage in future non-formal education. Europeans, z.s. has organized competitions in culture, such as writing and digital art, and disseminates useful online communication tools. Members have extensive experience popularizing youth activities and creating online media, including high-quality tutorials, informative websites, YouTube channels, and active Facebook pages and groups. Europeans, z.s. promotes moral values, social and ecological responsibility, and integration of disadvantaged youth, including migrants and economically disadvantaged young people. The association fights against prejudice, discrimination, xenophobia, and racism, aiming to prevent social exclusion, peer bullying, violence, and hate speech. Promoting participation in democratic life in Europe, responsible societal participation, and active citizenship is central to their mission. The organization encourages young people to critically evaluate and create media to promote their sports and civic activities, raising awareness about media influence.



5th Gymnasium of Volos (Volos, Greece), located in the central Greek town of Volos, is one of the oldest and most centrally situated secondary schools in the area. Catering to approximately 250 students aged 12-15 and staffed by 25 teachers specializing in various subjects including Greek language, Biology, Chemistry, Math, Science, and Foreign languages (English, French, German), the school is a hub of academic and cultural activity. Due to significant immigration, mainly from Albania and Bulgaria, the school also accommodates a few immigrant

students and anticipates an influx of non-European refugee students in the upcoming school year. The school addresses the challenges faced by students with economic and family problems, who are at risk of dropping out.



Efforts to foster their smooth socialization involve collaboration with peers through team projects and programs. Student assessment at the school is multifaceted, encompassing oral examinations, quizzes, revision tests, and written exams. In cases of certified learning or other difficulties, individualized or differentiated teaching methods are employed, with graduation often contingent on the specific goals set by teachers. In recent years, the 5th Gymnasium of Volos has actively participated in several Erasmus+ programs, significantly enriching its educational landscape. The involvement in these programs has brought a new European dimension to the school, with students and teachers engaging enthusiastically in various projects. These collaborations have spanned social, cultural, environmental, and scientific issues, facilitating the exchange of ideas, attitudes, and beliefs. The benefits have been substantial, enhancing personal and academic growth for all participants. The experience gained from Erasmus+ programs has broadened horizons, encouraging participants to view themselves as not only citizens of their own country but also as citizens of Europe and the world. This exposure has promoted a mindset free from prejudice and narrow-mindedness. Additionally, the programs have provided ample opportunities for practicing and enhancing social, language, and digital skills—key competencies for the 21st century.

Notably, the school has recently been awarded Erasmus accreditation, a milestone that will facilitate further mobility projects. This accreditation is expected to create numerous opportunities for personal and professional development, modernize the school, and elevate the quality of teaching and learning to new heights. The 5th Gymnasium of Volos is thus poised to continue its journey towards educational excellence and international collaboration.

Özel Yedisu Mezleki (Antalya, Turkey), prepares their students for their future by combining our long years of experience and expert educators with our European Vision in Education. They cooperate with various institutions in countries such as Finland, Portugal, Germany, Poland and Germany, which have made a name for themselves in the world with their quality of education. They organize study trips abroad for our students to gain new experiences and improve their world view. They offer internship opportunities to



our students abroad through our contracted institutions. Their students who graduated from the Department of Electrical and Electronics of the school are going into life with the title of Technician. The students graduating from the Departments of Electrical - Electronic Technologies and Health Services have Europass Certificate.

ISSITP G.B. Ferrigno (Castelvetrano, Italy) is a public secondary school located in Castelvetrano, on the west side of Sicily, an area of significant historical importance near Selinunte, one of Europe's largest Greek archaeological sites. The school offers a variety of educational programs, including general technical IT, accounting, tourism, and vocational studies. Subjects taught include history, English, French (across all areas), Spanish (specifically in the tourism sector), mathematics, science, biology, chemistry, economy, law, and informatics.



The school caters to students aged 14 to 19, with a secondary school program that lasts five years. Upon completion, students take state leaving examinations, which enable them to either enter the workforce or pursue higher education. They have a dedicated staff of 92 teachers serving 607 students, including 40 students with disabilities. The student body comes from diverse social backgrounds and varying levels of ability, with some students at risk of not completing their studies.

A core strength of ISSITP G.B. FERRIGNO is the active participation approach, placing students at the center of the teaching process. They aim to set up cooperation to develop the European dimension of our staff and provide our students with opportunities to learn,



exchange ideas, and share interests with their European peers. Their focus on tourism is significant due to its critical role in our local economy, enriched by our historical traditions, culture, food, and wine. They are also keen to learn about the traditions of other EU countries to foster a broader European consciousness among their students. The school actively engages in initiatives related to gender equality and social development.

Özel Adalya Anadolu Lisesi (Antalya, Turkey) is an educational institution located in Antalya, Turkey, encompassing both middle school (grades 5-8) and high school (grades 9-12). With a team of three principals and 23 staff members, the



adalyaKOLEJİ
ANAOKULU - İLKOKUL - ORTAOKUL - LİSE

school aims to prepare students for a dynamic future where adaptability and lifelong learning are essential. In response to the rapid technological and social changes of our time, they emphasize "Lifetime Achievement." They believe the primary competitive skill is the ability to learn, and their mission is to teach children how to learn. They focus on developing 21st-century skills such as creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration, essential for a successful life. Their curriculum is aligned with the Common European Language Reference Framework (CEFR) for teaching English, employing the "Communicative Approach" to ensure language skills are integrated into students' lives beyond the classroom. They utilize digital learning platforms enriched with artificial intelligence to enhance foreign language teaching and extend learning processes outside of school. They integrate digital content and cloud technologies into our education system, enabling students and teachers to interact and learn anytime, anywhere. Every student is expected to have an internet connection and a suitable computer or tablet, facilitating a blended learning environment that combines traditional materials with digital content.

Goce Delcev University (Stip, North Macedonia), is a state university ranked second among the country's state universities. As a dynamic and innovative institution, UGD constantly adapts to the interests of young people and the latest economic, industrial, and technological trends, creating excellent opportunities for higher education. The university's diplomas are internationally recognized and certified to national and international standards, ensuring



competitiveness in the labor market. UGD's mission is to create and transfer knowledge to enhance social and economic well-being and societal progress. The university prepares students for professions that require scientific discoveries, professional knowledge, cultural and language diversity, technological advancement, and the development of arts, technical culture, and sports. UGD promotes and develops scientific disciplines according to regional and national needs while maintaining professional dignity and moral values within the academic community. The university values knowledge and holds a strong sense of responsibility as an institution of the highest human values.

The university's core educational paradigms include placing students at the center of attention, adopting an individual approach to students, or implementing highly interactive lectures. UGD has implemented various IT solutions to enhance the education process, keeping it current with global trends. The Electronic Learning Center at UGD promotes and implements modern learning tools, including interactive whiteboards, graphic whiteboards, multimedia software and hardware, and audio-visual equipment. This center also provides training for teachers and students from both domestic and international institutions.

The Face-to-Face Conference



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**INTERNATIONAL FINAL CONFERENCE
PILSEN, 06.05.2024**

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EQUALIST EUROPE

**Social Gender
EQUALITY**

Place of event: Pilsen, CZ
The final conference will take place on the premises of the
Secondary School of Health Care and the Higher Vocational
School of Health Care.
Address: Karlovarská 99, 323 00 Pilsen, classroom 219.

The final face-to-face conference of the Equalist Europe project took place on May 6, 2024, in Pilsen, Czech Republic. Hosted at the Secondary School of Health Care and the Higher Vocational School of Health Care, this significant event convened in Classroom 219, at Karlovarská 99, 323 00 Plzeň.



The conference marked the culmination of the Equalist Europe project, an Erasmus+ initiative aimed at promoting gender equality in European schools. Throughout the project, Macedonia University led a scientific investigation into the implementation of gender equality standards and strategies within educational environments. The research focused on assessing the effects of these practices on school members and culture.

The conference brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including administrators and teachers from regional schools, NGOs and youth organizations working on gender equality, academics from universities, bureaucrats from the Czech Republic Ministry of Education, representatives from partner schools and their respective Ministries of Education.

The event provided a platform for presenting the project's findings, sharing insights, and discussing future directions for mainstreaming gender equality in educational settings. It also introduced the European Gender Equality Portal, a new resource to support ongoing efforts in this critical area.

Place: Pilsen, CZ

Place of the meeting: The final conference will take place on the premises of the Secondary School of Health Care and the Higher Vocational School of Health Care. **Classroom 219.**

Address: Karlovarská 99, 323 00 Plzeň

Program:

Time	Activity	Speaker
13:00-13:05	Welcoming conference participants.	Jan Malata
13:05-13:10	NGOs and Equality, <i>Role of NGOs in gender equality education.</i>	Jan Malata
13:10-13:15	The impact of the Equalist Europe project on our school, <i>Our work on gender equality throughout the project and its effects on our school teachers and students.</i>	Cem Güzel
13:15-13:20	Gender equality: theoretical reflection, <i>Theoretical foundation of the concept and its use in school policies.</i>	Trajce Stojanov
13:20-13:25	Studies and associations regarding gender equality in Turkey, <i>Studies on gender equality in Turkey, associations working in this field and collaborations will be discussed.</i>	Doğa Can Çelik
13:25-13:30	Women's position in Ancient Athens and Sparta: A Historical Perspective, <i>An attempt will be made to juxtapose the role of women in two major city-states of the classical antiquity and identify the traces of women's social status in the contemporary society. It will be interesting to showcase how the position they hold in the modern world has changed in the course of time, how it has been shaped by the past and what further steps need to be taken in the direction of ensuring gender equality.</i>	Socrates Savelidis
13:30-13:35	Proting Gender Equality and Equity in our school, <i>Our work aimed at developing the principles of equality and equity in order to raise awareness that all individuals are to be treated equally and fairly.</i>	Barbara Anastasia Anna Rita
13:35-14:00	Coffee break	-
14:00-14:05	Project introduction.	Jan Malata
14:05-14:10	eTwinning of the project, <i>Creation, layout and contents of the project eTwinning page.</i>	Luis Ruiz
14:10-14:15	Ecology in Education.	Jan Wiśniewski, Joanna Komorek
14:15-14:25	IO2 and IO3 presentations.	Kayhan Bacakoğlu
14:25-14:30	Green arts and green sports for a green Europe, <i>creation and contents of the project webpage.in the web.</i>	Giuseppina Giaimo
14:30-14:40	Gender quality in education.	Petr Ruda

Programme Highlights

Welcoming Conference Participants

Speaker: Jan Malata

Jan Malata opened the conference with a warm welcome to all participants. He emphasized the significance of the Equalist Europe project and the importance of the conference in disseminating the project's findings and achievements. Jan highlighted the collaborative efforts of all partner schools and institutions involved, expressing gratitude for their contributions and dedication. This brief but impactful introduction set a positive tone for the day's sessions and activities.

NGOs and Equality: Role of NGOs in Gender Equality Education

Speaker: Jan Malata

Jan Malata discussed the crucial role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play in promoting gender equality within educational settings. He outlined how NGOs can complement the efforts of schools by providing additional resources, expertise, and support. Mr. Malata highlighted successful collaborations between schools and NGOs, showcasing specific programs and initiatives that have made a positive impact on gender equality education. He emphasized the need for ongoing partnerships and encouraged schools to actively engage with NGOs to enhance their gender equality efforts.



The Impact of the Equalist Europe Project on Our School

Speaker: Cem Güzel

Discussing the project's influence on gender equality initiatives at his school.

Cem Güzel shared the transformative impact that the Equalist Europe project had on his school. He discussed how the project influenced various gender equality initiatives, leading to significant changes in school policies, teaching practices, and the overall school environment. Cem highlighted specific examples of successful programs implemented at his school, such as gender-sensitive curricula, awareness campaigns, and workshops. He also noted improvements in student behavior and attitudes towards gender equality, underscoring the project's positive effect on creating a more inclusive and respectful school culture.





Gender Equality: Theoretical Reflection

Trajce Stojanov

Exploring the theoretical foundations and application in school policies.

Prof. Trajce Stojanov explored the theoretical foundations of gender equality and their application in school policies. He delved into key concepts and frameworks that underpin gender equality, discussing their relevance and importance in shaping educational practices. Trajce highlighted how theoretical reflections can inform and guide the development of gender-sensitive policies in schools, ensuring that they are grounded in sound principles. He also provided examples of how these theories have been successfully applied in real-world settings, emphasizing the need for continuous reflection and adaptation to promote gender equality effectively.

Studies and Associations Regarding Gender Equality in Turkey

Speaker: Doğa Can Çelik

Highlighting gender equality studies and associations in Turkey.

Doğa Can Çelik highlighted the various studies and associations in Turkey that focus on gender equality. He provided an overview of key research findings and initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality in educational and societal contexts. Doğa discussed the role of local associations in advocating for gender

equality, supporting victims of gender-based violence, and raising awareness through community programs. He also showcased successful projects and partnerships that have contributed to advancing gender equality in Turkey, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and persistent efforts to bring about meaningful change.





Women's Position in Ancient Athens and Sparta: A Historical Perspective

Speaker: Socrates Savelidis

Comparing historical roles of women and their modern-day implications.

Socrates Savelidis provided a comparative analysis of the roles of women in ancient Athens and Sparta, examining the historical context and its implications for modern gender equality. He highlighted the contrasting lifestyles and societal positions of women in these two city-states—Athenian women, who were largely confined to domestic roles, versus Spartan women, who enjoyed more freedoms and responsibilities in society. Socrates discussed how these historical perspectives can inform current discussions on gender roles and equality, emphasizing the lessons that can be drawn from history to address contemporary gender issues. His presentation underscored the importance of understanding historical contexts to appreciate the progress made and the challenges that remain in achieving gender equality.



Promoting Gender Equality and Equity in Our School

Speaker: Barbara Anastasia Anna Rita

Barbara Anastasia Anna Rita shared various initiatives aimed at fostering gender equality and equity in her school. She detailed specific programs and strategies implemented to create a more inclusive and equitable educational environment. Barbara discussed efforts such as revising school policies, conducting gender sensitivity training for teachers, and organizing student-led campaigns to raise awareness about gender issues. She highlighted the positive outcomes of these initiatives, including increased awareness, improved gender relations among students, and a more supportive school culture. Barbara

emphasized the importance of ongoing efforts and the need for a collaborative approach to sustain progress in promoting gender equality and equity.



eTwinning of the Project

Speaker: Luis Ruiz

Luis Ruiz detailed the creation and contents of the project's eTwinning page. He explained how the platform was used to facilitate communication and collaboration among partner schools. Luis showcased the various resources available on the eTwinning page, including project updates, educational materials, and discussion forums. He emphasized the importance of eTwinning in maintaining engagement and sharing best practices throughout the project's duration.

Ecology in Education

Speakers: Jan Wiśniewski, Joanna Komorek

Discussing the intersection of ecology and education.

Jan Wiśniewski and Joanna Komorek discussed the intersection of ecology and education, highlighting how environmental sustainability can be integrated into the school curriculum. They shared examples of eco-friendly initiatives and projects that promote environmental awareness and responsibility among students. Jan and Joanna emphasized the role of education in fostering a

generation of environmentally conscious individuals and the importance of linking ecological principles with gender equality.

Green Arts and Green Sports for a Green Europe

Speaker: Giuseppina Giaimo

Showcasing the project webpage on green initiatives.

Giuseppina Giaimo showcased the project webpage dedicated to green initiatives, specifically focusing on Green Arts and Green Sports for a Green Europe. She explained the concept behind integrating environmental sustainability with arts and sports activities in schools. Giuseppina highlighted various projects and activities featured on the webpage, demonstrating how these initiatives promote both ecological awareness and gender equality. She emphasized the importance of creative and physical activities in fostering a holistic approach to education and sustainability.

Gender Equality in Education

Speaker: Petr Ruda

Petr Ruda from Utah University discussed the critical importance of gender equality in education, emphasizing its impact on student development and societal progress. He explored how gender biases can manifest in educational settings, affecting both the experiences and outcomes of students. Petr highlighted various strategies and best practices for promoting gender equality in schools, including gender-sensitive teaching methods, curriculum development, and policy reforms. He also shared insights from successful case studies and research, demonstrating the positive effects of gender equality initiatives on educational environments. Petr's session underscored the need for a systemic approach to embed gender equality within all aspects of education, fostering a more inclusive and equitable learning experience for all students.

Certification Ceremony

The certification ceremony marked the culmination of the conference and celebrated the achievements of all participants and partner schools involved in the Equalist Europe project. Project coordinators and representatives took the stage to distribute certificates of participation and recognition to attendees. The ceremony acknowledged the hard work and dedication of educators, administrators, and students in promoting gender equality through the project's initiatives. Each recipient was applauded for their contributions and commitment to fostering a more equitable and inclusive educational environment.





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Conclusion

The final face-to-face conference of the Equalist Europe project was a significant event that showcased the collaborative efforts and achievements in promoting gender equality in European schools. The presentations and discussions highlighted the transformative impact of the project, the importance of theoretical foundations and practical applications in school policies, and the crucial role of NGOs and collaborative efforts. The conference underscored the need for continuous efforts and adaptation to foster a more inclusive and respectful educational environment, marking a pivotal step towards mainstreaming gender equality in educational settings across Europe.

This event served as a testament to the power of collaboration and shared vision. Educators, administrators, NGOs, and governmental representatives came together, sharing diverse perspectives and experiences that enriched the dialogue and deepened the collective understanding of gender equality issues. The diverse program, ranging from theoretical reflections to practical case studies, highlighted the multifaceted approach required to address gender disparities in education effectively.

A key takeaway from the conference was the acknowledgment that promoting gender equality is an ongoing journey that demands persistent effort and innovation. The launch of the European Gender Equality Portal represents a significant resource in this journey, providing tools, information, and support to educators and policymakers. This portal is expected to be a living repository of best practices, research, and collaborative projects that will evolve with the contributions of its users, fostering a dynamic and responsive educational environment.

The conference also illustrated the critical role of NGOs in bridging gaps between policy and practice. By involving local and international NGOs, the project leveraged their expertise and on-the-ground experience to create more effective and contextually relevant initiatives. This collaboration has proven essential in adapting broad policies to the unique cultural and social contexts of individual schools and communities.

Moreover, the discussions at the conference emphasized the importance of integrating gender equality into the broader context of sustainable development. Presentations on ecology in education and the role of green arts and sports underscored the interconnectedness of social justice issues. By addressing gender equality alongside environmental sustainability, the project advocates for

a holistic approach to education that prepares students to be conscientious and engaged global citizens.

The certification ceremony at the conference's conclusion was not just a formal recognition of participation but a celebration of the collective achievements and a reaffirmation of commitment to gender equality. It symbolized the shared responsibility and solidarity among the partner schools and organizations, reinforcing the message that progress in gender equality requires a united and sustained effort.

In summary, the final face-to-face conference of the Equalist Europe project marked a milestone in the pursuit of gender equality in education. It highlighted the successes achieved through collaboration, the importance of theoretical and practical integration in policies, and the indispensable role of continuous efforts and adaptive strategies. As the project moves forward, the lessons learned and the networks established will continue to drive the agenda for a more inclusive and equitable educational landscape across Europe. The conference not only celebrated past achievements but also set the stage for future innovations and partnerships, ensuring that the momentum towards gender equality in education is maintained and strengthened.

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