

Step by step - Intercultural learning on gender equality

During the project we deal with two important topics which influences our society nowadays. First one is gender roles and the other is stereotypes. These topics are related to each other. Each one raise a problem which is incompatible with human rights and democratic society. Social expectations towards gender roles and attitudes of men and women influence the roles of each individuals in society.

Opinion of society and a person's individual thoughts are not necessarily the same, which can lead into conflict between the individual and the society and can make difficult to reach the individual's aims. In different cultures there are different gender roles and men and women have different social positions. Stereotypes are necessarily exist in every society. But extreme stereotypes have negative influence on success. These people will probably not be successful in their lives and can hardly integrate to society. You can ask: Is it possible to influence or change stereotypes? Well, the answer is yes - but it is not easy at all. According to literature we can change or influence stereotypes by learning about each other more, by getting to know each other. Stereotypes influence the individual's successful integration to society. Stereotypes give to the individual negative experiences, bias and prejudice.

While gender roles in different societies reshape the individuals and their roles in society, stereotypes influence and can even reshape the whole society. This wall can hardly be demolished which has negative influence on the social development.

The activities of the project strives to implement the main fundamental rights of the EU:

- 1) non discrimination;
- 2) cultural religious and linguistic diversity and
- 3) equality between women and men.

Relationships, the ways of communication, gender stereotypes and various other factors (which we might not know) do huge impact on our everyday life. We would like to explore and understand how young people from our partner countries. We would like to understand how society or culture shapes various gender roles and expectations towards boys and girls.

What stereotypical image is created about girls and boys and how this image is influencing our relationships with another gender. The project seeks to address the issue of existing

stereotypes in different spheres of the life: how these stereotypes impact the personal and professional development of the individuals; what the impact of the stereotypes is on the political, social and cultural lives. Furthermore we would like to go step further - once we explore gender stereotypes, we wish to go beyond them. We wish to see how the role of boy and girl can be different; whether we can change expectations towards each other, communicate and coexist together in more harmonic way, understand major cultural differences regarding to the roles of different genders and accept them.

Through variety of activities on local and international level we would like to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) to explore and name the existing gender stereotypes among youth in the different countries and make an analysis of them;
- 2) to discuss the most common stereotypes and the ways how they could be changed;
- 3) to name the rarest stereotypes and see their impact in our lives;
- 4) to present the good practices on how the stereotypes might be combated;
- 5) to share views, values and expectations of one gender towards the other gender;
- 6) to learn accepting the other gender's views;
- 7) to exercise more meaningful ways of coexistence of boys and girls/ men and women.