

Empowering Voices: Advancing Inclusion Through Rhetoric and Debate

The *Theory of Change* project, co-funded by the European Union's AMIF programme, represents an innovative and forward-looking approach to supporting the inclusion of migrant children and young people across Europe. By combining language learning with non-formal education and the art of rhetorical speech, the project seeks to equip participants with the tools they need to communicate effectively, think critically and actively engage in the societies in which they live. At its foundation, the project promotes key values such as democratic citizenship, human rights, equality and social justice, while fostering confidence and a sense of belonging among young people with a migrant background.

Throughout its implementation, the project has developed a strong evidence base through research activities, needs assessments, focus groups and direct engagement with beneficiaries. These efforts have led to the creation of innovative educational resources, including a comprehensive Toolkit for language learning and a Game Bank designed to support interactive and participatory activities. These materials have already been piloted in different countries, demonstrating their effectiveness in engaging young learners through experiential methodologies that prioritize communication, collaboration and inclusion. By placing learners at the center of the process, the project has successfully created environments where language acquisition is closely linked to personal development and social integration.

At this stage, the project is entering a particularly impactful phase through the implementation of Work Package 6, which focuses on transforming learning into action. This phase shifts the emphasis from acquiring skills to applying them in meaningful ways, encouraging young participants to use their voice, express their opinions and engage in dialogue. Central to this approach is the use of rhetorical speech and debate as powerful tools for empowerment. These methods not only enhance language competences but also support the development of confidence, leadership and critical thinking, enabling young people to participate more actively in their communities.

Under Task 6.3, dedicated to the training of future young advocates, participants are currently taking part in a series of dynamic and interactive sessions aimed at strengthening their communication and argumentation skills. Through activities such as debates, role-playing exercises and guided discussions, young people are encouraged to articulate their ideas, listen to others and build structured arguments. These sessions are designed to create a safe and supportive environment where participants feel comfortable expressing themselves, regardless of their language level. In doing so, the training contributes not only to improving linguistic abilities but also to fostering self-confidence, empathy and respect for diverse perspectives.

Complementing this effort, Task 6.4 focuses on the formation of debate groups and the organization of national competitions, providing participants with concrete opportunities to apply what they have learned. By bringing together young people from different backgrounds, these debate groups create spaces for dialogue, collaboration and intercultural exchange. Participants are encouraged to discuss topics related to society, inclusion and everyday challenges, allowing

them to connect their personal experiences with broader social issues. The organization of national debate competitions further enhances this process by offering a platform where young voices can be heard, recognized and celebrated, reinforcing their sense of achievement and motivation.

Together, these activities represent a significant step forward in the project's mission to empower migrant youth. By integrating language learning with rhetorical practice and democratic participation, the *Theory of Change* project goes beyond traditional educational models and positions young people as active agents of change. In contexts where migrant children often face barriers to participation, these initiatives help to break down those obstacles and create meaningful opportunities for inclusion. As the project continues to develop, it contributes not only to the personal growth of its participants but also to the creation of more inclusive, participatory and cohesive communities across Europe.