



SUMMARY

Looking at the reality of contemporary Europe it becomes clear that the European motto of "United in Diversity" is becoming a challenge not so much in between nations but *within* the nation states itself. The migration flows of the last decades led to a situation in which the percentage of migrants or people with migration background living in today's Europe is on a new high and therefore raising debates about the relation between majority and minority cultures and the topic of cultural identity. The described context also leads to new challenges for youth workers. The demands from various actors towards educational approaches to work with culturally diverse groups or to support the process of integration of young migrants or minority groups is very high. Regarding the educational sector it is also important to mention the importance of activities, which involve the majority population as a target group. Those should serve as a mean to address the widespread phenomenon of negative stereotypes and attitudes towards minorities and immigrants and are gaining special importance when taking into account the rising number of strong nationalistic movements in many countries.

Although the situation in the EECA region varies from state to state many countries are facing similar situations, especially concerning cultural minorities who have been living there for a long period time. Additionally those countries are also lately facing an increasing number of immigrants from war zones and a mutual exchange of best practices will contribute to the capacity building of actors in this region.

Apart from the thematic context, the project also addresses the topic of cross-sectoral cooperation between youth work and the academic sector. In the field of non-formal education the gap towards the academic field often results in a lack of in-depth reflection on basic assumptions, which could serve as an inspirational source for new approaches.

The seminar "**United in Diversity ? - Theory and Practice of Integration Work**" therefore wants to bring researcher and practitioners in the field of integration work together to discuss and share best practice and to explore mutual benefits of a cross-sectoral cooperation.

United in Diversity ? - Theory and Practice of Integration Work

HOST ORGANISATION



**International Center for Intercultural
Research, Learning and Dialogue
(Armenia)**

OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

OBJECTIVES

- To organize an in-depth reflection on the challenges and chances of a culturally diverse society
- To provide a platform for sharing and discussing best practices regarding the integration of young migrants and ethnic minority groups among youth workers and researchers active in this thematic field
- To explore mutual benefits of an exchange between the academic and youth work sector in the thematic field of the seminar
- To establish a network between participants for future cooperation and to develop follow up projects involving the participation of young migrants and ethnic minorities

PROJECT DETAILS

Dates:	18- 27. September
Place:	Aghveran (Armenia)
Type	Seminar
Working language:	English

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

Youth workers

The participating youth workers should have experience in working in the thematic field of integration of minority groups or with young people with migration background. They can either be staff members or active volunteers in the NGOs dealing with projects in the thematic field of the seminar.

Furthermore it will be required from potential participants to have a strong interest in a theoretical reflection on the topic and the ability to share best practice examples with their international colleagues. Last but not least the participants should have strong opportunities to make use of their gained competences in their local context.

Researchers

The researchers participating in the seminar will mainly be PhD candidates and post-docs, whose researches are connected to the main thematic clusters of the seminar (exceptions for Master students can be granted). It was decided to not limit the participation to a certain academic discipline beforehand as valuable inputs can come from a wide range of academic backgrounds.

There will be two main fields for the research presentations:

1. *Cultural Identity*: Those inputs should focus on the relation of cultural identity and integration, e.g. acculturation or multiple senses of belonging.
2. *Integration discourse*: Those session should have the focus on researches related to the socio-political conditions of integration work, e.g. media discourses about integration or critics of implicit notions of integration concepts

As it won't be an academic conference it will be required from the selected candidates to be able to present the topics to a wider audience.

It is furthermore planned that ca. one third of the participants will be people with migration background or belonging to an ethnic minority group.

NEXT STEPS

Please fill in the following online application form until **1st August**:
<http://tinyurl.com/nhryu8n>

COSTS

Accommodation and board will be fully covered. Travel costs can be reimbursed up to the following amounts:

Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy:	360 €
Ukraine, Moldova:	275 €
Georgia:	180 €

CONTACT DETAILS

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