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OPEN MINDS

OPEN MINDS- FINAL NEWSLETTER

After two years of implementation across Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Italy, the **OPEN MINDS** project (101144803), funded by the European Union through the CERV Programme, has successfully concluded, leaving a strong impact on communities, schools, and civil society. The project brought together partners with a shared mission to raise awareness about discrimination, racism, and intolerance, while promoting empathy, inclusion, and respect for diversity.

Through capacity-building activities, workshops, and awareness-raising initiatives, the **project engaged over 890 participants (615 pupils, 221 teachers, and 55 CSO representatives)** and collected 693 evaluation questionnaires, ensuring a solid evidence base. Interactive and creative methods such as storytelling, role-play, and comic creation proved highly effective in increasing awareness, empathy, and willingness to act against discrimination, while strengthening cooperation between civil society organisations, local authorities, and educational institutions.

The project confirmed that **education plays a key role in preventing discrimination**, while also highlighting the need for more structured and continuous learning, stronger institutional support, and integration of these topics into school curricula. Teachers emphasized the importance of practical tools, while pupils responded best to interactive and creative approaches.

Based on these findings, key recommendations include strengthening cross-sector cooperation, integrating anti-discrimination education into curricula, providing continuous support for educators, encouraging involvement of families and communities, promoting non-formal learning methods, and ensuring long-term sustainability of results. **The Recommendations were also disseminated through the partners' networks to over 100 educational institutions and CSOs per country**, ensuring wide outreach and long-term impact.

All project materials and Recommendations are available at

👉 <https://openmindseu.com/> (eLearning section).

The project concluded with the Final Conference in Samobor, Croatia (4 February 2026), where results and future steps were presented. OPEN MINDS shows that change starts with education, dialogue, and cooperation – and its results will continue to inspire future initiatives across Europe.



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