

Youth

Education

Diversity

Anti-discrimination

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

EPTO 
European Peer Training Organisation





WHY

EPTO is a youth organisation whose mission is "to promote personal responsibility against prejudice and discrimination by increasing consciousness and understanding using educational interactive methods that create a respectful environment for everybody."



WHAT

EPTO provides workshops for young people that deal with issues of diversity and discrimination. In this way, youth are empowered with the skills to infuse the ideals of interculturalism into the community by combating prejudice and discrimination in all its forms, including but not limited to: racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and religious bigotry, sexism, homophobia, and ableism.

EPTO programmes are facilitated by youth leaders who have become peer trainers in the diversity-awareness model of the Anti-Defamation League's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute. The programmatic goals of EPTO workshops are to have participants:

- Be aware of their personal and cultural identity
- Recognise their own prejudices and stereotypes
- Recognise and confront prejudice and discrimination in all forms
- Develop empathy, critical thinking, and communication skills
- Create an inclusive environment
- Develop an action plan

HOW

EPTO's programmes follow a carefully developed structure: interactive activities, role-plays and simulations, individual reflection, and small and large group discussions. The concepts addressed cover a broad range of issues facing youth today including personal identity, stereotyping, exclusion and discrimination, prejudice and hatred, and skills for communication in a diverse society.

The peer trainers plan an agenda for the programme based on an initial needs assessment with representatives of the participant group. The agenda will seek to address the daily issues of the youth and students in their organisation or school. Perhaps the workshops will focus on issues of racism and xenophobia, or on sexism and homophobia. Perhaps there is simply too much teasing going on and the workshop will focus on developing a more respectful environment. Whatever the diversity issues facing a group, the peer trainers can lead a process of communication, understanding and learning for youth



WHO

Workshops can have up to 30 participants and range from primary school children to secondary and university students and youth movement representatives.



WHEN

Workshops can last from 2 hours to 2 days, according to the participants' schedule. The peer trainers can also deliver a series of workshops over the course of a pre-determined amount of time (i.e. 3 months, 6 months).

The Multiplier Effect

Through train-the-trainer programmes, peer trainer conferences, multi-day and short-term workshops, a bi-annual newsletter and website, EPTO coordinates a network of peer trainers from many different European countries who have led workshops for thousands of additional youth.

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Summer Conference 2000 - Verbania (Italy) - August 2000

Affiliations

EPTO's activities began in 1996 at the initiative of the Centre Européen Juif d'Information  , using the materials of the Anti-Defamation League's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute  , with financial support from the Youth for Europe Programme of the European Union  . Partnerships with numerous youth, educational, and anti-discrimination associations at local, national and international levels have also contributed to the development of EPTO.

