

Human Rights and Social Justice Workshop in Iași

A vivid snapshot from the 7-day Erasmus+ mobility where young people turned rights, law, dialogue and advocacy into campaign ideas that can travel back into their own communities.



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What this mobility was really about

The Iași workshop was designed for young people who do not want human rights to remain abstract vocabulary, because the programme connected dignity, equality, law, advocacy and community work with the real questions that participants recognise in schools, neighbourhoods, youth organisations and public debate.

R Rights with context

Participants explored dignity, equality, freedom, fairness and non-discrimination through concrete stories rather than through passive listening.

J Justice as practice

The group examined how discrimination, exclusion, migration, poverty and hate speech affect people differently across local and European realities.

V Voice with structure

The learning process moved from personal reflection to public messaging, stakeholder thinking and campaign design.

A Action after the room

The strongest part of the mobility was the shift from awareness to community-oriented ideas that participants could adapt at home.



Instead of presenting participation as a decorative project word, the week framed it as a skill: noticing injustice, naming the issue clearly, listening across cultures, building a campaign and choosing a next step that is realistic enough to survive outside the training room.

The week started by building trust before building arguments



Welcome, expectations and common rules

The opening sessions gave the group time to move from first contact to a shared learning atmosphere where respect, active listening and inclusion were not only mentioned but used as working conditions for the rest of the mobility.

This mattered because human rights education becomes stronger when participants feel safe enough to compare experiences, challenge assumptions and speak honestly about the social realities they know from their own communities.

1 Shared realities

Groups compared how discrimination, migration, minority rights, poverty and social exclusion appear in different countries without reducing the conversation to slogans.

2 Critical reflection

Participants connected global and European human rights challenges with the local situations that shape daily choices, opportunities and obstacles.

3 Youth activism

The programme introduced social justice movements and youth-led engagement as practical ways to move from concern to public action.

The tone of the first two days was intentionally participatory, because the workshop needed young people to become co-creators of meaning rather than passive receivers of information.

Rights on paper became rights in real life

The legal sessions helped participants understand that rights need institutions, protection mechanisms and informed citizens, while the advocacy sessions pushed the group to ask how young people can communicate problems clearly enough for other people to listen, care and act.

1

Legal frameworks

Participants examined how international, European and national instruments can protect dignity and freedoms, while also noticing the gap between written rights and lived reality.

2

Structural gaps

International teams identified legal, institutional and social barriers that make protection weaker for vulnerable groups and communities facing exclusion.

3

Advocacy logic

The group worked with campaign objectives, target audiences, key messages, communication channels, partnerships and realistic impact.

4

Campaign design

Participants transformed concerns into advocacy ideas, with mentors supporting them to make the proposals sharper, clearer and more usable.



The key shift was from asking who is affected by injustice to asking what can be said, shown, organised and repeated until other people begin to move.

Campaigns gave the week its public voice



When the teams presented their advocacy campaigns, the room moved from discussion into rehearsal for public action, because each group had to explain the problem, name the audience, define the objective, choose a communication strategy and show why the idea could matter beyond the mobility.

M Message

Participants practised making campaign ideas clear enough for people outside the project to understand quickly and remember after the presentation.

T Teamwork

The international teams had to negotiate priorities, combine different national perspectives and turn separate ideas into one coherent campaign line.

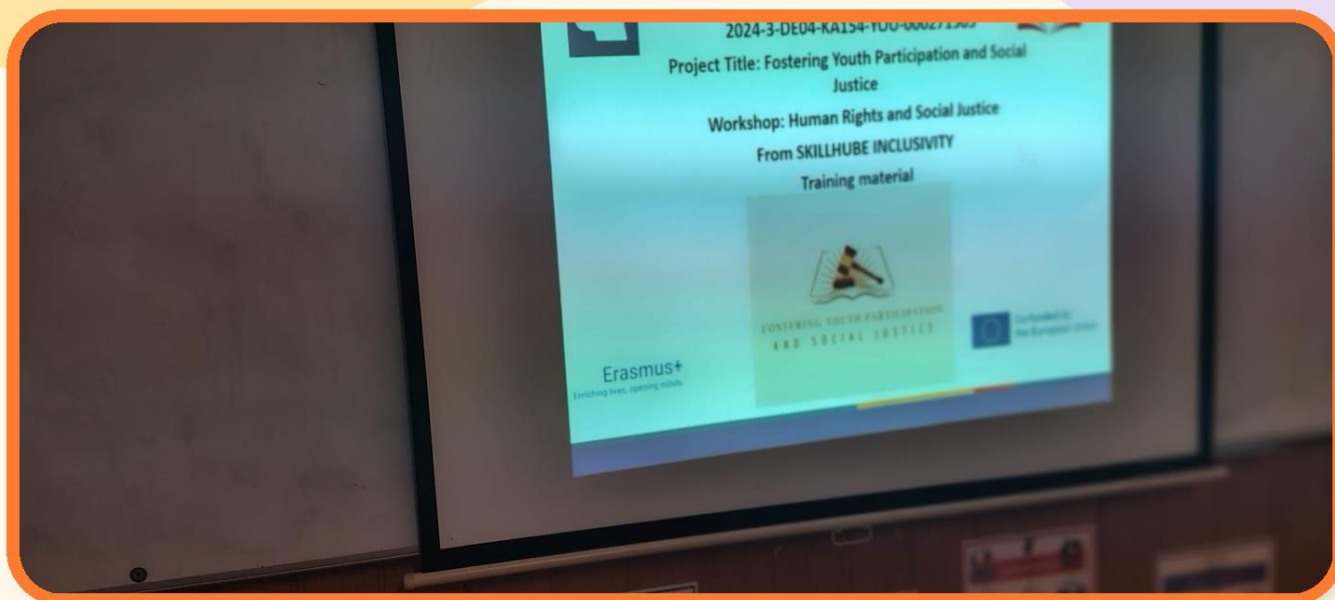
C Confidence

The presentations strengthened public speaking, peer feedback and the belief that young people can take a visible role in social justice work.

The campaign lab made the mobility feel real because participants moved through a process young people recognise: choose an issue, argue for it, test the message, receive feedback and improve it before taking the idea into public space.

Iași became more than the host city

The programme connected the learning room with local reality, because field-based and reflective activities showed participants that social justice work depends on organisations, trust, limited resources, cooperation with institutions and long-term commitment at community level.



The intercultural part of the week was not decoration; it helped participants practise empathy, curiosity and respect while presenting cultures, traditions and food in a group where difference was treated as a learning resource.



What participants can carry forward

The strongest result of the activity is not only that participants learned more about human rights, because the more important outcome is that they practised a sequence of skills that can be reused when they return to youth organisations, schools, online communities and local civic spaces.

1 Analyse

Read a social issue through rights, power, access and exclusion instead of treating it as an isolated personal problem.

2 Communicate

Turn complex concerns into messages that are concrete, respectful and strong enough for public conversation.

3 Cooperate

Work across cultures while keeping space for disagreement, feedback and shared ownership of the result.

4 Mobilise

Imagine realistic next steps that can involve peers, NGOs, educators, local institutions or online audiences.

5 Reflect

Evaluate what worked, what felt difficult and what should change before the next activity or campaign.

6 Continue

Use the file as a starting point for dissemination, local workshops, youth discussions and small advocacy actions.

The take-away is practical: young people left lași with language, confidence and campaign thinking they can reuse in local workshops, youth discussions, partner meetings and small advocacy actions.



FOSTERING YOUTH PARTICIPATION
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



READY FOR DISSEMINATION

Share the story while the energy is still fresh

This newsletter presents the mobility as a bright, visual and social story, so partners and participants can invite peers into the wider project results without turning dissemination into a dry report.

P Post it

Use a short caption with one strong photo and invite young people to ask what human rights issue they would campaign on first.

S Send it

Share it with partners, youth workers and participants as a polished visual entry point into the project results.

R Reuse it

Adapt the style for follow-up activities, local workshops and dissemination posts without turning the content back into a dry report.

**#ErasmusPlus #HumanRights #SocialJustice #YouthEmpowerment #ActiveCitizenship
#YouthParticipation #Iași #Romania**

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