



## EMPOWERING MIGRANT YOUTH WITH CREATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

2024-3-BE04-KA210-YOU-000266407

PRACTICAL TIPS  
FOR YOUTH WORKERS



# NEW HORIZONS

## Empowering Migrant Youth with Creative and Educational Initiatives

**Project Type:** Small-scale partnerships in youth

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Belgium

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# Introduction

*"Diversity is a core value for the EU and uniting in diversity not only reflects empirical observation, it is a commitment at the heart of our work."*

*European Commission, 28 June 2019.*

This handbook helps youth workers create safe, friendly spaces for migrant and local young people. It uses simple language and clear steps you can try tomorrow. Each tip is short and practical. You can adapt them to your group and context.

You will find three sections: intercultural dialogue, creative expression, and digital tools. Each section turns big ideas into easy actions. The structure is clear, so you can find what you need fast. You can use one activity or build a full programme.

The goal is trust and a real connection. We focus on listening, respect, and small shared tasks that build confidence. When trust grows, learning grows too. Step by step, the group becomes a community.

Creative methods let young people speak in their own way. Storytelling, drawing, and role-play make space for many languages and feelings. These methods reduce fear and support shy voices. They also make sessions more fun and memorable.

Digital tools keep the group organised and included. We suggest simple platforms, clear rules, and careful consent for photos and data. Translation and captions help when language is a barrier. Short online check-ins keep support going between meetings.

Use the tips as a checklist. Start small, learn from the group, and improve each week, so every young person can feel welcome and take part. Track what works with simple notes. Share your learning with partners and the community.



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**Intercultural Dialogue  
and  
Social Integration**

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# 1. Understanding Intercultural Dialogue



## Start with respect

Use simple ground rules: listen, no interruptions.

Show you value every voice.



## Focus on shared goals

Plan one small task that the group will do together.

Working together builds trust.



## Invite real stories

Ask each young person to share a short story or object from home.

Stories open hearts.



## Support many languages

Allow short answers in the native language when needed.

Use visuals and keywords.



## Avoid stereotypes

Do not speak about “all” people in a group.

Talk about persons and real examples.

## 2. Social Integration of Migrant Youth



### Build belonging

Create a warm welcome at the door and use names.

Feeling safe comes first.



### Increase participation

Offer small roles: timekeeper, note helper, photo helper.

Roles grow confidence.



### Watch common barriers

Check language needs, legal worries, or bullying.

Adjust your plan with care.



### Work with the community

Invite local NGOs or mentors to visit.

Mixed teams make stronger bridges.



### Track simple indicators

Note friendships across cultures, speaking turns, and attendance.

Use these to improve next time.

### 3. Inclusive Setup for Sessions



#### Make the room inclusive

Use a circle layout and friendly signs.

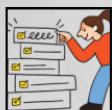
Add visuals that show many cultures.



#### Create group rules

Write short rules together (“one mic” or “listen to understand”).

Put them on the wall.



#### Use a simple session flow

Warm-up → small groups → whole group share → output.

Repeat this pattern so youth feel secure.



#### Speak neutrally in tense moments

Name the feeling and ask a gentle question.

Be sure to invite curiosity, not debate.



#### Use culturally sensitive language

Say “young person with a migrant background.”

Learn a few greetings from their languages.

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Creative Expression  
in  
Intercultural Settings

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# 1. Storytelling & Narrative Methods



## Use simple story frames

Try prompts like “A time I felt welcome” or “A photo from home”.

Give 3–4 minutes to think, then share.



## Offer many formats

Allow speaking, drawing, or short notes.

Choice reduces stress and helps shy youth.



## Start small, then go deeper

Begin with one-minute stories.

Add details in a second round when trust grows.



## Protect sensitive topics

Say “share only what feels safe”.

Remind that passing is always okay.



## Link stories to action

After sharing, ask, “What can we do next week?”

Choose one small step together.

## 2. Visual Arts & Maker Activities



### Keep materials simple

Paper, markers, magazines, clay, and stickers work well.  
Low cost opens access to all.



### Use clear, short tasks

Example: "Draw a welcome poster for new students."  
Show a quick sample first.



### Work in pairs or trios

Small groups support language needs.  
Peers help each other with words and ideas.



### Add culture corners

Invite symbols, colors, or patterns from different places.  
Explain the meanings with a few sentences.



### Close with a mini gallery

Hang work on the wall.  
Each group presents one message in 2 minutes.

### 3. Theatre, Role-Play & Movement



#### Warm up safely

Do light movement or name games first.

A relaxed body supports a relaxed mind.



#### Use short scenes from real life

Pick daily moments: bus ride, school office, first club meeting.

Keep scripts simple.



#### Give clear roles and lines

Write 1-2 key sentences per role.

Practice once in private, then share.



#### Pause - reflect - try again

After a scene, pause and ask, "What felt hard?"

Try a second version with a small change.



#### Respect comfort levels

Offer acting, observing, or props team.

No one must perform if they do not want to.

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**Digital Tools  
for  
Facilitating Intercultural Dialogue**

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# 1. Communication & Translation Tools



## Use simple platforms

Choose one main tool (WhatsApp/Telegram or email).

Keep group rules clear and short.



## Support many languages

Use built-in translation for key messages.

Repeat important info in plain English.



## Voice and video help

Short voice notes work well when writing is hard.

Video calls with captions help understanding.



## Visual first

Share photos, icons, or short slides for instructions.

Pictures reduce language stress.



## Office hours online

Set a weekly 20-minute drop-in on Zoom/Meet.

Youth can ask quick questions safely.

## 2. Collaboration & Creation Platforms



### One shared space

Use Google Drive or Padlet as a “home”.

Put agendas, tasks, and outputs in folders.



### Simple co-writing

Use Google Docs with headings and comments.

Track changes to show progress.



### Idea boards

Use Padlet, Miro, or Jamboard for sticky notes.

Color codes can mark tasks or roles.



### Micro-tasks

Break big work into small 15-minute tasks.

Assign with a name and a due date.



### Celebrate results

Make a digital gallery (Padlet/Drive folder).

Share one sentence per person about what they learned.

### 3. Safety, Privacy & Digital Wellbeing



#### Consent first

Explain what you will record and why.

Ask permission before photos or names go online.



#### Protect identities

Use first names only in public spaces.

Blur faces or use avatars when needed.



#### Set boundaries

Agree on message hours (e.g., 09:00-18:00).

No late-night pressure or urgent tone.



#### Kind chat rules

No insults, no spam, and no sharing private info.

Remind the group if a line is crossed.



#### Back-up and access

Keep copies of key files.

Make sure youth can reach content on phone and low data

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