

Smile FINAL SYMPOSIUM

Barcelona, 16 November 2023

Fundacio Solidaritat UB
Campus Sants

SMILE

Carme ROYO – SMILE project coordinator

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Erasmus+ KA3 Social inclusion and common values | 621433-EPP-1-2020-1-BE-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN

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Why SMILE?

- eucen's profound interest in social matters in Higher Education
- Sample of work on the topic via projects:
 - 2014-2016: **COMMIT** project | Exploring the social dimension of universities. Lifelong Learning funding programme
 - 2016-2018: **HE4u2** project | Exploring cultural diversity in higher education. Erasmus+ funding programme
 - 2017-2019: **VINCE** project | Exploring VNIL as tool for inclusion of migrants and refugees . Erasmus+ funding programme
 - 2019-2020: **INVITED** project | Exploring diversity, equity and inclusion in universities. Self-financed project in partnership with EUA and ESU
- Our work gave us the background knowledge to design SMILE and select the areas of work of this new project

Objectives

- Promoting **inclusive education and training** by developing, testing and implementing innovative tools that improve the way higher education institutions deal with diversity and social inclusion.
- Supporting HE staff in understanding, addressing and reinforcing diversity.
- Harvesting the expertise of civil society organisations and individuals and including their experiences in the SMILE tools.

FINAL OBJECTIVE:

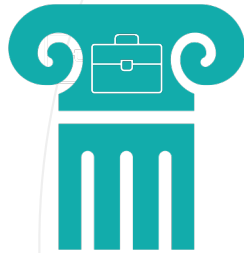
TO BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE EUROPE

<https://smile.eucen.eu/>



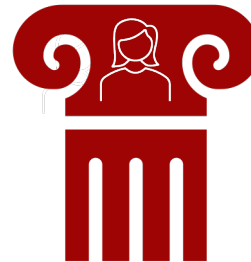
Focus areas: the three pillars

Three main areas of inequality and disadvantage in higher education:



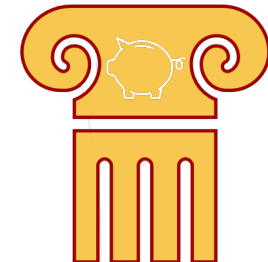
Learners with migrant background

- ✓ Covers the problem of **lower access participation** and **attainment** of 1st or 2nd generation immigrants in HE
- ✓ Addresses the need to **train university staff** (both academic and non-academic) in relation to this dimension



Women in leadership in HE with a focus on diversity management

- ✓ Addresses the need to foster **equal access to leadership positions**
- ✓ It focusses on the need to **train university staff** (both academic and non-academic) but also on the need to address the topic with students and alumni



Learners with low socio economic status

- ✓ Addresses the problem of **lower access participation** and **attainment** of learners with a lower socio-economic status
- ✓ Addresses the need to **train university staff** (both academic and non-academic) in relation to this dimension

— The three pillars

Social Meaning Impact through LLL Universities in Europe

- TOTAL GRANT: € 479 117,60
- 36 MONTHS (December 2020 – November 2023)
- ERASMUS+ KA3 Social inclusion and common values
- Consortium:
 - European university continuing education network - **eucen** (BE)
 - European Students Union - ESU (BE)
 - Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (DE)
 - University of Malta (MT)
 - Fundació Solidaritat UB (ES)
 - Maynooth University (IE)
 - Università degli Studi di Cagliari (IT)
 - NOTUS (ES)
 - University of Turku (FI)
 - Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi (RO)
 - SOLIDAR Foundation (ES)

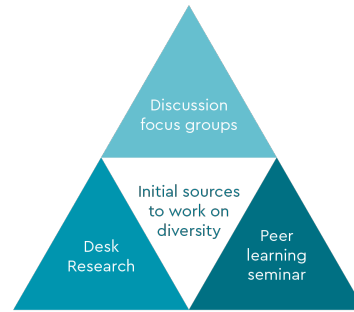
SMILE step by step

- 1 Initial research and work with civil society
- 2 Audit model on diversity in practice for HEIs
- 3 CPD courses for HE staff
- 4 Operational policy recommendation plan
- 5 Translation of all main outputs into 6 other languages
- 6 National colloquiums and European round table
- 7 Final symposium

SMILE Tools



Diversity audit tool



4 CPD courses



Policy recommendations and action plan



Research Space

– Outputs

Focused to support universities' self-reflecting process and self-assessing their commitment to diversity and social inclusion

Addressed to university staff, developed and tested via a bottom up approach

Designed to support universities in fulfilling their commitment to diversity and social inclusion, and encouraging collaboration

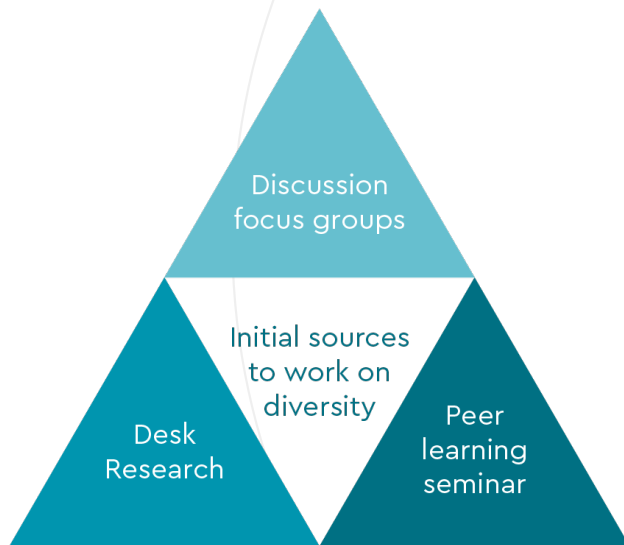
Online space with resources, including role models and examples on the three pillars – a way to learn from others

Diversity Audit Tool:

- SMILE has developed a tool to allow HEIs (but also other organisations) to **self-reflect** regarding the way their **institution is addressing and enabling diversity in general**. This tool has two parts: a preliminary self-assessment questionnaire and the full SMILE Audit Model.
- The Audit Model is a tool that helps users find a way to **implement a Diversity Audit in practice in HEIs**, identifying the obstacles, existing models, strategies for implementation, etc.
- The SMILE Audit Model has been developed, tested in 20 different HEIs, refined and finalised after **consultation with regional engagers**.
- SMILE has developed a fully structured SMILE Audit Model that includes a users Guide. This tool is totally self-contained and ready to be used. The SMILE consortium is available for consulting on its use, if needed.

CPD Courses:

— CPD Courses



SMILE's preparatory phase includes desk research, work with the community and peer learning.

- CPD courses has developed and tested via a **bottom up approach** with role models, representatives of indirect beneficiaries, NGOs and community groups. The aim was to give voice to the extensive experience of professionals, volunteers, parents, as well as both potential and current learners.
- The end result has been and **Introductory course to Diversity and 3 CPD courses**, one **for each SMILE pillar**, with a full structure, contents and exercises.
- SMILE has organised **3 webinars (one for each pillar)** where the CPD **courses have been presented** and where the structure, contents and importance of the courses have been explained. The recordings are available in the project website.

Policy Operational Plan:



- SMILE has taken into account all the perspectives and experiences collected during the project and developed an **Operational Policy Recommendations and Action Plan**.
- This document has been discussed with different stakeholders at different levels in different events. The project has organised an online consultation, different Regional/National Colloquiums (in Germany, Ireland, Finland, Malta, Italy, Romania and Spain) and a Round Table in Brussels. **These activities have allowed us to discuss the recommendations with a variety of policy makers and stakeholders and refine the the final product.**

Resources:

— Online Resources space



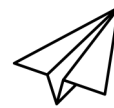
- SMILE has created a resources space online. You can find over 130 resources that include: videos, articles, books, regulations, etc from a number of countries in Europe
- These resources are open source and available. They can give you ideas, solutions, or just material to reflect about diversity and inclusion

Smile Channels:

SMILE has been promoted via the 'Inclusive Europe' Social Media Channels.

Inclusive Europe: the social media approach for European projects with a common focus on diversity and inclusion that brings together worldwide experts.

**Interested? Join us through
INCLUSIVE EUROPE!**



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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13929176/>



<https://www.facebook.com/inclusive.eu>



<https://twitter.com/EuropeInclusive>

Smile

Are you ready to do more? Send a support letter!

If you are convinced by what you have seen in this presentation, you can join the SMILE community sending a support letter! In this letter you confirm your interest in our work and your intention to disseminate information about our tools. No obligations.



Give us support

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THANK YOU!

Please contact us at: smile@eucen.eu