

RE-IMAGINING RECONCILIATION

HISTORICAL DIALOGUE AND RESEARCH & HOME FOR COOPERATION
NICOSIA, CYPRUS



CATEGORIES

- F** Formats overcoming conflicts & division
- A** Connecting activities & community events

PRESENTER

Loizos Loukaidis, Educational Programs Officer

DESCRIPTION

'Imagine' is an Educational Programme on Anti-Racist Education/Education for a Culture of Peace launched in October 2017, after many months of efforts and with the agreement of the leaders of the two main communities on the island of Cyprus. It envisions to increase contact, communication, and collaboration between students and teachers from across the existing divide.

MOTIVATION

The programme aims to increase contact, communication, and collaboration between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot community in Cyprus and promotes peace, understanding, and anti-racism in the context of a holistic understanding of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence inspired by UN documents, resolutions, and plans of action.

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

'Imagine' addresses the lack of interaction and collaboration between students and teachers from the two main communities in Cyprus and recognizes the urgency to serve the educational needs of educators, students, and the wider community in relation to Education for a Culture of Peace. Hence, the need to sensitize towards issues of racism and intolerance, and the promotion of equality, respect, and Education for a Culture of Peace.

MORE DETAILS

'Imagine' is an Educational Programme on Anti-Racist Education/Education for a Culture of Peace launched in October 2017, after many months of efforts and with the agreement of the leaders of the two main communities on the island of Cyprus. The project aims to bring together students and teachers from the two communities in Cyprus during school hours. It is implemented as a confidence building measure in the context of the negotiations for the settlement of the Cyprus Issue and is supported by the Bi-communal Technical Committee on Education, which was created to assist the two leaders with devising mechanisms to bring the two communities closer through education.

Initially, trainers visit classes interested in participating in the bi-communal activities and create safe spaces for discussion about stereotypes, discrimination, and racism as components of the prevailing culture of violence. Another crucial aspect of this activity is to prepare students for contact with fellow students from the other community. At a second stage, groups of students from the two communities are paired and choose between two options of activities in the UN buffer zone, a Peace Education workshop and sports activities with NGO Peace Players Cyprus.

'Imagine' is implemented by the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) and the Home for Cooperation (H4C) and is under the aegis of the Bi-communal Technical Committee on Education. It is funded by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and is supported by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. 'Imagine' has so far trained 3665 students and 250 teachers from all around the island and received praise in the UNSG's Reports on Cyprus as a good practice for increasing contact and communication between the two communities.

OUTCOMES

'Imagine' has so far trained 3665 students (accompanied by 400 teachers) and 250 teachers from across the island in Peace Education and received praise in the UNSG's Reports on Cyprus as a good practice for increasing contact and communication between the two communities.

LESSONS LEARNED

Quiet diplomacy, persistence, and knocking on the doors of people who are not already positively inclined towards peace and reconciliation can be the way forward in creating shared spaces through education.

LINK

www.ahdr.info/peace-education/58-education-for-a-culture-of-peace-imagine