

INSIGHTS INTO YOUTH-LED EXPERIENCES FOR LOCAL POLICY-MAKING IN MIGRATION ISSUES

This paper is part of a selection of good practices gathered from the E-LoCUM partner countries. These examples showcase successful models and mechanisms for fostering youth participation in migration-related initiatives. The initiatives described serve as practical references for youth workers, educators, and practitioners, offering real-world examples of how youth engagement can be effectively structured and implemented.

These practices are designed not only to inspire but also to encourage creative thinking about how similar models could be adapted to your own local contexts. Furthermore, the practical insights from these models will provide additional "food for thought" to deepen discussions on migration and democratic participation.

Meet and Play with Children from the Asylum Centre (Slovenia)

- **Location:** Ljubljana - Slovenia
- **Year of creation:** 2021
- **Status:** Informal (grassroots) initiative

Context and background: The basic idea was to show solidarity with children who had to leave their homes and countries, to encourage the acceptance of diversity and tolerance among the pupils, and to encourage young people to be proactive.

All the students and volunteers involved in the event were happy to help and organise the event and showed commitment to promote solidarity among their peers.

Youth engagement strategies: The local action was part of the project activities involving the school. First, the teacher attended a training session on the use of photography and creative writing to promote solidarity among young people, and one of the topics covered was migration. The teacher then organised a workshop with her pupils, which resulted in solidarity messages that the pupils wrote and sent to random recipients. The final activity was the concept and implementation of a solidarity action in the local environment, linked to a theme chosen by the pupils themselves.

The main target group of the action were children of asylum seekers who were staying in the Asylum House in Ljubljana at the time.

Partnerships and collaboration: The local action, organised by pupils, was part of a Humanitas project involving a primary school. The pupils were the main initiators and organisers of the campaign, with the teacher providing mentoring support. The students prepared the program

themselves, they organised various games, the necessary props and food. They prepared a program with many different games, treasure hunts, treats and gifts - on their own initiative they collected money (2 euros each) and gave it to the volunteers to take the refugee children (at their request, of course) to have hamburgers at their favourite place. Some students were not able to attend the gathering, but they prepared the food and baked almost 100 pancakes. There was also a pupil who photographed the event and another who wrote an article for the school website.

Inclusivity and diversity: The activity promoted solidarity and intercultural dialogue between children and young people from different cultures. All children staying in the asylum home at the time were invited to the event, regardless of their cultural or ethnic background.

Communication and outreach: The workshop was led by a teacher and took place during school hours. Pupils who wanted to take action organised themselves and designed and implemented the event under the mentorship of a teacher.

After the pupils agreed on the action they wanted to organize, one of them called the asylum centre and made all the arrangements for or a day of socialising and solidarity with the children.

Sustainability and impact: It was a one-off event but pupils were considering sending the article to the newspaper for children and young people and other social media, thus spreading the news about the action. The aim was to encourage pupils from other schools in Slovenia to organize such actions in their local community or beyond.

The pupils organised a similar event also a year later, in 2022.