



# PeerThink — Tools and resources for the intersectional prevention of peer violence

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Photos courtesy of PeerThink

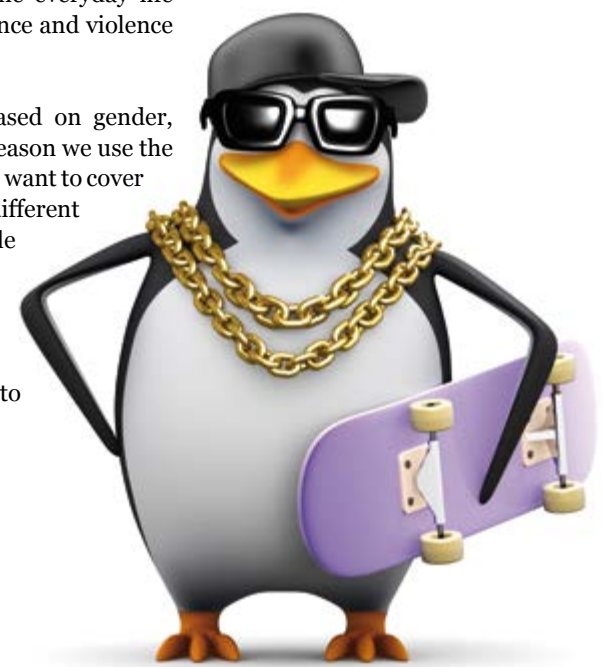
## Description of the project

*PeerThink was a project that ran from 2007 to 2009 in the context of the European Commission's Daphne Programme.*

The most important feature developed in PeerThink is a pedagogical approach to antidiscrimination work which takes into consideration various social categories: genders, various sexualities, affiliation to majority groups or to minorities and the question of social class – all this (and more) have influence on the everyday life experience of violence. In other words, the categories influence violence and violence prevention because they affect people's lives.

Our definition of violence includes all forms of discrimination based on gender, sexuality, ethnicity, social class and other social difference. For this reason we use the term "intersectionality" in the PeerThink project. With this concept we want to cover the complex reality of young people in a society which has many different social groupings. Our purpose was to ask what happens to young people when they belong to different social categories at the same time. We look for problems can we analyse, but also what possibilities arise if we consider young people's different affiliations as resources and not problems. An intersectional view on youth reality is an analytical approach to explaining violence and also works to identify pathways to non-violent behaviour.

**Visit the webpage of the project at:**  
[www.peerthink.eu/peerthink/](http://www.peerthink.eu/peerthink/)  
 You will find, along with other interesting resources, the Method Tool Box and the Peerthink Manual.



In the Method Tool Box you find some selected methods which do not focus explicitly on violence, but all of them deal with the social differences and social inequalities that come as a result of gender, ethnic, racial or class categorisation and related everyday experiences.

They develop users' sensitivity to and recognition, reflection and discussion of social differences based on gender, class, ethnicity or race. Most of them are open methods and can be modified to address other social differences too (disability, age, religion, sexual practices, etc.) or focus on one or two social categories (such as gender and ethnicity) and their intersections. Some methods go deep and touch upon how to recognise discrimination, anger, conflicts and violence that arise from social differences based on social categorisation and develop strategies to deal with these feelings and situations (such as conflict resolution methods).

We classified methods according to the complexity of their structure as follows: starters, warming-up methods or ice breakers which can only be performed at the beginning of the workshop for getting to know each other, to release tension and to bring participants into the working and exchanging mode.

Advanced methods can be further classified as focused discussion methods which are more complex than starters and go much deeper into structuring and discussing their subject but still need a warm-up and some of them also need a reflection segment at the end if it is not already part of their structure. The last section of methods are what we call self-sufficient advance methods in which a kind of warm-up and preparation as well as reflection are already part of the structure. This can be used as a workshop in itself.

The online manual summarises the work of the PeerThink project. It contains:

- national overviews of intersectional prevention in each partner country;
- a description of an intersectional approach in education and violence prevention by taking into account the social categories of (at least) gender, ethnicity and social class methods for intersectional education and violence prevention work;
- a checklist for intersectional education and violence prevention work;
- strategies for implementation of intersectional education and violence prevention.

**The manual can be downloaded for free and is available in the following languages: English, French, German, Italian and Slovenian.**