

Sabadell: Good Practice Case Study 2

Title: COEXISTENCE RAP

Summary Description:

This project was developed as collaboration between the Civil Rights and Citizenship Department and the Education Department of Sabadell City Council and an opportunity to participate was offered to all high schools in town. In the end 25 high schools choose to take part, from May 2014 to March 2015.

The project directly engaged about 800 students, working with them to write and record a rap song on the anti-rumour theme. A group of students from different high schools was selected to performed at a concert. A further 25 000 people have viewed the rap video on the Internet.

Background, Source of the Idea and Partners:

Sabadell's Civil Rights and Citizenship Department has for some years run different projects in high schools. The idea of the "coexistence rap" was adapted for the anti-rumour theme, and the Education Department readily agreed to collaborate with the Civil Rights and Citizenship Department, offering participation to all schools. They have a strong history of collaboration.

Specific Goal and Target:

The main target of the Sabadell C4i project is young people, with a view to addressing and preventing racism and xenophobia.

The overall goals are to improve the interpersonal relationship between the students; to enhance communication abilities and to work on social values; and promote participation in the fight against discrimination.

The specific goals were: to use an artistic tool as a methodology to express feelings; to raise awareness about social discrimination and the need to fight it; and to reflect on the need to improve ourselves.

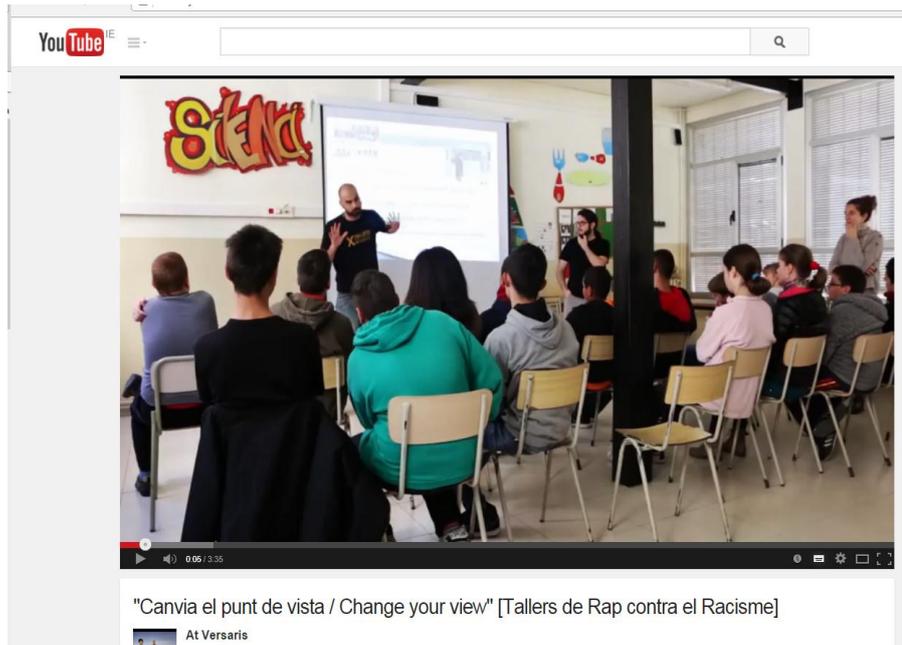
Actions, Timescales and Resources:

At the core of the project is a workshop delivered in 25 schools. In each, classes of 25 to 30 students aged 12 to 14 years participated in the two-hour activity.

The workshop began with a 45-minute theoretical section delivered by a human rights expert from the department.

It explained the idea that a coexistence rap should display the diversity present in society and the shared values, pointing to negative values that can lead to discrimination. Various types of discrimination (racism, xenophobia, homophobia, etc.) were analysed and set in a historical context of key moments in European history where discrimination and intolerance emerged, with special emphasis on totalitarian political movements and their causes, impact and consequences. An analogy is drawn between situations in other parts of Europe with those found in Spain, and specifically in Sabadell. The evolution of local and European policies in the context of the prosecution of hate crimes was also discussed.

The remaining 75 minutes was devoted to a creative process, exploring rhythmical bases and lyrical composition, in which each student writes and performs a coexistence rap. The process is led by a very well-respected rap composer, singer and journalist from Sabadell, experienced in working with young people.



The best lyrics and the 12 most “talented” students were then selected by the students themselves. They were brought together in two recording studio sessions to compose and perform the final song, entitled Change your point of view.

The resulting video clip of the whole process was presented to 300 classmates of the artists in an event, held in a Council Arts Centre, specially designed and conducted by the singer. The video was also scheduled to be played to students in non-participating high schools on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, or at another human rights-related event or on a significant national day.

It was publicly launched in Sabadell on Migrant’s Day, in the presence of 90 people, including city authorities, institutions and immigrant association representatives. It was also posted on the Internet where it had over 25 000 views in the first couple of months.

The video can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XLqQLsNm-c>.

Outcomes:

A total of 800 teenagers aged 12 to 14, across 25 schools, were directly involved.

An evaluation survey of the teachers involved, who were also present for the workshop, indicated a satisfactory result.

A further 25 000 website visitors saw the video.

Learning along the way:

The key learning point for that project team was that this kind of stimulating and enjoyable activity is essential if young people are to be attracted and become involved in these kinds of issues.