

Project Description

With Seen and Heard: Young People's Voices and Freedom of Expression, our objective is to achieve a just and equitable social movement of young people who believe that freedom of expression is a basic human right for ALL persons. We provide mentorship and resources that embody the European values of human rights for all, diversity, and integration as core values in a postmigrant society for their communities, in order to enhance participation in democratic life from a young age.

Using the idea of 'creative protest' as a basis for social change, the project places youth who are at risk of marginalisation and exclusion, at the centre of political dialogue through blended learning experiences and sustained support from researchers, educators, artists, activists, publishers, and policy makers. It develops in three phases across three countries; research with 10 to 14 year old children in schools, a freedom of expression and creative protest mentoring programme, and the launch of a social movement.

Targeting ages 10 to 14 as a key demographic, the Seen and Heard branding strategy aims to be current and relevant, approachable and safe, and rooted in its concept of freedom of expression, driven to affect change creatively.

1.2 Project announcement, following the Berlin conference [may be adapted by partners accordingly]:

The project addresses a gap in current research on the role of literature and the arts in the understanding of freedom of expression as a human right, among diverse youth populations, in Europe. Through a collaboration between Dr Giuliana Fenech (University of Malta) and Dr Farriba Schulz and Prof. Dr Petra Anders (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in Germany), Prof. Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak and Dr Mateusz Świetlicki (University of Wrocław in Poland), and Nicky Parker and Bartosz Borys (Amnesty International in Poland), Seen and Heard explores how literature is positioned in cross-sectoral projects based on human rights initiatives involving young people. While doing so it encourages young people in a postmigrant society in Malta, Germany, and Poland to create their own protest piece, through blended learning experiences and sustained support from researchers, educators, artists, activists, publishers, and policy makers.

Various activities and events will be open to academics from various disciplines, as well as educators across all levels, artists, and the general public. For further information please view www.seenandheardproject.eu or write to us on: seenandheard@um.edu.mt