

Promoting Values

Workshops: The cross- cultural competence training was delivered to 220 students

In numbers

- 42 schools
- 220 students
- 102 volunteers
- 51 training sessions

The contest

The participants of the first edition of the WrOpenUp contest were asked to create a social micro-campaign. The goal of the campaign was to promote openness – in accordance with the values and goals of our organization.

Each group of contestants had to create events organized within the framework of their micro-campaign. The events were documented (pictures, films), and then each group had to publish the content they created on social media (Facebook, Google+, Twitter, Youtube, WordPress).

We chose this mode of communication because we wanted the contestants to use the tools, which they are already familiar with and use every day. However, for the purpose of the contest, the participants were asked to use these tools, not for entertainment purposes but to promote values and ideas. In this way, we at WrOpenUp educate leaders and encourage teenagers to exercise their civic duty and take a stand on matters of importance to their community.

Reward

The winners went on two adventures and saw incredible places- the French Languedoc (younger group) and Great Atlas in Morocco (older group). They tasted local cuisine- French cheeses, bread, and a Moroccan tagine. They listened to the heartbeat of the French and Moroccan cities. They visited Avignon, Montpellier, as well as Agadir, Tafraout, and a small mountain village Tagdicht. They faced the Canion du Soucy, where they had the chance to try canyoning. In Morocco, they hiked up the Jebel El Kest mountain (2237 above the sea level). They, along with the local teenagers and children, had a chance to experience something meaningful and memorable – they encouraged the residents of Castries in France to use creativity to depict their dreams about cultural openness. In a small Moroccan village of Tagdicht, they organized a mini-festival. They involved adults in dancing and giving concerts.

24 young people took part in the WrOpenUp trips. The trips were a unique chance to take a look inside yourself. The trips were supervised by experienced coaches- Ewa Wrońska, Jacek Skrzypczyński, and Marek Guzowski. This adventure allowed the young people to improve openness and respect for other cultures. The teenagers were confronted with their weaknesses, barriers, and cultural stereotypes and managed to overcome them. They became more self-confident, stronger, and open. Everyone had a chance to feel and experience the positive value of true cultural openness and learn how to act in an international environment.

They admitted that they experienced emotions and situations abundant in cultural nuances that couldn't be caught on camera and which couldn't be put into words.

The goal of the trips was to:

- improve cultural openness through firsthand experiences of effects of stereotypes during face-to-face contact with a different culture and peers from France and residents of the Moroccan towns and villages.
- build foundations for complete cultural openness by strengthening openness to yourself and other people- during the developmental exercises and extreme outdoor experiences
- develop leadership, project management, and teamwork competencies by completing everyday tasks as a team and by taking part in strategy games, including games with a cross-cultural aspect.

Winners

This time around, it was not easy! First place:

Middle school:

Team29 – 3 persons, Middle School No 29, guardian Jan Taczyński

Team members: Aleksandra Ciechanowska , Klaudia Sobkowicz, Martyna Bondaryk

High School:

Brukselka (Brussel sprout) – 4 persons, School – VI High School, guardian: Marlena Krzyżostaniak – Klecha

Team members: Katarzyna Dudys, Kinga Kleszcz, Monika Złomaniec, Aleksandra Blecharz

Students:

Tryb Otwarcia (Open mode) – 4 persons, school: Wrocław University

Team members: Agnieszka Rak, Natalia Rybacka, Natalia Śmiełowska, Damian Wutke

Congratulations to all the winners!

Opinions / reviews of the participants

- Now that I have returned home I am starting to become convinced that it was one of the most important periods of my life. One of the positive experiences that I have had was seeing people without masks and layers, which we use in our everyday life to hide our true selves. It was great to sit among people who were open to others and often brutally honest.
- Incredible experience, I would recommend it to everyone.
- We treated each other as partners and colleagues. There were no ranks or roles- we were all equal.
- It is not easy to report on or describe this trip because it is simply something you have to experience on your own. Starting with getting to know yourself, the wonderful day we spent in Avignon, which showed us that we are ruled by stereotypes, fear, and shyness, and ending with the emotional and adrenaline-inducing canyoning
- It was an adventure, which made lasting effects on the “clay” that I am made of.
- The most important part was the fact that people accepted me the way I am. I didn't have to be ashamed of anything in front of them. I didn't have to act. I wasn't rejected even after the canyoning trip, and I will remember that for the rest of my life. Thank you!
- The WrOpenUp trip was the best thing that could ever happen to me. Even though every minute I spent with you was great, but what I reminisced about the most were our honest conversations, confiding in each other and the people from France.