



SMASHINGTIMES
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
THE ARTS & EQUALITY

**Arts, Fascism and Democracy: The Politics of Division versus
the Politics of Inclusion**

Final Report

**Supported by Europe for Citizens
Strand One European Remembrance**



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Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

Name of Project

Arts, Fascism and Democracy: The Politics of Division versus the Politics of Inclusion

Implemented by

Ifescoop, Valencia, Spain, in partnership with Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality, Dublin, Ireland; University of Hannover, Germany; and Consorzio per la Formazione L'Innovazione E La Qualita, Pinerolo, Italy.

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Europe for Citizens

The aim of the Europe for Citizens Programme is to contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity and to encourage the democratic participation of citizens at EU level. The Europe for Citizens programme supports initiatives to strengthen remembrance and to enhance civic participation at EU level. Europe for Citizens is implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA). https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

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Section One: Project Description

a. Overview

The civil war in Spain was seen as a European war against fascism and foreshadowed WWII. What lessons can we learn from the Spanish Civil War in relation to standing up to fascism particularly in view of the attacks on democracy and human rights that we are witnessing today?

This project tells the stories of artists and activists who supported democracy and freedom and stood up against fascism in a time of war. Using theatre, film and political activism, organisations from four different countries across Europe worked collaboratively to reflect on the ending of the Spanish Civil War as a key turning point in European history. Using creative processes of theatre, film and on-line digital resources the project explored the effects of fascism on the lives of ordinary people and what happens in society during and after civil war when totalitarianism and fascism takes over and free speech, democratic processes and civil rights are denied.

Twenty stories of resistance were gathered, five each from Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy, all linked to the Spanish Civil War and the fight between fascism and democracy, promoting a remembrance of a shared European history. The stories were used to inspire and create a Democracy and Freedom book, theatre workshop model and film.

The project brought people together to explore contemporary democratic achievements in Europe today and the role European solidarity can play in promoting civil rights (including freedom of speech and the right to vote), free media and open debate which are indispensable elements of democracy and peace.

Creative Actions

Creative actions implemented by the project were two transnational partner exchanges; a dissemination strategy; a digital book containing 20 stories and key articles, 5 stories per partner country about artists and activists who stood up to fascism; the creation of a democracy and freedom theatre workshop model and the creation of a short film highlighting stories of artists and activists who stood up against fascism with links to the Spanish Civil War and the importance of European solidarity to promote civil rights, democracy, and peace today.

A total of 31 public events took place across Europe attended by 1,170 citizens and dissemination activities reached 522,707 across Europe making a final project reach of 523,877 citizens across Europe.

b. Objectives

The objectives of Arts, Fascism and Democracy: The Politics of Division versus the Politics of Inclusion were highlight the stories of artists and activists who supported democracy and freedom and stood up against fascism in a time of war.

The objectives were met by reaching a wide European audience through the creation of a digital book, theatre workshop model and short film, and through the implementation of a range of creative public events held in Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy which reached 1,170 citizens.

c. Final Outputs with Numbers

Expected and Actual: The original grant to Europe for Citizens stated we would conduct the following:

Two partner exchanges attended by 16

Series of Inspiration days attended by 1,200 - 300 per partner country

International Conference attended by 150 – Ireland

Final assets are an ebook, theatre workshop model, short film, and Final Report and Evaluation – links distributed to 3,000

One international media campaign x 25,000 (conducted by Spain)

Four national and social media campaigns x 80,000 (20,000 per partner country)

Total Reach: 109,366

All the aims were achieved as we conducted 30 events reaching 1,170 with a further 522,707 reached through communications and dissemination.

The following actions were achieved and events conducted:

1. Management Activities Conducted

Arts, Fascism and Democracy Transnational Partner Exchanges

Two transnational partner exchanges are held on 10 and 11 February 2020 in Valencia, Spain, and online on 16 October, 2020 in Dublin Ireland as part of the Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival, attended by 16 per exchange (one from each partner country and a further 12 from the host country at each meeting). At the first exchange partners agreed the structure for key project activities and the project Documentation and Evaluation Strategy and Communications and Dissemination Strategy. At the second partner exchange, partners agreed the Final Report and Evaluation and summed up project findings in relation to using creative processes to promote a remembrance of European history and networking amongst European citizens and to promote awareness of role of EU in promoting equality, democracy and human rights particularly amongst young people and hard to reach groups.

2. Assets Created

(i) The Art of Courage: Stories of Artists and Activists who stood up against Fascism
This book contains the stories of artists who stood up to Fascism with a focus on the Spanish Civil War and World War II. This book is timely as Fascist ideologies are once again gaining ground and

there is a need to stand up for human rights and dignity for all people equally. These stories of the many different artists in the past who stood up against fascism and hatred are a glimpse into a world of courage and kindness and create a vision of the world based on empathy, compassion and care. Telling stories is a way to share values and beliefs, to share what we stand for. We are delighted to remember the stories of artists, some of whom had links to the Spanish Civil War and some of whom had links to World War II.

(ii) Theatre Workshop Model

Using creative methods of drama, the project created a workshop model designed to promote equality, freedom of thought, and standing up for what you believe in. Students were introduced to the stories of artists that had been researched during the project and through fun activities and exercises, they explored the idea of human rights, and standing up for the rights of others. Activities included image theatre, based on the work of theatre practitioner Augusto Boal, improvisation, physical theatre and breathing exercises. Students were able to examine difficult topics from the Spanish Civil War and WWII in an exciting and interesting way through these creative processes.

(iii) Humanity in the Ruins

The project created an innovative multi-disciplinary film performance inspired by the stories of artists standing up to Fascism during and after the Spanish Civil War and WWII, featuring exhilarating scenes of theatre, storytelling, poetry, music and dance. The film is titled *Humanity in the Ruins* and features performances by Carla Ryan, Adam Traynor, Ben Waddell, Fiona Bawn-Thompson, Michelle Costello, Cathy White, Elkin and Kate Canning. The script is based on adaptations and original writing by Mary Moynihan, including *Madame Bluebell* co-scripted with Fiona Bawn Thompson and poetry including *On the Ledge of Courage* by Mary Moynihan and *This Sleeping Heart* by Féilim James. The performance features an original dance *The Shaman Lament* choreographed by John Scott, Artistic Director, Irish Modern Dance Theatre with dancers Diarmuid Armstrong, Kevin Coquelard, Conor Thomas Doherty, Dylan Holly, Sebastiao Kamalandu, Rebecca Reilly and Sarah Ryan. The directors are Mary Moynihan, Mark Quinn and Geraldine McAlinden.

The film captures the spirit of artists touched by war and a desire to change the way things were. The film is inspired by a creative response to the lives and work of artists who spoke out either through their artwork or actions against tyranny and is a creative re-imagining of the achingly powerful stories and work of artists from a range of disciplines.

The film is inspired by and reflects on the work and life of Spanish poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936); Spanish photographer and concentration camp survivor Francisco Boix (1920-1951); German photographer Gerda Taro (1910-1937); Irish poet Charlie Donnelly (1914-1937); Irish choreographer, dancer and founder of the world-famous Bluebells chorus line Margaret Kelly (1910-2004); and German artist Kathe Kollwitz (1867-1945). Enjoy mesmerising new work created by artists reflecting on a darkness of the past and dreams for the future.

The project also created an Artists Against Fascism Panel discussion, moderated by Dil Wickremasinghe, Social Justice and Mental Health Journalist and Podcaster, Speaker, Mental Health Service Provider, Social Entrepreneur, Activist and Founder of Insight Matters. The speakers are Senator Alice Mary Higgins, Independent Senator on the National University of Ireland Panel, Leader of the Civil Engagement Group in Seanad Eireann; Fernando Benavente, Ifescoop, Spain; Mary Moynihan, Writer, Theatre and Film-Maker and Artistic Director, Smashing Times and Ellen O'Mahony and Carla Ryan, Members of the band Elkin.

3. Public Events Conducted:

Ireland:

- 1: Artists Against Fascism Schools Performance and Panel Discussion, 16 October 2020, St Paul's CBS, North Brunswick St, Dublin 7, attended by 24 Transition Year Students
- 2: Artists Against Fascism Schools Performance and Panel Discussion, 16 October 2020, Ballyfermot College, Dublin, attended by 42 Transition Year Students
- 3: Artists Against Fascism Schools Performance and Panel Discussion, 16 October 2020, CBC Monkstown, Dublin, attended by 100 Transition Year Students
- 4: Artists Against Fascism Schools Performance and Panel Discussion, 16 October 2020, Ballymakenny College, Drogheda, Co Louth, attended by 100 Transition Year Students
- 5: Artists Against Fascism Schools Performance and Panel Discussion, 16 October 2020, Strathmore College, Dublin, attended by 25 Transition Year Students
- 6: Artists Against Fascism Schools Performance and Panel Discussion, 16 October 2020, Colaiste Ciaran, Athlone, Co Roscommon, attended by 60 Transition Year Students
- 7: Artists Against Fascism Schools Performance and Panel Discussion, 16 October 2020, Gaelcholaiste Chiarrai, Tralee, Co Kerry, attended by 40 Transition Year Students
- 8: Screening of Humanity in the Ruins – a one hour film followed by a panel discussion hosted by Smashing Times, 17 October 2020, attended by 121 citizens

Total: 8 events conducted attended by 391 citizens

Italy:

1. Public presentation on the project and outputs, 16 December 2020, attended by 22 citizens from Pinerolo, Turin, Italy.
2. Public presentation on the project and outputs, 11 February 2021, attended by 139 citizens from Pinerolo, Turin, Italy.
3. Webinar with public presentation on the project and outputs, 10 February 2021, attended by 31 citizens.

Total: 3 events conducted attended by 192 citizens

Germany:

1. Presentation of the Project in the seminar of "Introduction to Political Science, 17 December 2020, attended by 9 students
2. Presentation of the Project in the seminar of "Colloquium, 6 January 2021, attended by 8 students
3. Presentation of the Project in the seminar of "Extracurricular education, possibilities and limits, 15 January 2021, attended by 23 students
4. Presentation of the Project in the seminar of "Introduction to Political Science, 28 January 2021, attended by 30 students
5. Presentation of the project in the seminar "Introduction into non-formal youth and adult education", 6.12.2019, 25 students
6. Presentation of the project in the seminar "Introduction into non-formal youth and adult education", 29.4.2020, 22 students
7. Presentation of the project at the conference "Digitaler Tag der Politischen Bildung 2020 der DVPB Niedersachsen, 24. September 2020, 89 academics and teacher
8. Presentation of the project at the conference "Standortbestimmung Politische Bildung: Gesellschaftspolitische Herausforderungen, Zivilgesellschaft und das vermeintliche

Neutralitätsgebot. Online-Herbsttagung der DVPB. 13.-14. November 2020", 134 academics and teachers

9. Presentation at the conference "Diskriminierungskritische Politische Bildung. Online-Tagung des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses der GPJE. 26. Februar 2021 , 79 academics

Total: 9 events conducted attended by 419 citizens

Spain:

1. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 10 December 2020, attended by 14 citizens from Valencia, Spain.
2. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 22 December 2020, attended by 14 citizens from Quart de Poblet, Spain
3. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 27 January 2021, attended by 6 citizens from Valencia, Spain.
4. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 2 February 2021, attended by 16 citizens from Quart de Poblet, Spain.
5. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 7 April 2021, attended by 20 citizens from Valencia, Spain.
6. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 8 April 2021, attended by 17 citizens from Valencia, Spain.
7. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 19 April 2021, attended by 18 citizens from Quart de Poblet, Spain.
8. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 9 July 2021, attended by 8 citizens from Valencia, Spain.
9. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 17 September 2021, attended by 7 citizens from Valencia, Spain.
10. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 7 October 2021, 8 citizens from Valencia, Spain.
11. Public presentation on the project followed by debate, 8 October 2021, 52 citizens from Quart de Poblet, Spain.

Total: 11 events conducted attended by 180

4. Communications and Dissemination Activities Completed:

A full-scale Marketing and Publicity Campaign was implemented linked to the series of public events held in Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy.

- a. Social Media Campaign conducted reaching 229,955
- b. Radio and PR Campaign conducted reaching 459,307

Total Communications and Dissemination Reach: 689,262

5. Target Groups

This project reached 1,182 citizens across Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy.

d. Final Outcomes

Impacts

- Common culture of remembrance and mutual understanding developed between citizens from different EU countries
- Creative processes and digital technologies used to bring together young people and adults and citizens from different target groups to raise awareness of stories from European history that promote European solidarity then and now and the power of the EU to promote civil rights, democracy, and peace
- Citizens gain understanding of the history of the EU and its origins in the aftermath of WWII and awareness of EU common values and aims
- Promotes a shared sense of belonging within Europe, linking local heritage to European memory and solidarity at a European level, promoting remembrance linked to a dialogue on democracy
- Promotes intercultural dialogue and long-term connections by bringing diverse groups together at the multiplier events and at the conference as well as telling a range of stories from across the EU related to a key event in European history
- Participants have active participation in events including drama workshops, public debates following theatre performances and screening of short films, attendance at symposium, and access to websites, social media and marketing campaigns through online platforms, television, radio and print mediums and access to book, workshop model, theatre script, short film, and Final Report for future use

Project Partners

Iniciativas de Futuro Para Una Europa Social (IFESCOOP)

www.ifescoop.eu

IFESCOOP is a non-profit cooperative collaborating with regional and local Public administration organisations (regional government and city municipalities), with social partners (trade unions and employers associations), as well as with many other institutions and organisations in different fields mainly related to adult education and vocational training. As a training provided, IFESCOOP offers tailor made training programmes for developing and upgrading skills and professional qualifications of workers and unemployed people, thus improving their employment opportunities and supporting their personal and professional development. IFESCOOP provides vocational training for different target groups, where priority is given to specific disadvantaged groups such as migrants, women, disadvantaged people, etc.

Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality

www.smashingtimes.ie

The Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality is dedicated to the promotion, study and practice of the arts, human rights, climate justice and gender equality.

Smashing Times is an international organisation for the Arts and Human Rights. Our mission is to lead the development of the arts to promote and advance equality and human rights and to connect citizens to the arts, human rights, climate justice and gender equality, working with artists and communities to create collaborative art practice in local, national, European and international settings.

The centre operates as a world class arts space and digital hub for artists, citizens, communities and the general public across Ireland, Northern Ireland and internationally. Core services consist of membership, resources, advice and the implementation of a range of innovative projects promoting professional and collaborative arts practice and a youth arts Ensemble. The centre promotes membership, networking, training, guidance, support and advocacy in relation to using high quality creative processes, collaborative arts practice, research and new digital technologies to promote equality and human rights for all.

Led by Director Mary Moynihan, the centre produces an annual and multi-annual interdisciplinary arts programme with a focus on economic development, tourism, community infrastructure and education. All artistic mediums are supported with a focus on the performing and collaborative arts including theatre, film, visual arts, dance and music. Smashing Times' vast experience conducting arts-based projects both nationally and internationally and its global reputation for excellence in relation to using professional and socially engaged arts practice to promote human rights is drawn upon in the creation of this innovative space.

University of Hannover, Germany

www.uni-hannover.de

The University of Hannover has over 21,000 students and 1,300 staff. The Civic Education Research Group is a key part of the university and enables both young people and adults to acquire key skills and competences necessary for active citizenship and participation at all levels of social and political life. The research group offers a wide range of teacher in-service and induction trainings covering all aspects of citizenship education in teaching and learning. The trainings are offered at university-level to students as well as on a national and European level. The Research Group has a strong record in developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning, including various projects that apply, adapt and test – in concrete learning situations – tools and policy approaches. The Research Group consist of 14 researchers and practitioners who focus on identifying and developing the integration of the European dimension in teaching and learning.

Consorzio per la Formazione L’Innovazione E La Qualita, Italy

www.consorziofiq.it

CFIQ is a consortium of 60 bodies representing the local socio-economic context. Located in Pinerolo, a little city near Turin, CFIQ started its activities in 1996 as a Vocational Training Organization. CFIQ employs about 30 people under a full-time contract and co-operates with a wide number of freelancers and independent contractors/consultants. Its activities, aiming also at developing training proposals attentive to the needs of the territory in which it operates and the labour market that characterizes it, are mainly based on the regional plans for training and the main target groups to which training is addressed are: young people (professional courses to qualify them for the labour market), adult learners (lifelong learning activities) and companies (apprenticeship training courses – companies training plans) The main objective of CFIQ is therefore to provide training: For the first entry in the labour market; For unemployed workers; For disadvantaged people; For companies.

Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality incorporating Smashing Times Theatre and Film Company and Smashing Times Youth Arts Ensemble

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