



Revealing Solidarity

Making solidarity come true
Essays, project ideas

and the Solidarity
Mind Maps

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In lieu of preface

"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing".

Albert Einstein (1879-1955), physicist

- What can the word solidarity mean in times of deregulation of economic and labor relations, when social ties are undermined by the prevalence of individualism in all the expression of daily life?
- Solidarity is a word laden with various meanings, a word that each person understands in a different way: sometimes it is personal charity and disinterested offers to those in need, sometimes it is the defense of the specific interests and rights of a professional group, sometimes it is even commitment to "silence" among conspirators.
- Throughout the course of History, many ideological and political currents have placed their seal on the images we have of solidarity. Among them are the family and the "obligation" to help each other in difficult times, Christianity and charity, trade unionism and labor claims, but also national unity, when circumstances dictate it. It is probably not by chance that within Europe's deep crisis even political leaders use the same word in order to ask for the assistance of other states within the framework of the European family.
- Individual solidarity becomes social solidarity in the second half of the 20th century, when the state undertakes the commitment to guarantee the right to health, work, and education for all. Assistance to the indigent, weak, sick, unemployed etc. is organized and regulated by state administration which, even in our days, organizes "Solidarity Funds" appealing to the personal and social sensibility of the privileged in relation to the non-privileged.
- Today, as the welfare state is unable to exist and fear of the 'Other' grows, there are still people who, outside political parties, groups and ideologies, insist in sharing something they have - be it skills, resources, time - fully disregarding Sartre's view that "Hell is the other people". Maybe because in order to make hell bearable, one needs to find the thread that links him to the others, a thread that is constantly eroded by divisions and exclusions, small and big deceits, visible and invisible forms of violence. Maybe because there is the impelling need to redefine the notion of society and self as a last effort to give a meaning to the present and to the future. And, ultimately, to create the antibodies that will make us immune to indifference.
- "If you cannot find spring, make it" wrote the Greek poet laureate Odysseas Elytis. In order to make our own spring, we experimented with the word "solidarity" and tried to discover its components within a working plan titled "Revealing Solidarity", implemented with the participation and contribution of 16 agencies from 15 EU member states. We formed groups, we came in touch with people, we talked and shared ideas and thoughts and we created a series of materials which we put together in the present publication.
- As we feel the need to be among those whom we never met, we want to share what we created with other readers and to encourage reflections, discussions and actions in relations to the ways we can contribute to and support solidarity among people, communities and societies, so that we can forget the words of our enemies and remember the silence of our friends.

Sophia Athanasiadou, Project Coordinator



Partner & Collaborating organisations



BG Lyceum Artis
Sofia - BULGARIA
www.lyceum-artis.eu



CY Lakatamia Youth Council
Lakatamia - CYPRUS
www.lakatamiayc.org.cy



DE Lower Saxonian Association for Adult Education e.V.
Hannover - GERMANY
www.aewb-nds.de



DK MEJERIET Theatre
Copenhagen - Denmark
www.teatermejeriet.dk



EE Rääma Noorte Ühing Noorus
Pärnu - ESTONIA
www.noorusemaja.ee



EL Laografiki & Arceologiki Eteria Ellassonas
Ellassona - ELLAS
www.laografiki.gr



ES ARCADIA Cultural Association
Los Palacios y Villafranca - SPAIN



HU Debrecen Summer School
Debrecen - HUNGARY
www.summerschool.hu



IT ComeUnaMarea
Palermo - ITALY
www.comeunamarea.eu



LT Prienai Azuolas School
Prienai - LITHUANIA
[www.mokykla@azuolas.prienai.lm.lt](mailto:mokykla@azuolas.prienai.lm.lt)



LV NGO 'Partnership of Rezekne district communities'
Rezekne - LATVIA
www.rezeknespartneriba.lv



NL Me & Society
Rotterdam - NETHERLANDS
www.meandsociety.com



RO Romanian Association for Counselling and Support
Drobeta Turnu Severin - ROMANIA
www.arcs.ro



SI Centre for Education and Culture of Trebnje
Trebnje - SLOVENIA
www.ciktrebnje.si



SK HRNČIARSKA School
Svolen - SLOVAKIA
www.5szsv.edu.sk



Coordination:
EUROPEAN CULTURAL ORGANISATION-SOCIAL EDUCATION
Athina - ELLAS