



Press release:

## **PLACE Model tested and upgraded in the "SLUSIK" project**

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Centre for European Volunteering, in collaboration with 6 other partner organisations and universities based in Belgium, Croatia, Ireland, Spain, Austria and Slovakia are currently implementing "SLUSIK: Service Learning Upscaling Social Inclusion for Kids", a project co-funded by the EU's Erasmus+ Social Inclusion programme.

The main objective of the project is enhancing the acquisition of social and civic competences, fostering knowledge, understanding and ownership of values and fundamental rights. For this project, the consortia is using the **Service Learning model** already in place in the universities that are partners in the project, "scale it up" and "test" in cooperation with high schools in 5 countries and advocate for service learning to be part of the secondary school curriculum.

Over the period of implementation, the partners have engaged in a set of activities encompassing research, upscaling the PLACE model, Community of Practice engagement, advocacy and communication actions, as well as the SLUSIK curricula piloting in schools, which was recently concluded in 5 SLUSIK implementing countries (Spain, Ireland, Austria, Croatia, and Slovakia) thus concluding a crucial milestone in this multi-faceted project.

Both students and teachers found the piloting and testing the SLUSIK model experience to be very rewarding and engaging.

**Laura**, one of the students from Croatia, pointed out that such activities are "a great way to get more confident and learn how to work in a group".

Teacher **Sonja Doboviček** also highlighted the collaborative dimension of the project.

**Colaiste Ioseaf**, from Ireland, found the actions to be very effective as "the importance of connection with the community has never been more significant or needed".



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