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aces – act local is an
initiative of
ERSTE Foundation

coordinated by
Interkulturelles Zentrum

in cooperation with
Nadácia Slovenskej
sporiteľ'ne

www.act-local.aces.or.at

act local

School-community projects
meeting social challenges

A NEW SUPPORT SCHEME



Background

For ten fruitful years **aces – Academy of Central European Schools** has been offering a support scheme for international school partnership projects and has become one of the largest school networks in the region.

Due to recent social and political developments in Europe, a change of the focus and framework of aces is essential. This new orientation is built on successful elements of aces.



aces – act local

The new programme promotes the establishment of **local cross-sectoral collaboration** between schools and other stakeholders in the community with the goal to tackle social challenges.



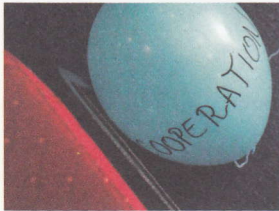
Partner countries

Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia

Support

The initiative is supported by the Ministries of Education from all participating countries. The coordinating unit is Interkulturelles Zentrum in cooperation with Nadácia Slovenskej sporiteľne.

THE IDEA BEHIND



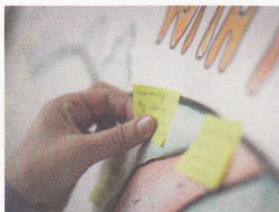
A new approach for local challenges

Increased polarisation and radicalisation in Europe as well as social, economic and political challenges in a complex, rapidly changing world threaten to weaken civil society and democracy. These developments contribute to a declining social cohesion, increased marginalisation and discrimination of certain groups and individuals. Therefore, strengthening young people, their ideas and actions, and supporting school-community projects addressing the mentioned challenges, is of utmost importance.



Educational objectives

aces - act local aims at fostering social and civic competences, critical thinking and skills needed to create social change in schools and communities. These are the following: empathy and social responsibility, understanding of local-global interconnections, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, interdisciplinary and problem solving approaches, creativity, cooperation and networking, communication, the use of ICT and media.



Schools empower social change makers

aces - act local addresses schools as key institutions in the local context that have the potential to promote a culture of activism, volunteerism and social engagement among the youth in the region.



The involvement in concrete projects within and outside school makes learning more engaging and encourages the development of young peoples' skills needed for life and work in the 21st century. In addition, international experience and exchange - gained through e-learning offers as well as through a training event - provide a broader European perspective.



Guiding principles

aces - act local is based on five principles which are fundamental for all activities and partnership projects:

- Democratic citizenship
- Human dignity
- Student empowerment
- Action-oriented learning
- Community-based cooperation



SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PROJECTS

aces - act local encourages school-community projects in the fifteen Central and South Eastern European partner countries through a project contest. The awarded local initiatives are supported in the realisation of their projects by means of seed funding (micro grants), various helpdesk services and an international training event, the aces Academy.

Teachers and students (aged 13-17) of public schools in the participating countries are invited to find local non-school partners and to submit partnership project proposals with their ideas for cooperation.

Call for project proposals 2017

Nobody wants to be excluded. But in fact many people are being left out, marginalised or discriminated against for various reasons. Fairness and equity of treatment for everybody need yet to be achieved. Social change can start on a small scale, on a local level, by people like you and your mates.

As a team, identify a challenge in your community, which hinders equal opportunities for all, take the courage and initiative, come up with a plan, make the change happen and share your experiences with others. Potential challenges addressed by the project teams can relate to social cohesion, inclusion or overcoming discrimination and marginalisation.

The title of the **aces - act local** call 2017 is **“Every person matters. Together for social inclusion”**.

Detailed information on the theme, the contest rules and the straightforward submission procedure on www.act-local.aces.or.at

The deadline for submission is 28 February 2017.

An international jury evaluates and awards the best applications.

INFORMATION & CONTACT

www.act-local.aces.or.at



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