



CASE STUDY 1

SOCIAL SOLIDARITY METHOD IN IRELAND



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BACKGROUND

In Ireland, the rise of immigration in recent decades has led to an increasingly diverse population. However, this diversity has also brought challenges related to social integration, with some young people expressing prejudices against new immigrants, particularly those from non-European backgrounds. A youth center in Dublin, working with teenagers from diverse communities, implemented the Social Solidarity Method to address these issues and foster a more inclusive environment.

The youth center began by identifying the potential for racial or cultural tension among young people, particularly in schools and local neighborhoods. In workshops, participants were asked to reflect on their own experiences and biases, discussing moments where they had witnessed or experienced discrimination. This allowed for open dialogue about stereotypes, prejudice, and exclusion. The facilitators also provided case studies from current events, helping the youth understand the real-life consequences of intolerance.

Preventive programs were introduced, including workshops on empathy-building, where participants engaged in role-playing exercises to step into the shoes of someone from a different background.

These activities were aimed at reducing misunderstandings and fostering mutual respect. In addition, group projects were created to encourage collaboration between young people from different ethnic groups, such as organizing a cultural celebration event that highlighted the diverse heritages within the community.





OUTCOME

The workshop resulted in a notable shift in attitudes. The participants reported increased empathy for individuals from different cultural backgrounds. The integration of young people from immigrant communities into local activities helped reduce social exclusion.

Several participants, particularly from native Irish backgrounds, expressed a greater understanding of the challenges immigrants face and were more motivated to act against social exclusion in their communities.

LESSONS LEARNED

This case study demonstrated the effectiveness of the Social Solidarity Method in addressing racial tensions and promoting empathy among young people.

By giving youth the tools to understand their biases and take positive action against exclusion, the program contributed to a more inclusive and cohesive environment.

