Best Practices

Conference on racism and the fight against all forms of discrimination

Racism takes many forms in our daily lives: from overt racism, through structural racism, to what are known as micro-aggressions.

To tackle the subject with a wide audience, it can be useful to organise a conference on racism, anti-racism and the fight against all forms of discrimination, possibly followed by a critical thinking workshop.

These activities can be organised by a local authority as part of a commitment to intercultural coexistence, of which a clearly anti-racist attitude is an integral part. A conference of this kind provides an opportunity to learn about racism, which affects every of us, and what we can and must do to combat it. The critical thinking workshop is optional, but serves to delve deeper into the subject with a smaller audience.

Objectives

- **To raise awareness**: To pass on information about current forms of racism and promote intercultural understanding.
- **To identify and eliminate prejudice**: To encourage participants to identify and reflect on their own prejudices and cognitive biases.
- **Strengthen the concerned people**
- **Promote solidarity**: Strengthen communities and create networks to fight racism together.
- **Anti-racist practice**: Providing methods and tools for actively combating racism, whether in the private, professional or public sphere.
- **Promoting civic courage**: Encouraging people to intervene in racist situations and show solidarity, and giving them the means to do so.
- **Promote dialogue**: Create a space for open discussion and exchange of experiences and perspectives.

Methods

Contact and request for quote from an association or trainer specialising in racism and anti-racism issues

Planning the conference :

- Room set-up
- Publicity
- Technical set-up
- Sound check
- Speeches
- Thanks/Acknowledgements
- Wine reception (vin d'honneur)

Budget

- Conference fees (and workshop/training fees)
- Advertising costs
- Technical facilities, if required
- Travel, hotel and meal expenses, if required

Materials

- Conference and training room accessible to all
- Seating
- Sound system
- Internet connection

Periodicity

One-off

Evaluation indicators

- Number of participants
- Discussions at the end of the event
- Feedback from trainers
- Feedback from participants

Practical advice - DO's

- Plan in detail
- Draw up a realistic budget
- Choose a suitable venue for the event (check accessibility)
- Plan breaks (exchanges)
- Simple registration process
- Regular communication: keep participants up to date with all important information and changes
- Technical tests (test all technical equipment and Internet connection in advance)
- Technical assistance: have a team of technicians on site so that they can intervene immediately if there is a problem
- Gather feedback
- Thank the participants
- Encourage networking

Practical advice - DONT's

- Lack of planning
- Unclear objectives
- Cost overruns
- Unsuitable venue: don’t choose an event venue that’s difficult to access or too small for the number of participants
- Technical shortcomings: don’t neglect technical requirements and don’t wait until the day of the event to test the equipment

Contact person/Possible partners

- Academic institutions
- Non-governmental organisations
- Government agencies
- Local authorities and anti-discrimination departments
- Foundations
- Cultural and art organisations
- Community and self-help groups

Additional information

- Conference: Exit RACISM – Thinking, speaking and acting critically about racism with trainer Tupoka Ogette, followed by a Critical thinking workshop on racism for teachers·es
- https://www.sega-dudelange.lu/db/1/1476242674634/0