

DECEMBER 2020  
1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter

# KITE FIGHTERS

Kids and Teachers Fighting for Inclusion

# NEWSLETTER



## KITE FIGHTERS

The aim of the Kite project is to assist pedagogues working with young people, with a focus on diversities, to strengthen social inclusion, and promote peer-to-peer communication and team building.

## OBJECTIVES

- equip teachers with tools to **enhance** their **capability to support students**, promoting their mental health/emotional intelligence development
- enable teachers to **use creative and innovative methodologies** as *symbol work, storytelling, folk tales* and other non-formal education approaches
- support schools to tackle **early school leaving** (esl) and **disadvantage** and to offer quality education, enabling success for all students
- strengthen **social inclusion skills** of kids and teachers

## BULLYING AT SCHOOL: HOW TO FIGHT IT

Adolescence is a critical phase for any individual, since it is in this very moment that our identity takes shape, our self-esteem is built and we go through major changes, physical, sexual and psychological as well. Schools are the social institutions where these processes and changes must be supported, and the recognition and promotion of diversity as a value must be at the base. Students should be able to grow in a safe place, but this is not always a given. In fact, young people often experience social exclusion and have to deal with bullying and cyber-bullying episodes, that can have a dramatic impact on their lives.

**Bullying is a major threat for the self-development and for the growth of a healthy and inclusive society.**

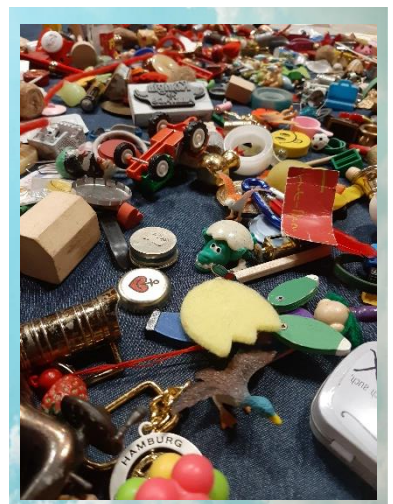
In this context, the challenges for schools are major, and teachers often feel on unsafe grounds, because they lack instruments and expertise to deal with these phenomena. The KITE project wants to offer a concrete support to teachers and students, providing them with innovative methods and tools to cope with bullying situations and prevent the escalation of conflicts at school. The collected tools are based on methodologies like (Digital) Storytelling, Folk Tale Work and Symbolwork.

**Storytelling** is a process during which a person can create a personal narrative to communicate about him or herself. By creating the narrative, the person strengthens his/her narrative identity, through which the self-coherence and self-agency are also strengthened.

Through working with **Folk Tales**, we access narratives which were formed through generations, and therefore represent a knowledge of how to solve different problematic situations. All life situations and relationship problems – including bullying – has their own folk tales, in which the hero(ess) is empowered, reaches to her/his inner resources, and takes steps to change their fates into better. Using Folk Tale Work, students can also look for and find their own resources and takes steps to solve their actual life problems.

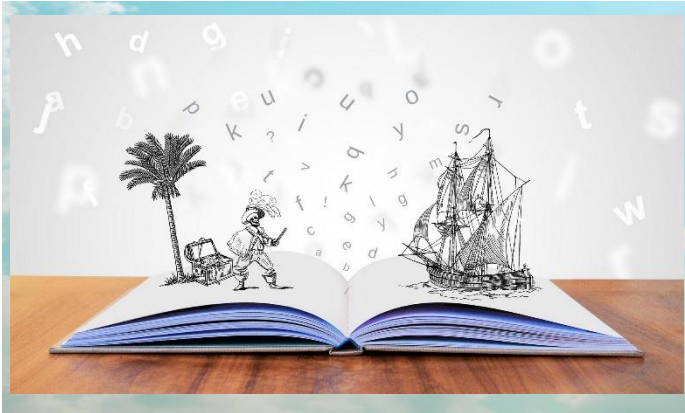
In bullying processes, usually the involved people - in whatever role – are often literally "speechless".

**Symbolwork** is an innovative methodology that offers young people an additional language, making it easier to express personal feelings and thoughts.



## THE RESOURCE YOU NEED TO FIGHT BULLYING IS NOW AVAILABLE: THE KITE FIGHTERS TOOLKIT

The **KITE-fighters Toolkit** has been designed to be a practical and valuable helper for pedagogues. It provides creative methods especially useful for engaging students with social difficulties.



The Toolkit includes a collection of **13 innovative tools** categorized according to the methodology used: Symbolwork, (Digital) Storytelling and Folk Tale Work. Each tool is described using key information to guide and support pedagogues in the choice of the best activity to use: difficulty level, age target group, duration, themes covered, type of activity, source of the tool, overview, objectives, materials needed, instructions, the reason why the tool can be useful in the school environment.

Moreover, the toolkit contains a selection of **best practices** that can be taken as reference point to improve schools' strategies, and **case studies** that have been gathered through interviews.

Our hope is that students and educators will use this toolkit to create a positive climate and improve the communication inside the classroom, having a real impact on **students' mental health, emotional resilience and on the school atmosphere**, and, with a broader perspective, also to decrease social exclusion and bullying.

**You can download the English version of the KITE Fighters toolkit here:**



(<https://kitefighters.eu/resources/>)

The Toolkit will be available soon also in Italian, German, Greek and Hungarian!

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The Covid19 emergency is affecting all of us, but it will not prevent the project's partners and the KITE Fighters to keep learning and working for the sake of students' wellbeing.

We are working to deliver **training courses** for educators on KITE methodologies in our partners' countries: Austria, Italy, Greece and Hungary. We can't wait to explore, share and test together the tools we collected.

## STAY TUNED AND LEARN MORE ABOUT KITE:

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