



Indigo Youth Exchange Supplementary Notes

Last edited 06/07/2020

Indigo: a youth exchange reimagining ourselves in our own terms.

Over the Easter holidays, from 16th to 23rd April 2017, Crooked House brought together 30 young people from Ireland and Greece for an Erasmus+ Youth Exchange project in Athens. The project was called *Indigo*.

Indigo used theatre, dialogue, and artistic collaboration to explore young people's understanding of their identity as young people, particularly regarding gender and sexual orientation.

The project aimed to raise awareness of factors that have an impact on youth identity and self-image (such as popular culture, music, all types of media, peer groups, national culture and tradition, gender stereotyping, family, and school). In the workshops, reflections and discussions, we suggested actions the young people could do that would develop their ability to shape their own identities comfortably, and in a stress-free way, leading to positive mental health.

Professional theatre-makers and dancers worked with the groups for the week, making evocative and deeply personal work together about gender, identity and LGBTQ issues. This was showcased to the public on the final evening.

Peter Hussey from Crooked House had met and worked with Antigone Gyra from Kinitiras Studio in Athens in 2015, and together they planned this new collaboration. They decided that *Indigo* would be made in Kinitiras' home city in Athens and would involve input from local activities working for LGBTQ groups. In the event, we had wonderful talks and support from people working with LGBTQ migrants and refugees in Athens, and also from young people from Colour Youth.

The final performances reflected the profound learning experienced by the young people on the project.

Indigo was funded by the Erasmus+ Mobility of Young People measure (Key Action 1 – youth exchanges) through the Irish national agency Léargas.

The participants from Ireland were Cat Coyle, Hollie Murphy, Becky Donovan, Lauren Kelly, Elliot Nolan, Seán Dowse, Cian Ó Náraigh, Colin Smyth, Ben McGoohan, Graham Butler-Breen, Lee Smith, Seán Campbell and Charlie Hughes-Farrell. The leaders were Peter Hussey, Caolán Dundon, Beatrice Montorfano and Jerry Iwu.

See the video here: <https://vimeo.com/219364704>. This film was made by Antonis Rozakis for Kinitiras and Crooked House.