

November 2020

## SOLVINC – The End?

We are closing the SOLVINC project, but we believe that this is not the end! During the project, several meetings with HEI's students, teachers, staff, and participants from other organizations, showed us that SOLVINC serves a large and diverse audience, highlighting its potential for further use, effects, and development. SOLVINC opened up space for collective thinking on what can and should be transformed in HE to foster real inclusion of international students and a true celebration of diversity. Furthermore, it allowed for the coming to light of different stories and experiences of real students, teachers, and staff in our universities. Given the growing internationalization of higher education across Europe, the relevance of the project, its activities, and results remains, and one way of assuring the sustainability of SOLVINC is to continue to disseminate and make use of its outputs. Moreover, inclusion and diversity will possibly be one of the main challenges for contemporary democratic societies in the times to come, transcending the immediate context of academic experience and interaction. Have a look at the latest output below!

## Unity in diversity (as Paulo Freire said)

International students go through complex processes of adaptation to higher education in the host countries, which may result in experiences of personal, emotional, and social stress. It is also up to HEIs to ensure that international students have a positive experience in higher education, facilitating interactions between local and international students to foster cultural adaptation, citizenship development and responsible and empathic awareness of the quality of being different. After all, our differences meet under the same sky... and that is the astonishing beauty of diversity.



## Toolkit on Intercultural Student Encounters



In the last phase of the project, we collected examples of intercultural encounters implemented with students in different European universities and analysed their strengths and weaknesses. This allowed us to develop a toolkit, which provides examples and proposals of institutional strategies to welcome cultural diversity in higher education. They address fundamental aspects of interculturality and education with international students, some focusing on welcoming, orientation, dialogue, language or curricular strategies, others in bringing together different cultures and gastronomic traditions, or even mentoring programs and social networks. The toolkit can be easily used by HEIs across Europe, as a guide of inspirational strategies that can be adapted to each context, to contribute to the social integration of international students and to a diversity-oriented culture in HEIs. To download the Toolkit on Intercultural Student Encounters, please visit: <http://solvinc.eu/results/#res4> [The Toolkit is available in English, German, French, Portuguese, and Polish.]

## Let's make it happen:

Please, visit the SOLVINC webpage, imagine better and take it further! <http://solvinc.eu/>