

## **Teacher Training in Slovenia**

The Slovenian partner of the EDUC8 Consortium, University of Ljubljana, decided to augment the initially planned dissemination efforts within the project. Having seen the quality and usefulness of the produced results and receiving positive feedback from educators that encountered these materials, the University of Ljubljana decided to implement a pilot test of the courses and start reflections on the sustainability of project results in their local environment even after the duration of the project.

A teacher training seminar was conducted in St. Stanislaus Institution in Ljubljana on the 13th of October that was attended by a number of teachers from both primary (ages 13-15) and secondary schools (ages 15-18) selected to run the test. A broader presentation of the project and its achievements was the introduction within an intensive workshop session where teachers got acquainted with the shallow and deep modules. A proposed lesson structure was laid out and teachers worked on questions of adaptation of the curricular material to the Slovenian school system and existing curricula.

A valuable and enriching experience was the comparison of various elements in the education on religion that led to a sort of self-reflection on our situation in Slovenia. Ultimately, teachers decided on concrete modules/topics that they will be using in their classes in the coming weeks. Amongst all of the participants, we are expecting to get feedback on all the shallow modules and at least all of the deep modules on Catholicism and Ethics.

Initial plans for the socialisations were brainstormed and the timeline up to the end of the project duration was presented. As the situation in Slovenia concerning public health is not the best it is difficult to plan anything definitively but there was a certain sense of optimism amongst the participants of the training and an overwhelmingly positive attitude towards the effects of a true encounter. Ideas of later upgrading the project to include a platform where young people of different religions and various countries could meet and respectfully and meaningfully interact were being cast out by some of the participants.

A summarising conclusion of the event would be in the appreciation of the participants for the developed materials, gratitude for the opportunity to use them (not just now but especially in the future), and a willingness to participate, to contribute to the improvement of the developed materials. It is truly rewarding to see that the work put into the development of materials seems to be leading towards tangible effects and that these materials show promise in the eyes of those for whom they were developed.