

UNESCO's Academy of Young Women 2017

Newsletter

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**The First Module:
*Attitudes against Extremism and
Violence*
By Andreea Buzec**



The first module of UNESCO's Academy of Young Women 2017 was dedicated to changing attitudes against extremism and violence through a practical approach. It encouraged the participants to recognize the knowledge and experience that each brings to the table, and how this diversity can enrich the effort of the whole group. The sessions were facilitated by Andreea Buzec from the Partners Foundation for Local Development, an NGO with a global presence .



The first session

After the organizers welcomed the participants to the first module and briefly presented the plan for the next few days, Andreea started the first session of her module with ice-breaker activities which allowed the participants to get to know each other a little better.



These activities had educational undertones meant to introduce concepts regarding extremism, violence and the attitudes relating to these phenomena. The participants were asked to draw each other in a short period of time, pointing to the ways in which attitudes about other are created and how different they often are from reality.

After these activities, the participants reflected on their attitudes and behaviors, and expressed their expectations for the end of the module. They also thought about the contributions each might bring to the work of the group, based on their different experiences, upbringing and educational background. Indeed, diversity was recognized as a strength which would help the group reach valuable conclusions.



Photos from the first session



The second session



The second session was dedicated to practicing real life situations involving some form of discrimination. Through the “Simple Theatre Forum” method, the participants were given the opportunity to experiment discriminatory circumstances from the perspectives of all the parties involved – the oppressor, the oppressed, those supporting either of the sides or those who are neutral. This exercise ended with a moment of reflection, during which the participants thought about and answered the following question:



What can I do on a personal, organizational and community level to bring positive changes to the situation of gender equality?

Photos from the second session



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