

### BREAKING FENCES Norm-consciousness and Health ART AND STORYS FOR A UNITED SOCIETY

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NSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO

#### INTRODUCTION

Based on Breaking Fence's project, we created, according to the norm lab, a project whose target audience is the general public. The members from each university collaborated in this project, to bring inclusion to the work. Now you ask, what is Breaking Fences?

### BREAKING FENCES

Project organized with the help of European universities: three University West (Trollhättan, Sweden), Silesian University (Opava, Czech Republic), and Instituto Politécnico of Bragança (Portugal). The project's goals are to bridge intercultural, intergenerational, and social divides; promote LGBT+ equality and inclusion; and advocate for equality and non-discrimination.

AKE YOU NORMAL ENOUGH TO HAVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS ACKNOWLEDGED?

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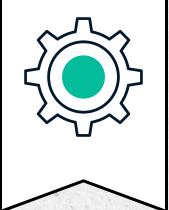


### BREAKING FENCES

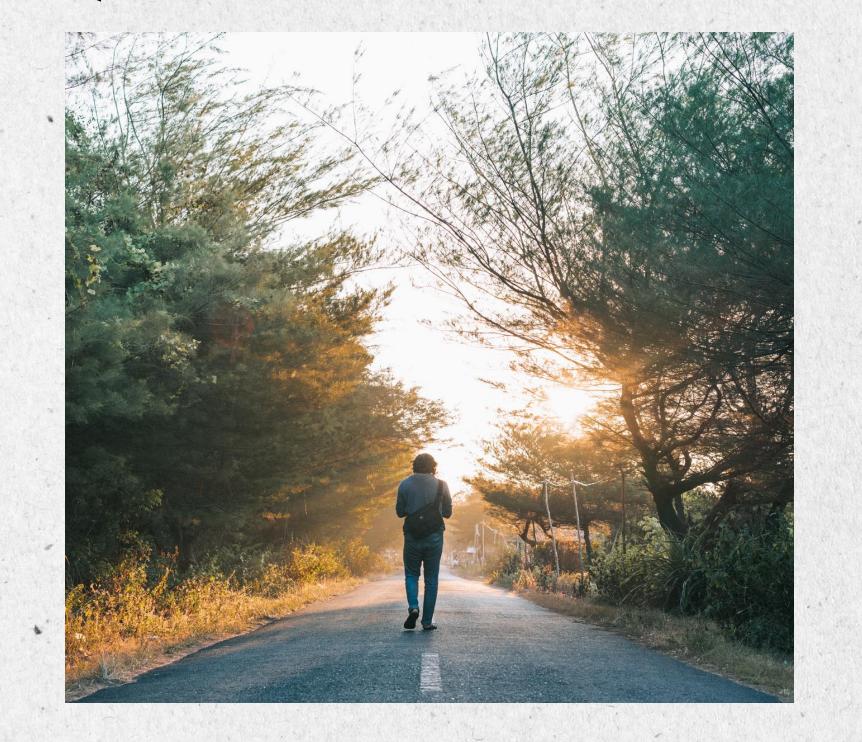
initiative implemented The new educational tools targeting social norms and health equality, with the norm-lab serving as the focal point. The norm-lab is described as a defined analog/digital visible surface of reflexivity where faculty and students collaborate on themes related to social norms and health, allowing participants to reflect and contribute their own expressions.

The project concluded in Portugal during the week of June 10th with a series of activities focused on norm-consciousness and health.

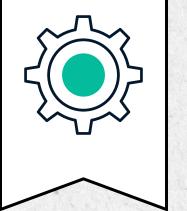
#### BREAKING FENCES



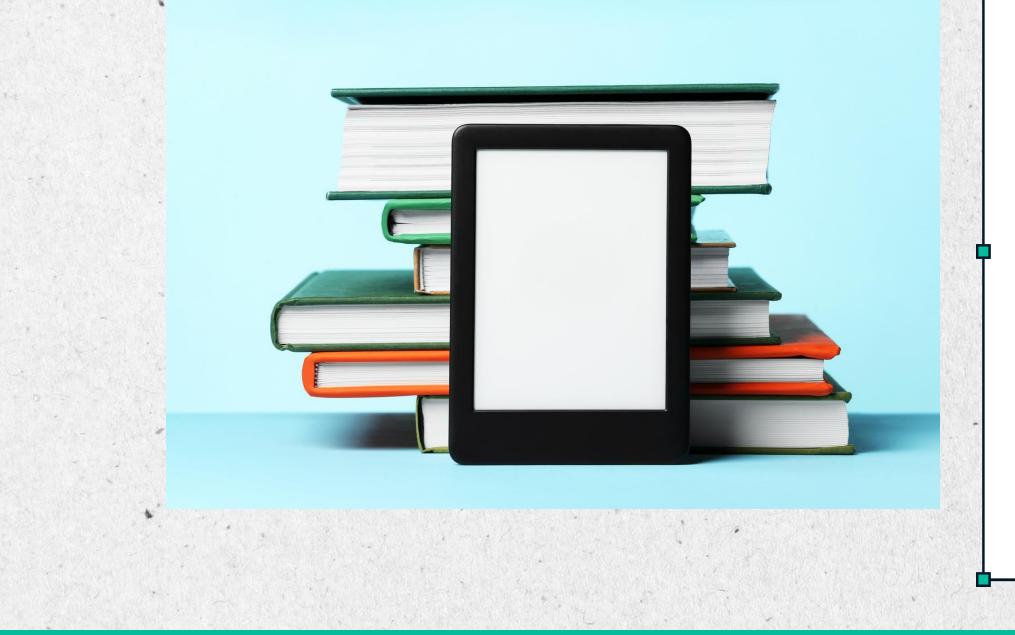
#### PROCESS



The methodology began with a "norm-walk," where each member chose a setting and had to identify norms that include or exclude certain individuals or groups. Using perspectives from that, we examined visible norms, their impacts, and whether these norms were explicit or subtle.



# PROCESS



The norm-walk experiences varied for each member, making it challenging to create a unified project. However, we managed to incorporate all ideas into the final project. The first proposal, suggested by Ines, was a children's book. The group liked this idea and adapted it to be more inclusive and modern, ultimately deciding to create an ebook.

### EBOOK

#### WHAT IS IT?

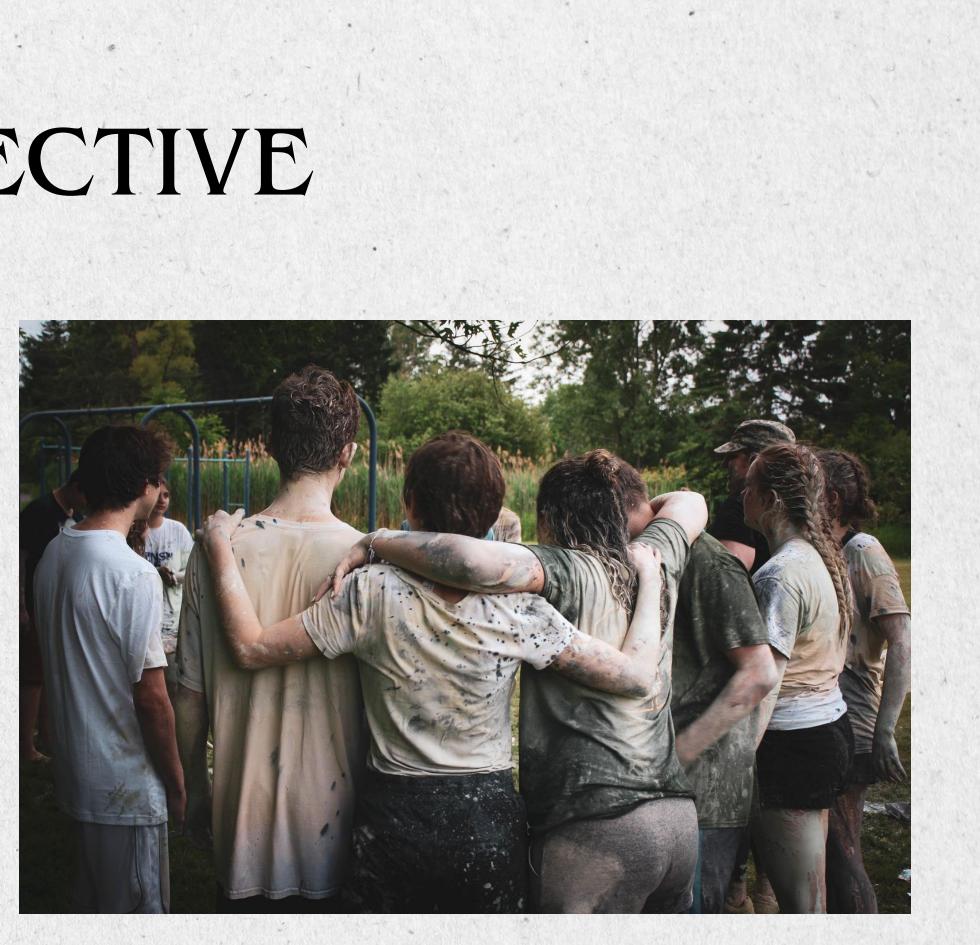
An ebook is a digital version of a book that can be read on electronic devices such as e-readers, tablets, or computers. It contains the same content as a printed book but in a digital format, allowing for easy distribution and access. Ebooks can include interactive elements also multimedia to enhance the and reading experience.

#### WHY AN EBOOK

• Broad Audience Reach • Environmental Benefits Innovation and Modernity Change and Evolution

# OBJECTIVE

In Breaking Fences, the focus on empathy and communication was central to the group's mission. With that in mind, we aim to make a difference in the lives of kids and adolescents by normalizing "difference.".



### OBJECTIVE

Targeting minors aged 13 to 16, the group sought to teach acceptance of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, age, weight, class, physical appearance, and personal boundaries.



#### MESSAGE

Most learning books usually have up to 200 pages, but our ebook consists of only 4 pages. Our intention is for the future "generations" of Breaking Fences to contribute with additional content leaving space for a new possible stream of ideas.

#### PAGES

#### Page 1:

Gender and LGBTQ+: Promoting acceptance of queer couples.

Page 2:

Skin Color and Disability in School: Educating on proper care and inclusivity. Page 3:ReligiousTolerance:Teachingrespect for different religions.

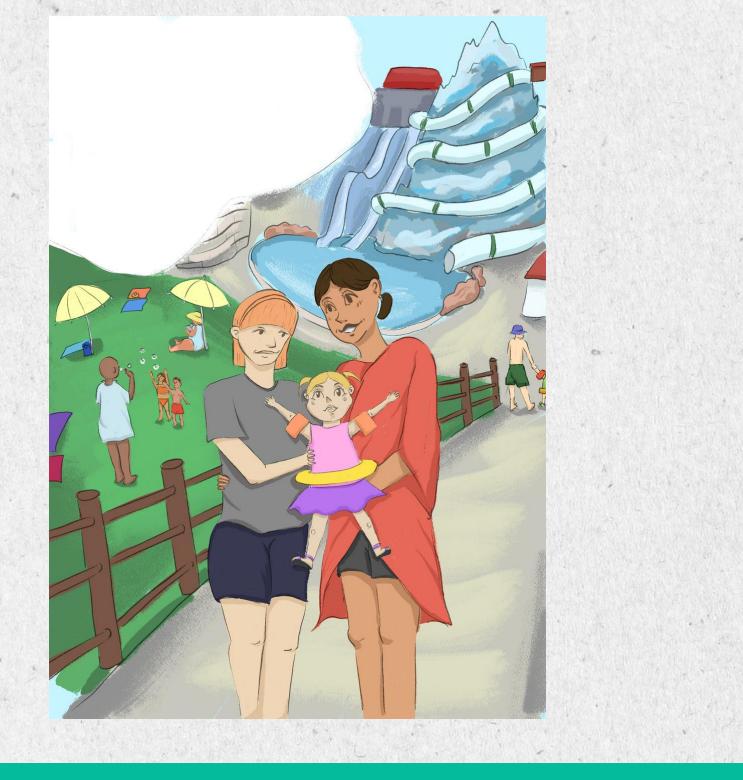
Page 4: Boundaries and Socioeconomic Status: Addressing the importance of respecting financial boundaries and reducing shame associated with economic status.

#### ART

In the Breaking Fences norm-lab, we had lessons about creativity, which helped us realize our inherent creativity. As a group, we decided to incorporate a creative element into our ebook by adding illustrations. This decision was made to leverage the artistic strengths of one member, but we hope future participants will focus on their own artistic strengths, whether in collage, drawing, painting, or other forms.

Regarding our illustrations, only one is complete due to time constraints and other commitments. However, we have sketches for all four pages that convey the intended messages.

The first illustration we have a couple that are 2 mothers with their child, wild in a water park. The message of this drawing, beyond the obvious point, is to see different bodies and ethnicities.







This sketch is the second illustration, it shows various people with different races, ethnicities and disabilities. The main couple is outside the school to get their son.



The third illustration, is about a group of 3 friends that are from different religions, while they are having a barbecue in a park.

This is the last illustration, where we can see 2 little girls, from different economic backgrounds, sharing a color in the name of friendship. They are at the playground.



#### RESULT



- Impact of Interventions
- Barriers to development
- Community engagement
- Tools and methodologies

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#### CONCLUSION

The "Breaking Fences" project offered crucial insights into community dynamics and challenges. It highlighted effective interventions, identified key barriers, and underscored the importance of community engagement in policy-making. The methodologies used provide a solid foundation for future research and initiatives, aiming to promote resilient and thriving communities.



#### DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION?

Raise your hand please

