

Activity report

Italian ICC Network *Rete Città del Dialogo*

January-March 2023

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Summary

In the initial months of 2024, RCD municipalities have increasingly engaged in intercultural endeavours through projects supported by the Intercultural Cities Programme and the Italian network *Rete Città del Dialogo*. These initiatives, spanning local and European spheres, benefit from a collaborative co-design approach, amplifying their impact. Together with city participation, our efforts alongside municipal bodies and local civil society organizations aim to cultivate intercultural ideals through both hands-on initiatives and widespread communication efforts, with a particular focus on youth outreach.

Network coordination

During the first quarter of the year 2024 we had several touchpoints with the intercultural cities of the network, including the ICC Survey and the Intercity Grant 2024 in coordination with the ICC Programme in Strasbourg. Two Italian cities - Ravenna and Montesilvano - have developed and presented a joint proposal,

The Webinar “**Sport and Interculture: Promoting inclusion through sporting activity**”, that the Italian Network organised for all Italian member cities, has been carried out on the 12 March 2024.

The field of sport has emerged during the latest meetings of the Network as an area in which to work to promote effective intercultural policies in local territories, and this webinar aimed to be a first moment of reflection to share experiences and lay the foundations for future initiatives on this issue.

During the webinar, experts and cities explored how sport can be used as an effective tool for intercultural dialogue and to create more cohesive and united communities.

20 representatives of cities, CSOs and experts participated in the event.

ICEI is also organizing a second webinar “**Local strategies for the inclusion of Sinti, Roma and Caminanti. Projects, services, and policies**”, that will be held on 10 April 2024 in cooperation with the City of Reggio Emilia, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and with the participation of UNAR - National Office Against Racial Discrimination and national experts on this topic.

New cities

Following up on the interest shown by the city of **Portomaggiore**, the coordination sent to the city representatives the relevant materials on the ICC Program and RCD network and on 24

January a meeting was held, to the presence of the city Mayor, 2 councilors and some civil servants of the municipality. They all showed a high interest to join the network and in particular to be “analyzed” and given evaluations and recommendations on their interculturality. The meeting was very productive and at the end they confirmed their interest in joining the RCD network.

In February the resolution for joining the network was deliberated by the City Council. The formal adherence to the network was concluded in March, when the Statement of Intent was signed by the city Mayor and the ICC Program.

Another city is “in the pipeline” to join the network, the city of Brescia. The coordination had a few contacts with them and sent, as per procedure, the 2 emails with the relevant information materials. Follow up in the next period includes planning for a mutual knowledge meeting and monitoring the membership process.

Activities

The project **NET-IDEA Network of European Towns for Interculturalism, Diversity, Equality and Anti-Discrimination** focused, in the first quarter of 2024, on the strengthening of the engagement of municipal staff and young activists with to develop effective actions to address challenges at the local level in the fields of youth activism on anti-rumours and awareness-raising.

The local awareness raising activities has been carried out in the 16 partner cities with a great involvement of stakeholders and citizens.

An important activity relates to the launch of the communication campaign that has been designed and will be implemented at transnational level with the contribution of partner cities and networks.

Central to the project are awareness raising high-impact public events focusing on self-identity and belonging, involving youth, and an international social media campaign “BE EVERYTHING – BELONG”. The following landing page has been created: <https://icei.it/be-everything-belong/>

Moreover, the Community of Practice for the exchange of experiences and good practices continued its activities, including thematic sessions and peer-to-peer learning events.

Finally, ICEI is involved in the organization of the final event of the Action that will be carried out in Sweden in April 2024.

The following cities of the Italian ICC Network are directly involved in this initiative: Torino, Modena, Pontedera, Reggio Emilia.

The project **DIVERCITIES – European cities for diversity and participation** continued the implementation of effective bottom-up democratic processes with the active cooperation of local stakeholders and the organisations of Intercultural Assemblies in all 8 partner cities in Italy (cities of Montesilvano, Modena and Pontedera), Spain, Portugal and Greece.

DiverCities promoted and implemented innovative democratic approaches and tools to help citizens make their voices heard, with a strong focus on the participatory elaboration of local intercultural strategies through the organization of Intercultural Citizens’ Assemblies, knowledge sharing events and activities of awareness.

An important number of participatory sessions have been carried out in the 8 cities to provide a safe and open space for discussion for citizens and CSOs, in order to define cities’ recommendations for the design and implementation of intercultural policies.

In addition to the capacity building and technical support targeting municipalities, the project also facilitates the cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs) and stakeholders operating in the target cities, such as cultural organizations and local associations, committees, formal and informal groups. The involvement of these subjects will support the participatory process and make the public intervention more effective in the medium to long term.

The project **PAMI – Antidiscrimination Plan of the City of Milan** started the training programme addressed to the Steering Committee of the municipality with 4 planned meetings that will focus on different thematic aspects.

This process will support to the City of Milan in the development of the local Antidiscrimination Plan and will provide the general framework for its future implementation.

The Project **#Diversamente – Young people against discrimination** carried out the following main actions:

- Training on the anti-rumours methodology for groups of 'youth leaders' in the 5 partner cities: 5 in Milan, 5 in Turin, 2 in Reggio Emilia, 1 in Pontedera, 1 in Montesilvano
- Creation of an edutainment tool for combating discrimination (ongoing), including a needs analysis with youth workers and the development of edutainment concept and testing of the game demo
- Starting of the participatory process for co-designing city strategies to fight youth discrimination
- Implementation of Anti-Rumours actions to fight discrimination within youth spaces in the 5 cities
- Planning of the Transnational Youth Camp of young activists anti-rumours that will be held in Reggio Emilia from the 22 to the 27 of April 2024 with the participation of young activists from the Italian cities and from other EU countries. A total of 50 participants are expected in the event.

The project **CITIES - Cities Initiative Towards Inclusive and Equitable Societies** started on the 21 March 2024 and carried out the kick off meeting on the 26-27 March in Reggio Emilia.

The project, that has been developed by ICEI, is led by Reggio Emilia and it's based on a partnership of Municipalities (Reggio Emilia, Modena, Ravenna, Olbia, Casalecchio di Reno), University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE) and 2 CSOs (ICEI, Mondinsieme).

Moreover, CITIES can count on important associated entities: UNAR - National Office against Racial Discrimination, the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Sardinia Region, the Council of Europe - Intercultural Cities Program, the cities of Leuven (BE) and Strasbourg (France), the Intercultural Cities Networks of Spain, Portugal and Sweden.

Its main objective will be to support cities in the participative definition of local anti-discrimination plans and the strengthening of prevention and anti-discrimination services. In addition, there will be an experimental component of a data collection service on discrimination, in cooperation between cities and academia.

Communication

According to the 2024 communication strategy, we are focusing on increasing the engagement of our audiences and on raising awareness on intercultural-related topics, mainly leveraging the communication campaigns of the intercultural projects we are realizing together with the cities of the Italian and European networks (e.g. NET IDEA <https://icei.it/be-everything-belong/>).

ICC Programme and RCD activities have great visibility also through ICEI and cities' communication channels and in offline materials.

Our priority is to highlight local initiatives, presenting cities' projects and activities in the territory, especially related to the launch of project CITY and the ongoing activities of projects' NET IDEA, DiverCities and DiversaMente.

At the end of Q1, our RCD Facebook Community is made up of approximately 12.600 followers with raising engagement rates.



Next steps

ICEI is working on the organization of the next coordination event that will be held online in June 2024.

Moreover, the ongoing projects involving the RCD' cities will continue their activities to support Italian ICC cities, including the related communication activities on the RCD and cities' media channels covering initiatives and campaigns that will be launched in the next weeks.

Finally, ICEI will continue the strategic planning of future initiatives and the thematic discussion on the priority topics identified by the network.