

Activity report Italian ICC Network *Rete Città del Dialogo* July-September 2024

The opinions expressed in this document are the responsibility of ICEI, Coordinator of the Italian ICC Network and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

This document is published as it was submitted to the secretariat.

Summary

During the third quarter of 2024, Italian cities have become increasingly engaged in activities linked to intercultural projects under the framework of the Intercultural Cities Programme and the Rete Città del Dialogo.

As previously noted, these projects are active at both local and international levels. In addition to the cities' involvement, we are working alongside municipalities and local CSOs to promote intercultural values through field activities and extensive communication efforts, with a special focus on reaching young people.

Network coordination

A national event is being organized in cooperation with the City of Turin.

The event is scheduled for **29 and 30 October** and will see a thematic focus on the topic of Youth Policies for the creation of inclusive cities.

The meeting will be attended by the cities of the Italian Network, and important bodies such as ANCI - Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani, and the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe have been invited.

It should also be noted that ICEI - representing the Italian network - received approval from the European Commission for the **project STAND 'Strengthening Towns' Activation for new Narratives on Diversity'**.

The objective of the intervention is to support cities in building effective narratives that highlight the value of living together in diversity and the contribution of minorities to the social and cultural development of cities and Europe as a whole.

The partnership is composed by national networks and cities members of the Intercultural Cities Programme:

- Italy: ICEI (lead partner) + 5 Italian cities
- Spain: ACI-Diversit + 3 Spanish cities
- Portugal: RPCI + 4 Portuguese Cities
- Poland: City of Lublin and City of Wrocław

Other cities will join the Consortium as associates: Riga (Latvia) and Neumarkt (Germany)

The project will start on the 1st of January 2025, with a duration of 24 months.

The network also launched a new thematic group on the inclusion of Roma communities and countering anti-Gypsyism, following the webinar held in April 2024.

The group includes 6 cities (Modena, Reggio Emilia, Venice, Parma, Milan) and will organise a first coordination meeting on 23 October.

Furthermore, ICEI collaborated with international entities - Monash and Melbourne Universities (Australia), the German Marshall Fund- to organize an event on the topic of "DISINFORMATION IN CITIES," to be held in Prato on October 24-25.

The event will bring together representatives from cities and experts to exchange knowledge, practices and research on the topic of disinformation response in cities.

The topic is one of the central themes for the work of the Rete Città del Dialogo (directly related to the promotion of effective intercultural and anti-discrimination policies). For this reason, three cities from the Italian network will participate in the workshop.

Finally, the network supported the ICC programme's request for reconciliation work in the city of Leeds by forwarding the request and involving Italian cities in the exchange.

Activities

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.

In the third quarter of 2024, the following activities have been carried out:

- **Situational analysis and fine-tuning of the capacity building programme:** Municipalities staff and members of CSOs of the partner municipalities, have been involved in an online survey aimed to collect on the one hand the training needs, with the purpose of constructing training modules as closely as possible to the needs and expectations of those who will attend the training courses foreseen by the project, and on the other hand the perception on the discrimination phenomena with particular reference to the context of personal and work life. 521 questionnaires have been analyzed for the elaboration of the activity Report.
- **Analysis of existing data collection tools in 5 partner cities:** through an open-ended question sheet filled out by Municipalities staff, in collaboration with colleagues from various departments involved in handling or preventing cases of discrimination, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia elaborated a Report of the institutional set-up of

the Municipalities regarding anti-discrimination, the presence of this objective in policies and targeted project actions, and especially the existence of systematic surveys or targeted data sources for the analysis of the phenomenon, as well as any disaggregation needs for a more articulated reading of the discriminatory phenomenon.

- **Study Visit in Leuven:** working on the programme and logistics of the first study visit of the project that will take place in on 25-27 November 2024, in close cooperation with the Municipality of Leuven. The main aim of the activity is to visit good practices, meet local administrators and decision makers in order to share insights of their anti-discrimination work, strengthen connections and learn from each other's expertise. 16 staff members from partner municipalities and CSOs, will take part in the activity.
- Choosing the **communication agency** and start working on communication materials and campaign.

The project "*Evolving Futures: Youth participation in EE24 and beyond*", promoted and financed by the European Parliament, aims at increasing the participation of young citizens in the creation and dissemination of new visions of the future of Europe. More specifically, the project supported their active role at local and European level, thus contributing to a more effective participation of young citizens in the construction of the present and future of the EU and raising awareness on intercultural and anti-discrimination actions.

Through a strategy based on the intercultural and inclusive approach and through the Future Thinking methodology, the project activated and involved a total of around 120 young people in 3 cities of the Italian Network: Modena, Venezia/Mestre and Reggio Emilia.

The following activities have been carried out:

- 4 Youth forums: 40 young people, led by youth workers, were involved in a discussion on the issues of interculturalism and rights
- 3 Future Thinking Workshops: 38 young people took part in the workshops, starting from the reflections that emerged during the forums through the technique of role playing, involved the participants in imagining the future they want.
- 4 Creative Workshops: based on the reflections and results that emerged from the forums and workshops, 17 young people were involved, with the support of a local expert, in the creation of a communicable and digitally disseminable product: a podcast, an animated video and two video interviews
- 4 Local events: In each city, a public event was organised to disseminate and raise awareness on the issue of civic participation, reaching a peak of more than 100 participants
- 1 Final event: finally, 20 young people from Modena and Reggio Emilia came together in Milan (on 14 and 15 June) for a two-day event to discuss the path taken within the project.
- 1 communication campaign: the project was accompanied by a communication campaign coordinated by ICEI through which we activated 20 social media pages of partners and stakeholders, 3 online journals and 1 web radio. The whole communication campaign activities collected more than 800.000 reach.

The project **DIVERCITIES – European cities for diversity and participation** concluded the implementation of intercultural assemblies in all 8 partner cities in Italy (cities of Montesilvano, Modena and Pontedera), Spain, Portugal and Greece, with the active cooperation of local stakeholders.

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, to define cities' recommendations for the design and implementation of intercultural policies.

A final event has been held in Strasbourg, at the European Youth Centre, to promote transnational Exchange and Dissemination of the project (4 and 5 June 2024), in cooperation with the ICC Programme of the Council of Europe.

The agenda of the 2 days has included the following programme:

4th June 2024

09:00 – 09:30 Welcoming & Registration

09:30 – 09:45: Introduction, Chiara Sorge, European Commission

9:45 – 11:45: DiverCities project: a general wrap-up/Intercultural Assemblies: an instrument for active participation

11:45 – 12:30 Exchange of views with the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

14:00 – 14:45 Exchange of views with the Youth Policy Division, European Youth Foundation

15:00 – 15:45 Exchange of views with the Hate Speech, Hate Crime and Artificial Intelligence Unit

16:00 – 16:45: Exchange of views with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities session

16:45 – 17:15: DiverCities 2.0: Reflect upon a possible follow-up of the project

17:15 – 17:30: Closing Session

5th June 2024

09.00 – 09.30: Welcoming and registration

09.30 – 09.45: Opening

Giulia Bianchini, Senior Project Officer, Intercultural Cities Programme

Rosaria De Paoli, Director, ICEI/Italian Network of Intercultural Cities

09.45 – 10.00: Active citizenship and participation: the fourth principle of the Council of Europe's intercultural integration model, Giulia Bianchini, Senior Project Officer, Intercultural Cities Programme

10.00 – 10.15: "DiverCities": Conclusions and lessons learned from the project on active citizenship and participation, ICEI

10.15 – 10.30: Practical example: the Intercultural and Citizenship Council of Strasbourg

11.15 – 12.30: Group work on Active Citizenship for Intercultural Approach & Strategies

14.00 – 14.30: Group work on Active Citizenship for Intercultural Approach & Strategies

14.30 – 15.30: Presentation in plenary of the results of the group work

15.30 – 16.00: Looking forward and closure of the event

The project, ended on 31st of August 2024, achieved significant participation in each Municipality involved.

Qualitative outcomes:

- Changes in thinking and action: Intercultural Assemblies have fostered new perspectives and actions, with intercultural approaches being better considered.
- Sector-specific impacts: The Intercultural Assemblies have registered varied impacts across different sectors, emphasizing the need for a transversal intercultural approach.
- Enhanced knowledge: Participants gained more information and new perspectives on topics addressed in the Assemblies.

- Increased institutional involvement: The Intercultural Assemblies have heightened interest of community participation in decision-making processes. The Intercultural Assemblies have led to new learning for participants in the technical and professional sphere.
- Improved communication systems: A communication system was developed to integrate diverse opinions into decisions, enhancing intercultural sensitivity.
- Community dynamics: Positive community dynamics were observed, though challenges in cooperation remain in some areas.
- Focus of the participatory processes: The project highlights participatory processes to address community challenges through collective and inclusive decision-making.

Quantitative success:

- 1063 Citizens, LAs Staff, Stakeholders have been directly involved in the Intercultural Assemblies in the 8 Municipalities.
- 18.235 Citizens, LAs Staff and Stakeholders have been reached by Knowledge-Sharing & Awareness-Raising Actions in the 8 Municipalities.
- 171.138 Citizens and Stakeholders have been reached by the Communication Campaign “Building bridges: citizens for interculture”.
- At least 30 Non-partners Cities from the 3 National Intercultural Cities Networks from Italy, Spain and Portugal were informed and involved in the main activities and results of the projects.
- At least 40 Cities from ICC Network of the Council of Europe were informed and reached by the project results and 12 of them were actively involved in a group work on the main project’s results during the final event of the project in Strasbourg.
- 8 Sets of Recommendations on Intercultural Policies have been elaborated after the Intercultural Assemblies in the 8 Municipalities.
- 75% of LAs Staff directed involved in the project have led to new learnings in the technical and professional sphere.

The project *PAMI – Antidiscrimination Plan of the City of Milan* concluded the training programme addressed to the Steering Committee of the municipality with 4 training events on different thematic aspects.

ICEI also supported the City of Milan in the elaboration of the local Antidiscrimination Plan that has been produced in a first draft version, that will be presented to the city council and approved in the coming months.

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

- Dissemination of an awareness campaign to reflect on the influence of words on the spread of rumours and discrimination
- Dissemination of resources and training materials created ad hoc to support paths to combat discrimination with young people: anti-rumours resources Kit, Set of recommendations for Youth workers, Anti-rumours Handbook (under construction)
- Conducting peer research to map rumours and discrimination in youth contexts
- Continuation of the participatory process for co-designing city strategies to fight youth discrimination
- Implementation of Anti-Rumours actions and organizations of cities events to fight discrimination and raise awareness of the issue

- Dissemination of the project's contents and anti-discrimination messages through social media and the project's website www.icei.it/diversamente

Moreover, the project is working to increase protagonism and mobilisation of young activists to influence public policy-making and awareness-raising for diversity: young activists in the five cities will reach "new spheres of influence", strengthening their role as change-makers also at national level through the creation of a national network of "Young Anti-Rumours" that will co-design and implement advocacy actions addressed to institutions and awareness-raising campaigns for a wide audience.

The project ***"EPIC_IDEA Empowering youth Participation for Inclusive and plural Communities"*** started on 1st September 2024 and will last 2 years.

The project, led by ICEI, is based on transnational partnership of CSOs working together to create the conditions for an effective bottom-up approach in the promotion of citizens' participation – in particular young citizens – to the democratic and civic life in the 4 target countries: Italy, Spain, Portugal and Hungary.

Partners are: ACI–Diversit - Asociación Ciudades Interculturales (Spain); RPCI - Rede Portuguesa das Ciudades Interculturais (Portugal); UNITED for Intercultural Action Foundation (Hungary).

Its **general objective** is to contribute to increase effective citizens' democratic participation, in particular of young citizens, and their sense of belonging to EU values. Young citizens (main target group) will be empowered to take part in the debate on the future of the Europe through their active engagement for a new narrative on the European Union, thus ensuring a real and effective bottom-up approach able to effectively promote diverse and inclusive societies.

During the 2 years activities, the project will implement:

- Transnational training of trainers in Spain.
- Bottom-up analysis of young people's perspectives on the future of the EU.
- Community of Practices among youth workers and youth activists.
- National events for youth workers in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Hungary.
- National youth camps in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Hungary.
- Transnational youth summit in Hungary.
- Anti-rumours actions at local level in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Hungary.
- Youth-led transnational awareness raising campaign.
- Future Visionaries Gallery.
- Policy Lab with decision makers in Italy, Spain and Portugal.
- Transnational advocacy event with policy makers in Strasbourg.

Communication

During Q3 2024 we developed and implemented the communication campaigns related to the ongoing projects, partnering with the intercultural cities and OSCs involved in the initiatives.

We launched the awareness raising campaign of project DiversaMente, against stereotypes and promoting equal and inclusive behavior and societies. Digital creators and influencers engaged in antidiscrimination topics were involved as testimonials in the campaign's video. The campaign

was published on RCD Facebook page and all ICEI's and Partners' social media networks (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube). Moreover, a dedicated sponsored media plan was developed and implemented, including press articles and press interviews. The cities part of the project are Milano, Torino, Reggio Emilia, Pontedera (PI) and Montesilvano (PE).

www.icei.it/diversamente

[YouTube Diversamente Playlist](#)



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
2 settembre · 🌐

I rumours sono voci date per vere che passando velocemente di bocca in bocca contribuiscono a rafforzare stereotipi e pregiudizi negativi nei confronti di determinati gruppi o persone.

Sebbene appaiano innocue, queste "voci" sono alla base della cosiddetta "piramide dell'odio" perché la loro ripetizione e diffusione contribuisce a creare discriminazioni e in un crescendo può portare ad atti di esclusione e violenza e ai crimini d'odio.

Il progetto "DiversaMente - Giovani co... Altro...



LA DIVERSITÀ È LIBERTÀ

Il progetto *DiversaMente - Giovani contro le discriminazioni* affronta il tema della presenza di stereotipi, pregiudizi e fenomeni di discriminazione all'interno degli spazi giovanili, fisici e digitali, per costruire insieme nuove modalità di contrasto attraverso la metodologia anti-rumours.



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
18 settembre · 🌐

Le parole che usiamo cambiano il modo in cui vediamo il mondo. Come affrontare il tema dei rumours e dei pregiudizi con i/le giovani? Come promuovere il pensiero critico riguardo all'uso delle parole nella vita quotidiana? E come raccontare l'importanza di non fermarsi alle apparenze e di non lasciarsi condizionare dagli stereotipi?

Abbiamo voluto farlo con un video realizzato insieme ai/alle creator che ogni giorno ci mettono la faccia e si impegnano a combattere i pregiud... Altro...



We also worked on the development of the visual identity of project Cities - Initiative Towards Inclusive and Equitable Societies, based on the experience of the City of Dialogue Network and involving 5 municipalities (Reggio Emilia, Modena, Ravenna, Olbia, Casalecchio di Reno), the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE) and 2 civil society organizations (ICEI and Mondinsieme).

