



Final narrative report

# BRIDGE

Building Relationships through Intercultural  
Dialogue for new GGenerations

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**BRIDGE**

Building Relationships through Intercultural  
Dialogue for new Generations



# 1

## Overall aims of the project

The overall aim of this project is to **foster intercultural competence, communication, and awareness through the collaboration of the municipalities** of Ravenna and Montesilvano.

By working together, these two local authorities aim to enhance social cohesion within their communities through a structured approach to interculturality.

As a Consortium, the cities of Ravenna and Montesilvano implemented the project BRIDGE - Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue for New Generations project during May-November 2024. Both municipalities have a strong commitment to promoting intercultural initiatives, recognizing that a well-developed intercultural competence within the city fosters greater social cohesion.

This project provided a valuable opportunity to exchange knowledge and best practices, particularly in the implementation of welcoming initiatives such as SAI (Sistema di Accoglienza e Integrazione) and in the organization of intercultural events for the citizenry. Through this collaborative learning process, the cities aim to strengthen their capacities and create more inclusive, culturally enriched communities.

The project successfully achieved the following specific objectives:

- Capacity building for local authorities and officials: through continuous exchange and dedicated activities, the Municipality of Ravenna transferred expertise in intercultural policy and the management of welcoming and integration programs.
- Piloting methodologies: Montesilvano had the opportunity to replicate a successful initiative previously implemented during the Festival of Cultures in Ravenna.
- Awareness raising: two groups of unaccompanied foreign minors, hosted in both cities, participated in various intercultural activities. The project promoted education and engagement, fostering a more informed, empowered community.

Overall, BRIDGE aligned well with the context and aspirations of both cities, supporting their goal of strengthening intercultural policies and piloting activities that engaged key stakeholders, including unaccompanied foreign minors and professionals/stakeholders involved in welcoming and integration programs.





# About us

The Municipalities of RAVENNA and MONTESILVANO are both part of the Italian Network of Intercultural Cities and of the SAI - *Sistema di Accoglienza e Integrazione* Network.

In the last two years, Ravenna has strongly structured and strengthened its intercultural policies, with a view to enhancing territorial governance and spreading and deepening cross-cutting issues, especially thanks to its main event, *Festival delle Culture*, an open lab throughout the year with initiatives, events, and discussions on themes of interculturality and inclusion.

Montesilvano is taking on an international perspective, thanks both to new activated funds, and the hosting of important international festivals (Pulpa Festival, World Championships of World Skates).



# 3 Activities



A1. Monitoring and evaluation

The project partners held numerous project meetings, to keep flow of the communications, to guarantee an efficient exchange of information to ensure the correct planning and realization of the activities, the monitoring of the expenses and a continuous reporting (both narrative and financial), to make any needed adjustment. The activity includes the administrative requirements and procedures to assure the principles of impartiality, transparency, publicity, effectiveness, economy. The activity involved both Municipalities of the Consortium, but also single Municipality's stakeholder and partners.

Implementation period: 1st May - 31st November 2024





A2. Study visit in Ravenna

Participation of Municipality of Montesilvano's officials and UFM's hosted in Montesilvano in a study visit in Ravenna (23-26 May 2024).

The visit had the aim of a mutual exchange between the officials of the two Municipalities, about good practices and methodologies adopted in the implementation of the intercultural policies and in welcoming and integration projects, experiencing directly intercultural communication and awareness-raising.

The participation of around 7 UFM's beneficiaries and 2 supervisors of the welcoming project of Montesilvano (SAI) in the Festival of Cultures of Ravenna represented an opportunity to exchange of experiences, traditions, and views among young people of different backgrounds to increase awareness and mutual understanding of different cultures, traditions and perspectives.

**Implementation period: May 2024**



# Detailed agenda

## Thursday, May 23rd

**18:30** the delegation from Montesilvano arrives in Ravenna

**20:00** dinner at *Il Darsenale*

## Friday, May 24th

**10:00** meeting with the author Kader Abdolah at the Teatro Alighieri, discussing his book *Un pappagallo volò sull'IJssel* and his experience as a refugee in Europe

**13:00** lunch at the restaurant *Babaleus* and some freetime to explore the city centre by taking a walk

**16:30** meeting with the group of UFM's from Ravenna, enjoying a snack in piazza San Francesco and participation in the opening of the Mosaic Flag of Ravenna (a giant flag representing all of the nationalities living in the city)

**17:30** listening to the Perpetual Reading of the Divine Comedy performed in Farsi by Kader Abdolah

**19:00** attending the theatre performance *Se alzi un muro pensa a cosa lasci fuori* (I. Calvino) about contemporary experiences of migration in Ravenna

**20:30** dinner at the restaurant *Al Passatore*



# Detailed agenda

## Saturday, May 25th

**10:00** meeting with the author Maaza Mengiste at the Teatro Alighieri, discussing her book *The shadow king* and her contribution to post-colonial literature

**13:00** lunch at the *Comunità Crescere*, spending time with UFM's and operators from Ravenna

**16:30** guided visit of the exhibition *Sebastião Salgado. EXODUS - Umanità in cammino* at the MAR (Museo d'Arte della città di Ravenna) and implementation of the workshop "*LE CARTE DEI DIRITTI*" reflecting on the emotions provoked by Salgado's photos

**18:00** enjoying a break in piazza San Francesco before attending to the Perpetual Reading of the Divine Comedy performed in English by Maaza Mengiste

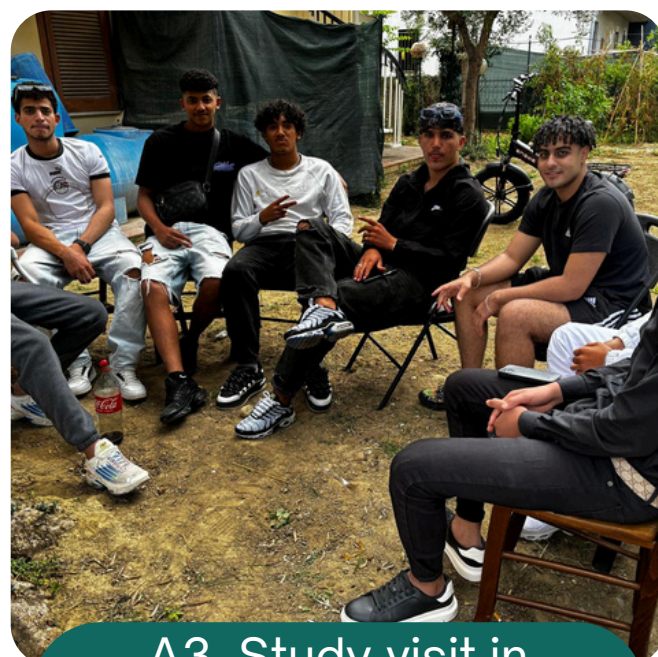
**20:30** dinner at the restaurant *Gustavo*

**21:30** attending the concert *She هي Elle Lei voci di acqua e di terra suoni di mare e di sabbia* by the multicultural ensemble Orchestra Almar'à, Ginevra Di Marco, and Babelnova Orchestra

## Sunday, May 26th

**10:00** departure of the Montesilvano delegation from Ravenna





A3. Study visit in Montesilvano

Participation of Municipality of Montesilvano's officials and UFM's hosted in Montesilvano in a study visit in Ravenna (12-24 September 2024).

The activity had the aim to enhance the offer of intercultural events in the City of Montesilvano, which has the opportunity to pilot a methodology/activity with the support of the City of Ravenna.

The participation of the participation of 14 UFM's beneficiaries and 5 supervisors of the welcoming project of Ravenna (SAI) in the World Skate Games in Montesilvano represented an opportunity to exchange of experiences, traditions, and views among young people of different backgrounds to increase awareness and mutual understanding of different cultures, traditions and perspectives.

**Implementation period: September 2024**



# Detailed agenda

## Thursday, September 12th

- 16:00** the delegation from Ravenna arrives in Montesilvano
- 17:00** guided visit at the World Skate Games 2024 village
- 19:30** dinner at the food trucks of the World Skate Games 2024 village

## Friday, September 13th

- 10:00** cerimonial opening of the photographic exhibition *Along the border* at the public library of the Municipality of Montesilvano
- 12:00** lunch at the *SAI via Valle d'Aosta*, spending time with UFM's and operators from Montesilvano
- 16:00** workshop lead by educators and psychologists on the theme of *"Journey, from migration to a metaphor for personal growth"*
- 18:00** recreational activities at the World Skate Games 2024 village
- 20:00** dinner at the food trucks of the World Skate Games 2024 village

## Saturday, September 14th

- 10:00** friendly football match between UFM's, educators and authorities of Montesilvano and Ravenna
- 13:30** lunch at the restaurant *Lecky Horn*
- 16:00** departure of the Ravenna delegation from Montesilvano





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## Participants

21

### unaccompanied foreign minors

7 UFM's hosted in SAI welcoming project of Montesilvano took part in the events in Ravenna (A2), 14 UFM's hosted in SAI welcoming project of Ravenna took part in the events in Montesilvano (A3). In both events, also the UFM's hosted in the same city of the activity (Ravenna for A2, Montesilvano for A3) participated in the exchange

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### supervisors

2 supervisors (social workers) working in SAI welcoming project of Montesilvano took part in the events in Ravenna (A2), 5 supervisors (social workers/operators) working in SAI welcoming project of Ravenna took part in the events in Montesilvano (A3)

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### municipalities' officials

2 officials (Coordinators of the SAI project) from Municipality of Montesilvano took part in the events in Ravenna (A2), 3 officials (Coordinator of the SAI project, Coordinator of the EU projects, Administrative operator) from Municipality of Ravenna took part in the events in Montesilvano (A3),

>600

### visitors of the photographic exhibition

551 people visited the exhibition "Along the border" by Chiara Fabbro in Ravenna (Palazzo Rasponi 2, 20/06-20/07/2024), 60 people visited the same exhibition in Montesilvano (Palazzo Baldoni, 13/09/2024 al 30/10/2024)



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## Communication and visibility

### Press and social network



1. Press release - Municipality of Ravenna [link](#)
2. Parola Aperta, intercultural magazine [article 1](#)
3. Parola Aperta, intercultural magazine [article 2](#)
4. Facebook page - Municipality of Montesilvano [link 1](#)
5. Facebook page - Municipality of Montesilvano [link 2](#)
6. Facebook page - Municipality of Montesilvano [link 3](#)

### Video

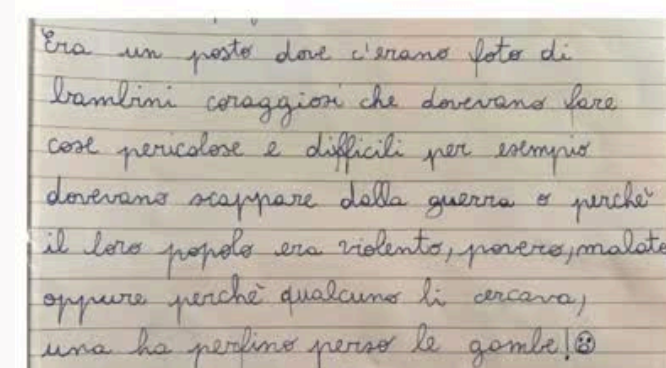


1. Video report [link](#)
2. Video interview [link](#)
3. Facebook page - Municipality of Montesilvano [link 2](#)
4. Facebook page - Municipality of Montesilvano [link 3](#)
5. Elementary school guided visit at the Along The Border exhibition -->

### Presentations and dissemination



1. 25th of November 2024, online - presentation of the project in the Italian Intercultural Cities Network online meeting
2. 14-15 November 2024, Portugal - ICEI presented BRIDGE project during the annual meeting of the Coordinators of the Council of Europe ICC Programme and networks





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## Activities' outreach and results/impact of the Grant

The project represented a starting point of a collaboration that can be developed in the further years, in the framework of the ICC National Network and also in the national SAI network.

- its approvation from the Grantee's Municipal Junt is part of a wider **strategy** of enhancement of the intercultural policies within the Municipality administration. The project contributed to consolidate new approaches toward the issues of immigration, inclusion and interculturality, thanks to the validation of the objectives proposed by the Project from the Council of Europe
- the two Munipalities involved has strengthen their relationship and laid the foundations for further collaboration. They share the similar backgrounds and face similar challenges, so in the framework of the exchange of best practices, the Grantee has made available some tools for the management of the intercultural policies (namely the Protocol for the support of the victims of forced migration, signed with the Prefecture of Ravenna and Public Health company, Festival delle culture - Agenda 2024)
- participating in each other activities represented for the two Municipalities of the Consortium the possibility to take part directly in intercultural/cultural events and their respective network.



# 7

## Lessons learned

- **Strengthened Municipal Collaboration.** The partnership between Ravenna and Montesilvano created a first experience for continued collaboration in intercultural policies and integration programs.
- **Exchange of Best Practices.** BRIDGE facilitated the sharing of successful approaches, such as the Festival of Cultures and methodologies from the SAI (Sistema di Accoglienza e Integrazione) network.
- **Enhanced Intercultural Competencies.** Local officials and stakeholders gained valuable experience in managing intercultural dialogue, improving their capacity to support inclusion and integration.
- **Engagement of Unaccompanied Foreign Minors (UFMs).** The participation of UFMs in cultural and sport activities fostered a sense of belonging and increased their social inclusion.
- **Community Awareness and Participation.** Events such as exhibitions, workshops, and cultural exchanges effectively raised public awareness about migration, diversity, and intercultural dialogue.
- **Replication and successful initiatives.** Montesilvano successfully adapted elements from Ravenna's Festival of Cultures, demonstrating the potential for scalability of effective intercultural projects.
- **Institutional Support for Long-Term Impact.** The validation of the project by the Council of Europe and municipal authorities confirmed its strategic relevance, paving the way for sustained policy integration.





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## Sustainability

- **Institutional integration:** The project has been embedded within the intercultural policies of Ravenna and Montesilvano, aligning with their broader governance strategies.
  - **Long-Term collaboration:** The strengthened relationship between the two municipalities has laid a foundation for future cooperation within the ICC National Network and the SAI network.
  - **Capacity Building:** The training and exchange of best practices among municipal officials and stakeholders have equipped them with skills to sustain and further develop intercultural initiatives.
  - **Replication and scalability:** The success of piloted activities, such as Montesilvano's adaptation of Ravenna's Festival of Cultures methodologies (e.g. *Along the Border* photographic exhibition), demonstrates the potential for future replication in other municipalities.
  - **Community engagement and awareness:** The involvement of local communities and unaccompanied foreign minors (UFMs) in cultural and educational activities has fostered ongoing public support and social cohesion.
  - **Policy development:** The validation of the project's objectives by the Council of Europe and municipal authorities - thanks to project's approval by the City Junt - supports the formalization of intercultural initiatives within local governance frameworks.
  - **Financial sustainability:** The project's success in securing funding from the Council of Europe establishes a precedent for attracting future financial support from national and international sources, for example within the same SAI funding.
  - **Knowledge sharing and networking:** Participation in national and European networks ensures the continued exchange of best practices, reinforcing the project's long-term impact.
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