



Activity report Italian ICC Network *Rete Città del Dialogo* 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.

Summary

Throughout this year, cities within the Italian Network have become increasingly engaged in activities and projects at both the national and international levels. They have co-designed strategies and initiatives for their local areas, while exchanging practices and models, and gaining greater exposure to knowledge-sharing processes at the European level. Alongside these cities, we continue to involve citizens—particularly young people—in intercultural initiatives aimed at fostering values of interculturalism and inclusion, as well as combating discrimination.

In 2024, cities participated in numerous activities and frequent meetings, demonstrating a high level of involvement. New cities have shown interest in joining the network, and we are also thrilled to have reconnected with some previously inactive cities, all of which are enthusiastic about the positive interactions and the numerous projects and ideas for the future.

Network coordination

We implemented several coordination activities.

The Webinar “**Sport and Interculture: Promoting inclusion through sporting activity**”, that the Italian Network organised for all Italian member cities, was 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.

Secondly, the webinar '**Local strategies for the inclusion of Sinti, Roma and Caminanti. Projects, services, and policies**' (10 April 2024) was organized 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.

The webinar started with an introductory speech by Mr Mattia Peradotto, Director of UNAR - National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office.

Mr Gianluca Grassi, Municipality of Reggio Emilia, presented the Local Action Plans and Anti-Gypsyism strategy.

Eva Rizzin, Scientific Responsible of the National Observatory on Anti-Gypsyism, presented an intervention on the topic “Anti-Gypsyism. The past and the present”

A round table has been then carried out, focusing on the role of cities – and their challenges and experiences – including interventions from Reggio Emilia, the Municipality of Milan and an exchange of experiences with other participants cities.

A total of 47 representatives of cities and institutions participated in the meeting.

Following this webinar, the Network decided to create an informal working group to continue the exchange of experiences and deepen the work on local strategies for the inclusion of Sinti, Roma and Caminanti.

The first **coordination meeting of the Italian network** was held on 25 June 2024 (online).

The agenda included the following sessions: greetings and introduction, an introductory speech by Ms. Rita Marascalchi, Acting Head of the Intercultural Inclusion Unit, and updates on interventions and actions implemented in various cities. Presentations covered intercity grants by Ravenna and Montesilvano, the CITIES project by Reggio Emilia, and the results of the NET-IDEA and DiverCities projects. A recap of the Roma webinar was provided, along with a proposal for a working group between cities. The event concluded with closing remarks.

18 representatives of cities participated in the meeting, including representatives from the city of Portomaggiore, a new member of the network.

On 29 and 30 October 2024, the **second national event of the Italian Network Cities of Dialogue** was held in Turin, organised by ICEI in cooperation with the City of Turin.

The initiative addressed the topic of '*Youth policies and the role of young people and the educating community in the construction of inclusive cities*', involving institutional representatives, experts and young protagonists.

Among the participants were **28 representatives of 12 Italian municipalities** adhering to the Network, Rita Marascalchi (Head of Intercultural Inclusion Unit of the Council of Europe) and Simona Elmo (Head of Youth Policy, University and Scientific Research Office of ANCI – National Association of Italian Municipalities).

The meeting was a significant moment of participatory confrontation between municipalities and local, national and international actors to promote innovative strategies for youth inclusion and participation.

The two days' agenda focused on youth policies and the fight against discrimination. The program included institutional greetings, an overview of the activities of the Cities of Dialogue Network, and several interventions on experiences in building inclusive and intercultural cities. Participants took part in workshops on youth policies and anti-discrimination, followed by a visit to Cecchi Point, a youth initiative in Turin. The second day was dedicated to discussions and workshops with youth activists, concluding with reflections on the future perspectives of the network.





Coordinatore tecnico



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 3 ICC National Networks (Italy, Spain and Portugal) and cities of these networks, plus 2 Polish cities (Lublin and Wroclaw) for a total of 14 cities. 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.

New cities

Following the resolution deliberated by the City Council and signature of the Statement of Intent by the city Mayor and the ICC Program, the city of **Portomaggiore** has formally joined the Italian network of intercultural cities.

In the month of November 2024, a new city, Sabaudia, approached the Italian ICC network manifesting their interest to join it. At the same time, the city of Orvieto, that had already had an interchange with ICEI previously, contacted ICEI to follow up on their intention to become a member. As communicated during the Annual Meeting of International Coordinators of ICC in Portugal (November 2024), both cities were informed that at present new memberships to the network are suspended, due to the restructuring of membership fees, and the resumption of discussions about joining the network was postponed to the early months of 2025.

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 2024, the following activities were 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 analysed 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: the first study visit of the project took place in on 25-27 November 2024, in close cooperation with the Municipality of Leuven. The main aim of the activity was 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, took part in the exchange.
- 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 project, ended on 31st of August 2024, achieved significant participation in each Municipality involved. To know more: www.icei.it/divercities

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.

<p>Strasbourg (France) – European Youth Centre</p> <p>EUROPEAN EXCHANGE</p> <p>Transnational Exchange and Dissemination</p> <p>I PARTICIPATE Let's build together the city we want</p> <p>Transnational Exchange among UE Cities and Stakeholders 4-5 June 2024 Strasbourg (France) - European Youth Centre</p>  <p>5/06/24 →</p>	<p>Apelação – Jardim da Paz</p> <p>INAUGURATION “JARDIM DA PAZ”</p> <p>2h of informal celebration at the garden</p> <p>WE ARE divercities 15 JUNHO</p> <p><i>Inauguração do Jardim da Paz</i></p> <p>Participem neste encontro comunitário!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Pintura e plantação de canteiros ★ Animação com música, dança e desporto ★ Sensibilização Ambiental ★ Mostra gastronómica <p>Local: Rua Adriano Correia de Oliveira, 2680-298 Apelação</p> <p>14:00 - 16:00</p>  <p>15/06/24</p>	<p>Portugal</p> <p>PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGIES</p> <p>Presentations and debates in a seated setting</p> <p>WE ARE divercities 19 JUNHO</p> <p><i>O papel das metodologias participativas na promoção da interculturalidade</i></p> <p>Participem no evento nacional de encerramento do projeto DiverCities onde vamos ouvir das cidades da Rede RPCI, e outras pessoas participantes, sobre o projeto realizado e as principais aprendizagens do mesmo. A parte da tarde é exclusiva às cidades RPCI e parceiros da CM Loures e requer <i>inscrição</i>.*</p> <p>Local: a definir</p> <p>11:00 - 17:00</p> <p>INSCRIÇÕES aqui</p>  <p>19/06/24 →</p>
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The project **NET-IDEA Network of European Towns for Interculturalism, Diversity, Equality and Anti-Discrimination** concluded its activities at the end of April 2024.

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

After a major 2-year journey, the project achieved excellent results that can be summarized as follows:

- Curriculum on Intercultural Competence Training elaborated and tested
- More than 200 municipal staff trained
- More than 300 people in the community of practice
- More than 200 CSO representatives involved
- More than 200 youth activists involved
- Thousands of people reached by awareness-raising activities
- 18 workshops with young people carried out
- 18 public events
- BE EVERYTHING BELONG portrait exhibition
- BE EVERYTHING BELONG communication campaign

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/>



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 further developed in 2025 and approved by the end of next year.

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

- Conducting peer research to map rumours and discrimination in youth contexts
- Implementation of Anti-Rumours actions to fight discrimination within youth spaces in the 5 cities
- 4 transnational Youth Camps of young anti-rumours activists held with the participation of young activists from the Italian cities and from other EU countries (a total of more than 200 participants)
- Creation of an edutainment tool (collective game) for combating discrimination
- Starting of the participatory process for co-designing city strategies to fight youth discrimination
- 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)
- 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 f raise awareness of the issue

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

Moreover, the project worked to increase protagonism and mobilisation of young activists to influence public policy-making and awareness-raising for diversity: young activists in the five cities strengthened their role as change-makers also at national level through the creation of a national network of "Young Anti-Rumours" that co-designed and implemented 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, it's 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 Cidades Interculturais (Portugal); UNITED for Intercultural Action Foundation (Hungary).

Its general objective is to contribute to increase effective citizens' democratic participation, 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

In 2024, the communication efforts of Rete Città Del Dialogo (RCD) focused on disseminating news and raising awareness about Intercultural Cities' values, in particular antidiscrimination, inclusion, and intercultural dialogue. The target audiences included citizens, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and institutions, with the RCD's social media channel serving as the primary platform for outreach.

The Facebook page, followed by 12,484 people, was central to these efforts. Over the course of the year, 38 posts were published, reaching a total of 6,053 people and generating 328 interactions (likes, shares, and comments). This reflects a consistent engagement from the community, aligning with RCD's objectives of fostering dialogue and inclusivity.

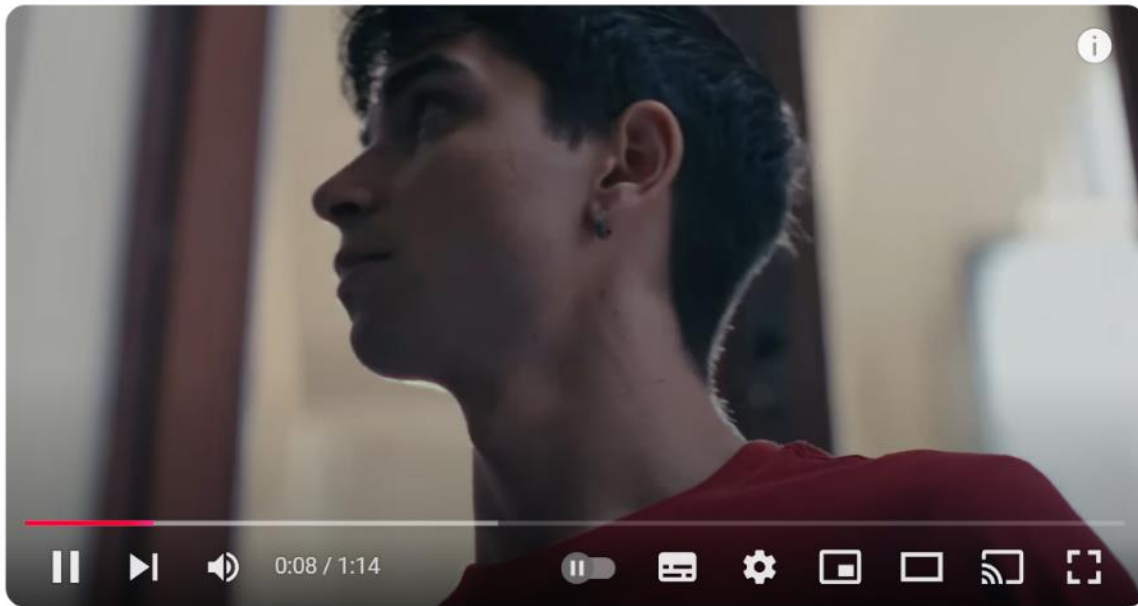
The editorial plan was structured around visual and video content.

Posts highlighted three main themes: (1) anti-rumours/anti-discrimination campaigns developed within the projects realized with the Italian intercultural cities, promoting the ICC values and approach (such as projects DiversaMente, DiverCities, NET-IDEA, Evolving Futures, etc.) (2) news and stories from cities involved in the intercultural initiatives, and (3) updates on project-related activities. This diversified approach allowed for effective communication tailored to different segments of the audience.

Key examples of relevant content on social media will be annexed, showcasing the use of compelling visuals, storytelling, and participatory discussions to drive engagement.

In summary, the communication strategy for 2024 has successfully leveraged social media to amplify the projects' messages and RCD values, fostering awareness and participation in the promotion of antidiscrimination, interculturalism and inclusion.

In addition to social media outreach, ICEI as technical coordinator also actively developed dialogue and fruitful interaction with cities. Communication was maintained through bilateral exchanges via email and calls, as well as through group involvement during meetings organized within the RCD framework and the supported projects. These meetings provided opportunities to share best practices, foster collaboration, and strengthen the network of stakeholders and partnerships.



DiversaMente - Giovani contro le discriminazioni #stoprumours

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20dUbCY7e08>

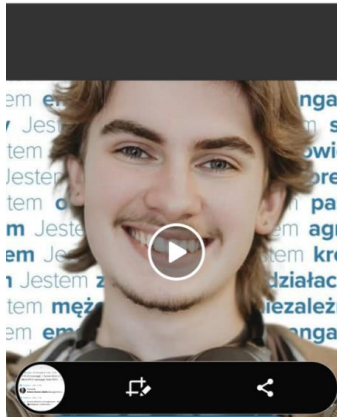
Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
1 Mag · 🌐

☀️ NET-IDEA: Quali sono state le azioni di sensibilizzazione nei 6 paesi coinv... Altro...



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
17 Apr · 🌐

Oggi 17 aprile 2024, a Botkyrka, in Svezia, una spettacolare azione collettiva ... Altro...



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
18 Apr · 🌐

BE EVERYTHING BELONG - Shaping the future of Inclusion and Belonging!... Altro...



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
26 novembre alle ore 08:33 · 🌐

Nell'ambito del progetto DiversaMente, si sono conclusi i laboratori artistici anti-rumours, realizzati con la collaborazione dell'associazione Mirmica, a cui hanno partecipato oltre 40 ragazze e ragazzi provenienti dai CAG milanesi Lambrateam, CAG TempoePoi, Comunità del Giambellino Cooperativa Sociale, Centro Giovani Ponte Lambro e @Comune di Milano CAG Ciriè Municipio 9.

Durante i laboratori, i/le giovani hanno affrontato e riflettuto sulla complessa tematica di rumours,... Altro...



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
4 dicembre alle ore 08:05 · 🌐

About a City – Giovani a contrasto delle discriminazioni

"C'è chi in città arriva da lontano, attratto da promesse di lavoro, felicità, occasioni e si trova a mettere radici in luoghi che stanno sviluppando una sempre maggiore tensione all'esclusione, che complicano i percorsi di vita più che sostenerli, che separano anziché includere".

Questo è stato uno dei punti di partenza che ha guidato il festival "About a city – Migrant city" organizzato e promosso da Fondazione Gian... Altro...



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
13 Giu · 🌐

☀️ Si è svolto a Strasburgo l'evento finale del progetto Divercities, coordinat... Altro...



WE ARE
divercities

Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
21 Ott · 🌐

Dal backstage della campagna DiversaMente: intervista a Selena ... Altro...



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
31 Mag · 🌐

E tu come immagini l'Europa del futuro?
🌟 ... Altro...



Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo
18 Set · 🌐

Le parole che usiamo cambiano il modo in cui vediamo il mondo... Altro...



Next steps

In 2025, the Italian network will continue and expand its efforts to promote exchange among cities and build the capacity of staff in member municipalities on the priority themes identified during the coordination meetings. Additionally, the implementation of specific initiatives funded by European and national donors will deepen and strengthen ongoing efforts to develop participatory processes for creating intercultural city policies, engaging both municipalities and civil society.

A key priority for the network will also be the creation of a national network of youth centers, in coordination with municipalities, alongside efforts to mobilize and empower young people as key actors in the fight against discrimination. These initiatives will be supported by a strong focus on communication, awareness-raising, and the promotion of new narratives to build more inclusive and intercultural cities.