

## Activity report

### Italian ICC Network *Rete Città del Dialogo*

#### April-June 2023

*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

The second quarter of 2023 has seen intercultural cities participating to the RCD Annual Meeting that took place in Montesilvano on May 17th-18th.

Cities are more and more involved in projects both at local and international level, co-designing strategies and activities on their territories and exchanging practices and models, with an increasing exposure to knowledge sharing processes at European level. Together with the cities, we are keeping on engaging citizens, targeting especially young people, in intercultural initiatives, to develop and promote intercultural and inclusion values and behaviours.

## Network coordination

During the second quarter of the year, we kept on informing the network about ICC and RCD activities and resources. We promoted the cities' participation to the interesting new online event series City Talk, in particular The City Talk "ICC index and Policy Design - From data to strategy" (2 May 2023) and The City Talk "Inclusive public space: is placemaking the solution?" (7 July 2023).

The **Coordination Meeting** has been held in the City of Montesilvano on May 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, with the following agenda:

### 17 may

- Registration
- Greetings and Introduction to the Meeting
- Institutional Greetings from the Municipality of Montesilvano
- Introductory speech and agenda presentation - ICEI
- Tour of presentation of participants
- Session dedicated to the mutual updating of Cities on challenges, ongoing projects and expected results for the coming months
- Update on the activities of the Cities of Dialogue Network
- International round table: the Intercultural Cities Programme and the work of the networks in Spain and Portugal

#### Speakers:

- Ivana d'Alessandro, Head of ICC Programme Unit, Council of Europe
  - Daniel De Torres, President of the Spanish ICC Network
  - Carla Calado, Coordinator of the Portuguese ICC Network
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- Visit to two experiences of the Municipality of Montesilvano:
    - Family Space
    - SAI Centre

## 18 May

- Intercultural competences for the development of municipal policies
  - The experience of the NET-IDEA project
  - Debate on expectations and mainstreaming
- Areas and work priorities for the coming months
- Next Steps & Final Greetings

The participation at the event was affected by a severe weather event (flood) that hit parts of the country on 17 and 18 May. As a result, given the difficulties in transportation, 3 cities were able to reach the location (Montesilvano, Reggio Emilia and Modena), while others participated online (Pontedera, Ravenna, Forlì, Zagarolo).

The event allowed a discussion on numerous topics and priorities of the cities that will orientate the actions of the network in the second half of 2023 and in 2024.

A specific exchange with the participant cities has been carried out to identify priority thematic areas on which to conduct training and webinars in the coming months. The following topics emerged:

1. Business & Inclusion - Training and accompaniment paths for businesses in the territories of the Network
2. Sport Countering discrimination in sport
3. Youth Leadership - The role of young people in promoting intercultural cities and combating discrimination
4. Intercultural Certamen - Proposal for an intercultural Certamen put forward by the city of Zagarolo
5. Participation and co-planning – Citizens' participation for the elaboration of intercultural strategies
6. Housing - Exchange of practices between cities and with expert bodies in the sector

ICEI concluded the meeting by informing the cities that the next Network Event will be held in Modena in November 2023, in collaboration with the DiverCities project. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

## Activities

The project **NET-IDEA Network of European Towns for Interculturalism, Diversity, Equality and Anti-Discrimination** in the second trimester of 2023 concluded the implementation of the training sessions on intercultural competences targeting the staff of partner cities.

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

During the Transnational Knowledge-Sharing on Intercultural Competences held in Barcelona, expectations, key objectives and main topics to be covered by the training were discussed with all partners and cities representatives. Several online meetings were held among partners to further define the training outline, the sessions plans and general rules and advice for facilitators. It was decided to prepare a comprehensive curriculum that would be flexible and adjustable locally to each city's needs and target audience.

It was collaboratively decided that training would focus on developing intercultural competences (at the individual and organizational levels) and participants would be mainly professionals working in the field of youth, namely:

- Youth Professionals from CSOs & NGOs
- City/Public Officers working with Youth & Other Fields
- Policymakers (Education or City High Level Members) working with Youth & Other Fields
- Teachers & Educators working with Youth

The training was composed of 4 sessions of 3 hours each and a number of asynchronous tasks distributed to participants to be made in between the sessions. The sessions usually occurred once a week for each group (around 10 to 25 people per group), during 4 weeks, even though in some cities planning and schedule were adapted to local needs.

With this training, we aimed to:

- Enhance capacity to manage intercultural interactions, including developing intercultural communication skills
- Build confidence to navigate diverse settings successfully
- Enhance buy-in and build commitment with intercultural policies and practices
- Increase skills to design and promote public policies or projects fostering an intercultural approach, making them more effective

A total of 213 participants were involved in 18 cities (6 countries).

The project **DIVERCITIES – EUROPEAN CITIES FOR DIVERSITY AND PARTICIPATION** - following the kick off meeting in Pontedera (Italy) (27th and 28th March 2023) – started its activities in the 8 partner cities, in particular for the design of the local public consultation process on intercultural issues in Italy (cities of Montesilvano, Modena and Pontedera), Spain, Portugal and Greece.

The **Project #Diversamente – Young people against discrimination** (targeting the cities of Torino, Milano, Reggio Emilia, Pontedera and Montesilvano) carried out the 2<sup>nd</sup> training workshop for youth workers organised in Turin by ICEI and the partner Rete Case del Quartiere – with a total of 38 participants.

It was hosted by the Youth Protagonism Centres Cecchi Point and Cartiera and it is the second step of the training dedicated to the youth workers of the Diversamente project.

The workshop aimed at strengthening the skills of youth workers to support them in the implementation of the co-design of city strategies to fight discrimination and enhance diversity that will see young activists as protagonists in the five cities involved in the Project. It targeted educators, operators, and other staff active in the field.

The training also transcended the boundaries of the #Diversamente project by becoming part of an expanded event dedicated to youth workers built by ICEI in collaboration with Giosef association. This was the second national meeting of the informal network of anti-rumours youth spaces that ICEI is coordinating and with whose members it is building a series of projects for the coming years. During the event, the role and competences of youth workers, the European and national framework of youth policies, European funding opportunities for youth leadership projects were discussed, and co-design tables were set up with operators on actions and projects to combat discrimination in the youth field.

Other activities carried out are:

- Creation of the Community of Practice (CoP) of youth workers

- Creation of "Youth leaders" groups and training of youth activists on the anti-rumours methodology: 9 youth groups created and active in the 5 partner cities: 3 in Milan, 2 in Turin, 2 in Reggio Emilia, 1 in Pontedera, 1 in Montesilvano
- Training of youth activists on the anti-rumours methodology to provide young people with skills to deal with prejudices and stereotypes carried out in each city/youth space by operators previously trained in the 1st workshop in Reggio Emilia
- Non-formal education activities for the emergence of rumours present in the contexts frequented by young people and the elaboration of a conceptual map of rumours
- Start-up of the creation process of an Edutainment tool for combating discrimination
- Start-up of the participative process of co-designing city strategies for combating youth discrimination: in all 5 cities, the preparatory phases were carried out, including training of youth activists, elaboration of the conceptual rumours map, mapping of local stakeholders that could be involved in the definition and subsequent implementation of the city anti-rumours plan
- Realisation of anti-rumours actions to combat discrimination within youth spaces in 5 cities in all 5 cities on the occasion of the Week of action against racism promoted by UNAR

## Communication

Our communication in the second quarter mainly promoted the initiatives addressed by the projects and realized locally by the intercultural cities,

RCD Facebook Community is solid at 12.665 followers. On RCD and ICEI social media channels we published a total of 17 posts under the umbrella of ICC/RCD network. We updated our public about the initiatives of the projects NET-IDEA, Diversamente, DiverCities and ITACA. We also communicated the participation to important events like the 5th Edition of the European Politics for the Dialogue Forum held in Portugal, the ADI-INT event held in Strasbourg and the RCD Annual Meeting we organized in Montesilvano.

Moreover, we gave visibility to the inauguration in the city of Olbia of an installation that recalls the slogan of the Campaign ITACA – ITALIAN Cities Against discrimination **“La porta è aperta per te, se è aperta per tutti3”**, symbolizing the commitment of the city to be intercultural and inclusive.



**Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo**  
 Pubblicato da Sara Morandini · 15 giugno alle ore 17:45 ·

**Serata "Stop Rumours" 21 giugno 2023**

Siamo lieti di condividere l'invito all'evento "Stop Rumours", organizzato al Circolo Arci "Il Botteghino" di Pontedera (PI) dall'3 ragazzi del progetto #Diversamente - Giovani contro le discriminazioni, per promuovere una cultura libera dai pregiudizi, perché la diversità è una ricchezza da valorizzare!

La serata, promossa da Arci Valdera in collaborazione il Comune di Pontedera nell'ambito del progetto finanziato da AICS - Agenzia ... Altro...



**Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo**  
 Pubblicato da Sara Morandini · 23 maggio ·

E' in corso oggi a Roma il seminario "Pratiche di integrazione e partecipazione dei cittadini stranieri. Il ruolo e l'azione degli enti locali: priorità, sfide e opportunità", che ICEI ha organizzato e condotto, in qualità di ente esperto, su incarico del Consiglio d'Europa e in coordinamento con la Commissione Europea e il Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali.

L'evento vuole essere un momento di confronto e scambio con gli attori locali sulle modalità e pratiche... Altro...



**Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo**  
 Pubblicato da Sara Morandini · 18 maggio ·

La città di Montesilvano, entrata nella Rete #CittàdelDialogo a ottobre 2021, sta ospitando il 17 e 18 maggio il meeting annuale delle città interculturali che fanno parte dell'Intercultural Cities / Cités Interculturelles Programme del Consiglio d'Europa, e in particolare della rete italiana.

Si tratta di un incontro "misto", sia di coordinamento sia tematico: oltre ad aver dato il benvenuto alla nuova città della Rete, Zagarolo, si sta facendo il punto sui piani del 2023 ... Altro...



**Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo**  
 Pubblicato da Sara Morandini · 7 aprile ·

Nell'ambito del Progetto ITA.C.A. - Italian Cities Against Discrimination - finanziato dalla Commissione Europea e coordinato da ICEI - la Città di Modena ha elaborato la "Carta Viva per Modena Città interculturale", risultato di un percorso partecipato avviato a luglio 2022 al quale hanno preso parte oltre 20 associazioni del territorio modenese.

La Carta è stata presentata al Sindaco ed alla Giunta lo scorso 14 marzo ed è un importante strumento di riflessione ed orientame... Altro...



The social media channels of the cities involved in the initiatives shared the same contents, increasing coverage, awareness, and disseminations.

## Next steps

We will be working on the organization of the next Network Event that will be held in Modena in November 2023, in collaboration with the DiverCities project.



The ongoing projects involving the RCD' cities will have their peak of awareness and dissemination activities in the months immediately after the summer period and, in relation to this, we expect to intensify the communication on the RCD and cities' media channels covering the initiatives and campaigns that will be launched in the second half of the year.