





Annual Report Rete Città Del Dialogo April – December 2022

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

Summary

Year 2022 has been rich of activities, events and opportunities for the Italian ICC Network. In presence meetings, initiatives and relations restarted with great enthusiasm and proactivity, both on ICC Program and Intercultural projects side. Many Projects are active both at local and international level, and the co-design strategy we developed together with the cities is paying off.

Cities are more and more involved and there is a pool of them highly engaged, while new cities are asking to join the network based on the increasing visibility of ICC Programme at national level and its benefits. We also had new best practices, such as the one from Intercity Grant involving Pontedera and Olbia and a new strict collaboration based on best practice sharing between Reggio Emilia and Montesilvano.

Network coordination

Addressing common challenges based on joint policy solutions and actions, promoting practice sharing, training, and dialogue among cities are among our top priorities of the Città Del Dialogo network.

During 2022 cities had the opportunity not only to participate to virtual events and meetings but also to meet in presence.

There were several events and trainings we promoted for cities representatives and staff members, such as the webinar "Roma and Travellers inclusion for the local level" (April 27th) and "Data collection to identify and prevent systemic discrimination" (May 23rd).

From 27 to 30 September 2022, ICEI participated, on behalf of the Italian ICC network, to the ICC Study visit on **Sustainable Intercultural Cities** in Pontevedra, Spain. The event was organised in cooperation with Placemaking Europe, one of the leading organisations in this field. The event was found very interesting and a lot of synergies between the placemaking and the intercultural approaches were noticed, giving enthusiasm to the ICC delegation to create a collaboration in the future.

In October 27th and 28th, ICEI and 2 representatives of the City of Montesilvano attended the **ICC Training on Media and Effective Communication** in

Strasbourg. It was found very useful, with very practical tips and strategies on how to effectively address a media interview.



Finally, the Intercultural Cities of Reggio Emilio hosted The Annual ICC Coordinator Meeting, November 16th and 17th. The international cities of Reggio Emilia and Modena were present, as well as ICEI. The city of Novellara too had a representation, even if it belongs only to the Italian ICC network. Thankfully the ICC program extended the invitation to Italian cities to take advantage of this opportunity.

For what concern our national Rete Città Del Dialogo (RCD) Meetings, we organised **2 in presence events.**

On June 14th – 16th we held in Turin, hosted by the Municipality of the city, the RCD Annual Thematic Meeting "The role of young people in promotion of diversity and in fighting discrimination. Experiences and tools for the network of the Cities of Dialogue".

The 2 days' event was particularly **focused on youth and their role in promoting diversity and fighting discrimination**. Synergies were created, within the cities, between the services coordinating the ICC Program and the services dedicated to young people activities (Youth Policy Departments or similar Departments).

Representatives of the Municipalities were invited to participate, together with youth operators more directly involved in working with young people.

The event was organized in collaboration with the project "Youth Spaces Free of Rumours", funded by the Italian Government to ICEI and working in collaboration with 8 ICC cities and their youth centres on youth activation against discriminations. Representatives of 18 youth centres from 8 cities of the network involved in the project were invited.

It has been an interesting moment of comparison and sharing of experiences and practices, which could be a driving force for other cities wanting to invest in the role of young people as intercultural agents.

Practices of intercultural community development, anti-discrimination and youth activism were presented by the city's representatives, operators and pool of experts,

and participants were asked to work on the priorities, objectives and proposals of a local action plan.

The conclusions and recommendations issued from the working groups and the plenary sessions of the meeting focused on the willing of participant organizations in continuing the cooperation on the topic of youth activism to fight discrimination in the Italian intercultural cities.

The meeting was attended by 20 people: 10 youth workers from the participant cities, 6 representatives of municipalities and 4 members of ICEI staff.



SAVE THE DATE 15 e 16 giugno 2022 - TORINO

IL RUOLO DEI GIOVANI NELLA PROMOZIONE DELLA DIVERSITÀ E NEL CONTRASTO ALLE DISCRIMINAZIONI

> ESPERIENZE E STRUMENTI PER LA RETE CITTÀ DEL DIALOGO

Evento della Rete Città del Dialogo Rete italiana Città Interculturali ICC Program - Consiglio d'Europa

In collaborazione con il progetto "Spazi Giovanili Free of Rumours"

















On December 13th and 14th, 2022 we held the RCD Annual Coordination Meeting in Milan, hosted by the Municipality of the city. 8 cities attended, for a total of 16 persons. The first of the 2 days focused on exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learnt on **local anti-discriminations plans**, among cities that

have been working on the topic and that are at different levels of implementation. Some working groups were organized to work on the objectives, needs and process for the construction and design of a local anti-discrimination plan, and this work brought out some priority issues that cities consider important to address in the future. The exchange was very useful for all the cities, contributing to the emergence of the need of having such a plan for cities that haven't addressed the issue yet, as well as giving inputs, ideas and inspiration for those who are already facing the challenge.

On the second day of the event, cities had the opportunity to share their most recent best practices (through presentations and round tables held by the cities' representatives) as well as priorities, while strengthening potential collaborations and mutual knowledge.

ICEI updated the cities on the activities that have taken place at international ICC program level throughout the year, as well as on the ongoing European projects where Italian ICC cities as well as international ones are involved, their state of the art and future planning.

Finally the cities, with the coordination of ICEI, worked on the identification of the **network priorities for 2023**, out of which the main ones have been: **local anti-discrimination plans**, **participation and youth engagement**, **intercultural competences and communication**, **new generations**, **housing**.









Activities

Enlarge and develop the network RCD is a priority.

Thanks to the increased visibility of ICC Programme/ RCD at national and local level, we were contacted and developed relations with new cities interested to enter the network. Amongst them **Zagarolo**, a small city near Rome, has almost finalized the process of joining the national network, **Bolzano**, that expressed the interest to join the network in 2023 and **Orvieto**.

Intercity Grant

In 2022 an intercity grant was submitted and implemented by the cities of Pontedera and Olbia. The specific objectives of the grant were to create spaces for discussion and participation of the new generations at the local level and to increase the skills of the new generations of young people to carry out their demands at the public and community level. The following activities were carried out:

- 1 Organization of thematic round tables that include the representatives of the associations or communities of migrants present in the two municipalities, the associations or informal groups of young people of the new generations, other associations or bodies that deal with inter-culture, the local authorities.
- 2 Organization of a training module on youth associations aimed at new generation groups.
- 3 Creation of awareness products aimed at the community by second generation young people

The project was implemented with success and with great satisfaction by the 2 municipalities. Pontedera was very satisfied by the results of the project, that allowed to bring the issue of new generations in the foreground of the political agenda of the city, as well as to have a big impact on the citizenship. Participation of new generations youth and youth in general of Pontedera was very high and active. The project ended with a final event called New Generations Festival, a space for discussion and cultural dissemination that focuses on the identities of young people of foreign origin born or raised in Italy. The idea of the Festival is to put the new generations at the center of the public debate with a view to full inclusion, recognizing them a primary role in the generation of intercultural policies, promoters of cultures often at the forefront of the national scene and which increasingly in a natural way they are an antidote to discrimination and racism. The event was recognized as of interest by the Ministry of Equal Opportunities which facilitated the participation of representatives of the CONNGI New Generations National Coordination, making possible the participation of young people from different parts of Italy.

The program was created through a participatory process with new generations groups and associations. Training again aimed at second generation young people on the themes of associations, organization, relations with local authorities and culture promotion.

Olbia, after participating in the training that were organized by Pontedera, produced a theatrical show as final event.

The feedbacks by the two cities are that the process was very good and put the theme of the new generations at the centre, even within the communities themselves. The instrument of the intercity grant was easy to manage and project implementation was smooth.

Projects

"Youth Spaces Free Of Rumours – Young people against discrimination"

In June 2022 ICEI concluded the implementation of the Project "Youth Spaces Free Of Rumours – Young people against discrimination", with the direct participation of 8 Italian municipalities, members of the Italian network: Milano, Torino, Venezia, Casalecchio di Reno, Novellara, Palermo, Modena, Reggio Emilia.

A total of more than 310 young people from 18 youth centres have been involved in the 8 cities to promote youth activation and civic protagonism to establish youth centres "free of prejudices", applying the antirumours" methodology.

The last activity of the project consisted of the realization of anti-rumours city events in each of the 8 cities. The antirumours actions and the multimedia contents have been presented within events open to public. Young people became ambassadors of the work done in each youth centre and actively cooperated with associations and municipalities to realize events in their neighbourhoods (in open-air spaces, parks, etc).

These actions strengthened young people engagement and, at the same time, increased the awareness of other youth groups and families, reaching about 900 people.

Communication materials have been produced and disseminated, such as:

Campaign Materials	
<u>Video - Manifesto</u>	<u>Campaign Manifesto</u>
<u>1st Video – Diary</u>	<u>Digital Magazine</u>
2nd Video – Diary	<u>Cartoon Magazine "I giovani protagonisti contro le discriminazioni" – by CAG Lambrateam – Milan</u>
3rd Video - Diary	





"ITACA – Italian Cities Against discrimination"

The project "ITACA – Italian Cities Against discrimination" funded by the RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME (REC) of the European Commission concluded its training activities targeting the staff of the 7 municipalities involved in the initiative (Reggio Emilia, Modena, Novellara, Olbia, Viareggio, Fucecchio, Casalecchio di Reno).

The training program aimed at improving the skills of the staff of municipalities, supporting the development of intercultural and anti-discrimination competences. Approx. 130 people from the staff of the 7 cities participated in the training courses with 7 modules delivered both in presence and online.

In June 2022 the Project started a set of capacity building workshops for CSOs organisations of the 7 partner cities, in cooperation with the municipalities. The workshops focused on the Antirumours methodologies and targeted several organisations in each city, for approx. 70 staff of CSOs involved in the training sessions. This group of practitioners, coming from the Italian cities, is working on the elaboration of recommendations on the design and implementation of joint public-private actions to fight discrimination, promote rights-awareness and advocacy.

Moreover, the project ITACA carried out a 3-days Study Visit in Ireland, involving partners organisations and Cities with the goal to provide a in-dept exchange with other 2 European Cities: The City of Dublin and the City of Galway. The Visit has been carried out on the 25-28 October 2022.

Finally, ITACA is supporting the City of Reggio Emilia and the City of Modena in developing internal guidelines and tools to provide a structured framework for anti-discrimination strategies and actions.



NET-IDEA

The **NET-IDEA Project**, after the official launch with the partners in May (ICEI / ICC Italian Network, DIVERSIT-ACI / ICC Spanish Network, ICC Portuguese Network, ICC Swedish Network and the cities of Lublin & Erlangen) and with the cities (16) in June (in both online events a representative of ICC Programme / CoE participated), started in July organising and implementing the first activity, an **online survey on the intercultural competences** (125 Participants / 16 Cities / 6 Countries) that was completed by a set of frontal interviews (15) with key-actors in each one of the cities involved.

The survey was conducted by three senior ICC experts, Kseniya Rubicondo (Ukraine Network of Intercultural Cities & ICC Expert), Jorge Frozzini (University of Quebec) and Bob White (University of Montreal & ICC Expert).

Regarding the **main conclusions**, this survey data analysis indicates a gap between the needs of participants and the trainings offered, mainly regarding abilities to integrate intercultural competences into policy design. There is a tendency for trainings to remain theoretical and survey participants express a need for practical forms of applied learning based on concrete examples and situations. While some trainings focused on anti-discrimination and systemic forms of inequality, other trainings put emphasis on intercultural communication and openness.

These two approaches need to be more well integrated in order to have a fuller understanding of intercultural competences. Training on intercultural competences tends to focus on individual knowledge, skills and attitudes, but municipal organizations must also ensure that these principles are included in policy design, project implementation and guidelines for professionals.

The preliminary results of the survey and the interviews were shared with partners and cities representatives at the **First Transnational Meeting in Barcelona** (September). The debate around these results lead to a brainstorming on the content and methodology of the training in intercultural competences. Based on the survey results and the debate developed in Barcelona, a new curriculum on intercultural competences is being currently elaborated and tested for the training process.

Also, the meeting in Barcelona was the first occasion to start working on the transnational cooperation based on the **exchange of practices**. In the weeks prior to the meeting, ICEI and DIVERSIT-ACI requested from the cities involved to send a good practice in the field of Anti-Discrimination & Youth. In Barcelona it was organised a session of speed dating on the practices, that gave the chance to all the cities to present their practices and reflect on some elements that could be the base of a process of knowledge and practice sharing. This field of action will be strengthened by the development of a community of practice, that will give all the cities the chance to develop training activities on specific topics, but also will be the space for the interaction among the cities and the sharing of practices.

Finally, the meeting ended with a study visit at the **Centre of Resources in Human Rights** / **Anti-Discrimination Observatory** of the Barcelona City Council.



- **DIVERCITIES**

The DIVERCITIES Project, submitted by ICEI to the European Commission within the Call CERV-2022-CITIZENS-CIV, was formally approved and financed by the EC. ICC Programme / CoE will support the project implementation, as associate. The project aims to promote an effective bottom-up approach boosting the citizens participation in the elaboration of local intercultural policies in 8 European Cities / 4 Countries.

DIVERSCITIES is based on a transnational partnership that involves three national networks of intercultural cities (ICEI / Italian Network, DIVERSIT-ACI / Spanish Network & Portuguese Network) and eight intercultural cities: Modena, Montesilvano and Pontedera in Italy, Castelló de la Plana, Zaragoza and Logroño in Spain, Loures in Portugal and Ioannina in Greece

Working with the 3 ICC National Networks and the 8 Intercultural Cities, DIVERCITIES has the following objectives:

- Strengthen the competences and methodologies of 8 European Cities in the implementation of effective bottom-up democratic processes, in cooperation with local stakeholders.
- Increase citizens contribution in the decision-making and awareness-raising in the field of interculturalism and diversity promotion.
- Facilitate the mainstreaming of project results and good practices to other European Cities.

The project officially started on November, 01st, will last twenty months and is currently organising a first activity of state of art analysis and study on the participatory processes linked with interculturalism. KoM will take place in Italy in the beginning of 2023.

#DiversaMente – Youth against discrimination

A new initiative has been launched in November 2022: the project #DiversaMente – Youth against discrimination that will be implemented in 5 Italian cities (Milan, Montesilvano, Pontedera, Turin and Reggio Emilia). The project has been funded by the Italian Development Cooperation Agency andwill last 24 months.

The aim is to strengthen the role of youth and the educating community in building inclusive and intercultural cities. In order to achieve it, the action will engage a multi-stakeholders partnership including civil society organizations in the 5 intervention cities and local authorities.

Besides, important institutions will provide a direct contribution to the project: the Council of Europe, UNAR – National Office Against Racial Discrimination and UNITED for Intercultural Action (a network of European youth organizations).

With a strategy based on the intercultural approach, bottom-up participation and the Anti-Rumours methodology, this project is committed to achieve the following results:

1) 60 operators and 350 young people from 5 Italian cities improve their skills to enhance diversity and fight discrimination

These operators and educators will improve their skills through training on the Anti-Rumours methodology and the creation of a Community of Practice to share experiences and knowledge.

In addition, young people will acquire knowledge and skills through:

- a capacity building program, that will explore in depth the topics of diversities and discriminations, with methodologies that place youth at the center of change, as a preliminary step to the process envisaged in the following results
- non-formal education and Edutainment activities with the creation of an innovative "Escape rumours" that will facilitate the active involvement of young people on the topic of anti-discrimination.
- 2) 260 young activists become protagonists of local strategies for contrasting discriminations in collaboration with the educating community and the municipal institutions.

By applying a local-based and multi-actor approach, the project will harness the role of young people as protagonists in their local contexts, creating a meaningful experience in the short term, but also sustainable in the medium term thanks to the engagement of the educating community and the municipal administrations.

In particular, 260 youths will be involved in co-planning (A2.1) and implementing Anti-Rumours actions (A2.2 e A2.3) in the 5 cities, working together with local stakeholders to establish youth spaces "free from prejudice" and to organize events to give them voice and visibility, reaching more than 1.360 young people attending youth centers and 2.500 citizens

3) The Italian network of "Anti-Rumours Youth" will positively influence the design of nationwide public policies and the awareness-raising of citizens to enhance diversities

The young activists from the 5 cities will be able to "reach new spheres of influence", strengthening their role as change-makers also at the national level, by establishing a national network of "Anti-Rumours Youth" (A3.1) that will codesign and implement advocacy actions addressed to 60 national institutions (A3.2), as well as awareness raising campaigns for the public at large (200.000 people reached - A3.3)).

- City of Milan - elaboration of the Municipal Anti-discrimination Plan

Finally, ICEI started the support to the **City of Milan for the elaboration of the Municipal Anti-discrimination Plan**. This initiative is at a preliminary stage and will be developed in the coming months with an analysis phase (carried out by a private Foundation), a participatory process with local stakeholders and the elaboration of the Municipal Plan in cooperation with the staff of the City of Milan.

A very good practice of spontaneous collaboration among Italian network cities happened this year: after the coordination meeting in Reggio Emilia in November 2021, the city of Montesilvano was interested in the "Reggio Emilia approach" to children education in kindergartens, and they started liaising spontaneously with Reggio Emilia authorities to get to know better this approach. This led to a study visit by representatives of Montesilvano to Reggio, where an insight of the approach as well as visits and talks with representatives of the educational authorities were carried out. This visit was related to 3 new childhood poles that Montesilvano is planning to create thanks to the funding of PNRR (National Plan for Recovery and Resilience, with funds of Next Generation EU), and that will be an important pillar of the city planning regarding education in the next years. They thought that it was important to get more knowledge about this approach in the very initial phase of this project, so that it could be applied in the whole planning (even at infrastructure level) of the poles.

After the visit, the two cities are now planning to sign an MoU for collaboration and mentoring by Reggio Emilia to Montesilvano, for the pedagogical training of coordinators and educators of the 3 poles, as well as a support in the design of the infrastructure that follows the values of the pedagogical approach known as "Reggio Emilia approach".

Reggio Emilia was also very satisfied with the visit, having stated that they receive visits from all over the world to know, apply and transfer their approach to other institutions in other states, but that (strangely) it was the first time that this happened with another Italian city.

Year 2022 was also marked by the dramatic war in Ukraina. From March on we helped Intercultural Cities of Italy, Poland and Ukraine to coordinate humanitarian helps to cities and population under attack (e.g., from Pontedera).

Moreover, intercultural cities were invited to sign the declaration of ICC Mayors for Ukraine (Casalecchio di Reno and Reggio Emilia)

Communication

In 2022 we focused on increasing the reach of our communication and we consolidated the fidelity and awareness of our social media's community. We kept on involving cities in sharing initiatives and practices, gave visibility to joint intercultural projects and leveraged tools and resources from ICC Programme. We encouraged continuous multilateral exchanges and dissemination between member cities to share ideas, knowledge, and experiences, to keep on reinforcing the "we culture" and intercultural competencies of the network.

The Rete Città Del Dialogo Facebook fanbase is solid with **12.694+ followers** and fidelity/engagement is stable. In 2022, our rich editorial plan included **98 posts** (68 from April to December 2022), with almost **2+ posts published per week**, including graphics, photos, videos always involving and tagging cities and partners.

Italian Intercultural Cities recognize in RCD Facebook page a significative communication tool, to maintain and grow, and their feedback collected during the RCD Annual Meetings is very positive.

Beside the promotion of cross-cities intercultural projects sponsored also by ICC Programme, we communicated 9 local initiatives and practices (Reggio Emilia, Pontedera,

In 2022 we launched 2 communication campaigns:

- 1) **Ukraine War Emergency** from March on, we were on air with our social communication related to the emergency in Ukraine, and we kept on sensibilizing and updating our public on Ukraine situation and how Intercultural cities are collaborating to support Ukrainian population and cities' needs.
- 2) **Parolario Interculturale** in Q1 on, ICEI realized a social media campaign Intercultural Glossary "*Parolario Interculturale*", defining and contextualizing 20 main intercultural terms targeting non-technical audiences and promoting intercultural values. In particular, in Q3 we created and published a downloadable Booklet promoting intercultural values and collecting the intercultural terms and a Facebook Album related to the campaign.

Finally, in December we developed and hosted on RCD Facebook page the Communication Campaign of Project ITACA – ITAlian Cities Againsta Discrimination.













Rete Italiana delle Città del Dialogo 10 novembre : 🙉







We implemented this wide local editorial plan in coordination with the ICC social media team, leveraging synergies and cross-posting, and involving the Italian Intercultural Cities in sharing experiences, initiatives, and practices.

Next steps

At the beginning of 2023 the RCD coordination will systematize the results that came out of the coordination meeting of December in terms of priority areas where to focus and will work to embed them in different tools to address such priorities, such as the annual ICC grant, the intercity grants, the ongoing European projects as well as new projects that may be designed.

A RCD meeting has been planned in May-June 2023 and the city of Montesilvano volunteered to host it.

It was also planned to work in the first months of the year, with the support of the network coordination, on the ICC Index for 2 cities that have never done it:

Montesilvano and Pontedera. It was also planned that each year the coordination will support 2 cities to update their Index or do it for the first time.

Other than the meeting in Montesilvano, other opportunities for network meetings with the purpose of coordination and/or thematic insight will be given by the ongoing European projects. The annual planning of such meetings for 2023 will be shared in the first quarter.