

Activity report Italian ICC Network *Rete Città del Dialogo* January-March 2023

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Summary

The first quarter of 2023 has seen the RCD cities more and more involved in activities and trainings related to the intercultural projects developed under the umbrella of the Intercultural Cities Programme and Rete Città del Dialogo. As already mentioned, projects are active both at local and international level, and the co-design strategy we developed together with the cities is an important booster. Beside cities' involvement, with the municipalities and local CSO's we are promoting intercultural values on the territory, through on fields activities and broad reach communication, targeting in particular young people.

Network coordination

During the first quarter of the year 2023 we had many touchpoints with the intercultural cities of the network. We followed up the RCD Coordination Meeting held in Milan, on December 12-13th 2022 sharing the report and key learnings within the network, and we started the organisation of the 1st Coordination meeting of 2023, that will take place in Montesilvano on May 17th and 18th.

We also had several start up calls with Zagarolo, the new municipality that recently joined the RCD network, to formalize their membership in the network. We shared the city's interesting inputs and proposals for projects that they would like to carry out in the future and that may be of interest of other cities of the network too (i. e. intercultural chorus, transforming their toys' museum in an intercultural museum). We also had exchanges and a call of mutual knowledge with the city of Orvieto, which showed an initial interest in joining the network.

On 28-29 March we were invited to participate to the Expert Meeting "Young People and Social Inclusion in Cities" held in Lisbon with one of the ICEI's "under 30" Civil Service assistant and we shared the experience and content within the network and through social media.

We shared the information on the online training session: "Anti-discrimination: a transformative approach for organisations" held on 31 January.

Activities

The Project **ITACA – Italian Cities Against Discrimination** ended in February 2023 after two and a half years of work. The Project supported the Italian network, working in particular with the Cities of Reggio Emilia and Modena (partners of the Action) but also in constant collaboration with other cities in the network (Casalecchio di Reno, Fucecchio, Novellara, Olbia and Viareggio).

The activities carried out included a capacity building of Cities staff, involving over 200 staff of the seven municipalities in the training programme proposed by the project, and over 70 referents of third sector organisations in these territories.

As a final activity, in January 2023 the municipalities of Reggio Emilia and Modena have elaborated the *"Guidelines on non-discrimination policies and practices in the municipal administrations"* based on the experience of these two cities on this topic.

The project **NET-IDEA** focused, in the first quarter of 2023, on the presentation of the curriculum on intercultural competences training, that was designed by project partners with the support of RPCI as leader of this field of action.

The birth of the Net-Idea project is related to the development of the work promoted by the ICC programme in 2021, when a group of international ICC experts worked together to draft an intercultural competences curriculum based on the key concepts of interculturalism. After this first step, the design of the NET-IDEA project aimed at exploring ways to mainstream this training.

Hence, a new flexible and adaptable curriculum on intercultural competences training was elaborated by partners based on the results of a survey and tested in the sixteen cities involved in the project. The main features and outputs of the trainings are here summarized:

TARGET: 210 People from 16 Cities

4 MODULES:

- 12 Hours of Training divided into 4 Sessions of 3 Hours Each
- (Online & In Presence Synchronous Sessions)
- Maximum 20 to 25 People per Course
- Knowledge: Theory/Concepts
- Attitudes: Exercises
- Skills: Exercises

A Facilitators Guide was elaborated and delivered for each facilitator to be able to develop the training autonomously in their own country/city:

- Training Sessions Plan
- PPT with Theory/Concept for Each Session Homework Proposals
- Exercises Proposals
- Evaluation Surveys
- Tools

Also, in January 2023 a meeting was organised to present the curriculum to the partners and the facilitators there were selected, to deliver the training to make sure that they could have enough info to implement the training in autonomy and enable them to understand how to adapt the training to the specific needs and target groups to be addressed.

Training materials were translated in 6 languages.

The project **DIVERCITIES** started its implementation process with the elaboration and sharing of the start-up documentation: formal agreements with each partner, project manual, operational plan and basic instruments of communication.

A two-days in presence kick off meeting (KoM) took place in **Pontedera (Italy) on 27-28 March 2023** and counted on the participation of representatives (city officials and relevant stakeholders) of each of the 11 partners and Cities involved in the project (3 CSO & 8 Cities).

The meeting actually started on 26 March 2023, as ICEI with the cities that are part of Italian Network Città del Dialogo and with the financial support of a German foundation organised and supported awareness-raising actions within the youth spaces promoted by Pontedera public administration or the civil society, to celebrate the National Week Against Racism. Participants of

DiverCities KoM were invited to join one of these actions, that took place in a place managed by ARCI Ragazzi in the afternoon and consisted in a social lunch prepared by youngsters and a workshop on Hate Speech & New Narratives. Participation to the event was a success, as 80 people from the community of Pontedera attended and supported the activities with an important percentage of young people with migratory background.

On 27 March, the KoM started with a session of Institutional Greetings that was also attended online by a senior officer of the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe, that is associate partner of DIVERCITIES, with an intervention on the importance of active participation as one of the four key principles of the Intercultural Approach promoted by the Council of Europe.

The afternoon session started with a participative exercise in working groups, facilitated by a representative of RPCI, partner of the project, focusing on the responses provided by each of the eight cities involved from a survey designed by ICEI & RPCI that addressed the following topics:

- General Presentation of the City
- Institutional & Political Management of Intercultural Policies
- Existing Dedicated Strategies/Plans/Programmes for Interculturalism
- Analysis of Existing Level & Impact of Participation within the Intercultural Policies
- Benefits for Communities with Migratory Background
- Expectations of Each City on DiverCities
- Challenges

The first day ended with an intercultural walk of the city of Pontedera, started from the Railway Station District. First interaction was with the operators at the Immigration Counter and SAI Office. Next step was the Circolo Albergo del Pepe (Pepper Tree Club).

The second day of KoM (28th) started with the presentation of the main insights of an initial study that ICEI has commissioned to an expert of the OBITen (Observatory on Migration of Tenerife) within the ICC Grant Agreement GA.DGII.0244.2023. OBITen has supported the design and implementation of a successful participatory process in Tenerife island, that was recognised by the ICC Programme and the Council of Europe as a best practice and included in a recent policy brief focusing on participation.

Afterwards, a representative of a social agency called SocioLab from Italy presented the experience of support to participatory processes for local public administrations of Italy, focusing on the impact of participation on the policies and providing a set of reflections and lessons learnt from the testing on the field. The intervention provided a clear idea on how to support participation in terms of engagement and common needs.

The last and final session of the KoM was a working exercise to define the main elements for the creation of common guidelines on Participation & Intercultural Assemblies.



The Project **#Diversamente** – Young people against discrimination carried out the Kick of Meeting in Milan on 17-18 January 2023.



During the quarter the following activities have been implemented:

- Capacity building for youth workers and educators (Training of Trainers) on non formal education skills and methodologies for countering discrimination:
 - 1st youth worker training workshop in Reggio Emilia (01/30/01-01/02/2023) with 19 participants
 - Creation of Community of Practice of youth workers
 - 1 Community of Practice video call (20 March 2023)
 - Development and sharing with partners of an Anti-Rumors Kit (February 2023)



- Creation of groups of "Youth Leaders" and training of youth activists on anti-rumors methodology
 - Creation of groups of Youth Leaders in the 5 partner cities
 - Presentation of the project to youth groups
 - 9 youth groups created and active with the support of the operators: 3 in Milan, 2 in Turin, 2 in Reggio Emilia, 1 in Pontedera, 1 in Montesilvano
 - Sharing with operators of training materials on anti-rumors strategy
 - Youth activist training on anti-rumors methodology to provide youth with skills to deal with prejudice and stereotypes
 - Youth thematic training course carried out in each city/youth space by youth workers previously trained in the 1st workshop in Reggio Emilia.
 - Non-formal education activities for the emergence of rumors present in the contexts frequented by young people

- Creation and dissemination of an Edutainment tool for countering discrimination
 - Identification of an edutainment tool creation service
 - Meetings with the identified service provider to organize and plan product development and creation (02-03/2023)

Communication

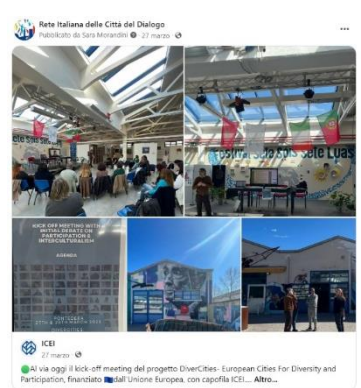
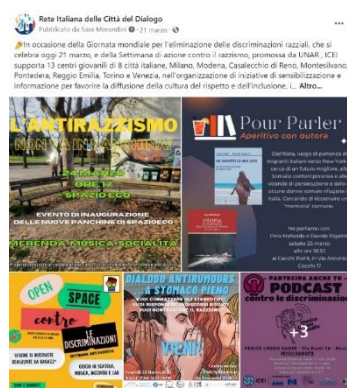
According to the 2023 communication strategy, we are focusing on increasing the engagement of our audiences and on raising awareness on intercultural topics and diversity.

Our priority is to highlight local content, presenting cities' projects and initiatives in the territory while promoting the resources and support of ICC Programme.

At the end of the quarter, our Facebook Community is made up of 12.673 followers.

In the first quarter, we posted 21 posts of which 15 on local intercultural projects and initiatives, related to projects DiversaMente, DiverCities, ITACA, We A.R., the National Week against Racism and the launch of the activities for the development of the Antidiscrimination Plan and Observatory of the Municipality of Milan. We had 112 interactions, reached 4.399 people and obtained 496 visits to the RCD Facebook page.

Some examples of posts can be found below.



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

We are also starting to test LinkedIn presenting intercultural and diversity related topics, also presenting ICC and Rete Città Del Dialogo activities, to address professional audiences. We will keep on testing and integrating this media during the editorial plan 2023.



Next steps

The annual national event of the Italian network will be held in **Montesilvano on the 17 and 18 May 2023**. The event will include working sessions to share the interventions and activities carried out by the member cities and to define future priorities of the network.

Moreover, thematic sessions will be organised on the topic of capacity building on intercultural competences, the needs and expectations of cities and the mainstreaming of training programmes within the municipal administrations.

Follow up of the **ICC Index** compilation by engaged cities (Pontedera, Montesilvano and Reggio Emilia) is ongoing and the first version of the compiled index is expected by the end of next quarter.

Project activities (Diversamente, Divercities and Net-Idea) will be implemented as planned and shared in the Strategic Annual Plan.