EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠ *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Empowering youth Participation for Inclusive and plural Communities — EPIC_IDEA
Participant:	ASOCIACION CIUDADES INTERCULTURALES
PIC number:	907227712

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D1.1 (WP1)		
Event name:	Initial training of trainers on youth participation and anti-rumours		
Type:	Event		
In situ/online:	In-situ		
Location:	Spain, Fuenlabrada		
Date(s):	15th-16th October 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://icei.it/en/progetti/epic_idea-empowering-youth-participation-for-inclusive-and-plural-communities/		
Participants			
Female:	27		
Male:	12		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Spain]:	19		
From country 2 [Italy]:	7		
From country 3 [Portugal]:	9		
From country 4 [Hungary]:	5		
Total number of participants:	40	From total number of countries:	4

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The initial training of trainers on youth participation and anti-rumours took place in Fuenlabrada, Spain on 15th and 16th October 2024.

The **General Objective** of the training was :

- To promote an open and structured reflection and exchange of experiences in the framework of the initiatives linked to the EPIC process by facilitating cross-fertilization.
- To share of challenges, initiatives, knowledge and know-how that will allow the attendees to start from a suitable space for the implementation of the project.

Specific Objectives were:

- To generate spaces to reflect about common challenges and for the exchange of good practices and experiences in intercultural coexistence and initiatives that can be framed within the anti-rumours umbrella, as well as the role of young people and their potential as agents of social change.
- To strengthen the cohesion of the group, valuing the role of leaders of those attending this event.
- To establish a baseline from which we all start with respect to the project, our motivations and the general expectations we have.
- To introduce and review the first 8-12 months of the project in detail.

The **methodology** was focused on promoting the active participation of the participants, sharing experiences, building trust and connecting ideas through different dynamics that allow the audience to identify the connections between the different topics and the project itself.

The event counted on the participation of **40** Youth workers, Youth leaders, Staff of partners and City representatives from Youth, Intercultural, Migration or Living Together Departments from the 4 partner countries.

15th of October 2024

Institutional welcome from Fuenlabrada Councillors Ms. Cristina Mora (Social Welfare), Mr. Javier Bokesa (Participation) and Ms. Beatriz Montilla (Children and Youth). The city, part of the Spanish Network of Intercultural Cities (RECI) shows an high and long-term commitment with youth and participation policies and programmes.

Challenges of youth work in the respective countries

The spatial socio-metric, take a stand methodology was used for youth workers and cities to express their thoughts and ideas around the following statements:

In my country, young people are generally politically active and engaged on a wide array of social topics

- Young people are diverse. There's a lot of disinformation about participation and whether it's useful.

In my country, young people are mostly leaning on the left side of the political spectrum

- Youngsters can be more progressive than their parents, depending from countries and generations. There are differences between countries (i.e. Hungary is a very polarised country) and between ages (teenagers vs 20+).

In my country, young women are more progressive (lefty) than young men

- Young women are more visibly active, but: there are women's movements trying to bring back "old values" (Trad Wife movement)
- Young men might feel less the need to be politically engaged.

In my country, there is a lot of attention and resources given to young people, their problems, and their needs by the government and institutions

- Difference between state and city level → states are not investing, but cities are.

In my country, youth workers are respected and well-paid professionals

- YW working directly In municipalities might have good working conditions, whereas those employed byCSO are worse off - which leads to a very high staff turn-over, with negative effects on the quality of youth work.

Common challenges across countries, random groups discussion:

1. *Working conditions*
   Social/economic recognition.
   Lack of stability (jobs depending on specific projects, not "structural").
   Lack of professional recognition.

Youth Workers come from different sectors (like social services) and lack a recognized and open approach (some are very patronising).
Projects depend on volunteering.
All of this leads to high turn-out and people leaving the sector.

2. *Relations with institutions*
Local institutions: bureaucracy (+informal groups are not recognized); lack of funds; lack of vision and systemic approach; externalization of services.
Schools: non-formal methodologies are not recognized.

3. *Relations with young people:*
High expectations towards young people.
Difficult to keep them engaged.
Young people change, and methodologies need to be adapted from one generation to the next.
The online world can be an opportunity but also a risk.

4. *Youth workers need connections and networking and exchange, both within the countries and among them*.

5. *Two general narratives hindering youth work:*
Participation is not for me / is useless.
Young people work for less / do not need to earn much.

Welcoming, round of names and EPIC project's presentation

Gabriella Patriziano, project coordinator from ICEI, reviewed the specific objectives, target groups and the different WPs of the project.

EPIC project's expectations

One of the objectives of the session was to make it easier to understand the whole project: from the needs assessment (challenges identified) to the specific objectives and the activities needed to achieve them. The idea was not to forget the final aim of the project by focusing on specific WPs nor to ignore the EU context. A brief reflection on the EU values was shared.
The second part of the session was dedicated to debate on participants' expectations about the project as well as some strategies and ideas to achieve the three specific objectives. Participants were divided in groups according to their profile: youth workers and city officials. These were the results:

In what ways this project can benefit… / what kind of impact /results could we expect from this project on…?

The society

- Connecting people, networking, putting together young professionals and institutions
- Reduce generational gap – better understanding / Create links between generations
- Spaces that will bring new ideas
- More inclusion
- More involvement and proactivity
- Increased sense of belonging
- Higher participation
- Social sensibility
- Breakdown stereotypes on young people
- Ongoing diagnosis: identifying problems and challenges / discussion on youth workers conditions
- Awareness on Antirumours Strategy
- Increase culture of participation
- Better ideas that match more with the real needs of young people (because we listen and engage more with youth)
- More space and resources for youth participation
- Recognition of young people participation
- Visibility and recognition of the role of youth workers

Local context

- Enhancing the sense of belonging to the community & city
- Wake up the EU values

- Youth participation in real sense
- Capacity building in participation to everybody
- Communication challenges: how to engage with youth.
- Real participation will reduce conflicts as all parts are involved
- Critical thinking
- Opportunity to create a relationship between institutions and young people
- More direct communication and effectiveness between youngsters and the local politicians
- Provide awareness and more tools in order to educate our rights
- More young leaders that promote activities, better prepared young leaders
- Youth perspectives are more included in local projects by other organisations
- More retention of young people in the city
- Increased diversity of young people participating
- Increased awareness of interculturalism

Young people

- All youth need to be involved, real part of the process
- Empowerment by being in a EU project
- More sense of belonging
- Increase critical thinking
- Be aware about their rights
- More engagement with this type of projects
- Awareness that they're not alone
- Increased sense of community and belonging; being part of a group with same concerns
- Empowerment and self-confidence
- New youth-led organisations, groups, projects
- Inclusion of intercultural perspective in their work

Youth workers

- More capacity to support and work with youth, more capacity to manage conflicts in participatory process
- Find more ways to engage young people
- Get support and resources
- More connectors /translators between cities and young people
- Recognition as important mediators
- More awareness on their potential impact
- New youth leaders

Public institutions

- We need commitment, to give answers to the topics shared by youth and youth workers
- Active youth is good for public institutions
- Adjustment of institutional priorities to real needs.
- Inspiration, new and fresh ideas and practices
- Awareness on the need of representation + youngsters' rights
- Listen more to young people
- Policies and projects more informed by youth
- Inclusion of intercultural perspective in programmes / policies

What is needed in order to achieve the goals of….

Strengthening youth workers' & young citizens' awareness of EU values and of the role of young people as key players for the future of Europe

- Promote more informal spaces between cities and countries, enhance that we are many countries working for the same goal / Spaces to discuss about the EU
- Mix and share with youngsters from other EU countries
- Debate groups, exchange of visions.
- Adapt languages and dynamics to each target group
- Outreach youngsters: Go where they are; Use social media as a way to reach them
- Create attractive programmes
- Training about EU values and debate

Increase young citizens' engagement in their local communities to promote diverse and inclusive societies

- Use spaces and activities that are attractive and practical
- Make sure that ideas and proposals from youngsters are taken into account

- Allow them to have ideas and express them, and assist and give them tools to implement them
- Work with influencers /high profile people
- Identify structural problems that are behind less participation
- Understand what they are interested about + community engagement

Support young citizens to effectively advocate their views and proposals for the future of the EU to policy makers at local, national and European level.

- Youngsters in decision making
- Understand their context
- Empower minorities to share their voice
- Let them express themselves through different activities.
- More investment and training
- More travels to understand what European level means.
- Promote critical thinking
- Develop skills for communication
- Concrete methodologies for advocacy
- Identify participation spaces and responses

Ensuring a long-term impact of the project

- More sharing spaces between partner cities /CSOs
- Elaboration of materials + guides
- Evaluation of processes and activities
- Cities commitment + CSOs
- Continuous diagnosis of reality and needs
- Stable network
- Reach schools, youth centres and sporting clubs
- Engaging decision makers
- Test new policies and programmes

Site visit to two initiatives in Fuenlabrada:

- **Table for coexistence** (Mesa de la Convivencia) of Fuenlabrada is an association formed by 31 organisations from the social, cultural, participation and immigrant fields. It is a space for participation and reflection in which they promote different actions, such as debate laboratories, cycles of talks and conferences or the **Camus Project:** an innovative European project in which a group of auditors chosen from among the citizens of Fuenlabrada, work to identify structural discrimination in the access and use of municipal services of the City of Fuenlabrada .

- **Must-a-Lab** is a European project whose objective is to implement, in different European cities, a laboratory to review, modify and generate new policies to ensure integration understood from a broad perspective. Currently, the participants in this project in Fuenlabrada have decided to address as the main topic the active participation of young migrants in the municipal context.

16th of October 2024

Basis of the Antirumors Strategy

Dani de Torres, director of Antirumours Global introduced the context and expansion of the Antirumours Strategies and went through some theoretical aspects of the core principles: stereotypes, prejudices and rumours. Then, he shared the strategies to overcome prejudices and the Antirumours approach elements. The session was introductory to the topic. In the upcoming WPs, youth workers will receive more capacity building on it.

Ways to generate change through youth participation and advocacy

Each country shared some projects or good practice from its cities or CSO on the following topics:

- The **Future Thinking** methodology was introduced by ICEI. Additionally, the project Evolving Futures was shared to better understand how this methodology works in practice. This project aimed to foster

civic participation among young people ahead of the European elections 2024. Through the FUTURE THINKING methodology, several groups of young people aged 15 to 25 from 4 youth centres were activated to identify and imagine new possible scenarios.

- **Antirumours Strategies**, methodology and tools were introduced by Diversit, Bilbao City Council and KAUA a CSO from Tenerife. Diversit shared the innovative tool of Escape Rumours, both available in online and in presence. The tool is based on the escape room/break out methodology and with introductory content to the antirumours strategy approach. The City Council of Bilbao shared the framework of its Antirumours Strategy as a public policy in the city, including Youth as one of the four lines of work. An interesting activity is the challenge "mobiles against rumours", and a key tool to youth workers is the handbook with antirumours actions to work with youngsters "Games to dissolve rumours"

- The topic of **advocacy and campaigning** was showcased by UNITED that developed the following themes:
  - What is United?

  We believe that racism can only be combated by unity. Since 1993, more than 560 organisations from 46 European countries have stood together to support our anti-racist and antidiscrimination vision, and to speak out against the political backsliding in Europe.
  It is variety and creativity that makes UNITED campaigns unique. By linking local and national actions, we generate European-wide solidarity and publicity.
  - Campaigns

  Action week against Racism: We encouraged individuals, collectives, organisations and institutions all across Europe to find things that unite us, to celebrate diversity and to stand firm against racism and xenophobia. We counted this year as stocktaking - gathering information about events that had happened in recent years previous.
  List of Refugee Deaths - how is it made?
  Our pledge to raise awareness about the policies of fortress Europe.
  The list of summaries on where, when, and under which circumstances people died while looking for refuge

- RCPI introduced the concept of **Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation** (MIYP), and the Participation Flower, a model to guide youth participation. They shared the following best practice:
  - U4EU - *Clube intercultural Europeu*, a CERV project aimed at contributing to shared decision-making processes in the EU.
  - The territorial valorisation network, from Cascais Municipality
  - The Agha Khan Foundation
  - The Hot Air Balloon Activity

Hackaton: shaping future actions

Working with groups of three to five people, we looked for the best proposals to effectively address specific WPs of the project (those in which we consider more relevant the role of the Youth Workers). The WPs addressed were:

WP2: Analysis of young people's perspectives
WPs 3-6: National events for Youth Workers
WP7: Community of Practices
WP8-11: National Youth Camps

Through the adaptation of the tool, we reflected on key issues of the project such as effective participation, the engagement to the different actions, the effectiveness of the processes and the alignment of the different actions with the objectives of the project. Participants had to create valid proposals to address different goals for each WP in an innovative way. These proposals will be the guide for the project coordinating team to put them into practice.

WP2 Bottom-up analysis of young people's perspectives on the future of the EU

Outcomes expected:

- *Topics and general structure [kind and number of questions, length of each of the two surveys]*

- *List of main commonalities and differences - both content wise, in its form/linguistic accessibility, and on which platform to share it- between the survey addressed to young people and the one addressed to youth workers*

Group 1:

Topics:

1. European citizenship and identity. Sense of belonging
2. Education and skills/competences
   - Erasmus+
   - The role of education in EU citizenship
3. Employment and economy
   - Impacts of EU in local and regional economies
   - Opportunities in the EU
4. Climate change and sustainability
   - Perceptions of EU environmental policies
   - The role of youth in the fight of climate change
5. Security
   - Perceptions of security in the EU
   - Role of EU in international crisis
6. Politics
   - Trust in EU institutions
   - How democracy works in the EU
7. Tech and innovation
   - Influence of tech in the lives of young people
   - Digital future of the EU and implications
8. Health and well-being
   - Responses to health crisis
   - Access to health care and social services
9. Human Rights and inclusion
   - The importance of diversity and inclusion for the young people
   - Gender equality and minority rights

Commonalities and differences:

Both surveys anonymous
Adapt the info to each group: Yp: simple, clear, fast; Yw: technical language
Visually stimulating: Yp: interactive; Yw: simple, clean
Dissemination: Yp: social media, schools, informal spaces; Yw: work place, training spaces

Group 2

2 steps:

1. Anonymous survey: Forms / Mentimeter
   Topics: EU values combining open and close questions: Perceptions; Challenges; Awareness; Experiences; Suggestions

2. Discussion groups for those we are interested:
   Email address
   One afternoon
   Online (zoom) and on site + mentimeter
   Mix Young pepole and Youth workers

3. Dissemination:
   Young people: Mobile friendly; Social networks; Institutions (Schools + Orgs)
   Youth workers: Institutions

4. Analysis: Young people's role

WPs 3-6: National events for youth workers

Outcomes expected:

- *Contents proposal and agenda (considering those included in the project).*
- *Proposal of innovative methodologies (including specific activities).*
- *Dissemination tools and process.*

Group 1:

Interactive activity

1. Dissemination:
   - Organizations
   - Politicians
   - Local Young influencers

2. Methodologies: the idea is to create an intercultural walk in the city based on identifying those spots connected to diverse coexistence and highlighting them by including them in a virtual map. In each of the stops the group would have to overcome a test that will be developed using art, storytelling and music.

3. The interactive walk will be the way to design a map, create intercultural links and record a video that will support the dissemination of the values, actions and principles of the group.

4. The participants of the event will be part of this interactive experience.

Group 2

Agenda of the event:

Day 1:

- Ice breakers
- Project presentation
- Goals of the event
- Lunch
- Parallel groups: Antirumours Strategy / Future thinking
- After the training each group will have a visit to a local project in which they will implement the learning acquired.
- Wrap up of the day

Day 2

- Parallel groups (the groups switch topics): Anti Rumours Strategy / Future thinking
- After the training each group will have a visit to a local project in which they will implement the learning acquired.
- Lunch
- Group activity to plan local events
- Creation of the Instagram cannel and post events
- Conclusions

Group 3

Agenda of the event
Day 1:

- Welcome and ice breaking games
- Introduction of participants organisations
- Presentations of experts on: Antirumours strategy / EU Values / Advocacy
- + Q&As
- Lunch
- Small groups preparing the field work for the next day using music, body percussion, video making, photovoice, performance, situation games, art.
- Wrap - up

- Dinner

Day 2:

- Field work at local organisations implementing the actions designed the day before
- Lunch
- Sharing the experience of the field work
- Meeting with local organisations (Young people of the local orgs can get to know the project)
- Aharing thoughts, remarks, sharing contacts, next steps

WP7: Community of Practices among youth workers and youth activists

Expected outcomes:

- *Community of Practices working model*
- *Dissemination tools and process*
- *Ways and tools for communication and interaction among members*

Group 1:

1. Meeting part 1 (Search)
   - Separated Youth Workers and Young People (Meeting first week of the month).
   - Select a leader for each profile
   - Define expectations and plans in each of the 4 country Community of Practices: Shared values; Identify good practices
   - Develop a national Google drive
   - Develop and international collective drive for brainstorming
   - Create a group chat

2. Meeting part 2 (Inspire)
   - Countries share their plans
   - Practices, what they have done so far

3. Meeting part 3 (create and grow)
   - Promoting on social media (videos)
   - Vote for the main topics and themes

Group 2

1. Working model:

- Who?: Youth Workers from the cities involved + others interested in being part of the discussion; Young activist: identified by the cities; Civil society organisations; Independent
- When?: 4 meetings, two hours each
- How?: Presentations + debate: Break out rooms + plenary; Q&As; App: Miro (it should be introduced in the first meeting)

2. Dissemination:

- Common information about: What is a Community of Practices; Benefits; Roles and expectations

3. Tools to communicate:

- Drive
- Newsletter (docs+links)
- WhatsApp group

WPs 8-11: National Youth Camps

Expected outcomes:

- *Contents proposal (considering those included in the project)*
- *Proposal of innovative methodologies (including specific activities)*
- *Dissemination tools and process*

Group 1:

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
M	Ice breakers Team building activities	World cafe: Participation	Meeting with authorities

		An activity where the participants can go around tables and speak with peers, young leaders, and professionals.	
A	EU: the boardgame (a Trivial/Quiz game about the EU values)	Antirumours photo hunt: The participants work on antirumours situations through photos taken in the city.	Farewell barbecue Each participant can write down ideas, feelings, plans for the upcoming steps of the project.
E	Cultural dinner Each participant brings some dish/drink from their place of origin. Shared dinner. Each one can share the recipe.	Shark (Eu) Tank Teams of participants pitch an idea for the future of the EU to a panel of experts and activists.	End of the event

Speakers: Young leaders, representatives of formal and informal groups.
Groups: According to each country's statistics they should create a method to ensure a faithful representation and a plan to reach that profile/es.

Group 2

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
M	Institutional welcome Round of names (first dates methodology)	Teamwork: create content for each of the social media (interviews, songs, podcasts, videos…)	Each country works on how they can develop the 12 requests.
A	Context of EU values (by influencers) Creation of three groups to develop a communication campaign - Instagram - TikTok - Twitch Activities to plan the campaign.	Exposition of the work Improvements from our peers Public institutions: what do we want to ask our municipalities through social media – 12 months/12 requests.	
E	Gymkhana links with the topics	Concerts	

The training ended with a group photo and proposals for keeping in touch and starting the project!

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).