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:	Asociación Ciudades Interculturales
PIC number:	907227712

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D4.1 (WP4)		
Event name:	National event for youth workers - Spain		
Type:	Event		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Castelló de la Plana (SPAIN)		
Date(s):	25th-26th February 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://icei.it/en/progetti/epic_idea-empowering-youth-participation-for-inclusive-and-plural-communities/		
Participants			
Female:	27		
Male:	5		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [SPAIN]:	32		
Total number of participants:	32	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The event took place in Castelló de la Plana (Spain) on 25th and 26th February and consisted of a two-day meeting targeting youth workers and city representatives.

The event counted on the participation of **32** Youth workers, City representatives from Youth, Intercultural, Migration or Living Together Departments from four different territories (Bilbao, Castelló de la Plana, Fuenlabrada and Tenerife Island), and Diversit Staff.

Tuesday 25 February 2025 Programme

Institutional welcome

The meeting began in the council's plenary hall with an institutional welcome by the Social Welfare and Youth Councillors of Castelló City Council.

Presentation of the project, agenda and objectives of the encounter

The EPIC_IDEA project seeks to create the conditions for the empowerment of young people, facilitating their participation in decision-making from the local to the European level and in contributing to a more inclusive society based on the EU's set of values.

The **general and specific objectives** of the project were shared:

1. Raise awareness among youth workers and young people about EU values and the role of young people as key actors for the future of Europe.
2. Increase youth participation in their local communities to promote diverse and inclusive societies - through anti-rumour actions.
3. Support young people to effectively advocate their views and proposals for the future of the EU to policy makers at local, national and European level.

The **work packages and timeline:**

1. Training of Trainers, Fuenlabrada (October 2024)

2. Diagnosis: survey of needs, skills and abilities of young people and youth workers. (November-March 2025)

3. Youth Workers Meeting (Spain), Castelló (February 2025)

7. Community of Practice *(March 25 - July 26)*

9. Youth Summit in Spain, Granadilla - Tenerife (*September 2025*)

13. Anti-rumour actions at local level *(August - November 2025*)

15. Awareness campaign *(September 2025 - August 2026)*

16. International Youth Summit, Hungary. (*November 2025*)

17. Visionaries Gallery (dynamic digital exhibition, displaying content obtained at the youth summits and the anti-rumour actions using Future Thinking methodology). *(September 2025 - August 2026)*

19. Youth Summit, Spain. *(March 2026?)*

22. Public Policy Laboratory, Spain. Presentation of ideas and proposals to policy makers working on youth participation issues - RECI Meeting. *(April 2026)*

24. International event with policy makers, Strasbourg. Presentation of ideas and proposals to European policy makers. A Policy Recommendations Report will be presented based on the experiences gathered by young people and as a result of the implementation of the project. (*July 2026*).

Results of the assessment of young people

At the beginning of the sessions, the results of the diagnosis undertaken with youngsters were presented.

Online survey results:

- Profile: the majority are between 16-18 years old (32.7%) and 12-15 years old (30.8%), followed by 19-24 years old (26.9%), women predominate (63.5%), and 5.8% are non-binary/queer. ▪ Most frequently mentioned dreams: to find a satisfying job / career aspirations.
- Concerns: education and mental health are the most frequently mentioned issues, together with housing crises and fear of loneliness.
- Perception of diversity: 57.7% consider their city to be quite diverse, and 17.3% perceive it as very diverse.
- 44.2% believe that institutions do ‘moderately’ enough and 26.9% think they do ‘quite’ enough. However, 23% consider that they do little or nothing.
- The majority believe they can bring about change, but with different levels of confidence: Moderately (32.7%), Slightly (30.8%), Fairly (19.2%) and Very much (17.3%).
- Feeling of support: Only 5.7% feel very supported, while the majority feel moderately (53.8%) or slightly (17.3%) supported.
- Sources of support: Family and friends are the main source of support, together with educational centres, social centres and youth centres.

Focus group results

- Concerns and priorities: The majority emphasised their interest in achieving a stable future in the workplace.
- There was growing recognition of the importance of mental health, linked to economic, social and climate uncertainty.
- The need to work on the protection and guarantee of fundamental rights was emphasised, especially for vulnerable groups (migrants, transgender people, people with functional diversity, etc.).
- A disconnect between young people and public administration was identified. The need to train young people to influence public policy was mentioned.
- Relationship between the violation of rights and stability There was discussion of how the lack of recognition of rights impacts on job stability and mental health.
- The lack of information about rights was mentioned as an obstacle in the fight for their recognition.
- Education and technology Technology is not perceived as an urgent priority, probably because it is fully integrated into everyday life.
- It was pointed out that social networks have a significant impact on the way information is consumed, generating risks of misinformation and stress.
- The importance of digital literacy and learning to identify reliable sources was highlighted.

See attached presentation

EU values and functioning

What Europe has achieved in keeping the peace would already be an achievement like few others in history, but it continues to have weaknesses and is sustained by a colonising past. Today, Europe is an exception to the well-being of the world (in terms of equality, labour protection, minimum environmental and educational standards, democratic quality control, the rule of law...). These indicators should generate optimism, but not complacency.

In the vast majority of countries, Euroscepticism and Europhobia (both social and parliamentary) have become entrenched. This is a reflection of a crisis that calls into question democracy and the liberal system, as well as many things that we considered untouchable and sacred.

The EU is never the best, but the minimum acceptable, a common minimum between all of us that serves to overcome mutual suspicion. Europe is reactive. Sami Naïr says that we are heading for something worse if we do not change. And that what chains Europe is its economic model, neoliberalism.

In fact, there are growing calls for European construction not to be limited to the economic, but also to include the political and the cultural. The cultural issue, which affects the collective symbolic imaginary (around a sense of belonging and identity) is essential for the European political project.

As enshrined in the EU Treaty, '**The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**. These values are common to the Member States in a society characterised by pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men'.

How the EU works

Detailed procedure in the attached presentation

Agenda - Priorities - Budget

Following the European elections in June 2024, the EU established a series of priorities that make up the political and action agenda until 2029.

<u>The priorities of the EC 2024-2029</u>

1. A new plan for sustainable prosperity and competitiveness in Europe.
2. A new era for European defence and security. Includes: 'strengthening our common borders and managing migration in a fair and firm manner'.

3. Support for people and strengthening our societies and our social model. Includes: working to safeguard the rights of minorities; organising annual dialogues Shaping the EU's future; setting up a Youth Advisory Council with young people from all Member States to advise the Commission on youth-related issues; updating the LGBTIQ equality strategy and developing a new anti-racism strategy.
4. Preserving our quality of life: food security, water and nature.
5. Protecting our democracy and defending our values. Among the objectives: citizens must play a central role in the democratic process. They must be included in the functioning of the institutions. Also: fighting against the manipulation of information and foreign interference by detecting, analysing and proactively fighting against disinformation and the manipulation of information; increasing digital and media literacy.
6. A global Europe: leveraging our power and partnerships.

The Union's expenditure is set out in a multiannual financial framework (MFF), which divides the budget into headings corresponding to broad policy areas, with a ceiling on expenditure reflecting the main budgetary priorities for the period concerned. The programming periods have a duration of 7 years. We are now under the 2021-2027 MFF and NextGenerationEU. Under heading 2: Investing in people, social cohesion and values, is the CERV programme: Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values, which aims to protect and promote the rights and values enshrined in the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.
The EPIC_IDEA project is submitted to the Citizens' engagement and participation call of the CERV programme.

The Anti-rumours Strategy (framework, approach, actions and narratives)

On this occasion, bearing in mind that many of the attendees had already taken part in a short introductory workshop during the Fuenlabrada event in November, Daniel de Torres focused mainly on three key issues:

- The rumour equation, as a way of identifying the elements that contribute to the spread and establishment of rumours, stereotypes and prejudices.
- Potential courses of action to reduce their impact.
- Prioritising interventions according to the audience and the objectives, carrying out a participatory exercise with the attendees.

The session closes with different examples of significant anti-rumour actions and with a reflection on the importance of building strategic alliances to generate a greater impact and creativity and innovation as core elements of the DNA of the methodology itself.

PechaKucha Session - Experiences in the application of innovative pedagogical tools

Some experiences in the application of innovative pedagogical tools were presented by the participants and can be highlighted as best practices.

- **Esplai Social (Castelló de la Plana):** Innovation of pedagogical approaches through Erasmus+, highlights the opportunities offered by the programme to promote creative and innovative projects in the field of youth participation.
- **Granadilla de Abona (Tenerife):** through a cross-cutting programme called 'Vive Diversidad' (Live Diversity) run by Tenerife, three actions are being promoted to encourage youth participation: youth plenary sessions, promotion of the municipal youth plan and strengthening of youth spaces.
- **Familia Laguna (Bilbao):** a project aimed at accompanying newly arrived migrant families in their first months in the country, with the help of local families in schools.
- **Fuenlabrada, city of coexistence:** a process of youth empowerment and participation through the implementation of an Anti-Rumour Strategy and the promotion of actions such as talks in classes, gymkhanas, celebrations, participation in state summits, etc.
- **Carlos Cubillos Pérez (Castelló de la Plana):** promotion of participation through debate techniques, active listening and a ludopedagogical approach.
- **Kaua (Tenerife):** guaranteeing inclusive participation through different physical-sports and cultural activities such as: focusing especially on forum theatre as a methodology for community expression and reflection.

- **Namasté (Bilbao):** a group for participation and coexistence, focused on the research and development of artistic expressions as a vehicle towards the construction of identity and the strengthening of networks.
- **Eurorubik (Castelló de la Plana):** a European project aimed at creating a space for the exchange of practices, methodologies and materials for working with young people.
- **Superacció (Tenerife):** the use of sport, especially triathlon, as a vehicle for inclusion, mental health programmes and artistic training.
- **Novisi Elkartea (Bilbao):** youth training to combat hate speech on social networks through alternative narratives, promoting cultural and religious diversity and human rights.
- **Deusto+CLI (Bilbao):** putting into practice the theory learned at university through project development, participation in real cases and organisations and collaboration with the social and associative fabric of the territory.

See attached presentation

Recap of the first day by territory's

In a more informal format, all territories shared their feelings about the initiatives and information presented during the sessions. This time allowed participants to enhance networking and facilitate conversations that will be expanded on the following day.

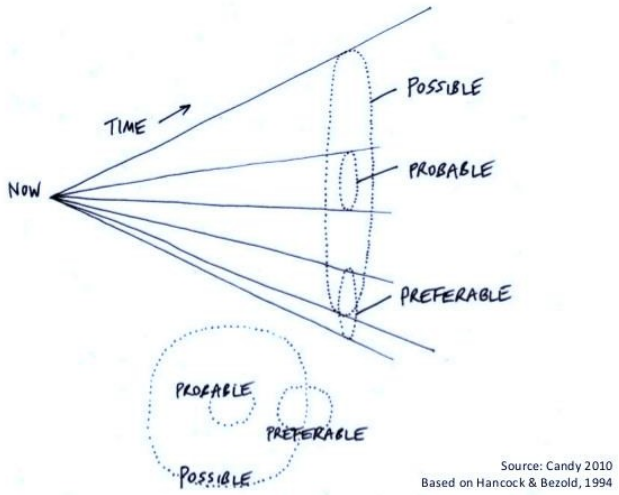
Wednesday 26 February 2025 Programme

Future Thinking Methodology

The Future Thinking methodology is a strategic approach used to anticipate and prepare for possible futures. The main objective is to **broaden the vision and the capacity to adapt** in the face of uncertainty and rapid change. In the specific case of the project, this methodology is expected to be used with young people to explore the future of the European Union. It is an opportunity to foster critical thinking (understanding of future complexities and challenges), active participation (greater involvement in policies and debates), creativity and empowerment (preparation to influence the future of the EU).

Fundamental Principles of Future Thinking

1. **Exploration of multiple futures**: Considers not only the most probable future, but also possible, plausible and desirable futures.
2. **Systems thinking**: Analyses how different factors (technological, social, economic, environmental and political) interconnect and affect the future.
3. **Uncertainty and ambiguity**: Accepts and works with uncertainty rather than trying to eliminate it.
4. **Creativity and Innovation**: Uses creative methods such as narratives and scenarios to imagine alternative futures and discover new opportunities.
5. **Strategic Action**: Transforms visions of the future into practical strategies and decisions for those involved.



Advocacy experience panel: The role of young people in upholding EU values

Political advocacy: collective actions by organised citizens aimed at influencing those who have the power to make decisions and/or implement them, with the aim of influencing public policy and the practices that result from its implementation. Political advocacy seeks to bring about sustained social change.

- It is not synonymous with campaigns or lobbying, although both tools can form part of advocacy strategies.
- It is a process, not an event.

Since the Lisbon Treaty, the EU derives its democratic legitimacy not only from representative democracy, but also from participatory democracy. As such, it includes channels for citizens to play a role in the political process.

- Requests for access to documents from EU institutions, ▪ Petitions to Parliament: a complaint or request that gives Parliament the opportunity to draw attention to any violation of the rights of European citizens committed by a Member State, a local authority or another institution.
- Public consultations by the Commission throughout the policy cycle.
- Complaints to the European Ombudsman
- Complaints to the Commission,
- European Citizens' Initiative**, the** first instrument of transnational participatory democracy that allows at least 7 EU citizens from 7 different states to suggest new policy initiatives in any area where the EU has the power to propose legislation after collecting one million signatures. To support an initiative, you must be entitled to vote in the European elections in your country. ▪ What's the mood? Long-term project that seeks to train young people to carry out their own artistic project. For example, they have worked on historical memory and identity through their grandmothers.
- Participation in Erasmus+ projects. Decolonisation, intersectionality and human rights. Training and support.
- Short workshops: Connecta. Workshops with artistic methodologies to train committed and critical young people.

Fractals
Youth Council of Castelló
Among its objectives: to seek the participation of young people in decision-making on issues that affect us all.
'Plenari Jove' project to address political disaffection (inspired by 'El Parlament Jove' at the regional level).

- A weekend
- 25 participants were divided into several groups. Each group was assigned an ideology (different European trends)
- Objective: to carry out a simulation by drafting, negotiating and defending a motion on a specific topic. The topic chosen was: YOUTH PARTICIPATION
- The regional council provided training and the Castelló council organised the event.
- Councillors were invited (World Café format).

- How to reach these people: via Youth Centre (complex)

→ Technical roundtable of organisations Castelló City Council: make use of the spaces that already exist!!

***** *Initiative to explore: The Parliament of the Future (Tenerife LAB): Political debate with DJ.*

See attached presentations

Creation of the Community of Practice (CoP)

Within the framework of the project, a Community of Practice will be promoted among youth professionals, who will meet periodically (online). The main objectives will be:

- The promotion of a network for ongoing debate between professionals and activists on the subject of youth participation as a tool for promoting EU values, encouraging the exchange of ideas and methodologies.
- Support for the implementation of project activities at the local level, sharing ideas, difficulties and possible solutions.
- The presentation of methodologies (such as Anti-Rumours and Future Thinking) to support professionals in their daily work.

The CoP activity, together with the results of the national youth worker events, will produce a '**Manual on anti-rumour methodology in the youth field'.**

Results of the dynamic

Governance and participation

- Create two spaces: one international and one national

- Participants: Find a way for young people to be represented
  - Leaders of the educational community
  - Diverse political participation
  - Representation of organisations, young people and public administration

- Principles: Intercultural; Gender; Inclusion; Intersectionality; Transparency

- Management and decision-making:
  - Adapt governance to emerging needs – flexibility
  - Maintain contact with smaller organisations when making decisions
  - Ensure participation
  - Joint responsibility
  - Horizontality but different levels of responsibility
  - Driving force
  - Rotating and shared leadership but with stability. If not rotating, then remunerated
  - That the town halls or remunerated entities have a greater workload

- Objectives:
  - Facilitating role . Clarify the whys and wherefores + Criteria
  - Joint strategy

- Challenges:
  - Difficulty in getting people to participate voluntarily
  - Mistrust on the part of some organisations about participating in a network
  - Funding to guarantee participation (travel, joint activities, etc.)
  - Accessible language
  - Everyone has to have the same information. For example, deadlines for objectives in order to be able to assess the level of participation
  - Make it a priority strategy for each organisation
  - Consistency / Commitment

- Format:
  - Short, regular meetings

- One meeting a month with your territory, every two months with a representative of the territory who rotates
- Transfer of information at the state level
- Flexible hours
- A contact person to transmit the information in each territory
- Maintain communication channels. More orderly communication. Slack channel

Needs

- Innovative methodologies for working with young people (keys to success and failure)
- Future thinking and anti-rumour training
- Keys to success with life experiences - in citizen participation to improve all spheres (my neighbourhood, my city, etc.)
- Networking, sharing projects, results, good practices
- Local diagnostic tools
- Adaptation of the project to individual / territorial needs
- Dialogue to involve the political sphere in this participation with young people
- Ways of communicating projects and results with artistic tools
- That participation is beneficial for my organisation/municipal area

Next steps and closing of the session

The meeting concluded by agreeing the next steps for 2025:

1. **Shared diagnosis:** We will have the comparative report in April 2025

2. **Anti-rumour actions at local level - Spain** *(August - November).* Each territory will identify a group of young people to work with. Specifically, 19 young people per territory (total 76). The idea is that the group of young people - with the support of youth workers - design and implement actions that promote critical thinking and awareness of EU values and the promotion of diversity and inclusion in our cities, fighting against stereotypes, prejudices and rumours using creative and artistic tools to communicate messages. The activity will have 4 steps:

    1) Identification of the needs/priorities involved in the groups of young people.
    2) Design of the anti-rumour actions, based on the choice of one or more topics to focus on and the decision on the artistic methodology to be used (theatre, music, video, painting) according to interests and talents.
    3) Implementation of local actions through artistic performances, which will be aimed mainly at other young people.
    4) Production of communication materials involving the actions (videos and photos), to feed the communication campaign and the Gallery of Visionary Futures.

3. **Anti-Rumour Youth Summit – Granadilla de Abona (Tenerife).** The ARYS 2025 will be held from 18 to 21 September 2025. Currently, there is a working group, made up of technical staff from the participating cities, technical staff from Diversit, young participants and youth professionals, which is defining the contents of the agenda as well as drawing up a proposal from professionals to facilitate the different themes. They will be working on: Anti-Rumour Strategy, Future Thinking and inclusive communication.

4. **Community of Practice.** With the results of the meeting and the project guidelines, we will share a proposed calendar with meetings and their objectives: co-design of anti-rumour actions, training session on Future Thinking or Anti-Rumours, preparation of the Anti-Rumour Youth Meeting, exchange of views/experiences in local actions.

5. **International Youth Summit Budapest (3 days).** Who: Young people involved in the above activities. 1 participant per city/territory (approx. 25 participants). Objective: to further enhance the skills of young people and support the creation of a network of young people committed to building a cohesive and inclusive EU. They will work to design the communication campaign and to prepare the advocacy event with European policy makers.

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