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:	Istituto Cooperazione Economica Internazionale (ICEI)
PIC number:	932287177

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D12.1 (WP12)		
Event name:	Anti-rumours actions at local level in Italy #1		
Type:	Event		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	City of Casalecchio di Reno, City of Pontedera, City of Montesilvano, City of Reggio Emilia, City of Turin		
Date(s):	**City of Casalecchio di Reno**: 01/11/2024 - 30/04/2025; 01/05/2025 - 01/08/2025; 01/07/2025 - 01/08/2025; 15/09/2025 - 28/11/2025; 23/10/2025; 06/11/2025; 27/11/2025; **City of Pontedera**: 25/06/2025; 19-20/07/2025; 01/11/2025 - 18/12/2025; 20/12/2025 **City of Montesilvano**: 15-29/07/2025; 20/09/2025 **City of Reggio Emilia**: 09/03/2025; 12/03/2025; 21/03/2025; 16/04/2025; 29/04/2025; 16/05/2025; 17-18/05/2025; 07/01/2025 - 30/06/2025; 26/06/2025 - 07/07/2025; 12/11/2025 - 25/11/2025; 21/11/2025 - 25/11/2025 **City of Turin:** 01/09/2025; 01/10/2025; 31/10/2025 - 02/11/2025; 18/11/2025; 23/11/2025; 24-25/11/2025;		
Website(s) (if any):	https://icei.it/en/progetti/epic_idea/		
Participants			
Female:	189		
Male:	148		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Italy]	337		
Total number of participants:	337	From total number of countries:	1
Description *Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*			

INTRODUCTION

A total of **337** young people, experts, youth workers and general public took part in the anti-rumours actions organised and implemented at local level in the cities of **Reggio Emilia, Montesilvano, Pontedera, Turin, and Casalecchio di Reno** from November 2024 to December 2025.

The youth centres involved have a long-standing and well-established collaboration with ICEI on these thematic areas. This partnership allowed the centres to build on shared methodologies and a common understanding of local contexts and target groups, ensuring a consistent and systemic approach to the implementation of anti-rumours actions. This was further strengthened by the joint work carried out during the EPIC_IDEA National Youth Camp and the National event for Youth Workers, which contributed to consolidating a common framework, reinforcing facilitation skills, and aligning approaches across organisations. As a result, the anti-rumours initiatives were fully integrated into broader educational pathways and community-based strategies, strengthening coherence and long-term relevance.
Rather than being delivered as stand-alone interventions, the activities were embedded into the centres' regular programmes and outreach work. This ensured continuity over time, reinforced key messages through progressive learning processes, and supported both the empowerment of young people and the engagement of wider audiences.

Thanks to the strong community links and local networks of the youth centres, the actions also generated a clear multiplier effect. Through their daily interaction with diverse groups, such as young people, families, educators and local stakeholders, the centres facilitated the dissemination of anti-rumours messages beyond the direct participants, fostering community awareness, peer-to-peer transmission and increased sustainability at local level.

The youth-led anti-rumours initiatives pursued a twofold objective:

1. **To mobilise youth activists**, by engaging them in the co-design and implementation of local actions. Through this participatory approach, young people became key actors in visible and impactful activities within their communities, while also strengthening cooperation and dialogue among peers.
2. **To promote critical thinking and raise awareness of EU values**, while advancing diversity and inclusion at city level. The initiatives actively countered stereotypes, prejudices and rumours by combining awareness-raising messages with creative tools that encouraged reflection and meaningful engagement.

The anti-rumours actions were developed as concrete, visible and high-impact initiatives aimed at deconstructing discriminatory narratives. They relied on creative and emotionally engaging methods, which proved effective both for the youth involved in their implementation and for the wider audiences reached.

The participatory process used to select and design the actions was central to ensuring genuine ownership and sustained engagement among youth leader groups, contributing to increased activism and motivation. Creative methodologies also helped make complex issues more accessible, particularly for younger audiences, by translating key messages into relatable languages and formats.
With the support of youth workers, and in some cases in collaboration with external experts, volunteers and local stakeholders, a range of targeted initiatives were implemented to enable young people to express themselves through tools and formats they felt confident using. Overall, the activities promoted positive narratives on diversity and contributed to challenging discriminatory stereotypes through participatory, community-based and youth-centred approaches.
Finally, young people, youth workers from the centres and ICEI staff met regularly to jointly define and review the action plans, ensuring that the initiatives remained grounded in the needs, concerns and priorities emerging from local contexts.

The anti-rumours initiatives included, as examples, the creation of murals and visual interventions in public spaces, educational games, sport activities, facilitated talks and thematic discussions, film screenings followed by debates, the production of comics, the organisation of festivals and public events, peer-led activities, workshops, theatre performances, book talks, LARP (Live Action Role Playing). By using expressive and informal languages, these actions fostered active participation, encouraged critical reflection and supported young people in becoming active agents in the construction and dissemination of inclusive and anti-discriminatory narratives.
The activity proved effective in mobilising young people, as demonstrated by the high number of anti-rumours actions carried out, and contributed to strengthening their role as active agents in combating discrimination within their communities.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

28 events were carried out in 5 cities:
6 in the City of Casalecchio di Reno
4 in the City of Pontedera
2 in the City of Montesilvano

11 in the City of Reggio Emilia
5 in the City of Turin

CITY OF CASALECCHIO DI RENO

In the City of Casalecchio di Reno six educational, recreational, and creative activities were implemented, aimed at fostering inclusion, personal development, and intercultural awareness among young people. The programme combined game-based learning, artistic expression, digital tools, outdoor experiences, and gender-focused initiatives. Participants engaged in reflections on friendship, identity, discrimination, religion, and gender equality through interactive and participatory methods. These activities promoted dialogue, mutual respect, and critical thinking in a safe and supportive environment. Overall, the initiative reached 58 participants, strengthening community cohesion and youth empowerment.

ACTIVITY: *"All-female artistic workshop"*

DATE: 01/11/2024 - 30/04/2025

DESCRIPTION:

An all-female artistic workshop was conducted at the youth centre in collaboration with artists Flavio Favelli and Laura Tibaldi, with the aim of fostering collective reflection on gender differences and the value of individual expression through art. The activity unfolded across several sessions, alternating moments of dialogue and exchange with phases of artistic creation. In the initial part of the workshop, participants engaged in shared storytelling and discussions on gender roles, everyday challenges, and the personal passions that shape their identities. Guided by the artists, a deep reflection emerged on the role of art as a tool for freedom and self-determination, capable of giving visibility to experiences and perspectives that are often overlooked. The process culminated in the collective creation of a mural, conceived and painted by the participants. The artwork represents the passions, dreams, and identities of the girls attending the centre, translating into images and colours the sense of unity, strength, and female creativity that emerged throughout the workshop.
The experience successfully combined artistic practice, active participation, and social reflection, offering a space for authentic expression and for the enhancement of female voices within the youth community.

ACTIVITY: *"Girls' Talk"*

DATE: 01/05/2025 - 01/08/2025

DESCRIPTION:

Within the youth centre, the *"Girls' Talk"* initiative was implemented as a weekly meeting entirely dedicated to female participants. The primary objective was to create a safe, welcoming, and non-judgemental space in which girls could express themselves freely, engage in dialogue, and share personal experiences. Each session addressed complex and sensitive topics, including sexuality, gender-based discrimination, consent, and equal opportunities, with the aim of fostering critical and informed reflection on the social and cultural dynamics that the participants encounter in their daily lives. The activities were conducted through interactive methods, such as talking circles, role-playing exercises, short video screenings, and guided discussions, to ensure engagement and active participation. In parallel, the meetings also explored lighter yet equally meaningful themes related to personal development: friendship, conflicts, infatuations, self-esteem, self-care, and fashion as a form of identity expression. These discussions encouraged the sharing of authentic experiences, helping participants recognise common emotions, insecurities, and strengths. One of the most appreciated aspects of the initiative was the atmosphere of trust that developed within the group. Every participant had the opportunity to feel heard and valued, becoming part of a supportive network in which peer dialogue served as a meaningful opportunity for mutual growth.

ACTIVITY: *"Summer school"*

DATE: 01/07/2025 - 01/08/2025

DESCRIPTION:

Over a period of five weeks, the youth centre implemented a diversified programme of artistic and sports activities addressed to young people of different ages, with the aim of promoting social cohesion, awareness, and inclusion. The activities included basketball, volleyball, card games, board games, drawing, and clay modelling (DAS), offering participants opportunities for expression, collaboration, and reflection. Through play and creative engagement, participants explored fundamental themes such as friendship and discrimination, learning to recognise and appreciate individual differences. The programme encouraged spontaneous moments of dialogue in which personal experiences and collective reflections emerged naturally. A significant example was the activity *"The Friendship Web"*, in which participants passed a ball of yarn to one another, expressing a positive quality of a peer or recalling a shared memory. The resulting symbolic "web" visually represented the strength of social bonds and the importance of mutual support. Another reflective moment was facilitated through the game *"Mirror of Words"*, focused on sexuality and identity. Working in pairs, participants discussed common phrases and stereotypes (e.g., "Boys don't cry", "Girls must always be perfect"), which were then collectively analysed to deconstruct prejudices and promote the freedom to express one's authentic self. In parallel, artistic activities such as drawing and creating DAS sculptures enabled participants to visually represent concepts explored during group discussions, including friendship, respect, acceptance, and diversity.

ACTIVITY*: "I Am You"*
DATE: From 15/09/2025 to 28/11/2025
DESCRIPTION:
A series of game-based activities were proposed to the young participants of the Youth Centre to encourage exploration of topics relevant to their personal and social development. The activity *"I Am You"* was structured across three progressive levels, each designed to invite increasingly deeper personal disclosure. This format enabled the creation of a safe and supportive space in which every participant could share aspects of their identity and experiences. The discussions emerging from the game focused particularly on the meaning of friendship and love. Participants reflected on how these concepts are not fixed or objective, but rather subjective perceptions shaped by individual perspectives, an approach aligned with principles from Theory of Mind. In addition, Dixit cards game, characterised by evocative and metaphorical imagery, was used to facilitate indirect and non-judgemental expression. Their openness to multiple interpretations allowed participants to articulate personal thoughts, emotions, and lived experiences with greater ease. This method fostered an inclusive and dialogic environment, promoting open sharing and mutual respect. The use of metaphorical images also supported the discussion of complex themes, stimulating critical thinking and enabling the emergence of personal narratives related to discriminatory phenomena.

ACTIVITY: *"San Luca"*
DATE: 23/10/2025
DESCRIPTION:
An educational excursion to the Sanctuary of San Luca, a symbolic landmark for both Bologna and Casalecchio, was organised with the aim of exploring the theme of religions and the prejudices often associated with them. The group walked approximately 6 kilometres round-trip across the Bolognese hills, engaging in a shared experience of movement and reflection. Throughout the walk, key differences among major world religions were discussed, together with common stereotypes, beliefs, and forms of discrimination that frequently accompany them. Upon arrival at the sanctuary, San Luca emerged as a recognised symbol of belonging, a place perceived as offering a sense of "home". The activity successfully combined physical movement, guided dialogue, and intercultural awareness, promoting respect and openness towards others through a concrete and meaningful experience.

ACTIVITY: *"Gaming"*
DATE: 06/11/2025 & 27/11/2025
DESCRIPTION:
A digital room was set up with the objective of fostering reflection on discrimination through the use of game-based methodologies. Using gaming consoles and Nintendo Switch devices, a FIFA session was organised in which each participant selected a national team representing their country of origin or a state with which they felt a particular connection. The game environment served as a playful context for interaction, encouraging awareness of cultural diversity and promoting mutual respect. At the end of the activity, a collective sharing moment was facilitated, during which participants described their personal backgrounds, origins, and identities, thus supporting an open and inclusive dialogue. The experience demonstrated how digital technologies can function as effective tools for citizenship education and social inclusion.

CITY OF PONTEDERA
In the City of Pontedera, four key youth-focused initiatives were implemented to strengthen participation, learning, and community engagement. The "Being Community" programme offered a co-designed, non-formal educational experience promoting communication skills, well-being, and active citizenship, engaging participants across workshops, cooperative activities, and a final public talk. The "comics workshop" exhibition provided a public showcase of creative outputs, fostering reflection on artistic methodologies and the role of comics as an educational tool. Additionally, a cycle of "peer-led classroom workshops" addressed gender-based discrimination and bullying, supporting awareness-raising in schools while strengthening the facilitators' transversal competences. Finally, the "EPIC_IDEA social lunch" functioned as a networking, planning and multiplier event, consolidating group cohesion, welcoming new members, and initiating the co-design of future actions, ensuring continuity of youth-led engagement into 2026. The activities enhanced youth protagonism, encouraged dialogue between young people and local stakeholders, and reinforced inclusive community-building practices. They contributed significantly to the project's objectives of empowerment, visibility, and social cohesion. Overall, the initiatives reached around 52 participants.

ACTIVITY: *"Comics workshop exhibition"*
DATE: 25/06/2025
DESCRIPTION:
On 25 June 2025, the final exhibition of the comic workshop curated by Chiara Macchi was held at the Cineclub Agorà in Pontedera. The initiative was organised within the framework of the project, in collaboration with Arci Valdera, the Voice Helpdesk, and the Epic Idea project. The event was open to the public and gathered different

target groups, including young people, local residents, workshop attendees, staff members, and individuals involved in other activities taking place within the same venue. During the exhibition, the comics and materials produced throughout the workshop were displayed, highlighting the active role of the participants and making the work carried out visible to the broader community. The initiative also included a moment of collective discussion and active participation, during which the audience, together with the young workshop participants, reflected on the methodologies used, proposed ideas for possible future workshop themes, and discussed the value of comics as an educational and expressive tool. At the end of the event, an informal snack was offered as a further opportunity for social interaction and exchange, fostering the creation of connections among participants. Several beneficiaries of the Italian L2 language course held at Agorà also attended, enriching the event with an intercultural and inclusive dimension. Overall, the activity successfully met its intended objectives, promoting active youth participation, fostering community involvement, and providing a public restitution of the training process in an open, welcoming, and accessible environment.

ACTIVITY: *"Being Community"*
DATE: 19-20/07/2025
DESCRIPTION:
The *"Being Community"* activity was implemented on 19 and 20 July as a formative, participatory, and community-building experience addressed to young people from the local area. The initiative was co-designed together with a group of local young activists, who actively contributed to defining the content, implementation methods, and thematic focus of the programme. This co-design process ensured strong alignment with the needs of the target group and enhanced youth ownership and engagement. The activity aimed to provide a space for both personal and collective growth, promoting communication skills, psycho-emotional well-being, and a sense of belonging to an open, aware, and inclusive community. Young people aged 15 to 25 took part in the training sessions, demonstrating consistent participation, interest, and involvement. The two-day programme included workshops on effective communication, cooperative games, role-playing activities, reflection and debate sessions, and peer-education-based learning. The methodologies employed were grounded in a participatory and non-formal approach, enabling free expression and authentic engagement from all participants. To complement the experience, an informal music event open to the wider community was held on Saturday evening, while Sunday afternoon featured a public talk representing the final phase of the initiative. Representatives from the following organisations participated:

- Arci Valdera
- Municipality of Pontedera
- Casa della Donna Pisa
- Accademia dell'Incompiuto
- Presidency of the "Il Botteghino" Social Club

The final talk facilitated an open dialogue among young people, institutions, and local associations, during which several key issues for new generations emerged, including mental health, the need for social spaces, and the desire for participation and active listening. The quality of the contributions and the engagement of attendees highlighted the importance of continuing this dialogue in a structured manner and strengthening the territorial networks already in place. In total, between the Saturday evening music event, the two-day programme, and the concluding talk on Sunday. Overall, *"Being Community"* proved to be a highly impactful relational and educational experience. The co-design process with the group of young activists constituted a crucial added value, ensuring the authenticity, coherence, and participatory nature of the entire initiative.

ACTIVITY: *"Classroom workshop activity with the EPIC IDEA group"*
DATE: 01/11/2025 - 18/12/2025
DESCRIPTION:
Between November and December 2025, the group of young activists delivered a series of workshops in the lower secondary school of Palaia, focusing on gender-based discrimination and bullying. These activities represented a key project action aimed at promoting more inclusive, aware, and diversity-sensitive educational environments. The EPIC group participated actively and continuously throughout all stages of the process, from the planning and design of the workshops to their implementation in classrooms, taking on a direct role as peer educators. This engagement allowed young participants to experience the principles of youth participation and empowerment promoted by the EPIC project in practice. During the sessions, participatory methodologies and peer-led discussions were applied to encourage reflection and dialogue among students. The workshops aimed to increase awareness of:

- Discrimination mechanisms and social exclusion dynamics;
- Gender stereotypes and their impact;
- Gullying behaviours and prevention strategies.

The peer-to-peer approach supported a safe and open learning environment, facilitating active participation, exchange of ideas, and sharing of lived experiences among students. Overall, the activity generated positive outcomes both for the school students involved and for the EPIC group itself. EPIC participants strengthened key transversal competences, including:

- Organisational and planning skills;
- Communication and public speaking abilities;

- Relational and teamwork capacities;
- Facilitation and peer-support competences.

The experience further reinforced their role within the local community and consolidated awareness of the social impact of educational actions promoted by the project.

ACTIVITY: *"EPIC Social lunch with the youth group"*
DATE: 20/12/2025
DESCRIPTION:
The EPIC group lunch, held on 20 December, provided a structured opportunity for networking, social exchange, and project engagement. Alongside the core group already active in the project, the event welcomed new participants interested in joining the EPIC–IDEA pathway, who took part in an initial introduction and familiarisation moment. Participants began with a self-organised set-up of the space, fostering a collaborative and inclusive atmosphere. The lunch functioned as a key socialisation moment, strengthening group cohesion and facilitating the integration of newcomers, while also confirming the project's openness and attractiveness. In the afternoon, supported by the facilitation team, participants engaged in group activities and collective reflection, with a focus on reviewing progress from recent months. Particular recognition was given to school-based peer education, identified as a core component of the EPIC pathway, enabling young people to take on leadership roles, strengthen peer-to-peer support, and contribute to community wellbeing through concrete actions. The group initiated a first phase of co-planning future local activities, including in coordination with the Arci Valdera committee, and confirmed their commitment to continue school-based peer education throughout 2026, with initial dates provisionally identified. Anti-rumours actions were also discussed as a relevant cross-cutting dimension, recognising the impact of stereotypes and misinformation in youth environments. Participants highlighted the potential to integrate anti-rumours approaches into peer education through critical thinking activities, fact-based counter-narratives, and facilitated dialogue to promote inclusive and respectful communication. The day concluded with a feedback and wrap-up session, reinforcing commitment to maintain contact and resume activities in the new year.

CITY OF MONTESILVANO
Two complementary anti-rumours initiatives were implemented in the City of Montesilvano to address stereotypes, misinformation, and discriminatory narratives. The first activity combined an exploratory exercise during the space's inauguration with a structured workshop involving local youth and SAI (Reception and Integration System) participants, fostering trust, self-expression, and intercultural dialogue. The second activity centred on a public testimony. Together, the initiatives created meaningful opportunities for reflection, shared storytelling, and the deconstruction of prejudices. Overall, the actions involved 77 participants, strengthened community awareness and encouraged more conscious, respectful forms of communication among young people and local citizens.

ACTIVITY: *"Work on stereotypes"*
DATE: 15-29/07/2025
DESCRIPTION:
The anti-rumours activity was implemented across two separate sessions held on different dates: the first on 15 July 2025 during the evening inauguration of *Spazio Mincio 14,* the new youth aggregation space managed by Formula APS in Montesilvano, and the second on 29 July in a more structured, workshop-based format.
Session 1 – 15 July 2025:
During the inaugural event, a simple yet impactful introductory activity was proposed. Participants were invited to write on post-it notes the stereotypes and prejudices they frequently encounter in their daily lives or that concern them personally. The aim was to create an initial space for listening and sharing, where all contributions, even the most uncomfortable, could emerge freely and respectfully. This first phase served an exploratory function and helped to "break the ice" in an informal and accessible manner.
Session 2 – 29 July 2025:
The second meeting consisted of a structured anti-rumours workshop involving six young people from the SAI (Reception and Integration System) and five participants already active within Spazio Mincio 14. Despite evident linguistic barriers, a climate of trust was quickly established, enabling active participation from all attendees. The initial brainstorming session provided space for personal experiences to surface, along with commonly heard expressions and stereotypes.
Feedback:
Feedback was very positive, particularly from the SAI participants, who expressed enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity. Many had never taken part in an expressive workshop of this kind, nor in the production of a video. For them, the possibility to share their stories, feel heard, and see their voices transformed into a concrete output to be disseminated was highly meaningful.
Overall, the activity demonstrated the importance of creating authentic dialogue spaces among young people with diverse backgrounds but a shared desire to communicate, be understood, and express themselves.

ACTIVITY: *"Challenging Prejudices Through Testimony and Dialogue"*
DATE: 20/09/2025
DESCRIPTION:
The open initiative carried out at *Spazio Mincio 14* transformed the Open Day into a significant moment of collective reflection on solidarity and the deconstruction of prejudices. During the afternoon, participants had the opportunity to welcome Professor Francesco Barone, Ambassador of Peace and representative of Abruzzo Region abroad, who shared insights gained through his 63 humanitarian missions in various African countries with the NGO Help Senza Confini. His testimony provided direct exposure to contexts often misrepresented by superficial or sensationalist narratives. Through concrete examples, Professor Barone demonstrated how many stereotypes about African populations and people of colour are perpetuated by misinformation and cultural "rumours," which contribute to diffidence, hostility, and discrimination. The meeting thus functioned as an authentic anti-rumours space, enabling a reconsideration of images and narratives that, in everyday life, create distance rather than understanding. The discussion highlighted the importance of challenging reductive narratives, such as the assumption that African citizens are automatically associated with extreme poverty, passivity, or dependence on international aid. In contrast, stories of resilience, skills, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement emerged, revealing a plurality of identities and perspectives often overlooked by mainstream media. Volunteers from Help Senza Confini enriched the dialogue by presenting projects that demonstrate how international cooperation is based on reciprocity, listening, and collaboration, countering the unidirectional charitable interpretation that still shapes public perception. Attentive participation from the audience made the meeting a valuable moment for recognising the everyday impact of prejudices and reflecting on how individuals can contribute to overcoming them through more conscious and respectful forms of communication.

CITY OF REGGIO EMILIA

In the City of Reggio Emilia, a broad set of youth-led and community-oriented initiatives was implemented throughout 2025 to strengthen participation, learning, and civic engagement, while promoting anti-rumours approaches and inclusive narratives. Public cultural and awareness-raising events, including artistic performances, book-based discussions and documentary screenings, offered accessible spaces for reflection on key themes such as women's rights, migration, labour exploitation, discrimination, peace and nonviolence, engaging both young people and the wider local community. These moments were complemented by facilitated debates and exchanges with external guests and experts, reinforcing critical thinking and encouraging dialogue across different audiences. Alongside these activities, participants carried out structured educational pathways based on non-formal and participatory methodologies, including experiential workshops and creative learning tools, aimed at strengthening youth leadership and transversal competences. Youth groups also developed local civic actions focused on anti-discrimination, community information and public participation, using social media and outreach strategies to address misinformation and support access to local services. Urban-based initiatives were implemented in neighborhood spaces, parks and city-wide events, allowing young people to engage directly with citizens through interactive tools, observation activities and qualitative data collection on perceptions of safety and public space use. Finally, the activities included an international learning visit centred on civic memory and non-violent resistance, strengthening reflection on democratic values and active citizenship. Overall, the initiatives enhanced youth protagonism, encouraged dialogue between young people and local stakeholders, and reinforced inclusive community-building practices across Reggio Emilia. Overall, the initiatives reached around 112 participants.

ACTIVITY: *"Ti abbraccio Teheran "*
DATE: 09/03/2025
DESCRIPTION:
"Ti abbraccio Teheran" (I Hug You, Tehran) is a book published by Le Pecore Nere, written by Doris Bellomusto and illustrated by Tiziana Tosi, focusing on women's rights and civic resistance in Iran. The book retraces the stories of Mahsa Amini and Nika Shakarami, and other young women facing systemic oppression. Youth activists read and discussed the volume as part of the project's anti-rumours and awareness-raising activities. Building on this reflection, they invited the author and illustrator for a public interview. The event was fully designed and moderated by the youth group and was open to the wider community. It contributed to promoting EU values, critical thinking, and solidarity through a participatory and inclusive approach.

ACTIVITY: *"Rumours & Colors "*
DATE: 12/03/2025
DESCRIPTION:
"Rumors & Colors" was a theatre and body percussion performance created and coordinated by the social cooperative Giro Del Cielo, involving both youth workers and young participants from the activism project. The performance was structured into four scenes, each addressing a specific topic related to discrimination through acting and rhythmic body percussion. The themes explored included racism, mental health stigma, gender-based discrimination, and economic discrimination. The activity combined artistic expression and non-formal education to stimulate reflection, raise awareness and foster dialogue among young people and the wider public.

ACTIVITY: *"One Day One Day"*
DATE: 21/03/2025
DESCRIPTION:
"One Day One Day" was an Italian documentary directed by Olmo Parenti and co-produced by the collective A THING BY together with the media community Will Media. The film portrayed the daily lives of migrant agricultural workers employed in Southern Italy (specifically in Puglia Region), many of whom worked without legal documents and under conditions of exploitation and labour trafficking. The documentary also focused on the informal settlement of Borgo Mezzanone, in the province of Foggia, a large shantytown located next to a former military airport and near an asylum seekers' reception centre. The area was widely described as one of the largest informal settlements in Europe hosting agricultural labourers, with an estimated population between 3,000 and 5,000 people, mainly migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa and other countries. Residents lived in makeshift shelters built with metal sheets, plastic and wood, often lacking access to essential services such as safe drinking water, regular electricity, toilets and adequate sanitation. Within the framework of the project's public awareness and anti-rumours activities, youth activists organised an open event for the local community, proposing a public screening of the documentary followed by a facilitated discussion. The debate was enriched by the participation of Giacomo Ostini and Marco Zannoni, members of the documentary's directing team, and provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on migration, labour rights and structural discrimination in the Italian agricultural sector.

ACTIVITY: *"Erasmus in Gaza"*
DATE: 16/04/2025
DESCRIPTION:
As part of the actions proposed to promote the themes of peace and nonviolence, the youth group organised a public screening of the documentary *Erasmus in Gaza*, inviting local citizens and, in particular, young people from the network of youth associations to which the Advanced Citizenship Laboratory (Lab Av) belongs. The documentary had previously been presented to final-year classes in several local schools by the E35 Foundation within a regional Peace Education programme. As a result, some participants were already familiar with its content and had previously listened to testimonies from the protagonist and the film's creators. This prior experience had a strong impact on the group's sensibilities and motivated them to broaden its dissemination. The group designed a communication campaign on social media, distributed flyers throughout the neighbourhood, and invited the public to an informal gathering combining an aperitivo-style buffet with the screening of the documentary, followed by a discussion with a humanitarian worker from a hospital in Gaza. During the event, participants also promoted the beverage *Gaza Cola* and, together with a representative of the Nonviolent Movement, collected signatures in support of the national campaign for conscientious objection to war. The initiative provided an opportunity for meaningful reflection on global conflicts, humanitarian issues, and the role of nonviolent civic engagement, while fostering community participation and dialogue among young people and residents.

ACTIVITY: *"Anti-discrimination Helpdesk"*
DATE: 29/04/2025
DESCRIPTION:
Following the opening of the Anti-discrimination Helpdesk in Reggio Emilia, the young participants observed significant public debate, particularly on social media, regarding the new service. Upon recommendation from the educators, they decided to meet with the coordinators of Fondazione Mondinsieme—the city's intercultural centre—to gain a clearer understanding of the Helpdesk's objectives, operational procedures, and scope. The exchange between Fondazione Mondinsieme resulted in a constructive dialogue rich in practices, perspectives, and questions. The contribution of the young participants proved valuable for professionals working on discrimination-related issues. In response, Lab AV promptly used its social media channels to disseminate accurate information about the Anti-Racist Helpdesk, including access procedures and contact details, using infographics provided directly by the Foundation. This process consolidated an open collaboration, in which Lab AV is committed to promoting and supporting the work of the Anti-Racist Helpdesk through an intersectional and participatory approach.

ACTIVITY: *"LARP (Live Action Role Playing)GAME La Colonia"*
DATE: 16/05/2025
DESCRIPTION:
During a workshop involving fifth-year students from the Primary Education Sciences degree programme, a group of young activists introduced and facilitated the LARP (Live Action Role Playing) game "La Colonia", designed and created by ICEI and youth centres involved in previous projects. La Colonia is a training designed to actively engage young people on diversity, intercultural dialogue, and the fight against rumours and

discrimination. It takes place in a single room with 12 to 28 participants, requires minimal materials, and is facilitated by one or two trainers over about three hours including debriefing. Groups start with prejudices and rumours assigned to them, which shape interactions and make isolation easier than meaningful encounter. The game encourages reflection on imposed identities and on the effort and resources needed to communicate and build trust. Despite mutual distrust, the experience highlights intersectionality and the need for cooperation against an unjust system to imagine a shared future. The young activists supported participants throughout the activity and facilitated a final debriefing focused on learning outcomes and transferability. The reflection connected the in-game dynamics to real situations of stereotyping and exclusion and discussed how the tool can be used in both formal and non-formal education to foster empathy, critical thinking, and active citizenship.

ACTIVITY: *"Reggiane Urban Fest"*
DATE: 17-18 /05/2025
DESCRIPTION:
After exploring the city and gathering perceptions of safety across different neighbourhoods, the young participants began observing urban spaces with renewed awareness. In several of the areas identified through their mapping exercise, they discovered active community initiatives capable of transforming the urban environment. This process led them to the Ex Officine Reggiane, the site of the annual *Reggiane Urban Fest (RUF),* a festival that revitalises the area with energy, creativity, and innovation. Over the course of a weekend, the festival brings together music, sports such as skateboarding and basketball, street food, markets, and spaces dedicated to art and craftsmanship. Impressed by this dynamic context, young people contacted the festival organisers and secured a dedicated space within the event. There, they engaged with citizens by presenting their work and facilitating interactive activities focused on rights, peace and nonviolence, and anti-rumours strategies. Through games, discussion prompts, and small participatory exercises, they encouraged dialogue and reflection among attendees. Across the two-day festival, many interactions developed into spontaneous and meaningful conversations, enabling a real exchange of ideas, perceptions, and aspirations for the city. The initiative represented a small yet impactful experience of active citizenship within a large urban event.

ACTIVITY: *"Security and Stereotypes"*
DATE: 07/01/2025 - 30/06/2025
DESCRIPTION:
One of the topics selected by the youth group at local level was urban safety. Participants shared their experiences and perceptions, and through collective discussion, several biases and stereotypes emerged. These were subsequently addressed through the mapping and monitoring of selected urban areas, using observation sheets and reflecting on the reasons why certain locations are perceived as unsafe or avoided. The group then decided to design a questionnaire to be administered to secondary school students. During the development phase, they recognised that the topic could become divisive if approached superficially, especially given the high level of public debate on urban safety at that time and its use by the local press as a tool for political provocation. To avoid reinforcing such narratives, the group was supported by a university researcher, who provided guidance on how to design an effective questionnaire with neutral, non-leading questions. The questionnaire reached 207 students born between 2004 and 2011 and enrolled in upper secondary schools in Reggio Emilia. Although the results have not yet been reviewed by the group, the objective is to analyse the data and subsequently engage in dialogue with the municipal administration, giving visibility to young people's experiences and perspectives. The researcher who supported the group in the questionnaire design is expected to be involved again in the interpretation phase.

ACTIVITY: *"Outdoor study spaces in city parks"*
DATE: 26/06/2025 - 07/07/2025
DESCRIPTION:
One of the proposals that emerged from the themes addressed and voted on during the EPIC_IDEA project was the creation of outdoor study spaces in city parks. To further develop this idea, participants were invited to apply a Future Thinking approach, imagining possible future scenarios in various parks characterised by structural deficiencies, degradation, or past incidents affecting their perception and use. Over several weeks, the youth group group met in different parks across the city, simulating the creation of an outdoor study area using portable chairs and folding tables. During each visit, participants observed the surrounding context and completed dedicated observation sheets assessing the availability of services such as refreshment points, benches and tables, proximity to neighbourhood libraries and related green areas, access to water fountains, typical park users, presence and distance of nearby schools, involvement of local associations or informal groups, availability of educational services, and the general condition of existing public furniture. In parallel, they interviewed park users with mobile phones and microphones, collecting testimonies, perceptions, and opinions both on the idea of outdoor study spaces and on personal experiences of using public spaces. This process enabled the group to

gather qualitative data and gain deeper insight into community needs and expectations regarding the requalification and use of urban parks.

ACTIVITY: *"Thematic micro-library"*
DATE: 12/11/2025 - 25/11/2025
DESCRIPTION:
On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the young participants organised a public event aimed at promoting a culture of nonviolence and gender equality. The initiative included the inauguration of the *Red Bench,* a universally recognised symbol of the fight against violence against women, and the *Peace Planters*, both painted during the summer by youth together with members of the local network of youth associations sharing the same community space. During the event, the new *Thematic Micro-Library* was also presented and made available to both the youth network and local teachers. The event was entirely conceived, designed, and organised by the young people, who managed communication efforts, produced the event poster, disseminated the initiative through various channels, and prepared invitations addressed to citizens, youth groups, and the municipal administration. They also defined the programme for the event, coordinating speeches, timings, and activities. This organisational phase represented an important learning opportunity and a meaningful exercise in active citizenship. In preparation for the event, young participants deepened their understanding of nonviolence through an intersectional approach, examining the three forms identified by sociologist Johan Galtung: cultural, structural, and direct violence. This theoretical and reflective work informed the creation of the Thematic Micro-Library—launched through book donations on topics such as rights, inclusion, and participation—and the development of a participatory activity for the public, designed to encourage reflection and the sharing of thoughts and experiences related to the themes addressed. The event recorded significant participation, involving young people from other youth organisations, teachers, parents, citizens, and representatives of the municipal administration, including the Councillor for Educational Policies. The diversity of attendees enriched the discussion and confirmed the relevance of the initiative within the local community. The activities proposed by the group offered participants the opportunity to express their perspectives, deepen their reflection on nonviolence, and engage in dialogue with the wider community. The inauguration of the Red Bench and the Peace Planters held both symbolic and communal value, contributing to a shared process of awareness-raising and collective responsibility. Overall, the initiative demonstrated the capacity of young people to design and implement socially impactful events, reaffirming their active role in promoting a culture of respect, inclusion, and civic participation.

ACTIVITY: *"The White rose"*
DATE: 21-25/11/2025
DESCRIPTION
From 21 to 25 November 2025, 10 youth activists and 3 educators travelled to Munich, Germany, as a learning opportunity to explore the city, its history and key sites of civic memory. Ahead of the visit, youth activists carried out preparatory research to identify other groups, past or present, engaged in similar values-driven civic action, which led them to focus on the White Rose (Die Weiße Rose), a non-violent resistance movement active in Munich between 1942 and 1943. The group, composed mainly of students from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and a professor, opposed the Nazi regime through the clandestine production and distribution of leaflets calling for active resistance. After watching the film "Sophie Scholl – The Final Days" (Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage) by Marc Rothemund, the activists contacted and visited the White Rose Memorial (DenkStätte Weiße Rose) located in the LMU building where Hans and Sophie Scholl were arrested while distributing leaflets in February 1943. The guided visit provided an immersive and impactful educational experience, allowing participants to retrace the historical events in the very spaces where they took place, strengthening reflection on civic courage, democratic values and non-violent resistance.

CITY OF TURIN
In the City of Turin, a set of youth-led initiatives was delivered in 2025 to strengthen participation, learning, and civic engagement through anti-rumours and inclusive approaches. Activities combined reflection and co-design, meetings with local activists, a residential camp to build collective identity and set priorities (anti-racism, gender-based violence, poverty, neighbourhood focus), networking with other local committees, and peer education in schools on violence against women. Overall, the programme reinforced group cohesion, youth leadership, critical awareness, and local alliances to counter discrimination. The initiatives were grounded in non-formal, participatory and peer-based methodologies, fostering inclusive spaces for dialogue and collective learning. Particular attention was given to linking personal experiences with broader social dynamics, encouraging young people to recognise and challenge discriminatory narratives in everyday contexts. The activities also laid the groundwork for future community-based actions rooted in shared values, collaboration and active citizenship. Overall, the initiative reached 38 participants.

ACTIVITY: ***"Reflecting on the Past and Co-Designing the Future"***
DATE: 01/09/2025
DESCRIPTION:
The activity supported the group in a structured reflection on the year just concluded, while reinforcing the continuity and cohesion of a group that has been working together for several years. Starting from a stable and consolidated group core, participants were guided to reflect honestly on past experiences and to envision a desirable collective future. Using the future thinking methodology, the group imagined where it would like to be by May/June 2026, identifying key areas of growth, challenges related to rumours and discrimination, and anti-rumour behaviours to be strengthened. From this future perspective, participants worked backwards to define intermediate steps, focusing on skills, attitudes and group dynamics to be developed. Artistic and expressive tools such as collage, drawing and writing were used to encourage inclusive participation and reflection. The process also included a review of the past year's activities, highlighting achievements, resources and effective practices, as well as challenges and areas for improvement. In the final phase, the group identified priority themes to address, racism, poverty and the local neighbourhood, exploring their interconnections through an intersectional lens. Overall, the activity strengthened group cohesion, increased collective awareness, and laid the foundations for future actions based on shared vision, collaboration, and mutual growth.

ACTIVITY: ***" Activism, Belonging and Citizenship"***
DATE: 01/10/2025
DESCRIPTION:
The meeting with Fatima Zahra El Maliani, a young activist and volunteer of Moroccan origin who grew up in the same neighbourhood as the group, represented a highly meaningful learning moment. Through her personal story, marked by growing up, studying and living in Italy without yet holding Italian citizenship, Fatima offered a concrete perspective on how issues of origin, citizenship and racial discrimination directly affect access to rights, opportunities and full social participation. Her testimony encouraged a reflection on what it means to be an activist today, showing how personal experience and vulnerability can become powerful tools for social change. By sharing the barriers she faced in education, civic participation and everyday life, Fatima highlighted how discriminatory narratives create artificial divisions between "us" and "others", reinforcing stereotypes and exclusion. At the same time, her journey, from beneficiary of educational support to founder of an after-school programme in collaboration with UNICEF, demonstrated that activism is rooted in daily actions that promote inclusion, equality and social justice. The encounter fostered a deep group reflection on activism as a lived and concrete practice, closely connected to local contexts such as schools, neighbourhoods and civic life. It also marked an initial step in exploring the dynamics of the local area, reinforcing the group's intention to further investigate the neighbourhood, collect lived narratives, and develop counter-narratives capable of challenging discrimination and dominant stereotypes.

ACTIVITY: ***" Shaping Our Collective Identity – Bricherasio Camp"***
DATE: 31/10/2025 - 1 – 02/11/2025
DESCRIPTION:
The three-day residential camp held in Bricherasio represented a key moment in the group's journey, offering young participants an intensive experience of shared living, dialogue and identity-building. The association's house, located outside the city, created a protected and focused environment, ideal for strengthening internal relationships and fostering a sense of aggregation that is central to the group's educational approach.
Throughout the camp, the group reflected on the kind of collective they wish to become, exploring the concept of a "committee" not merely as an organisational structure, but as a group of young activists committed to combating discrimination and developing anti-rumour strategies. Participants discussed the role the committee can play within the local context and the individual contributions needed to ensure it remains participatory, inclusive and active. The group also identified priority themes for future work, including gender-based violence, educational and social poverty, anti-racism, and particularly a deeper focus on their own neighbourhood. A strong desire emerged to become a "Committee of Aurora": a group rooted in the territory, capable of translating reflection into concrete actions, initiatives and participatory pathways with a tangible impact on the local community. Alongside structured activities, informal moments of sharing and conviviality strengthened trust and group cohesion, helping participants develop a clearer understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Overall, the Bricherasio experience highlighted the importance of dedicated time and space for collective reflection, enabling the group to define shared goals, clarify common values and reinforce a strong sense of belonging, essential for continuing to grow as an engaged and active committee.

ACTIVITY: ***" Meeting with the Barriera Committee"***

DATE: 18/11/2025 and 23/11/2025
DESCRIPTION:

The meeting with the Barriera di Milano Committee represented an important step in the process of building local networks engaged in the fight against discrimination. Barriera di Milano is a neighbourhood geographically close and characterised by social dynamics similar to those of the group's own context. Engaging in dialogue with initiatives that face comparable challenges and pursue shared objectives made it possible to broaden perspectives and strengthen collective action. Participation in the committee's first anniversary event provided an opportunity to gain insight into its history, development and ongoing initiatives within the local area. This moment followed an earlier exchange, during which members of the Barriera di Milano Committee were invited to an evening meeting at Cecchi Point space, allowing for a more in-depth discussion on values, working methods and potential areas of common interest. The main objective of these exchanges was to explore the existence of concrete opportunities for future collaboration, with the aim of building a stable network among committees active in combating discrimination in neighbouring districts. The meetings highlighted the presence of shared goals and a clear willingness to create synergies by connecting energies, ideas and educational practices. Although still at an early stage, this initial contact laid the foundations for potential collaboration that could strengthen both committees and generate a positive impact on the local territory.

ACTIVITY: ***" Peer Education for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women"***
DATE: 24-25 November 2025
DESCRIPTION:
On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a peer education activity using non-formal methodologies was carried out at the Russell Moro Guarini Institute of Higher Education. A women-only group of participants and facilitators led the sessions, creating a safe and welcoming space for open dialogue with students. Through participatory activities and guided discussion, students reflected on different forms of gender-based violence, how to recognise them, and the cultural mechanisms that still enable them. Particular attention was given to deconstructing discrimination and common rumours, such as victim-blaming narratives or the normalisation of controlling behaviours, and to identifying more respectful ways of communicating and intervening within peer groups. The experience strengthened the role of young women as peer educators and demonstrated the impact of peer-to-peer approaches in raising awareness. The activity was further extended through participation in the "Non Una di Meno" march in Turin, linking educational work to public engagement and collective action.

CONCLUSIONS
The anti-rumours actions implemented at local level in Italy successfully contributed to the objectives of the EPIC_IDEA project by mobilising young people as active agents of change and strengthening community awareness around EU values, diversity and inclusion. Across the five involved cities (Reggio Emilia, Montesilvano, Pontedera, Turin and Casalecchio di Reno), the initiatives promoted participatory learning, critical reflection and the deconstruction of discriminatory narratives through a wide range of creative, educational and community-based activities. A key element of effectiveness was the integration of the actions within the regular programming of local youth centres, ensuring continuity over time and reinforcing anti-rumours messages through progressive pathways rather than one-off interventions. This approach enabled sustained engagement, supported youth empowerment and ensured that activities remained anchored in real local needs and contexts. The implementation also demonstrated a strong multiplier effect: thanks to the centres' consolidated networks and direct daily interactions with diverse audiences (young people, educators, general public and local stakeholders), the project's messages reached beyond young participants, contributing to broader community dialogue and increased local sustainability. Additionally, the co-design and youth-led dimension reinforced ownership, motivation and activism, fostering cooperation among young people while strengthening their transversal competences, such as communication, facilitation, teamwork and civic responsibility. Overall, the anti-rumours actions proved to be an impactful and replicable model of local civic engagement, combining non-formal education, creative expression and community involvement to counter stereotypes and discrimination while promoting inclusive and plural communities. The experience generated tangible outcomes in terms of youth participation, strengthened local alliances, and reinforced the role of youth centres as key actors in advancing EU values at territorial level.

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