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:	D19.1 (WP 19)		
Event name:	National Youth Camp – Spain #2		
Type:	Event		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Castellón de la Plana		
Date(s):	25th-28thJune 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://icei.it/en/progetti/epic_idea/		
Participants			
Female:	15		
Male:	11		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Spain]:	26		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

2nd EPIC Youth Camp - Castellón de la Plana (Spain) | 25th–28th June 2026

1. Overview

The **Second EPIC Youth Camp** was held from **25th to 28th June 2026** in Castellón de la Plana, Spain, bringing together young activists, youth workers and project partners involved in the EPIC project.
The camp represented one of the key milestones of the project, providing an intensive programme of learning, collaboration and intercultural exchange designed to strengthen young people's competences in democratic

participation, anti-rumours methodologies, advocacy and community engagement as well as consolidating the work developed through the first cycle of local youth-led actions.

Across four days, participants combined structured training, practical workshops, peer-learning, cultural activities and collective reflection, while evaluating the first cycle of local actions and preparing the next stages of the EPIC project.

While the EPIC project involved 26 participants from the four Spanish pilot cities, the Youth Camp took place within a broader national youth gathering involving 71 young people and youth workers from 12 territories across Spain. This created a unique learning environment where EPIC participants combined project-specific sessions with wider intercultural exchanges, collaborative workshops and joint community activities.

2. Objectives

The Youth Camp aimed to:

- strengthen young people's competences in participation, critical thinking and democratic engagement;
- improve participants' capacity to design, implement and communicate local anti-rumours initiatives;
- reinforce youth leadership through peer learning and international cooperation;
- evaluate the first round of local youth-led actions implemented during the project;
- prepare participants for the Visionaries Gallery and Local Policy Labs;
- strengthen the European network of young changemakers promoting inclusive and plural communities.

3. Participation

The camp brought together 71 young participants (26 EPIC) from 12 local territories**,** accompanied by 11 youth workers and educators**,** creating an intergenerational learning environment that combined youth leadership with professional support.

Participants represented diverse cultural backgrounds, experiences and identities, contributing to a highly inclusive and participatory learning environment consistent with the values promoted by the EPIC project. Throughout the programme, all participants actively engaged in workshops, collaborative exercises, exchange sessions and community-building activities, generating a strong sense of belonging and ownership over the project.

4. Learning Programme

The educational programme combined complementary learning dimensions:

- **Democracy and critical thinking.** Participants explored current challenges facing democracy, youth participation and social cohesion, reflecting on the impact of misinformation, discrimination and polarisation while identifying opportunities for greater civic engagement.
- **Designing local actions.** Practical workshops focused on planning effective anti-rumours initiatives, using common quality criteria to design actions capable of generating meaningful local impact.
- **Evaluation of Local Actions and Future Development.** Building upon the activities implemented during the first phase of the project, participants jointly evaluated their local initiatives. The evaluation focused on:
  - achievements and positive impact;
  - implementation challenges;
  - transferable good practices;
  - lessons learned;
  - recommendations for future actions.
- **Advocacy and policy influence.** Participants developed practical skills for transforming community concerns into proposals for public institutions, learning how to build advocacy messages, identify stakeholders and engage with local decision-makers.
- **Communication and dissemination.** Several workshops focused on increasing the visibility and impact of local initiatives through digital communication, storytelling, social media, institutional communication, public events and media engagement.

  Alongside the common programme shared with all participants, EPIC participants followed a dedicated learning pathway including project evaluation sessions, advocacy workshops and preparation for the forthcoming Policy Labs. This collaborative reflection provided valuable input for improving future youth-led activities and served as preparation for both the **Visionaries Gallery** and the **Local Policy Labs**. Participants also discussed how to ensure the sustainability of the project's achievements beyond the formal lifetime of EPIC.

5. Peer Learning and Exchange of Experiences (innovation Market)
Exchange between territories was a core element of the Youth Camp. Participants presented local experiences, discussed successes and implementation challenges, shared innovative practices and reflected collectively on how different approaches could be adapted across partner territories. These exchanges strengthened mutual learning while reinforcing cooperation between young people from different local realities and cultural backgrounds.

6. Preparing for the Local Policy Labs: Advocacy and Policy Engagement
Through a practical advocacy lab, participants transformed the conclusions emerging from their local youth actions into concrete policy proposals addressed to local decision-makers. Working in local groups, they identified priority issues affecting young people, developed four realistic and measurable policy recommendations and prepared short advocacy pitches simulating meetings with councillors. Particular emphasis was placed on evidence-based arguments, feasibility, institutional alignment and securing concrete political commitments for follow-up.

This workshop marked the transition towards the next phase of the EPIC project (WP22 – Local Policy Labs), equipping participants with the practical advocacy competences required to engage constructively with local authorities.

The workshop resulted in a first portfolio of locally grounded policy proposals that will be further refined and presented during the Local Policy Labs with municipal representatives.

6. Community-building and Non-formal Education
Learning continued beyond the formal workshops through an extensive programme of non-formal educational activities. Participants took part in:

- team-building activities;
- intercultural networking;
- collaborative reflection spaces;
- cultural experiences;
- community events promoting dialogue and social inclusion;
- informal exchanges between territories.

These activities contributed significantly to building trust, strengthening interpersonal relationships and creating a supportive international learning community.

7. Results and lessons learnt
The Youth Camp generated significant outcomes for participants and the project as a whole. Participants reported increased confidence in:

- leading community initiatives;
- communicating inclusive narratives;
- facilitating dialogue;
- designing local participation activities;
- engaging with public institutions;
- working collaboratively across different cultural contexts.

The camp also strengthened cooperation among partner territories, generated practical recommendations for future project activities and consolidated a strong network of young people committed to promoting inclusion, diversity and democratic participation.

The Youth Camp also provided valuable implementation lessons for the next phase of the project. While many participants had been actively involved in the local EPIC actions, the level of prior engagement varied across territories, as some young people joined the camp without having participated directly in previous project activities. This required facilitators to dedicate additional time to introducing the project's findings and ensuring a common understanding before moving into more advanced collaborative tasks.
As a result, some planned activities were adapted to better respond to participants' needs. The time initially foreseen for the Future Visionaries exercise was instead devoted to strengthening participants' understanding of the project outcomes and preparing them for the advocacy work leading to the forthcoming Local Policy Labs.

8. Outcomes of the EPIC specific workshops:

The EPIC specific sessions focused on strengthening young people's capacity to influence local decision-making while reflecting on the achievements and long-term impact of the project. Participants explored the principles of effective advocacy, identified key priorities in their territories, and developed concrete policy proposals to be presented to local decision-makers. The sessions also showcased the four local EPIC initiatives, highlighting how creative and participatory approaches can foster inclusion, critical thinking, and civic engagement. Overall, the discussions reinforced the value of youth-led participation and the commitment of partner cities to sustaining these processes beyond the project's lifetime.

EPIC 1 – Local Advocacy Action Lab

The workshop began by reinforcing key concepts introduced earlier in the day, helping participants develop a shared understanding of **policy advocacy** and its essential components. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of starting from a solid diagnosis of local needs, defining realistic policy proposals, and identifying the most appropriate channels to influence decision-makers.

Building on their experiences within the EPIC project, each territory identified its main local priorities and worked collaboratively to develop **four concrete advocacy proposals** that will guide the next stages of the project. Throughout the process, participants considered a number of essential criteria to ensure that their proposals would be realistic, inclusive, and actionable.

The priorities identified reflected the specific realities of each territory:

- **Tenerife** focused on mental health, particularly in relation to migration experiences, academic pressure, and the impact of social media.
- **Castellón de la Plana** prioritised the creation of accessible spaces for youth participation and stronger connections between young people and local organisations.
- **Bilbao** highlighted concerns about housing affordability and the need to guarantee access to social registration (*padrón social*).
- **Fuenlabrada** emphasised improving and expanding sports facilities as inclusive spaces for healthy leisure, social interaction, and community building.

The session concluded with participants presenting their proposals through an engaging role-play exercise, allowing them to practice advocacy and communication skills in a realistic setting.

These advocacy processes will continue between July and September, when young participants will meet with local political representatives in each EPIC territory. The proposals will also be translated into creative contributions for the project's **"Future Visionaries Gallery"**, giving visibility to young people's ideas for more inclusive communities.

EPIC 2 – Project Evaluation, Experience Sharing and Sustainability

This session provided an opportunity to review and celebrate the four local initiatives implemented through the EPIC project, highlighting their different approaches while identifying common lessons and opportunities for the future.

The initiatives presented included:

- **Bilbao:** A participatory creative process culminating in an exhibition at the Bilbao Maritime Museum, combining reflection spaces, artistic workshops, and the creation of a central exhibition piece showcasing young people's concerns and proposals.
- **Castellón de la Plana:** A participatory and creative process leading to performative interventions in secondary schools and public spaces, encouraging critical reflection on issues affecting young people.
- **Fuenlabrada:** *Fuenlabrada Paints Itself Diverse*, an intercultural reinterpretation of the city's Urban Art Museum through guided tours and educational activities designed for schools.

- **Intercultural Batucada:** A collaborative artistic process resulting in a public street performance that combined intercultural percussion, performative elements, and the publication of a manifesto promoting coexistence free from prejudice.

Beyond presenting the local actions, participants reflected on the broader impact of the EPIC project, recognising the importance of international cooperation and youth-led participation in promoting more inclusive communities. The session concluded with a shared commitment from both participants and partner cities to continue developing initiatives that place young people at the centre of local decision-making processes and community development.

9. Evaluation

Evaluation questionnaires completed at the end of the Youth Camp showed a very high level of participant satisfaction. The most positively valued aspects included:

- the quality and diversity of the workshops;
- the participatory methodology;
- opportunities for exchanging experiences with young people from other territories;
- the balance between formal learning and non-formal educational activities;
- the welcoming atmosphere and sense of community created throughout the event.

Participants highlighted feeling more motivated, better prepared to implement local initiatives and more connected to the wider European EPIC community.

Suggestions for future editions mainly focused on extending the duration of some workshops, increasing time for informal networking and creating additional opportunities for collaborative work between territories.

10. Communication and Dissemination

The Youth Camp generated significant communication and dissemination activity before, during and after the event. Communication actions included:

- publication of photographs, videos and participant testimonies;
- visual documentation of workshops and community activities;
- dissemination through partner organisations and local authorities;
- media coverage at local and regional level;
- creation of communication materials highlighting participants' experiences and project achievements.

These actions increased the visibility of both the Youth Camp and the wider EPIC project, helping disseminate its objectives and encouraging broader youth engagement with inclusive participation initiatives.

Press release Bilbao:
https://www.bilbao.eus/cs/Satellite?c=BIO_Noticia_FA&cid=1279249562479&language=es&pageid=3000075248&pagename=Bilbaonet%2FBIO_Noticia_FA%2FBIO_Noticia
Press release Castelló: https://www.castelloninformacion.com/castellon-80-jovenes-de-doce-territorios-en-la-9a-cumbre-juvenil-antirumores-y-la-2a-cumbre-epic/

Press release Fuenlabrada: https://www.ayto-fuenlabrada.es/web/portal/w/fuenlabrada-participa-en-la-novena-cumbre-juvenil-antirumores-29-06-2026
Press release Tenerife: https://fg.ull.es/noticias/2026/06/03/tenerife-participara-en-la-novena-cumbre-juvenil-antirumores-y-la-segunda-cumbre-epic/

11. Conclusion

The Second EPIC Youth Camp successfully combined capacity building, peer learning, intercultural dialogue, project evaluation and strategic planning within a highly participatory environment.

The event enabled young people to consolidate the competences developed throughout EPIC while strengthening cooperation across partner territories and generating valuable recommendations for the project's final phase.

By integrating training, exchange of experiences, community-building and collaborative reflection, the Youth Camp reinforced the project's overall objective of empowering young people to become active promoters of inclusive, democratic and plural communities across Europe.

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