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:	D22.1 (WP 22)		
Event name:	Policy Lab with decision makers - Spain		
Type:	Event		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Tenerife, Fuenlabrada, Bilbao		
Date(s):	1st, 2nd and 4th September 2026; 25th Sept. 2026; 26th Sept. 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://icei.it/en/progetti/epic_idea/		
Participants			
Female:	20		
Male:	7		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Spain]:	Tenerife: 10 (7 women, 3 man) Fuenlabrada 5 (5 women) Bilbao: 12 (8 women, 4 man)		
Total number of participants:	27	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Description of the activity

During the reporting period, the Spanish Policy Lab process was implemented in Bilbao, Fuenlabrada and Tenerife, with different levels of completion according to local calendars.

In Spain, ACI-Diversit designed the Policy Labs as a two-stage process in all participating territories. Rather than organising a stand-alone meeting with political representatives, each local process started with a preparatory session with the youth group, followed by a structured dialogue with the relevant local or regional decision-maker(s).

The first stage provided young participants with a dedicated space to reflect collectively on the work carried out throughout EPIC-IDEA, identify and prioritise the issues they wanted to address, formulate concrete proposals and prepare how they wanted to communicate them. The second stage created a direct space for interaction with political representatives, where young people could present these priorities and proposals, receive feedback, discuss their feasibility and explore possible avenues for follow-up.

This methodology was intended to ensure that the institutional dialogue was youth-led and based on a prior process of reflection and collective preparation, rather than limiting youth participation to attendance at an institutional meeting. It also allowed each territory to adapt the content of the Policy Lab to the priorities identified by its own youth group.

In all three territories, both stages of the process — youth preparation and structured dialogue with political representatives — were completed during the reporting period. Although the formats and thematic priorities differed according to each local context, the three Policy Labs followed the same overall approach, ensuring that the institutional dialogue was grounded in a prior youth-led process of reflection, prioritisation and proposal development.

Youth preparatory session → identification and prioritisation of proposals → preparation of advocacy messages → structured dialogue with political representatives → feedback and possible follow-up

Bilbao

In Bilbao, Following a preparatory session with the youth group, nine young participants from the Anti-Racist Empowerment School and the Youth Anti-Rumours Summit took part in the institutional dialogue with the **Councillor for Human Rights, Coexistence, Cooperation and Interculturality**, the Director of the municipal area and technical staff.

The dialogue addressed access to municipal information and participation opportunities, representation of diverse youth in institutional spaces, discrimination and emotional well-being, intergenerational dialogue, media literacy, and the potential of art, culture and sport as tools for participation and intercultural interaction.

An important part of the discussion concerned the accessibility of existing participation mechanisms. Young people highlighted that opportunities may exist but information does not always reach them, particularly young people from diverse backgrounds, and that institutional language and communication channels are not always adapted to youth realities.

The participants formulated two particularly concrete proposals: the creation of a **youth programme within the Anti-Rumours Strategy**, focused on advocacy and discrimination prevention, and an **Intercultural Youth Council**, involving young people from different backgrounds and neighbourhoods in the design and evaluation of municipal initiatives.

The meeting therefore provided not only a space for young people to communicate their concerns, but also an opportunity to translate previous learning and participation into specific proposals for strengthening youth involvement in local policies.

Fuenlabrada

Following the preparatory work carried out with the local youth group, participants met with **Agustín Domínguez, Councillor for Sports, and Raúl Hernández, Councillor for Social Welfare**.

The meeting focused particularly on young people's use of sports and public spaces in the city. The municipal representatives explained the functioning of local sports facilities and programmes and discussed with the participants areas where improvements could be considered.

Young people presented a series of concrete proposals, including the creation of a **volleyball court in the new fairground**, improvements to existing sports facilities, the expansion of the skatepark, the installation of drinking-water fountains and shaded areas, and the possibility of organising an event where young people with shared sporting interests could meet. Basic first-aid training was also proposed.

The meeting was positively assessed by the young participants. In particular, they valued the opportunity to explain their ideas in a comfortable environment and to receive direct feedback from the political representatives regarding which proposals could be implemented and which would be more complex or require further development.

The experience therefore provided a practical opportunity for young people to better understand local decision-making while engaging directly with those responsible for relevant municipal policies.

Tenerife

In Tenerife, the Policy Lab focused on youth mental health and well-being, one of the priorities identified by the youth group Momento del Movimiento. As in the other Spanish territories, the process combined a preparatory and co-creation phase with a subsequent dialogue with a political representative.

The preparatory phase brought together members of Momento del Movimiento and representatives of other youth and community organisations working on mental health, migration and diversity. Through a series of meetings and exchanges with different youth groups, participants shared experiences, mapped existing initiatives and resources, identified common needs and collectively developed proposals related to youth mental health.

The process resulted in proposals addressing mental health in education, academic pressure, employment and future prospects, housing and material conditions, peer-support networks, culturally diverse and representative support spaces, and the role of sport, culture, leisure and creativity in promoting well-being. A central message was the need to understand mental health beyond a purely clinical approach, considering its links with education, social relationships, intercultural coexistence, participation and young people's material conditions and life projects.

The institutional dialogue took place in the framework of the 9th Interreligious Meeting for Peace, where representatives of the EPIC-IDEA youth group met with Águeda Fumero Roque, Councillor for Social Action, Inclusion, Volunteering and Citizen Participation of the Cabildo de Tenerife. The young participants presented the participatory process developed since the National Youth Anti-Rumours Summit in Castelló and shared the needs and proposals collectively identified around youth mental health.

The Councillor positively welcomed the initiative and highlighted the importance of collaboration, coordination and links with other relevant departments of the Cabildo. Importantly, the meeting also opened a concrete opportunity for follow-up and policy participation: the possible involvement of the

youth group in the mental health event planned by the Cabildo for 22 October, providing an opportunity for young people and their proposals to contribute to the design and development of this initiative. Further coordination with the Cabildo will take place to explore this involvement.

Main results and feedback

A key feature of the Spanish Policy Labs was the decision to approach advocacy as a process rather than as a single institutional event. The preparatory sessions proved essential for enabling young people to identify their own priorities, discuss different perspectives within the group, formulate concrete proposals and decide collectively how to communicate them. The subsequent interaction with political representatives therefore built on a youth-led process rather than starting from an institutional agenda.

This two-stage methodology also helped create a more balanced dialogue with decision-makers. Young participants arrived at the meetings with previously discussed and prioritised proposals, while political representatives were able to respond to concrete issues, explain existing policies and competences, discuss feasibility and identify possible follow-up opportunities.

The experience also showed the value of allowing each territory to adapt the Policy Lab to its own local priorities. This resulted in substantially different thematic entry points — **youth participation and intercultural governance in Bilbao, sport and public space in Fuenlabrada, and youth mental health and well-being in Tenerife** — while maintaining a common methodology centred on meaningful youth participation and advocacy.

Another relevant result was the opportunity to create more direct and accessible relationships between young people and institutions. The meetings enabled participants not only to present their proposals, but also to better understand institutional competences, existing initiatives, feasibility constraints and possible pathways for taking them forward. In Tenerife, this dialogue already resulted in a potential concrete follow-up opportunity, with the youth group being invited to explore its involvement in an upcoming Cabildo initiative on mental health.

Overall, the Policy Labs represent a further step in the EPIC-IDEA participation pathway: **from identifying needs, to capacity-building and youth-led local action, and finally to advocacy and dialogue with decision-makers.** Beyond the individual meetings, the process has helped create opportunities for continued dialogue and potential follow-up of youth proposals within existing institutional processes.

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