

Be YOU

Boosting sustainability and social change through Youth led- community development

Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of N. 20 youth-led
community projects in the local communities involved

One Day Cultural Fest

The One Day Cultural Fest was organized by Ring – Beyond Borders and took place on Sunday, March 17th, at Farm Cultural Park in Favara. It brought together a diverse group of participants, including volunteers, activists, visitors, and residents, for a day of interactive cultural activities. The festival aimed to foster cultural exchange, enhance global awareness, and strengthen community bonds. Activities included a "Tajine" drawing session, a hands-on cooking class, and a painting and photography workshop, all designed to promote creativity and cultural understanding.. More than 80 individuals attended the event successfully demonstrating the power of engaging activities to bridge cultural gaps and promote a multicultural society.



Casa delle storie

Casa delle Storie aims to promote social interactions in Agrigento through book exchange. Casa delle Storie focused on the transformation of an old cabinet into a creatively refurbished book-crossing station at Scaro Café. The inauguration event on April 27, 2024, engaged young people, tourists, volunteers, and local residents. During the event, 57 books were donated, and monthly tracking of exchanges began. Feedback collected through questionnaires showed high community engagement and satisfaction: 89% of respondents indicated a willingness to return, 93% believe the project contributes to sustainable development, and 96% desire more similar stations in Agrigento. Casa delle Storie demonstrates the role of young people in fostering social change and community development, creating a sustainable and culturally enriching environment in Agrigento.



BenchArt

The BenchArt project aimed to enhance public spaces through the creation of artistic benches, focusing on reuse and upcycling. Targeting local residents, students, tourists, and Scaro Cafe patrons, the project produced benches for the cafe's reading corner, linked to the "Casa delle Storie" initiative. A woodworking workshop was held, using recycled materials like abandoned chairs and leftover wood. Guided by a volunteer expert carpenter, participants sanded, assembled, and painted the benches. The workshop emphasized sustainability by promoting material reuse and upcycling to reduce waste, making Scaro Cafe more welcoming. Participant feedback, collected via a questionnaire, indicated high satisfaction and improved creative skills. BenchArt successfully integrated art, sustainability, and community involvement to transform public spaces.



Walk with me – Feel safe, Be sound

"Walk with me – Feel safe, Be sound" aims to empower individuals with the knowledge and resources needed to feel secure in their daily lives. By integrating digital tools and community involvement, the project focuses on creating a supportive virtual network for individuals who feel insecure walking alone on the streets. Central to the project was the development of an accessible website that serves as a hub for resources and community support. With its distinct visual identity, the website features essential content about personal safety ensuring a cohesive user experience. Educational initiatives and workshops, including an event at the "Rosina Salvo" Institute in Trapani, engaged over 80 students in the website testing and launch. Data collected in these occasions revealed that over 90% of respondents do not feel safe, and 1 in 10 reported experiencing assaults.



Collective kitchen



The Collective Kitchen project is a three-month project aimed at promoting social inclusion and sustainability. The project targets people with intellectual disabilities from the Vocational Training Centre "Margarita" who take part in three activities at the Centre of the Earth. Each session involves 15 beneficiaries in food preparation, cooking and discussions on issues related to social inclusion, sustainability and problems they face in their daily lives. A total of 23 people were reached: 16 adults with intellectual disabilities and 7 young international volunteers from KEAN-Cell of Alternative Youth Activities. These activities promote values such as solidarity, active participation and decision-making.





Creating a colorful community

The "Creating a Colorful Community" project aims to involve people with disabilities in the creation of a large mural at the Center of Creative Employment of People with Disabilities Nikodimos Graikos. The three-month project involves 46 beneficiaries from the center, ranging from young children to the elderly. Through artistic design, discussions on social inclusion and environmental issues, and active mural painting, the project promotes their artistic and social participation. Activities include venue selection, planning meetings, discussions on art and social issues, and the hands-on creation of the mural. The project aims to raise awareness, promote inclusivity and improve the environment of the centre by creating a colorful environment for the beneficiaries, involving both the participants and the wider community.



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Hunt for Lost Landscapes

The three-month 'Hunt for Lost Landscapes' project aims to highlight the remote landscapes of Lehaina and Varda, focusing on rural life, rural traditions and opportunities in remote areas. The project involves 50 students aged 15 from Varda Secondary School and includes activities such as video interviews, team building exercises and discussions on social inclusion and environmental issues. The project promotes regional culture and diversity and strengthens rural communities through agriculture and tourism. Main activities include visiting local landmarks, creating a video and analysing data to promote a connection with nature and highlight rural life. As well as empowering young people, the project promotes sustainable development and cultural heritage in the region.



Kifissos and me

The 'Kifissos and me' project aimed to explore the wildlife of the Athens river Kifissos, clean up the area and create educational content to raise young people's awareness of nature. The project targeted young people in Attica and across Europe who were interested in wildlife and environmental protection. A total of 20 people took part in the clean-ups and presentations, including students, locals and NGO members. The project, supported by stakeholders such as Save Your Hood and biologist Vangelis Koniastas, collected 10-15 large trash bags and documented various species. Key activities included clean-ups, wildlife documentation and a presentation to inspire further environmental projects. The project successfully highlighted the hidden natural beauty of the Athens river and fostered a sense of community and environmental responsibility among the participants.



Local Stories, United Voices – Community Theater



The "Teatrul Comunitar: Povești Locale, Voci Unite" project is designed to invigorate the cultural scene of Craiova, Romania. Aimed at culminating in Shakespeare Festival participation to showcase Craiova's cultural vocation, the initiative promoted social development in schools through theatre and cultural exchange activities by engaging the community. A very diverse range of individuals from the social spectrum (age 16–60) were involved in order to ensure that various community segments are represented, fostering a rich tapestry of talents and perspectives within the theatre community. The performances of the project attracted a crowd of 500 enthusiastic spectators.



CreACTiv



The CreACTiv project aims to empower hearing-impaired teenagers in Craiova, Romania, by providing a 3-day module of movement theatre workshops. Tailored to the needs of 14-18 year-olds who are often marginalized in traditional cultural and educational activities, these workshops offer access to acting techniques and processes. By engaging them in non-formal artistic experiences, creACTiv promotes inclusivity and personal development. The target group was selected through a collaborative process involving local partners. A total of 25 hearing-impaired teenagers participated in the workshops, actively engaging in theatre activities. Additionally, the project involved the families of participants, volunteers, and the team, enhancing the overall impact of the project.



Senzorial

The Senzorial project addresses the urgent need to combat the loneliness of children with disabilities in the Oltenia region. It aims to promote physical activity and nature interaction as a means of fostering social cohesion between children with and without physical disabilities. The target groups include children with physical disabilities excluded from mainstream education and extracurricular activities, children without disabilities participating in joint activities, and families of children with disabilities benefiting from socialization and support opportunities. The project involved about 15–20 children in various workshops. The majority were children with physical disabilities, from families needing support for social integration. Including children without disabilities facilitated interaction, promoting an inclusive environment and enhancing social integration. The project's impact lies in creating a supportive community that encourages social cohesion and combats isolation.



Youth in Action



The TINERII IAU ATITUDINE project addresses the urgent need to combat bullying and social exclusion in Craiova's schools and high schools. Aimed at improving mental health, self-esteem, and academic performance, the project focuses on young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, who are vulnerable to these issues. The target group includes typical students and those at risk of bullying and social exclusion in the pre-university education system. The project typically involves 45 to 50 participants in each session, offering a range of activities designed to foster inclusion and support. By engaging a relatively large group of young people, TINERII IAU ATITUDINE seeks to create a more inclusive and supportive school environment, significantly impacting participants' well-being and academic success.





Outdoor exhibition of artistic creations with sea pebbles

Conducted from January to May 2024, the initiative engaged students from the Larnaca Preparatory Apprenticeship Programme and individuals with intellectual disabilities from LCEducational. Collaborating with HUB Nicosia and the Municipality of Larnaca, participants selected shapes, collected pebbles, named creations, and worked with local government to secure a space for the project's installation. The initiative aimed to enhance capacity building and skills while fostering social networking and cooperation among diverse groups. Dissemination was achieved via community websites, social media, brochures, and a launch event. The permanent public installation in Larnaca stands as a testament to the project's values of creativity, cooperation, and social inclusion, offering lasting community impact.





Green Festival

The Green Festival promoted environmental and animal welfare awareness, focusing on sustainability practices. Targeting university students, disadvantaged communities and children, the festival engaged participants on Fast Fashion, veganism, recycling, and material reuse. Key activities were interactive workshops, educational sessions, thrift events, tree plantings, and quizzes, attracting around 100 participants. Featuring 16 environmental organization booths, music, vegan food, and interactive games, the event fostered collaboration. Participant engagement and feedback indicated increased awareness, new club memberships, and stronger collaborations with environmental groups. The festival effectively highlighted actionable steps towards a sustainable lifestyle, addressing the need for environmental education and mobilization within the university community.





Collective Artwork Workshop

The Collective Artwork Workshop at the Kofinou Centre aimed to foster creative expression and community cohesion among asylum seekers and refugees. From March to May 2024, the workshop facilitated self-discovery and a sense of belonging through participatory art-making activities. It promoted intercultural dialogue, allowing participants to share their cultural backgrounds and stories, enhancing mutual understanding and psychological well-being. Conducted in three sessions, the workshop used textiles and a 5-minute rotation format to create a collaborative art piece, sparking discussions on identity and cultural expression. The resulting artwork, displayed in the center's library, symbolized unity and resilience. Supported by HUB Nicosia and EASO, the project impacted 15 participants, enhancing community cohesion and well-being.

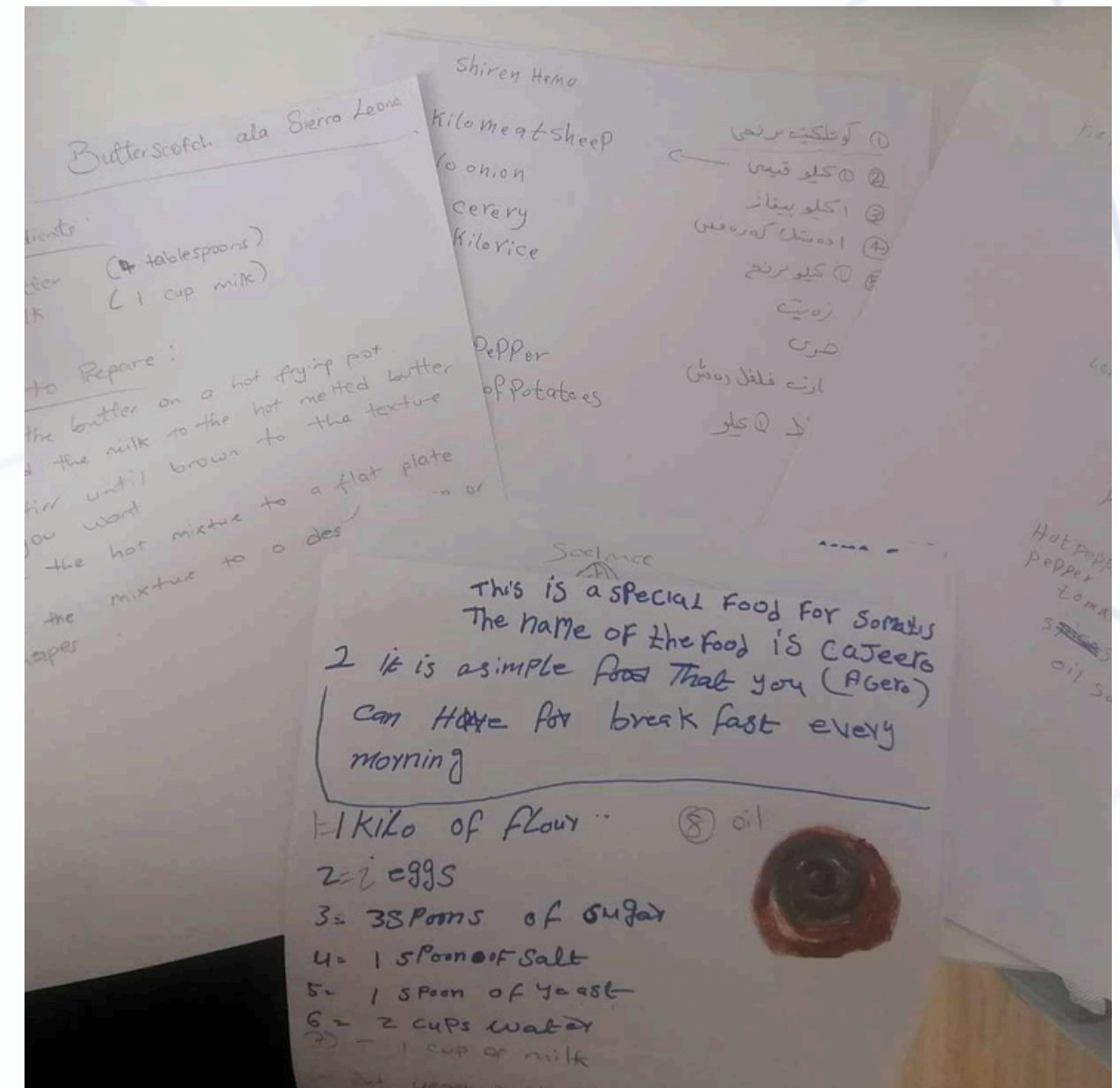




“Culinary Cultures”

A Cultural Recipe Book

The "Culinary Cultures" project at the Kofinou Asylum Centre celebrates the culinary traditions of women in the refugee camp, using food to express cultural identity and foster social connections. This initiative addresses cultural displacement and isolation by creating a recipe book that preserves and documents culinary heritage. It empowers disadvantaged youth, especially women, to contribute to community development and social cohesion through intercultural dialogue. Activities included Recipe Collection Workshops, Storytelling Sessions, and a Recipe Book Launch Event, all aimed at preserving cultural heritage and promoting social inclusion. Supported by HUB Nicosia and the European Asylum Support Office, the project directly benefited 20 women ensuring success and sustainability through professional design, printing, and distribution of the recipe book.



Talk Time Tutorials

Talk Time Tutorials aims to make English language learning accessible and engaging through short TikTok videos. Initially targeting urgent learners, the project now includes young people, teenagers, and immigrants for greater inclusivity. The TikTok account features 23 videos on essential grammar and vocabulary, designed to be quick, easy to understand, and accessible, helping users integrate English learning into their routines. The account has gained 613 followers, 4833 likes, and 147,981 views. Additionally, a workshop was held at the University of Alcalá on April 25th, inviting followers to practice their skills. The project successfully engaged a wide audience, as evidenced by high interaction metrics on TikTok and positive feedback from the workshop attendees.



Generaciones Conectadas

Generaciones Conectadas aims to bridge the digital divide for senior citizens by providing essential digital literacy skills to enhance their independence and connectivity. Over two months, interactive workshops were conducted in collaboration with the University of Alcalá, teaching seniors how to use smartphones, apps, and online services. Topics included mobile phone basics, internet safety, banking apps, and online shopping. Participants received hands-on guidance and printed materials for future reference, ensuring they could confidently navigate digital tools. Despite initial challenges, the project successfully engaged 10 senior participants, who reported high satisfaction and significant improvements in their digital skills. Positive feedback highlighted the practical benefits and excellent teaching quality, showcasing the project's success in fostering digital inclusion and enhancing the quality of life for the elderly community.



Entre tabúes

Entre tabúes (Between Taboos) is a social project aimed at dismantling stigmas associated with marginalized groups through interviews. Over three months, a young leader planned, designed, and conducted interviews with people from stigmatized groups—people with HIV, sex workers, and non-binary individuals—sharing their stories to foster understanding and empathy. These interviews were disseminated via Instagram, TikTok, and Spotify, reaching a broad audience. The project successfully engaged over 40,000 people on Instagram, 500,000 on TikTok, and 1,900 on Spotify. Engagement metrics included thousands of views, likes, and comments, indicating a significant impact on public awareness. Feedback from interviewees and viewers was overwhelmingly positive, with high satisfaction scores and numerous testimonials highlighting the project's effectiveness in promoting empathy and reducing discrimination.



KAAYLEN

KAAYLEN supports the migrant community in Huesca, Spain, offering assistance with immigration issues such as asylum applications, nationality processes, and NIE acquisition. It also helps with practical tasks like creating online CVs, aiding migrants in navigating complex bureaucratic landscapes. Additionally, KAAYLEN organizes lectures and workshops in educational and professional centers to raise awareness about immigration issues and promote cultural diversity. These events feature testimonials, debates, and practical exercises, fostering empathy and understanding among young people and the broader community. The project successfully assisted four individuals and two families with their bureaucratic issues and conducted four lectures across three educational centers. Collaborations with entities such as YMCA, CCONG Huesca, and local legal experts ensured tailored support for migrants.

