



EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET – LOCAL /INTERNATIONAL

(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	
Participant:	4 - KENTRO MERIMNAS OIKOGENEIAS KAI PAIDIOU (KMOP)
PIC number:	969224486
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe — PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number :	1
Event name:	Inclusive Communication for Participatory Local Governance
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Greece, Athens
Date(s):	20/05/2026
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	17
Male:	9
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [Greece]:	26



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Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Premise</p> <p>On 25 May 2026, the workshop “Inclusive Communication for Participatory Local Governance” was organised in Piraeus, Greece, to strengthen the participation of young people with migrant backgrounds in local democratic processes and promote more inclusive approaches to communication and governance.</p> <p>The event was developed in response to the recognition that young people from minority and migrant communities often experience barriers to meaningful participation in civic and institutional spaces. These barriers are not only linked to structural inequalities but also to the ways in which communication, representation, and public narratives shape feelings of belonging, visibility, and trust toward institutions.</p> <p>The workshop was designed as an interactive and participatory space bringing together young people with migrant backgrounds and youth workers working with migrant communities. The objective was not only to discuss inclusive communication as a theoretical concept, but also to collectively reflect on how communication practices can either facilitate or hinder participation in democratic and community life.</p> <p>The workshop was inspired by the participatory methodologies and principles promoted by the PACT Toolkit on the Promotion of Minorities’ Participation in Multilevel Governance, particularly the pillars related to participation, collaboration, and narratives. Particular attention was given to creating a safe and open environment where participants could exchange experiences, reflect on challenges related to representation and inclusion, and co-create ideas for more inclusive communication practices at the local level.</p> <p>Event Description</p> <p>The workshop opened with a welcome session and a short introduction to the PACT initiative, including the objectives of the project and its broader focus on promoting the participation, inclusion, and recognition of underrepresented minority communities in local governance processes. Participants were also introduced to the principles of participatory governance and the importance of moving from symbolic consultation toward meaningful co-creation and collaboration.</p> <p>The introductory session was followed by an ice-breaking and getting-to-know-each-other activity inspired by participatory methodologies included in the PACT workshop guidelines. Through interactive exercises and group discussion, participants reflected on experiences of inclusion and exclusion, explored shared challenges, and created an open and welcoming atmosphere that encouraged dialogue among participants coming from different backgrounds and experiences.</p> <p>The first thematic session, “Inclusion & Participation”, focused on the relationship between participation, representation, and access to decision-making spaces. Participants discussed the barriers that young people with migrant backgrounds may face when trying to engage in civic or institutional processes, including language barriers, lack of representation, limited trust in institutions,</p>			



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and experiences of tokenistic participation. The discussion also highlighted the importance of creating participation mechanisms that genuinely value diverse voices and perspectives.

The second session, “Inclusive Communication in Practice”, introduced participants to the concept of inclusive communication and explored how language, narratives, and communication styles can shape social inclusion and participation. In order to encourage active involvement and reflection, participants took part in an interactive activity entitled “Inclusive Taboo”. Through this exercise, participants worked in groups to reflect on commonly used terms, stereotypes, and communication patterns related to migration, diversity, and identity. The activity encouraged participants to critically analyse exclusionary language and to collectively identify more respectful, inclusive, and empowering alternatives. The exercise also created space for dialogue on unconscious bias, accessibility of communication, and the importance of using language that promotes dignity, visibility, and participation.

The third session, “Countering Harmful Narratives”, focused on the impact of misinformation, stereotypes, and negative narratives on minority communities and social cohesion. Participants reflected on examples of harmful narratives encountered in media, online platforms, and everyday life, while also discussing the emotional and social consequences these narratives may generate. The session encouraged participants to explore the role of positive storytelling, hope-based communication, and community-led narratives in promoting mutual understanding, trust, and inclusion. Particular attention was given to the importance of enabling minority communities to actively shape and share their own stories and experiences.

The workshop concluded with a final wrap-up and reflection session, during which participants shared key takeaways, personal reflections, and ideas for future actions. The discussion highlighted the importance of creating more inclusive communication practices within local communities, organisations, and institutions, as well as the need to strengthen opportunities for meaningful participation of young people with migrant backgrounds in democratic and civic life.

The event gathered a total of 26 participants, including young people with migrant backgrounds and youth workers engaged in supporting migrant and minority communities. The participatory methodology of the workshop encouraged active dialogue, peer learning, and mutual exchange, contributing to the creation of a collaborative and inclusive environment where participants could openly share experiences, perspectives, and ideas.



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PROJECT	
Participant:	3 – ASSOCIACIÓ FONS CATALÀ DE COOPERACIÓ AL DESENVOLUPAMENT (FCCD)
PIC number:	947878666
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe - PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	<i>La Participació de les Minories com a clau de la Governança Local</i>
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Barcelona, Spain
Date(s):	18/05/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://fonscatala.org/el-fons-catala-impulsa-un-espai-de-reflexio-sobre-la-participacio-de-les-minories-en-la-governanca-local/
Participants	
Female:	24
Male:	4
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Spain]:	28



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From country 2 [name]:			
From country 3 [name]:			
...			
Total number of participants:	28	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Premise			
<p>With the aim of organizing a meaningful event, Fons Català designed the workshop around several interconnected objectives. First, it sought to present and disseminate the content, methodologies, and practical tools developed within the PACT Toolkit (WP1), while emphasizing their relevance for Catalan stakeholders, particularly municipalities and civil society organizations (CSOs) working in migrant integration and recognition. Second, the event aimed to create spaces for reflection and exchange among participants, fostering dialogue on the participation and recognition of minorities within local governance structures in Catalonia, as well as encouraging collective reflection on the persistent barriers affecting inclusive participation. Finally, the workshop intended to provide partner Catalan municipalities, especially those actively involved in PACT (<i>Girona, Torelló, Rubí, Vic, and Mataró</i>) with a space to share successful local experiences aligned with the Toolkit's approach, such as anti-rumour networks and initiatives supporting women's political participation.</p> <p>In this context, the workshop was open to the public, but primarily targeted Catalan municipalities, particularly those already engaged in the PACT project, as well as other Catalan municipalities interested in advancing in this field. In parallel, a dissemination strategy was implemented to engage CSOs working on migrant empowerment and integration, alongside academic institutions and think tanks active in related fields.</p>			
Event description			
<p>The workshop opened with an institutional introduction delivered by Aminata Sabaly, Councillor for Equality and Social Justice of the Municipality of Girona and representative of the Migration and Development Commission of Fons Català. In her intervention, she emphasized the importance of further exploring the “circularity of migration and development,” highlighting how migratory movements shape social cohesion in both countries of origin and destination. She also underlined the value of initiatives such as PACT as spaces for exchanging experiences, knowledge, and practical tools with European peers, contributing to the advancement of real and effective participation of minorities in democratic life.</p> <p>Following this, Lidia Martos, Technical Officer at the Africa, Mediterranean and Asia Department of Fons Català, presented the PACT Project, its objectives, and facilitated an activity aimed at analysing the roles and spaces occupied by participants in decision-making processes within their municipalities.</p>			



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Next, **Marta Anglès**, Responsible of EU Programmes at Fons Català, introduced the Toolkit “*Promotion of Minorities’ Participation in Multilevel Governance*,” produced by ALDA under WP1. She briefly explained its objectives, main components, and the tools it compiles. She also noted that the workshop would focus on two pillars of the Toolkit: Participation and Collaboration.

Subsequently, **Lidia Martos** (FCCD) led the section dedicated to **Pillar 1: Participation**. She first presented the key contents of the Toolkit related to participation, including its importance, the main barriers to successful minority participation in local governance, and the strategies and tools designed to overcome these challenges. An interactive activity followed, involving all participants: the “*I Am From*” poem, a tool developed by PLACE, a PACT partner. This exercise allowed participants to perform “self-expression” and foster recognition and encourage participants to recognise the value of their own story. Another activity was then facilitated in collaboration with the **Municipality of Vic** and the organization **Enraona Teatre**, which presented the initiative “*Arts que Transformen*.” This initiative uses the performing arts as a tool for social inclusion and community participation. Enraona Teatre led a social and therapeutic theatre dynamic, demonstrating how creativity can foster expression, participation and conflict resolution.

Finally, a best municipal practice titled “*Dones Ambaixadores*” was presented on behalf of the **Municipality of Mataró**. The project focuses on building links between the local administration and groups of migrant women, fostering social cohesion and promoting the recognition of diversity.

The section concluded with a wrap-up and a coffee break.

The next section, led by **Marta Anglès** (FCCD), focused on **Pillar 2: Collaboration**. She first presented the key contents of the Toolkit related to collaboration, including its importance, the main barriers to successful multi-stakeholder cooperation in fostering migrant recognition and participation in local governance, and the strategies and tools designed to address these challenges.

An interactive activity facilitated by Fons Català followed, involving all participants. The exercise consisted of designing a multi-stakeholder collaboration structure to achieve a specific objective (for example, fostering the participation of migrant youth in the cultural programming of a municipality). Participants were asked to identify relevant stakeholders, define their roles within the collaboration structure, and consider mechanisms to ensure its sustainability.

Following the activity, two municipal case studies were presented. The **Municipality of Girona** introduced the “*Casa de la No-Discriminació*,” a free municipal service providing psychosocial support, legal advice, and assistance to individuals experiencing any form of discrimination. Subsequently, the **Municipality of Rubí** presented the “*Xarxa Anti-Rumors*” initiative, which aims to dismantle hate speech, stereotypes, and prejudices against minorities and people of diverse origins that hinder social cohesion.

The session concluded with a brief wrap-up of this section.

The final part of the workshop focused on **conclusions and next steps**, led by Fons Català. Marta Anglès (FCCD) summarised the main points raised during the discussion. Key insights highlighted by participants included:

- The importance of incorporating intersectionality and recognising that migrants have diverse and unequal experiences, as some may hold certain advantages (e.g., language proficiency, cultural or religious proximity to the host society). In this regard, it is essential to avoid the assumption that a single migrant can represent the entire community.



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- The difficulty of ensuring intergenerational continuity, as long-term or older migrants may have different perspectives from younger generations of migrants. This highlights the importance of better understanding the needs and interests of younger migrant generations.
- The challenge of engaging migrant youth, and the need to identify and support “reference figures” who can inspire and mobilize migrant youngsters within their communities.
- The importance of municipalities facilitating co-designed governance structures shared with civil society organizations (CSOs), strengthening local actors and creating spaces that foster the re-appropriation of democratic participation. Municipalities play a key role in structuring and enabling these spaces.
- The need to avoid tokenism, particularly within municipal contexts, where superficial or symbolic participation may mask a lack of real inclusion (ex: assigning migrants to folkloric or quota-based cultural roles without meaningful decision-making power).

Lidia Martos (FCCD) then presented upcoming project activities planned for 2026 under PACT.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks and acknowledgements to all participants.

Event Evaluation

FCCD considers the workshop to have been a success for several reasons. First, it brought together a considerable diversity of participants, including municipal officers working in international cooperation and migrant integration, civil society organizations engaged in migrant inclusion and recognition, and migrant-led associations. This diversity significantly enriched the discussions and exchange of perspectives

Second, there was a high level of participation and engagement throughout the workshop, resulting in rich discussions and valuable takeaways.

Finally, participants expressed a clear interest in continuing their involvement in upcoming activities, reflecting the relevance of the topics addressed and the value of the workshop as a space for exchange and learning. In addition, an evaluation questionnaire was sent to all participants in order to gather feedback and assess their level of satisfaction. The responses will support the evaluation and improvement of future events led by FCCD under the PACT project.

Responses to the Evaluation Questionnaire

As mentioned above, an evaluation questionnaire was distributed to all participants to collect feedback and assess their level of satisfaction with the organization and delivery of the workshop. The responses collected can be accessed through the [following link](#).



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PROJECT	
Participant:	6 - PLACE NETWORK
PIC number:	905168984
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe - PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	“Prenons PLACE : une rencontre pour co-construire ensemble la gouvernance locale”
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Paris, France
Date(s):	20/05/2026
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	11
Male:	15
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [France]:	26



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From country 2 [name]:			
From country 3 [name]:			
...			
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Our event took place on 20 May 2026, from 6pm to 8pm at our offices in Paris.</p> <p>The event started with an ice-breaker aimed at highlighting exclusion in decision-making processes. A staff member read out statements describing situations of exclusion, and for each one, participants were asked to take a step forward if they had experienced a similar situation.</p> <p>Following the ice-breaker, we presented our organisation (Place Network) and the PACT project, with a particular focus on the toolkit's examples: the Neighbourhood Council and our area of expertise, the Policy Labs. After briefly explaining the implementation of Policy Labs as part of your Resilient Cities project, we moved on to the first activity. Participants were invited to reflect on how the toolkit's examples could be implemented in their local context and to compare both participation models. They were highly engaged, and their contributions were both relevant and meaningful.</p> <p>While the first part mainly focused on participation, the second centred on collaboration. It began with an explanation of shared and exclusive competencies at different governance levels (local and regional), followed by a brief presentation of Place Network's past projects related to local collaboration. During the second activity, participants were asked to map relevant stakeholders who could help advance their recommendations. Their answers were varied: companies, municipalities, civil society organisations (CSOs), and more. Some suggested adapting the format to the targeted group (such as youth or people from disadvantaged areas) arguing that the way of reaching people would differ depending on their context.</p> <p>The event concluded with a feedback round, followed by a networking session.</p> <p>Most participants were people with a migration background, holding various positions: city councillors, CSO representatives, journalists, and more. One of the facilitators from our Resilient Cities project attended the event and shared his experience with Policy Labs with the audience. It was an ideal opportunity for participants to gain insight into the Policy Labs model, and even led some of them to consider integrating it into their own sphere of work.</p> <p>The President of Place Network, Rohullah Sidiqullah, was also present. He is a refugee of Afghan origin, currently based in the Paris region, with a background in political science and over 15 years of experience in intercultural work, interpretation, training, and mediation in migration contexts. He has been actively engaged in fostering dialogue between French society and exiled communities, drawing on both his professional experience and personal journey across different countries and cultures. He is also a member of the Parliament of Exiles.</p>			



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This first local workshop also provided a valuable opportunity for participants, coming from different backgrounds and working on a wide range of issues, to meet for the first time, exchange perspectives, and build new connections.



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PROJECT	
Participant:	Konkav Foundation
PIC number:	905168984
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe — PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	1st PACT Capacity-Building Conference – Inclusive Cities, Open Local Governments
Type:	Roundtable discussion and workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Hungary, Budapest
Date(s):	May 20. 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.konkavter.hu/
Participants	
Female:	24
Male:	12
Non-binary:	-
From country (Hungary):	34



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From country 2 (Afghanistan):	1		
From country 3 (Nigeria):	1		
...			
Total number of participants:	36	From total number of countries:	3

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Premise

Prior to the implementation of the event, a process of reflection and co-construction was initiated in order to guide the project's choices in a coherent and participatory way. Within this process, the decision was made to focus on a systemic challenge emerging within Budapest's public administration: the institutional fragmentation of social inclusion practices.

In recent years, various districts across Budapest have established dedicated public participation departments, community development offices, and minority or equal opportunity referee positions. While financial resources and personnel are increasingly allocated to these bodies, a critical gap remains: a lack of coordinated, practical methodology on how to effectively reach and involve hard-to-reach, marginalized, or newly arrived social groups in local community life and civic decision-making. As civil society actors and members of these affected communities, the project team recognized an urgent need to build a bridge between administrative resources and grassroots realities.

To address this gap, the preparatory phase focused on designing a high-prestige, inclusive environment that would gather key institutional stakeholders alongside marginalized community representatives. Invitations were strategically extended to municipal experts, participation professionals, and civil society organizers.

To guarantee authentic multi-stakeholder representation, the event secured the direct participation of three migrant-specific organizations, a representative from a prominent Roma cultural institution, multiple national minority referees, and disability rights advocates. Ensuring total accessibility was a foundational priority throughout the planning phase.

To elevate the political impact and prestige of the dialogue, high-level decision-makers were engaged, including the Deputy Head of the Department of Social Policy and Participation of the Municipality of Budapest, senior staff from the central Budapest Participation Office, and the Deputy Mayor of the 9th District (Ferencváros).

The choice of venue was also deeply intentional. By securing the Delegation of the Flanders Region at the Embassy of Belgium in Budapest, the event provided a neutral, high-profile, and inspiring European setting for participants. To add further analytical depth, an expert was integrated to bring unique religious and ecumenical perspectives to the inclusion debate. Finally, logistical details—such as hiring a sustainable local small business that accommodated all dietary requirements, reflected the core values of inclusion and social responsibility.

Event Description



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The event opened with an official welcome from Dániel Varga (Konkáv Foundation), followed by opening remarks from Zsuzsanna Lénárt, Head of the Flemish Representation, and András Kovács, Deputy Mayor of Ferencváros. This opening session introduced the core mission and strategic pillars of the PACT project, establishing a clear framework for the day. The organizers outlined the project's dedication to strengthening democratic participation for underrepresented groups, setting a professional yet welcoming and open atmosphere designed to break down barriers and foster honest peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.

The expert interventions began with a thought-provoking keynote lecture by a young researcher focused on inclusive urban planning and spatial design. The presentation offered concrete models demonstrating how public spaces can be engineered to systematically meet the diverse needs of multiple social groups simultaneously.

This was followed by an expert roundtable panel featuring leading public participation practitioners and municipal staff from across Budapest. The speakers shared practical field experiences, directly responding to one another's methodologies and offering the audience crucial, actionable insights on how to initiate and sustain minority engagement within their respective districts. A dynamic Q&A session followed, allowing the audience to collectively debate pressing localized challenges.

Following a brief networking lunch break, the format transitioned into highly interactive, thematic breakout tables built around successful local case studies. This setup did not merely facilitate networking; it actively forced participants to think through practical implementation questions and operationalize the tools discussed earlier in the day.

The event concluded with highly positive feedback from the participants, who stressed the immense relevance and urgency of the topic. Coming immediately after the April parliamentary elections, the event tapped into a widespread anticipation among local actors to leverage these tools and launch progressive, forward-thinking inclusion initiatives across the capital.

Conclusions from the event discussion

1. Long-Term Trust and Relationship Building

A foundational principle of Konkáv's work is recognizing that authentic civic inclusion cannot be short-circuited by rigid, time-constrained project frameworks.

- **Time as a Core Resource:** Establishing trust with marginalized, traumatized, or highly isolated groups is a complex, non-linear process that requires sustained field presence. Participants emphasize that trust cannot be rushed to meet immediate project outputs.
- **Navigating Strategy vs. Reality:** A key competence is managing the friction between high-level strategic integration goals and the messy, slow-moving reality of local community work.
- **Deconstructing Institutional Skepticism:** Marginalized communities often view public institutions with historical distrust. Konkáv's methodology focuses on a gradual, continuous approach to building confidence between citizens and authorities.

2. Low-Threshold Entry and "Step-Minus-One" Capacity Building

Before underrepresented individuals can participate equally in high-level democratic structures, intermediate, accessible development phases must be secured.

- **The "Minus-Step" Approach:** Inclusion cannot begin with an immediate demand for advocacy or formalized input. True best practice requires meeting groups where they are, focusing first on soft skills, building basic interest, and removing initial social friction.
- **Fostering Equally-Grouped Partnerships:** To ensure marginalized groups are not tokenized, capacity-building must empower them to articulate their own needs without feeling pressured by institutional expectations or predefined bureaucratic agendas.



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- **Intersectional Accessibility:** Ensuring physical, logistical, and social safety during interactions so that vulnerable sub-groups (e.g., people with disabilities, non-native speakers, socio-economically strained families) can comfortably enter the space.

3. De-bureaucratization of Municipal Public Services

A critical shift in municipal governance is moving away from a top-down, authoritative mindset toward an active, user-centric public service model.

- **Moving Beyond the "Top-Down" approach:** Traditional, top-down administrative models are identified as systemic dead ends for minority inclusion. Municipalities must transition from a strict hierarchy to an interactive service model that responds directly to actual resident needs.
- **Encouraging Local Public Administration Self-Criticism:** Public officials must actively evaluate whether their existing legal, administrative, and bureaucratic frameworks are structurally incompatible with, or exclusionary toward, vulnerable and highly sensitive groups.
- **Aligning Need Assessment with Decision-Making:** Creating direct, structural links between localized needs assessments, the articulation of community demands, and the ultimate legislative or financial decisions made by district leadership.

4. Co-Design in Identity-Sensitive Vulnerability Spheres

Effective solutions for highly complex issues, such as marginalized housing or social precarity, cannot be created for minority groups, but must be designed with them.

- **Collaborative Problem-Solving:** Local policies addressing housing, employment, and social rights must be shaped alongside the targeted demographic to ensure real-world viability.
- **Navigating Complex Identity Boundaries:** In diverse urban settings, even defining targeted minority groups (such as identifying within the local Roma community or navigating fluctuating migrant demographics) requires nuanced, self-representation-based approaches rather than arbitrary official categorization.
- **Cross-Sectoral Alliances:** Intentionally connecting local minority self-governments, neighborhood media, specialized NGOs, and municipal departments to view social problems from pluralistic viewpoints.

5. Accessible, Universal Communication channels

Dismantling informational barriers is a prerequisite for democratic local participation.

- **Plain and Inclusive Communication:** Transitioning municipal notices, public forums, and project findings into clear, jargon-free, and universally accessible formats.
- **Broad Demographic Impact:** Plain communication models are critical not only for newly arrived migrant populations or foreign-language speakers, but they are equally vital for native residents navigating low literacy levels or cognitive vulnerabilities.
- **Institutionalized Multilingualism and Interpretation:** Ensuring that professional translation and interpretation are not treated as secondary additions, but rather integrated as a foundational budget and logistical priority for all cross-cultural events.

6. Sustainable Peer Networks and Local Continuous Exchange

To maximize impact, localized knowledge-sharing events must transform from single, isolated project moments into continuous institutional practices.

- **Rejecting Purely "Project-Based" Mindsets:** The sector must resist treating inclusion as a series of short-term, disconnected grant deadlines. True success lies in creating ongoing spaces for structural networking.



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- Inter-Municipal Knowledge Transfer: Creating a peer-learning network where forward-thinking municipalities and public experts can systematically observe, adapt, and co-implement each other's proven inclusive governance models.
- Building Real Ecosystems: Transitioning from separate professional spheres into unified local coalitions where public administration staff, media outlets, and civil sector entities continuously share methodologies long after specific event cycles conclude.



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PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - ASSOCIAZIONE PER L'AMBASCIATA DELLA DEMOCRAZIA (ADL) a Zavidovici
PIC number:	905168984
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe - PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	IDENTITÀ, NARRATIVE E RAPPRESENTAZIONI COME CHIAVE DI ACCESSO ALLA PARTECIPAZIONE.
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Italy, Brescia
Date(s):	26/04/2026
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	20
Male:	15
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [Italy]:	35
From country 2 [name]:	
From country 3 [name]:	



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...			
Total number of participants:	35	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Premise			
<p>Prior to the implementation of the event, a process of reflection and co-construction was initiated in order to guide the project's choices in a coherent and participatory way. Within this process, the decision was made to focus on the Muslim community, not only because it represents a significant minority within the local context, but also because it has increasingly been the target of discriminatory narratives in recent years.</p> <p>In particular, in the city of Brescia, some far-right political actors and public figures have circulated videos and online content containing misleading information, false data, and hate speech targeting Muslim people. These narratives have contributed to reinforcing stereotypes, fuelling social polarisation, and increasing the risk of exclusion and discrimination.</p> <p>Starting from this awareness, it was considered essential to create an event that would not simply speak <i>about</i> the Muslim community, but would be developed <i>with</i> the community itself. For this reason, the preparatory phase involved the direct participation of several key figures from the Islamic community in Brescia, including a colleague actively engaged within the community, the president of the Muslim Students Association at the University of Brescia, and a city councillor belonging to the same community. This collaborative approach made it possible to jointly define the objectives, contents, and format of the event.</p> <p>The choice of venue was also consistent with this approach. The mosque was identified as the location for the meeting, as it is recognised by the community as a safe and meaningful space, capable of offering a welcoming and familiar environment for participants. Holding the event in this setting was intended to foster more authentic, conscious, and active participation.</p> <p>Particular attention was also devoted to the selection of the speaker. After contacting several potential contributors, the final choice was to involve a second-generation young Muslim woman who works on analysing and reshaping narratives about the Islamic community in films, media, and public discourse, and who also has a strong presence on social media. This choice reflects the intention to value an internal perspective, combining professional expertise, lived experience, and effective communication skills.</p> <p>The overall rationale behind these choices is the belief that storytelling, self-representation, and identity-building are deeply connected to participation. The possibility to tell one's own story and to construct and share authentic representations directly affects the way individuals perceive themselves as part of society, as well as their willingness and ability to engage in social and civic processes. When dominant narratives are distorted, simplified, or exclusionary, participation can be weakened. Conversely, creating spaces where people can express their voices and experiences contributes to strengthening a sense of belonging, civic engagement, and collective empowerment.</p>			
Event description			



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The meeting opened with an introductory session led by Maddalena Alberti, Director of ADL a Zavidovici. During this initial moment, the work carried out by ADL a Zavidovici was presented, together with an overview of the PACT project, its objectives, and its overall mandate. This introduction was particularly useful for participants, as it provided a clear understanding of the initiative's vision and foundations, while also placing the event within a broader European framework and within the ongoing work carried out with Muslim communities in Italy to promote inclusion, participation, and integration.

The introduction was followed by the intervention of the facilitator, Fatima El Mouh, who guided the entire activity and accompanied participants through the different sessions of the day.

Fatima El Mouh, a young second-generation Muslim woman, is a media professional and content creator engaged in analysing and reshaping public narratives about Islam and Muslim communities, particularly in relation to cinema, media representation, and social media discourse. Thanks to her personal background, professional expertise, and strong communication skills, she was able to guide the discussion by combining lived experience with a critical perspective on representation and identity.

The first part of the meeting consisted of a discussion and Q&A session focused on the series *The Show* and on the representation of themes related to Islam, including Ramadan. Participants reflected on how these topics are portrayed in the media, also considering the role of cameras and their impact on the way the community is perceived.

A dual perspective emerged from the discussion. On the one hand, participants acknowledged the interest of authors and production teams in addressing these themes for narrative and communication purposes. On the other hand, the discussion highlighted the internal challenges faced by the Muslim community in representing itself in a complete, accurate, and multifaceted way, with the risk that certain voices remain marginal or underrepresented. The presence of cameras was also discussed: while they may sometimes be perceived as intrusive, they are also increasingly normalised in media production. Participants underlined that the quality and sensitivity of representation can vary significantly depending on the approach adopted by each production.

Following this introductory and discussion phase, participants were divided into working groups. This format encouraged interaction both among people who already knew each other and among participants who were meeting for the first time, fostering the creation of new connections. The workshop activity invited each group to imagine and design a five-episode series inspired by the format of *The Show*, but focused on narrating the Feast of the Sacrifice, known as *Eid al-Adha*, within the Muslim community.

The exercise encouraged participants to reflect on how the same reality can be narrated from different perspectives, which elements should be highlighted, and how an effective and respectful narrative can be structured. As a result, the groups developed a variety of proposals, characterised by different narrative approaches, priorities, and points of view. At the end of the presentations, it was announced that the most promising proposal could be further developed into a short film.

The meeting concluded with a final collective discussion on the relationship between narratives, self-representation, and the possibility of participating in democratic processes, with particular attention to younger generations. Participants reflected on how the way minority communities are represented — both by external actors and by the communities themselves — can influence their sense of belonging, their confidence in taking the floor, and their willingness to engage in civic and democratic life.

In this framework, the project toolkit “Promoting the Participation of Minorities in Multilevel Governance” was presented as a practical tool to start reflecting on the meaning of participation, on the barriers that may limit access to decision-making spaces, and on the opportunities to strengthen the involvement of minority communities in democratic processes. The meeting then ended with an



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informal networking moment, allowing participants to exchange ideas freely, deepen the relationships built during the activities, and share further reflections on the experience.



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EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET – LOCAL

(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	
Participant:	Center for Intercultural Dialogue -CID
PIC number:	946680619
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe - PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Understanding Minority Rights for Active Civic Participation
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	<i>In site</i>
Location:	North Macedonia, Lipkovo
Date(s):	19th of May
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	17
Male:	9
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [North Macedonia]:	26
From country 2 [name]:	



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From country 3 [name]:			
...			
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The event brought together young participants for a full-day interactive and educational workshop focused on human rights, minority rights, diversity, inclusion, identity, and active civic participation. The workshop aimed to increase participants' understanding of fundamental human rights principles, encourage critical reflection on issues of equality and discrimination, and strengthen their capacity to engage as active and responsible members of their communities. Throughout the day, participants took part in a variety of experiential learning activities designed to promote dialogue, empathy, cooperation, and intercultural understanding.</p> <p>The workshop began with a welcome and introductory session, during which participants were introduced to the project, its objectives, and the expected outcomes of the activity. The facilitation team presented the agenda and established a safe and inclusive learning environment by outlining the workshop's objectives, ground rules, and expectations. This opening session helped participants understand the purpose of the workshop and prepared them for active engagement throughout the day.</p> <p>To foster trust and create a positive group dynamic, participants took part in a series of icebreaker and team-building activities. Through interactive exercises such as introducing themselves using an adjective and movement, as well as the "Two Truths and One Lie" activity, participants had the opportunity to learn more about one another, discover shared interests, and build connections across diverse backgrounds. These activities encouraged open communication, participation, and mutual respect while helping participants feel comfortable expressing their ideas and experiences.</p> <p>One of the central activities of the workshop was the "Take a Step Forward" simulation exercise. Through role-play, participants assumed the identities of different social characters representing a variety of backgrounds and life circumstances. As they responded to a series of statements related to rights, opportunities, participation, and social inclusion, participants physically experienced the unequal access to opportunities that different groups may face. The exercise prompted reflection on discrimination, privilege, exclusion, and social inequality, while the subsequent debriefing discussion encouraged participants to analyze the structural factors that influence people's experiences and opportunities. The activity contributed significantly to building empathy and a deeper understanding of the realities faced by marginalized and minority groups.</p> <p>Following the experiential exercise, participants engaged in thematic group work focused on key human rights concepts and frameworks. Working in small groups, they explored topics such as the foundations and principles of human rights, different categories of rights, minority rights, children's rights, and the role of human rights defenders. Participants examined key international instruments</p>			



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and discussed how these rights apply in everyday life and within their own communities. Each group prepared and delivered a presentation summarizing their findings, which was followed by plenary discussions that allowed participants to exchange perspectives, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of the topics. These discussions helped strengthen participants' knowledge of human rights standards while encouraging critical thinking and collaborative learning.

The workshop also included a presentation of the Toolkit developed under WP1. Participants were introduced to the toolkit's objectives, structure, and key resources, as well as its role in supporting education, awareness-raising, and engagement on issues related to human rights, inclusion, and active citizenship. The presentation highlighted how the toolkit can be used by young people, educators, youth workers, and community actors to facilitate learning and promote meaningful participation. Participants were encouraged to explore the materials and share their initial reflections, suggestions, and feedback regarding the usefulness and accessibility of the resources.

Another important component of the workshop was the "Identity Flower" exercise, which provided participants with an opportunity to reflect on the multiple dimensions of their personal and collective identities. Through a creative and participatory process, participants explored aspects such as language, culture, ethnicity, gender, religion, education, abilities, interests, and place of origin. By comparing their identity flowers and identifying commonalities and differences, participants gained a deeper appreciation of diversity within the group while also recognizing shared experiences and values. The exercise generated meaningful discussions about belonging, inclusion, stereotypes, and the ways in which different aspects of identity can influence people's experiences, opportunities, and access to rights.

Throughout the workshop, participants actively engaged in discussions, collaborative tasks, and reflection exercises that encouraged them to connect the concepts of human rights and inclusion to their own lives and communities. The combination of experiential learning methods, group work, and facilitated dialogue created a dynamic and participatory learning environment where participants felt empowered to share their perspectives and learn from one another.

The workshop concluded with an evaluation and reflection session, during which participants shared their impressions, key takeaways, and suggestions for future activities. Through interactive evaluation methods, participants reflected on what they had learned, the experiences that had the greatest impact on them, and how they could apply this knowledge in their daily lives. The closing discussion emphasized the importance of respecting diversity, promoting equality, protecting human rights, and encouraging active civic engagement.

Overall, the event provided a safe, inclusive, and engaging space for learning, dialogue, and intercultural exchange. By combining knowledge-building with practical and reflective activities, the workshop strengthened participants' awareness of human rights issues, enhanced their empathy and understanding of different social realities, and encouraged them to take an active role in promoting inclusion, participation, and respect for human rights within their communities.



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