

**The Youth Inclusion Workshops  
National Report  
by  
Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo  
Dolci**





**PROMOTING OPEN RESILIENT INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR YOUTH**

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## 1. The Youth Inclusion Workshops in the framework of **PRIORITY** project

**PRIORITY: PRomotIng Open Resilient Inclusive socieTies for Youth** is an innovative 36-month project that involves four countries and five organisations - such as youth organisations and networks, cultural and sports organisations, training centres, as well as private and public entities. Among its main aims, PRIORITY strives to: 1) increase the capacities of the organisations that work with youth; 2) to invest in prevention by removing breeding grounds for radicalisation and act as forces of inclusion; 3) to empower young people from disadvantaged groups to engage; 4) to enhance youth participation and drive positive change in communities, through the use of innovative methods and practices coming from the combination of youth work, training, cultural mediation and sports fields.

The Work Package 5 (WP5) named “**PRIORITY Hubs Testing, Young Mediators Activities (inclusion and capacity building), Community Cultural Heritage Activities**” consists of the testing phase of PRIORITY Hubs where the organisations held three different types of activities in order to maximise the impact of the prototypes of youth inclusion local environments.

WP5 is divided into three actions linked between them:

- 5.1 - Youth Inclusion Workshops;
- 5.2 - Youth Initiatives: Social & Cultural Activities connected with the European Year of Cultural Heritage;
- 5.3 - Young Mediator Capacity Building on-site training

### Specifically:

**5.1 Youth Inclusion Workshops:** during this phase of the project, partners selected young migrants and/or refugees who wanted to participate in the activities of PRIORITY Hubs. Some of these activities were in collaboration with other local stakeholders already involved in the social integration of migrants and refugees (such as local authorities or other CSOs). The main purpose was to build a trustful relationship with the young people at risk of marginalisation, including them through the Youth Inclusion Workshops and encouraging them to be active citizens at a local level. These workshops and related activities were based on the [PRIORITY methodology](#) and [toolkit](#), but also based on participants’ and local context needs. Thus, partners implemented these workshops including different kind of activities, such as:

- Intercultural dinners
- Sports activities

- Digital skills workshops
- Visits
- Art sessions
- Social support activities

In total, nine workshops were held in each country, giving the opportunity to young participants to come together, learn and exchange their experiences on enhancing their inclusion in the society. Thanks to these workshops, young people felt welcomed and included, and confident enough to express themselves in a youth environment.

**5.2 Youth Initiatives: Social & Cultural Activities connected with the European Year of Cultural Heritage.** The PRIORITY consortium established strong connections and guaranteed its participation on cultural and social events during the summer 2021. Moreover, a set of activities was co-designed with the youth already engaged in the project. The partners organised different activities depending on the location, type of event and size of audience, and implemented them in a different way according to each partner's organisation and local stakeholders involved as well as local community's needs. Nevertheless, all the activities were implemented following the quality criteria and objectives:

- 1.** They were connected with the Europe's cultural heritage through education and lifelong learning by focusing on children, young and elderly people, local communities and hard-to-reach groups and using approaches that are people-centred, inclusive, forward-looking, more integrated, sustainable and cross-sectoral. (Objectives of European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018). Due to the fact that the Youth Initiatives were implemented in 2021, they were not all of them directly linked with the European Year of Cultural Heritage – 2018.
- 2.** They were based on participatory methods and had active involvement of both local and migrant youth both in the designing phase and the actual implementation.
- 3.** They were implemented in cooperation with local stakeholders from each partner's city that belong to different sectors (public authorities, youth, sports and cultural NGOs, private education/training institutions, refugee centres etc.,).

**5.3 Young Mediator Capacity Building on-site training.** During this activity partners developed a training course of six working days, based on the non-formal education, peer–education methodology as well as in the [PRIORITY methodology](#) previously developed within the project, reaching at least 20 people per country. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project consortium decided to implement the Capacity Building in two rounds of trainings of three-working days each. The online training was implemented in two rounds by four partners from three countries (Italy, Greece and Germany). The participants that were selected were either native citizens or young people with migrant background. Particular focus was given on the participation of young unemployed people with or without migrant

background. Activities were drawn from the [PRIORITY Toolkit](#) and [How to PRIORITISE E-book](#), aimed at empowering young people and equipping them with necessary skills and knowledge so as to be active citizens. This way, the participants became young mediators in order to reach out to their peers at risk of marginalisation and acted as multipliers of inclusion. Based on the programme outcomes of this training as well as the satisfaction questionnaires filled out by the participants, partners developed the E-course “How to become PRIORITY Young Mediator” of WP6, that will be ready in the coming months.

## 2. Structure and Duration of the PRIORITY Youth Inclusion Workshops in Palermo Italy

Youth Inclusion workshops were designed based on the cross-sectoral innovation practices developed in the PRIORITY methodology and toolkit. The activities were co-designed by each partner based on their participants’ profile and interests in order to make them more attractive and to maximise their participation.

Initially, the workshops were planned to be implemented face-to-face and partners were prepared to organise different local visits, sports activities, intercultural dinners and many other social activities. Due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to implement those activities as it was planned. However, partners managed to fulfil the objectives of the project by implementing these workshops online. Activities were carried out by using non-formal learning methods as well as inclusive and interactive learning methods, such as role playing, brainstorming, group discussions, case studies, debates followed by debriefing and reflection sessions. The nine Youth Inclusion Workshops brought together young participants to interact with each other, learn and exchange their experiences on enhancing inclusion in their local communities.

Centro Danilo Dolci has implemented first three workshops face-to-face during September 2020 and remaining six workshops were implemented online due to the restrictions from Covid 19.

*In the table below, we present the general overview of workshops implementation in Palermo Hubs by CSC Danilo Dolci:*

<b>Workshop implementation date</b>	<b>Workshop topics</b>	<b>Method (online or Face-to-face)</b>	<b>Platform used (if online)</b>	<b>Number of participants per workshop</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>09-09-2020</b>	Civic education	Face-to-face	-	10	The first workshop was mainly focused on the concepts of active citizenship, human rights, culture of peace and give practical examples. The activities stimulated a moment of reflection on what it means to make decisions in difficult moments and how important it is to share ideas and strategies to solve a problem.
<b>10-09-2020</b>	Volunteering	Face-to-face	-	10	Participants worked in groups and shared their ideas and thoughts about the meaning of volunteering. In the second part of the session, participants implemented a role-play activity about <b>"creating the city of your dreams"</b> .
<b>14-09-2020</b>	Human rights	Face-to-face	-	10	On the third day, the importance of human rights education was discussed.
<b>10-02-2021</b>	Performing arts: Role play as a tool for inclusion	Online	Zoom/Jamboard	5	The workshop was organised online and it involved five participants living in Palermo. All of them were from migrant or refugees and/or fewer opportunities background.

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					During the first day, participants discussed on the importance of art for social inclusion and how it is connected to the culture.
<b>17-02-2021</b>	Storytelling	Online	Zoom/Jamboard	5	Second days' workshop was focused on the topics of <b>forum theatre</b> and <b>storytelling</b> . Different group activities were organized during the workshop.
<b>24-02-2021</b>		Online	Zoom/Jamboard	5	On the third day, the importance of human rights education was discussed.
<b>29-03-2021</b>	The importance of Sport & Volunteering in promoting social inclusion	Online	Zoom/Jamboard	5	<p>The final round of three workshops named <b>"Sports for all and volunteering activities"</b> were implemented online during the months of March and April 2021.</p> <p>During the first day, participants discussed on the importance of social inclusion and how it is connected with the sports and volunteering activities. Trainers presented some good examples of initiative in Palermo that fights against discrimination and racism.</p>



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<b>31-03-2021</b>	Creative thinking	Online	Zoom/Jamboard	5	During the second day, participants discussed about sport education and how it is important for social inclusion. Different activities were organised in order to present the fair play in sports which can apply also in real life.
<b>04-04-2021</b>	Intercultural Dialogue	Online	Zoom/Jamboard	5	During the third workshop participants gained knowledge on intercultural dialogue and how it is connected to Social inclusion.

### 3. An overview of target audience from the Youth Inclusion Workshops in Palermo-Italy

In the framework of the Youth Inclusion Workshops, Centro Per Lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo Dolci has implemented nine workshops addressing specific target audiences. The first three workshops were implemented face-to-face during the month of September 2020 and it involved 10 migrants and local participants in each workshop. The participants expressed their interests to join in other two workshops and wanted to increase their knowledge and awareness on different topics. Similarly, during the other two rounds of workshops that took place online, five participants were involved in each workshop.

So, in total 60 participants took part in different nine workshops in Palermo. All the young people participating in the workshops came from a marginalized context, not only because they live in a Migrant Centres but also because the structure in which they live is in a peripheral area of the city of Palermo. Thanks to the involvement of these young people we were able to create a complex group with people with different profiles.

Most of the participants who participated in the training were from African and Asian origin (Senegal, Gambia, Tunisia, Morocco, Nigeria as well as from Bangladesh). Out of 60 participants who were engaged in the nine workshops in Palermo, there were also four participants from Italian origin. The group was mixed: some of the participants have been living in Palermo for few years, knowing about the local reality; others were new arrivals in the city, eager to learn more about Palermo and meet new people and have a network. The age range of participants was between 18-30 years old with different socioeconomic backgrounds. Some of the participants who participated to the workshop were already engaged in different activities at local level, such as sports, volunteering and so on. However, all of them were motivated to learn about different topics of the workshops that were discussed.

*General overview of participants from the workshops in Palermo on the basis of their gender and age group:*

Total number of participants included in 9 workshops	Gender (please provide the number of male and female participants)		Age (please provide the number of participants based on their age between 18-24 and 25-30)		Young disadvantaged people
	Male	Female	18-24	25-30	18-30
60	51	9	36	24	49

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In order to reach the target group, CSC Danilo Dolci had published the call on its website and it was disseminated in different social media. PRIORITY project's website was also useful to disseminate the opportunity, since many young people from previous activities are engaged into the Priority Hub and Facebook page.

- Call published on CSC website: <https://danilodolci.org/notizie/priority-workshop-inclusione-sociale/>
- Call published on Priority website: <https://hub.priority-project.eu/en-us/events/3/40/>



The selection process was based on their motivation and interest in the workshop topics, required age (18-30 years old) and other criteria proposed by the project. Since CSC Danilo Dolci works with different centers in Palermo that hosts refugees and migrant young people, our first targeted group were those young people living in these centers.

## 4. Methodology and Learning Activities of the Youth Inclusion Workshops in Palermo-Italy

Due to the situation imposed from the pandemic and the national restrictions in Italy, it was not possible to implement all nine workshops face-to-face as it was planned initially. Although, before the pandemic situation started, we managed to implement the first three workshops in presence and remaining six workshops were implemented online between February to April 2021.

The first round of workshops was carried out face-to-face with the intent to introduce some notions on civic education and active citizenship to young people. During these workshops, participants gained knowledge on different topics related to human rights, active citizenship and helped them to understand and accept differences of opinion, values, beliefs and lifestyle, while respecting the others rights, diversity and gender equality. The workshops focused on different topics such as active citizenship, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, migrants' rights etc.. These sessions provided with special attention examples because most

of the participants were not aware of these themes or – on the contrary - in their personal experience most of them has faced these issues related to human rights.

It was very interesting to introduce these topics in order to pass on the message that Civic Education is extremely important in a time in which our democracies are threatened by populism, extremism, religious fundamentalism and social inequalities. These workshops gave strong motivations to young participants to actively combat radicalization, racism and discrimination.

It was very complex to carry out this activity because many of the proposed rights are not respected in some national and European realities. There was a lot of talk about the right of freedom of movement which in many situations is not really easy to apply given the European border regulation policies. Despite the complexity of the topics, the participants actively participated in the proposed activities and showed great interests.

The sessions were alternated with theoretical part and practical part with group activities by using non-formal education method. Out of many activities that were implemented, **“create the city of your dreams”** activity was the most interesting one (the activity was taken from the Priority toolkit). Since it was implemented during the face-to-face workshop, it was more interactive and participative. At first, the trainer distributed situational cards, with different problems that can typically affect a city like Palermo. Participants worked in different groups and discussed the problems that are present in their city with the aim of finding solutions for the resolution of these issues. They came up with the following ideas - awareness campaigns, crowdfunding, campaign to cleaning beaches near Palermo, building an animal shelter and provide space for volunteering activities for young people etc.. Out of many ideas, the participants decided to tackle the issue of organised crime - a very complex and difficult subject for Palermo. Together they decided to create an association to raise awareness among young students in schools, talking to them about the fight against mafia. This activity motivated young participants to work as a team and they learned that there are many problems in the society which can be solved by engaging young people.

The remaining six workshops were implemented in Palermo during the month of February - April 2021 and they were implemented online in two different rounds.

During the first round of the online workshop, we discussed on how to use art as a tool for social inclusion to break down barriers between people from different backgrounds (migrants and non-migrants). Participants shared their experiences and learned some good practices on **urban art** as a necessary tool that can help in the social inclusion. Our initial plan was to organize a tour of historical center of the city to visit urban arts as a part of the workshop. Later, as it was impossible to do due to Covid-19 outbreak, we organized a special online session to present the street art of Palermo, through videos and photos of art that are around the streets of Palermo.

The final round of the workshops was implemented online during the months of March and April 2021. The aims were: 1) to create a **sense of inclusion** among participants by carrying out **sport and volunteering activities** that can help to eliminates cultural and social differences; 2) to promote how sports activities can be used as a tool of social inclusion

and fight to discrimination. Participants also discussed on the importance of social inclusion and how it is connected to the sports and volunteering activities. The trainers presented different sports activities that has been carrying out in Palermo to fight against racism and discrimination ( such as "[Mediterraneo Antirazzista](#)", an event that has been taking place in Palermo for 11 years and that promotes sports as a tool of social inclusion and contrast to discriminations). Different brainstorming sessions were organised on how sports and volunteering can foster social inclusion. Trainers explained that the educational dimension of sport is both transversal and vertical: (1), it is **transversal**, because each activity brings home a wealth of learning. (2) **Vertical**, as each discipline has its own characteristics and allows learning different principles.

Moreover, we also presented different activities and events that the city of Palermo can offer to young people also by involving them through volunteering. The strength of volunteering and its ability to make you grow both as a person and as a citizen have been transmitted to the participants also proposing activities in the city of Palermo, such as participation in a very important event for the city, "**Una Marina di Libri**", a festival known nationwide that has as its centre the independent publishing, and knowledge (CSC managed to achieve an agreement for the cooperation with the festival, but due to COVID-19 issues participants didn't manage to get involved).

A part from these topics, participants gained knowledge on intercultural dialogue through forum theatre and how it is connected to social inclusion. Participants understood that forum theatre can be used also without verbal communication and can be a powerful tool to raise awareness in the society.

Trainers presented that interculturality can be a model of political integration based on three fundamental points:

- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Equality and recognition of different cultures
- ✓ Positive interaction

Another interesting activity we organized during the training was based on the ethical dilemma: we proposed a story in which the participants had to assign the moral and ethical responsibilities of different characters in a context of social dilemma. The activity proved to be very complicated for some participants, probably too complex linguistically. In any case the activity involved a moment of reflection on what it means to make decisions in difficult moments and how important it is to share ideas and strategies to solve a problem.

Participants also discussed on how to deal with the factors that can contribute to exclusion, mistrust and social conflict. It was very complex to carry out this session because participants shared their experiences and they were very interested to know more.

Since the second and third round of workshops were implemented online, the sessions were alternating with theoretical moments to practical group activities. The workshops were conducted with the aim of fostering peer-to-peer and interactive communication, creating a safe space where participants could express themselves.

## 5. Evaluation Results and Recommendations

At the end of each session, a debriefing was organised in order for participants to give an opportunity to provide their feedbacks on the topics that were discussed and materials that were used during the workshop. This activity was really useful since it helped us to understand their satisfaction from each workshop and to improve the training materials and activities for the next session according to their knowledge, interests and their learning needs. Moreover, after the end of the three workshops, participants were invited to fill an online questionnaire with their feedbacks.

Regarding the motivation of participants to join the project, they were different from one workshop to another. Most of the participants expressed that their main expectations were to meet new people, learn different culture etc.. Moreover, they wanted to learn some new topics such as social inclusion, human rights, sport education.

In addition to a final moment of sharing in which everyone expressed their opinion based on the experience, the participants wrote some key words that evaluated the path:

- Funny
- Communicative
- Reflective
- Collaborative

In addition, some negative aspects were highlighted, such as the willingness to do more non-formal activities and fewer frontal moments and the linguistic difficulty that in some cases raised some issues in understanding for few participants (but fortunately the non-formal activities allowed to overcome this problem).

In addition, participants who joined the workshops online highlighted some negative aspects, such as that it would have been better to participate the training activities in presence. They also stated that they would like to organise some sports activities together with participants once the COVID emergency is over.

In one of the questions in the evaluation form participants were asked to rate if their expectation level was reached or not.

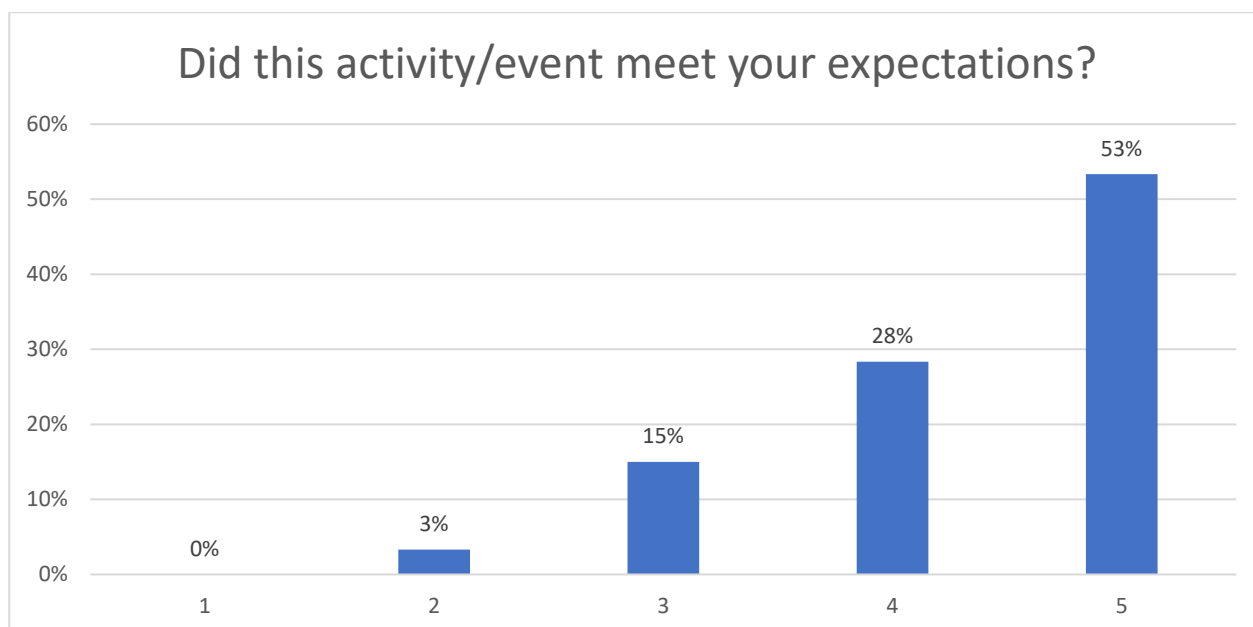
Their answers were the following in the table and figure 1:

**Table 1:**

Much less than expected	Less than expected	Matched expectations	Exceeded expectations	Greatly exceed expectations
0	2	9	17	32

The graph below on the Y axis presents the level of satisfaction of participants in percentages, while the X axis presents the participants evaluation scale from 1 to 5, where the values mean: (1) - Much less than expected; (2) - Less than expected; (3) - Matched expectations; (4) - Exceeded expectations; (5) - Greatly exceed expectations.

**Figure 1:**



As we can see in the graph, 53% of participants replied that their expectations level was highly reached from the workshops. While, 28% of them answered that the workshops exceeded their expectations. Moreover, 15% mentioned that it matches their expectations and only 3% said that their expectations were less than expected from the project.

## 6. Conclusions

Based on the evaluation results received from participants from youth inclusion workshops in Palermo Hubs, it can be concluded that the overall satisfaction with the implementation of the nine workshops was very high. After completing these workshops, participants are more aware of main themes of the project, such as: non-formal education, youth inclusion, human rights, important of art for social inclusion, sport education etc. Since the composition of the group was very diversified, the workshops were very stimulating and interesting because each one brought their own perspective and vision on the topics shared, as previously mentioned.

The participants highlighted that the workshops gave them the opportunity to come together with different people, share their experiences and opinions, meet with new people even virtually, in the difficult times of Covid-19, and this made participants feel more included and united. The participants also expressed that they really liked the topics and activities



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that were proposed during the workshops. Although in some cases the language gap did not allow a complete understanding on some of the more complicated topics, on the other hand, team building activities, different games and brainstorming exercises helped participants to reduce the language barrier and participate actively.

Participants had different countries origin and most of them speak only their local language besides Italian, that's why we tried to use Italian as the official language of the workshop, being the one that was the easiest for everyone to understand.

Participants were interested in participating in other project activities that could also include moments related to art and sport.

## 7. Annexes

Images from the workshops

**Some images from the Youth inclusion workshops developed by CSC Danilo Dolci**



Participants are working in the group during the face-to-face activity



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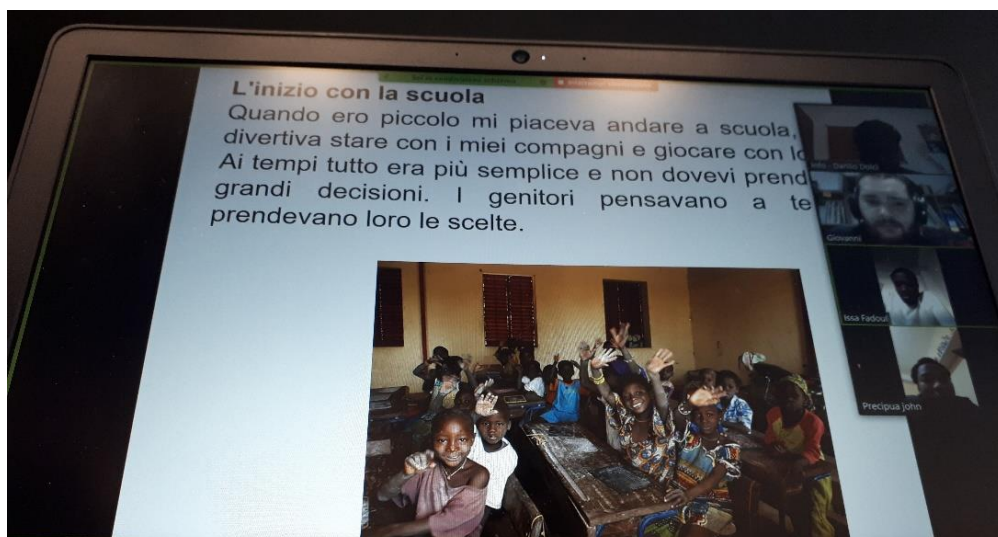


Participants working in the small groups to create their ideas about new projects for young people.

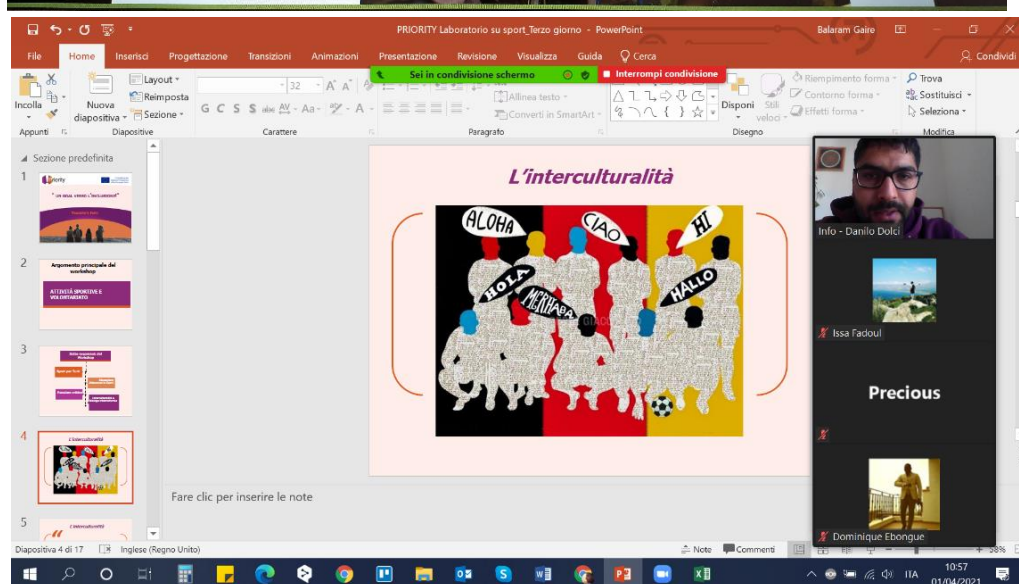


Image during the face-to-face workshop that took place in Danilo Dolci's premises in Palermo.

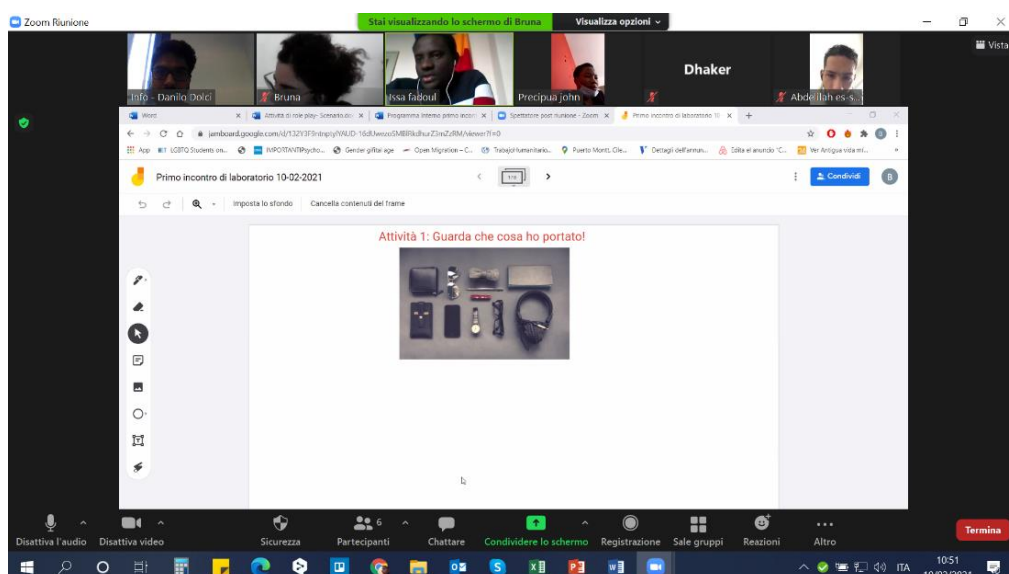
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During the online workshop on interculturality, participants shared their experiences about their school back home.

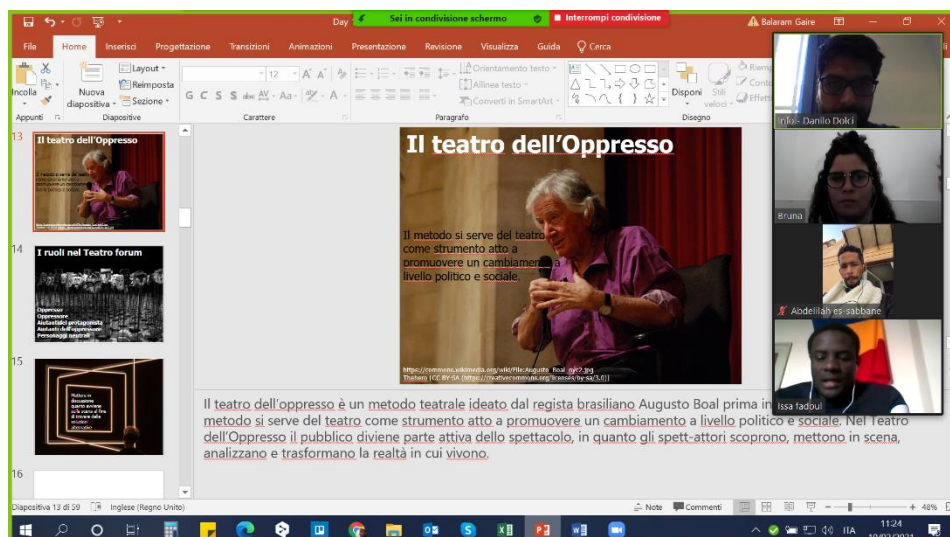


During the group activity about intercultural



During a non-formal activity, we asked participants to present one object that reminds them about their last trip to another country or culture.

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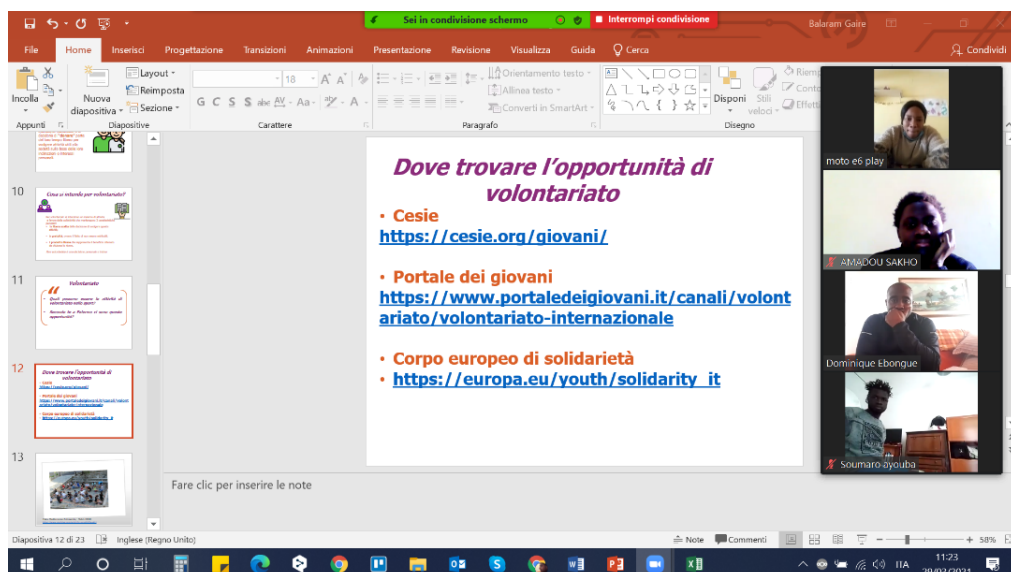


Theory presentation about how theatre activities can be used as a tool for social inclusion.



*Viva Santa Rosalia*, situato in via Dei Benedettini e creato da Igor Scalisi Palminteri

During the workshops about urban art, trainers presented different street art about Palermo city.



During the workshops about sports and volunteering activities, we presented about where participants can look for the opportunities to be volunteers and participate in other projects.