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Intercultural Education and Education for Democratic Citizenship

Project Citizen

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara has been coordinating the activities of the CIVITAS International Network in Romania since 2002, the most important activity being the implementation the Project Citizen methodology in schools, as part of democratic citizenship classes.



Project Citizen is an innovative project-based method, based on the study of a problem in the local community which implies a public policy and which is chosen to be studied by pupils (detailed description available [here](#)). It is implemented in Romania on the basis of a Collaboration Protocol with the Ministry of Education and Research, no. 40506, signed on the 27th of October 2004.

In 2016, an external evaluation study was realized in partnership with the Romanian-American Foundation to assess the impact of the program and identify options for its further development. A strategic development plan was produced based on the results of a consultation process with the key stakeholders.

The four strategic development directions that were defined as a result of the project, to be implemented in the period 2017-2021, are:

- Updating the Project Citizen methodology, focusing on maintaining its accessibility for all students and on making it compatible with ICT use.
- Creating a comprehensive support system – handbook and guidelines for teachers, online platform for visibility and communication, web application, non-competitive incentive packages for schools, teachers and students.
- Training courses for teachers.
- An efficient management system, support and monitoring.

In 2017 the program was re-launched, with the support of and in partnership with the Romanian-American Foundation, aiming to pilot the implementation of the above mentioned strategic directions of program development. The main results achieved in 2017-2019 were:

- An updated Project Citizen methodology adapted to the specificities of the national curriculum;
- A set of Guidelines for the implementation of the methodology – for teachers and for students;

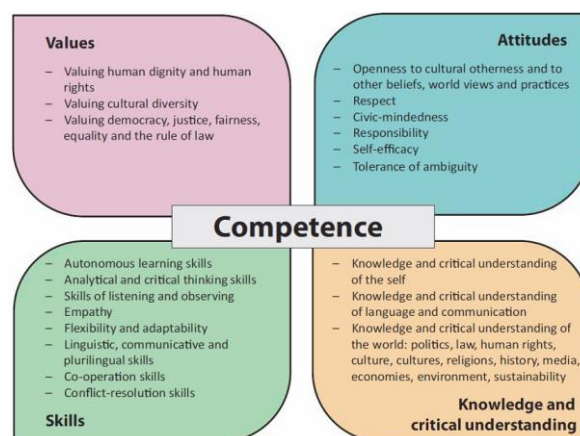
- An updated training program for civic education teachers which includes courses for beginners, post-training support for advanced teachers and an online training component);
- An online platform – cetateanul.intercultural.ro;
- Local and national consultations with relevant stakeholders in the field of formal education;
- Training provided for over 300 teachers in 10 counties and Bucharest;
- Implementation of the method with over 11.000 students.

The program continues in 2020.

Competences for Democratic Culture

In 2019 the Intercultural Institute continued the cooperation with the Education Department of the Council of Europe for further developing the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) and for developing practical tools for its implementation.

The Intercultural Institute had a very active role in the development of the RFCDC, especially by coordinating at European level the testing and validation of the descriptors of competence which are included in volume 2 of the RFCDC. Details about the RFCDC are available in English at www.coe.int/competences and in Romanian at <http://ccd.intercultural.ro>.



In 2019, the Intercultural Institute competed the testing of descriptors of competence valid for children between 3 and 10 years of age. Teachers from Romania and various other countries contributed to this process and the preliminary results of the testing were presented and discussed with practitioners and academic education experts in the context of a European conference organised in Timisoara in July 2019 by the West University of Timisoara, in cooperation with the Intercultural Institute and with the Council of Europe. The publication based on this work will be released in 2020 by the Council of Europe, as an additional element of the RFCDC.

The Intercultural Institute also initiated in 2019 the support of the Council of Europe in testing two new tools aimed at assisting in the implementation of the RFCDC.

The first tool is the RFCDC Portfolio, consisting of guides for teachers (one for younger learners, below age 10, and a standard version for learners above 10), as well as the

corresponding portfolio frameworks. Learners are thus supported in gathering examples of situations, in school and outside of school, where they displayed behaviours illustrating various competences for democratic culture and in reflecting on the situations and respective competences.

The second tool is the RFCDC Teacher Self-Reflection Tool. The Intercultural Institute developed the pilot electronic version of the tool and started its piloting with teachers from various European countries.

In addition, the Intercultural Institute continued the promotion of the RFCDC among education professionals in Romania and at international level.

One important event in this sense was represented by the cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Education for the organisation in Timisoara on 1-2 April 2019, in the framework of the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council of the DG-SCHOOLS meeting, the annual meeting of the representatives of ministries of education in charge of school education in the EU member states and Switzerland. The second day of the meeting was dedicated to the RFCDC and had as main presenter and moderator the director of the Intercultural Institute. Activities also included a brief visit to two schools where participants could observe activities aimed at developing the competences for democratic culture. The inclusion of the RFCDC on the agenda of the DG-SCHOOLS meeting was related to the implementation of the Recommendation of the EU Council on Common Values, Inclusive Education and the European Dimension of Teaching, adopted in 2018. In this document, the EU Council recommends the EU member states to use the RFCDC as the main tool for promoting European values, developing critical thinking and encouraging active citizenship in education.

Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights

The Intercultural Institute partnered with The Olga Lengyel Institute since 2015 to offer educational programs for Romanian teachers. Every year, a 4-day Summer Seminar for 30-40 teachers from across the country is offered in collaboration with Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of Holocaust in Romania.

The aim of the seminar is to contribute to increasing the quality of education regarding the Holocaust and social justice in Romania. The objectives of the program were to:

- Develop a coherent understanding of the Holocaust in Romania;
- Discuss methods and approaches for teaching the Holocaust;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the impact of stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination at individual, group and society level;
- Develop teachers' understanding of the Jewish life before and after the Holocaust;
- Learn about the Roma genocide during WWII;

- Address the link between Human Rights Education and Holocaust Education as a way to better understand the past and act for the future;
- Promote positive values for life in a diverse world, such as: tolerance, interculturalism, dialogue and appreciation of the other.

The 2019 seminar, co-funded by the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, took place in Surduc and Lugoj and featured Holocaust survivor Iancu Tucarmen, among various scholars from Romania and United States. Teachers had the opportunity to learn about the history of the Holocaust and apply the lens of human rights to understand the atrocities of the past and to identify the best approaches to teach their students to be active citizens who stand up in front of injustices. The seminar also included a visit to the Lugoj synagogue, a meeting with the local Jewish community and an organ concert.

As a follow-up of the seminar, teachers had the opportunity to apply for a small grant to implement local projects with their students, to put into practice what they learned at the seminar. This initiative encourages teachers to be innovative and to engage their students in participatory learning activities focused on the Holocaust and human rights. At the same time, these projects take into account present day realities and use the lessons of the Holocaust to motivate students to act against stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination in their own environment. Over 30 projects were funded in 2019 in various parts of the country.

The activities of the projects were designed to help students learn about the Holocaust, about human rights, about the Jewish community in their country and specifically in the city where they live, about Roma culture and history, about discrimination, tolerance and respect for diversity. Students read books, watched documentaries and movies, met survivors or their relatives, visited synagogues and museums, memorials and cemeteries, wrote essays, created posters, photo exhibitions and multimedia presentations and produced outputs that can be used by their younger colleagues.

Learning from the Past, Acting for the Future – Europe for Citizens

A comprehensive project related to Holocaust education and Human Rights in Europe was accepted or funding by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the EU in 2019. The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is the coordinating organisation and the project partners are: Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea from Italy, Tsentar za Mezhdnetnicheski Dialog i Tolerantnost Amalipe from Bulgaria and Big Picture Association from Poland.

The aim of this project is to raise awareness about the need to stand up against injustice, to act for human rights and to make sure that history does not repeat itself. Teachers from 4 countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and Italy) will be involved in a process aiming at developing their competences to teach about the Holocaust and human rights in an intersectional approach – on the one hand to draw lessons from the past and apply them to present days' realities, on the other hand to understand the

mechanisms for protecting human rights that exist today and how the fact that they did not exist in the past allowed for such atrocities to happen.

The main activities of the project are: national seminars in each of the 4 countries involved in the project, 120 local projects with students and members of the local community, an international conference and a research about the policies and practices of teaching about the Holocaust and human rights.

The expected outcomes are: competent teachers who teach about the past in a respectful way towards victims of atrocities and who can guide their students to learn from the past and stand up for victims of human rights abuses, intolerance and injustice today; empowered students that are active European citizens who think critically and deconstruct propaganda and manipulation attempts; a European Holocaust and Human Rights Educators Network that offers continuous intellectual and emotional support for professionals who address these topics in their work; a guide and resource publication and a policy brief on teaching about the Holocaust and human rights in an intersectional approach, developed in collaboration between all the participants in the project.

Fighting Intolerance through Intercultural Education in Schools

The project took place between August and November 2019 and was co-financed by the Romanian Government's Department for Interethnic Relations and its main aim was the elaboration and dissemination of an Intercultural Education Guidelines for Teachers.



In order to support teachers to develop their competences to teach intercultural education – a subject recently introduced in the Romanian national curriculum for 6th graders (12-13 years old) – the Intercultural Institute of Timisoara conducted a participatory process in which teachers, representatives of national minority organisations and intercultural education experts worked together to develop an educational resource for teachers, called Guidelines for Intercultural Education. One national conference and several regional meetings were held throughout the country. During these meetings participants (teachers, teacher trainers and other education specialists) worked together to develop educational activities, analyse them in various contexts and make sure they are adapted to the level of 6th graders.

The result was the publication of a resource that offers teachers a general framework based on the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, as well as innovative activities for teaching intercultural education, including by using the project-based learning methodology.

The publication contains a short introduction on the main concepts and principles of intercultural education, methodological suggestions (including how intercultural education should not be taught) and a series of educational activities that are in line both with the National Curriculum and with the Council of Europe's Reference Framework on Competences for Democratic Culture. The activities proposed take into account the fact that in some schools diversity is present, while in others the school population is quite homogeneous. Students are encouraged to explore the diversity at local, national, European and international level, to challenge their stereotypes and to develop their intercultural competence. The Guidelines are currently used by teachers throughout the country.

Democracy and Games - Analog and Digital Game-Based-Learning Tools for Youth Work



In the fall of 2019, the Intercultural Institute, in partnership with GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies STIFTUNG (coordinator), Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (Belgium), Demokratie - Initiative für politische Bildung (Switzerland), Asociación cultural Da2 Trucados (Spain) and Culture Goes Europe (CGE) - Soziokulturelle Initiative ERFURT EV (Germany), started the implementation of the project ***Democracy and Games: Analog and Digital Game-Based-Learning Tools for Youth Work*** (DEMOGAMES), financed through the Erasmus + Program, KA205 - Strategic Partnerships for Youth. The project will last for 36 months, between September 2019 and August 2022.

The project DEMOGAMES is based on the didactic approach of game-based learning and applies it to teaching young citizens on democracy. Mediated knowledge on democratic processes, norms and values often remains abstract. In contrast, highly complex facts can be conveyed in an activating, participative and engaging manner through game based learning. With this project, several game based learning tools will be designed and later on applied in promoting democracy education in youth work and non-formal education with the main purpose to engage, connect and empower young people.

DEMOGAMES will advance democracy education with respect to learning about, through and for democracy. The objectives of the project are to introduce young citizens to the topic of democracy in an engaging and participative way by playing analog and digital games. The active participation in playful units awakens young citizens' interest in the subject and promotes experiential learning. The project includes several activities for young people and practitioners in youth work and non-formal education to engage in discussions on democracy related topics beyond their local, regional or national experience.

Building on the “Reference Framework of Competencies for Democratic Culture” (RFCDC), from the Council of Europe, the educational methods will be particularly designed to include different perspectives on democracy, highlight the benefits of cultural diversity for social and political life, and aim to increase social inclusion by fostering beneficial dispositions towards democracy and the EU.

The main outcome of DEMOGAMES will be a comprehensive “democracy game box” (D-BOX), which will include a set of analogue and digital democracy games that practitioners (youth workers, trainers, and teachers) can use to teach democracy from different perspectives and to engage young people in a participatory way. Moreover, the box will be accompanied by easy and understandable training materials for practitioners with examples and exercises to use our democracy games.

The project started with a first meeting of the partners at the end of September – beginning of October of 2019 in Hamburg. During this meeting we reviewed and confirmed our project objectives and expected results so that they comply with the expectations of all consortium members. This kick-off meeting also included a detailed project planning section for the first intellectual outcome (O1) on the need analysis report.

Children’s Rights – Whole School Approach

The project aims to support the functioning of the Commissions for the prevention and elimination of violence, acts of corruption and discrimination in the school environment and the promotion of interculturality (CPEVACDSEPI) by fostering a child rights based approach.

In this context, a guide for the Commission members is to be developed and a series of face-to-face and online presentation events are to be organized.

For the elaboration of the Guide, an online questionnaire was prepared, aiming to collect knowledge and opinions about the functioning of these Commissions, from commission members, school managers, school inspectors, other teachers, parents and other informed stakeholders.

The project is implemented in the period November 2019 – June 2020 by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara and co-financed by the Embassy of France in Romania.

Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe network (DARE)



The Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE) Network was officially launched on 28 June 2003 in Antwerp (Antwerp Declaration on Democracy and Human

Rights Education in Europe). It is a Europe-wide network of primarily NGOs, academic institutions and training providers devoted to promote active democratic citizenship and human rights through formal education, non-formal and informal education, and life-long learning.

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is a member of DARE network. In the period 2017-2019, the IIT had a representative in the board of DARE network with a mandate of two years (Oana Bajka), responsible for the coordination of the network's community of educators.

In 2019 IIT was a partner in project ***SemiFit: Seminars for Intercultural Trainers in Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education***, coordinated by DARE network. SemiFit consisted of a series of three seminars for experienced trainers in Human Rights Education and Education for Democratic Citizenship. The objectives of the project are related to:

- People: Bringing together trainers from different fields,
- Space: Designing a space of co-creation and active participation,
- Topic: To develop and exchange competences and experiences on specific areas of training, namely Project design, Education for Democratic Citizenship and E-learning and blended learning.
- Resources: Co-Creation of tangible resources as a result of seminars' activities,
- Follow-up: Participants will implement what they have gained (methodology, tools and connections) in their local reality.

In 2019 the last two seminars of the project took place. One seminar was dedicated to the topic of Education for Democratic Citizenship (Berlin, Germany, April-May 2019) and the other one was dedicated to the topic of Blended Learning (Trento, Italy, October 2019).

More details on the network's activities can be found at www.dare-network.eu.

Migration

REACT_RO: educational resources for Romanian language learning and cultural accommodation of Beneficiaries of International Protection and Third Country Nationals in Romania

The project was implemented between July 2017 and January 2019, by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara in partnership with The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office in Romania, and the Schottener Social Services Foundation.

Most of the activities were carried out in 2017 and 2018 and at the closing of the project, in January 2019, the main results were:

- The development of a curricular framework of Romanian language teaching for migrant adults and children;
- A coherent educational pack for learning Romanian as a second language and orientation in society (books for adults and children, developed considering the A1- A2.1 beginner level, A2.2 – B1.1 intermediate and B1.2-B2.1 advanced). The educational resource package includes specific workbooks for Romanian language teachers and materials necessary for the assessment of competences;
- Trained trainers based on the curricular framework developed within the project (intercultural mediators, education facilitators working in the field of social orientation, teachers teaching Romanian to migrant children and adults);
- A network of specialists in orienting third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection in the Romanian society.

The materials elaborated in the framework of the project are available for download in several languages [here](#).

Collaboration Protocol with the Romanian Government's Department for Romanians Abroad

In 2019, The Intercultural Institute Timisoara signed a Collaboration Protocol with the Romanian Government's Department for Romanians Abroad for the promotion among the Romanian diaspora communities of the educational elaborated by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara and partners to support the learning of Romanian language. As a result, the link to the website www.vorbitiromaneste.ro is posted on the governmental department's website: <http://www.mprp.gov.ro/web/aplicatii-de-limba-romana-pentru-toti/>.

IIT joined the Coalition for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees



Coalitia pentru
Drepturile Migranților
și Refugiaților

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is a member of the Coalition for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees (CRMiR, www.cdmir.ro): the Coalition was established in

2017 and now comprises 22 NGOs from all the regions of Romania, as well as 5 supporters from the academic environment and among international organizations. The CRMiR members cover a wide range of expertise, including research, advocacy, material, legal and health assistance, cultural orientation and intercultural dialogue. So far it is the only entity of this kind active in the field of migration, asylum and integration in Romania.

The Coalition's mission is to ensure that the personal, civic, economic and social rights that every migrant and refugee benefits from on the Romanian territory are respected. Thus, CRMiR will coordinate advocacy activities, monitor their effect, interact with decision makers and influence the public decision in the field of migration in a transparent and fair way.

The main objectives of the Coalition are:

- to improve the image of migrants and refugees in the public space through a unitary communication strategy;
- to optimize migrants' and refugees' access to rights by correcting contradictory provisions or provisions that are not based on legal principles/ social justice in the legislation in force and by improving legal practices/ provisions with impact upon their fundamental rights.

The activities of the Coalition include:

- elaborating position papers regarding any aspect of interest in the migration practices, legislation and policy, meant to eliminate the malfunctions in their application;
- organizing information/ training sessions, seminars, conferences, events that aim at informing the public and relevant actors about (sensitive) aspects of migration;
- initiating debates, including public debates, on topics of interest;
- participating in sessions and meetings organized by public institutions and other types of organization in the field of migration;
- monitoring the press in the field of migration;
- participating in the process of elaboration and adjustment of integration indicators and monitoring their collection by public institutions;
- monitoring the implementation of public policies and the activity of actors with responsibilities in the field of migration.

Inclusion and Participation

Young Voices for social inclusion of Roma women

The Young Voices project aimed to build a Strategic Partnership of organizations that are working towards the advancement of the Roma community, in particular Roma women and youth. The priorities of the project were social inclusion, promoting empowerment, and promoting quality youth work.

Through knowledge sharing, capacity building and creative dissemination outputs, which will include a Roma Women's Manifesto, the Young Voices project reached and engaged Roma women and youth from four different European cities, brought them together in a course in which they discussed and shared good practices and came up with solutions to overcoming barriers and promoting a network among young Roma women. The opinion of these young women materialized in national manifestos and a collated European manifesto.

At the beginning of 2019, at Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, the penultimate management and coordination meeting took place within the project. The meeting was hosted by the AMALIPE association, one of the project partners. The main topic on the agenda of this meeting was the establishment of principles and guidelines to be the basis for the elaboration of the Manifesto regarding the issue of women and young Roma women, assumed by all project partners and beneficiaries involved in the activities.

In August 2019, IIT hosted the last transnational meeting of the project. The main result of this meeting was the elaboration of the final version of the Manifesto. The Manifesto is available for download in several languages, at this link: <https://youngvoicesproject.eu/manifesto/>. This document was subsequently used by all project partners both to promote the project but especially to raise public awareness about the issue of Roma women and young people in Europe.

IIT is member of the Board of Directors of the Association Local Action Group Vulcan (LAG Vulcan)



As a result of the project “Now for the Future of Vulcan”, implemented in the period August 2017 – December 2017, IIT has developed activities specific to its status as founding member and member of the Board of Directors of the LAG Vulcan.

In 2019, it prepared the documentation for the launching of the calls for projects which would be the basis for the implementation of the local development strategy for marginalized areas. In this context, IIT insisted on the importance of involving and consulting the members of the targeted communities. Thus, it initiated discussions in

order to develop capacity building activities for these communities and to participate in a systematic dialog with the municipality and the LAG, as this is the core of the CLLD-type interventions (community-led local development) as an innovative tool in approaching social exclusion and marginalization, proposed by the European Commission for the period 2014-2020.

Corvinia Hunedoara - Urban Local Action Group

Throughout 2019, the Intercultural Institute Timisoara was involved as a service provider in the project “Support for the Functioning of the Corvinia Hunedoara Local Action Group” (<http://www.galurbancorvinia.ro>), co-financed from the European Social Fund of the European Commission through the Operational Programme Human Capital 2014-2020. Our role was to organize activities focused on the prevention and combating of discrimination in order to support the implementation of the Local Development Strategy for marginalized areas, such as:

- identifying and training key actors;
- organizing non-formal education activities for children and youth, including competitions between school teams on the topic of equality and the preparation of a forum theatre performance; these non-formal education activities were carried out in Schools no. 1, 2 and 5 in Hunedoara, targeting hundreds of children and adults;
- awareness raising and information meetings in Hunedoara, on aspects related to discrimination, during which concrete problems and possible solutions were identified;
- workshops with employees of local institutions, including the Hunedoara City Hall, subordinated institutions, health care providers, focused on raising their awareness of direct and indirect discrimination mechanisms and identifying measures to prevent discrimination.

Results:

- 6 non-formal education activities for children and youth – 2 in each of the 3 targeted schools in Hunedoara;
- 1 inter-school contest on the topic of equal opportunities;
- 150 children and young people involved;
- 6 awareness raising and information meetings in Hunedoara, attended by 120 people (60 women and 60 men);
- 6 workshops with employees of local institutions, attended by 60 people;
- 2 one-day meetings with 20 people each, 40 people in total.

The activities of the Intercultural Institute in Hunedoara will also continue in 2020, in order to prepare a forum theatre performance.

Digital Education among Roma Minorities in Schools (Dreams)

September 2019 was the starting date of the project ***Digital Education among Roma Minorities in Schools (Dreams)***, financed through the Erasmus + Program - KA204 - Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project partnership is made up of four organizations from 3 different countries: Media Actie Kuregem Stad (Belgium, coordinator), the Intercultural Institute of Timisoara (Romania), Health and Social Development Foundation (Bulgaria) and All Digital AISBL (Belgium). The project will be implemented between September 2019 and October 2020.



In this project, 60 low skilled adult learners from disadvantaged groups and adult education practitioners in Bulgaria, Romania and Belgium will address topics on social inclusion using the digital storytelling methodology: priority will be given to actions that help Roma parents and promote – in particular through innovative and integrated approaches – equality, non-discrimination and social inclusion of Roma citizens, through digital education. Thus, the project aims to foster the development of social, civic and intercultural competences and tackle discrimination in schools, segregation, racism, bullying or violence.

The main objectives of the project are to:

- create impact through learning for Roma parents, enabling them to talk about their struggles and impediments in education;
- give the opportunity to/empower parents/mothers to talk about school segregation: practices of excluding Roma children from schooling, physical abuse, verbal abuse, or other humiliating treatment of Roma children in schools and to build bridges with the school education system;
- develop a dialogue and communication between the parents and the school with a positive impact on behavioral issues;
- allow Roma parents access to adult education and the opportunity of finding a job, this not being possible without equal treatment and full access for Roma children to a quality and mainstream education;
- work out new education methodologies with illiterate Roma parents through the use of digital storytelling, informal interaction and peer-to-peer learning;
- identify the key factors that lead to the success or failure of local integration activities for the Roma population;
- develop at European level a methodology that can be used to bring Roma parents closer to the school of their children including this digital storytelling tool.

The project is based on an inclusive digital methodology and stimulates participation of low skilled adult learners in the schooling of their children. Thus, the digital storytelling

is used to improve the wellbeing of Roma children and their parents in the school system, to tackle a societal problem, such as the drop out of Roma children, to create empathy in the educational environment towards the Roma children with a call to action to change and think about pathways to resolve this problem.

A digital story is a short movie (1 to 3 minutes), based on still images and a voice over that permits the storyteller to give his or her point of view about a societal issue. It is generally used as a way to empower low-skilled adults and let their voices be heard. Thus, disadvantaged groups are given a voice and, at the same time, are invited in a lifelong learning process and in an integration process.

At the end of October, the kick-off meeting took place in Brussels, where the partners discussed administrative aspects of the project, such as agreements, deadlines, activity planning, budget and financial issues. All the main activities of the project will be organized starting with 2020.

ESPON

IIT representatives participated in the [ESPON seminar in Helsinki](#), 27-28 of November 2019, which was organised in cooperation with the Finnish Presidency of the EU.

The programme of the seminar was based on the new publication of ESPON “The State of the European Territory”, a comprehensive synthesis of the key policy messages from ESPON research. **The State of the European Territory** provides insights from the recent ESPON projects in five chapters matching the five Policy Objectives of the 2018 proposal for a Common Provision Regulation: Smarter Europe, Greener Europe, More Connected Europe, More Social Europe.

IIT was in charge of the chapter More Social Europe. A synthesis report of the whole publication is available [here](#).

3S RECIPE: Smart Shrinkage Solutions – Fostering Resilient Cities in Inner Peripheries of Europe

This project, funded through the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures (ENSUF) call, aimed to offer the best practice and most feasible solutions to the problem of urban shrinkage – a continuous population decline affecting more than 1,500 cities all over Europe.

By learning from the experience of the cities that once were on the edge of an abyss but have bounced back to life, by sharing the key ingredients of their success across Europe and beyond, the project aimed to enable as many shrinking cities as possible to adapt, transform, and thrive in the face of continuously and often dramatically changing circumstances.

Duration: 31 March 2017 – 30 March 2020.

Building on the state-of-the-art theorization of the phenomenon, and applying a pioneering Future Performance Framework in combination with the Urban Futures methodology, this project aimed to:

- Tackle the key socio-economic causes of urban shrinkage;
- Future-proof sustainability actions in urban re-development and regeneration; and
- Enhance the role of long-term strategic planning.

With the explicit intention to ensure the relevance of today's actions in the future, this project aimed to embolden civic leaders, national, and international stakeholders to embrace the best smart shrinkage practices and apply the most forward-looking urban resilience solutions. Shaping the inner peripheries of urban Europe to greater resilience, the project aimed to ultimately enable shrinking cities to adapt, to transform, and to thrive in the face of continuously and often dramatically changing circumstances.

In order to achieve the planned objectives and results, the activities carried out in 2019 were developed together with the local partner, the West University of Timisoara, which had the main role in the research process. The main work packages were:

WP4. LIVEABILITY focused on the analysis of public policies and measures related to urban life conditions in Timisoara and the validation of the methodology through the application of the 4 scenarios, within a workshop organized together with the West University of Timisoara in order to analyse Timisoara Municipality's initiatives to improve life conditions with a view to combating the urban population decline in the period 2000-2010. The results were presented by the WUT and IIT team during the project meeting in Le Havre, organized by the partner École Normale Supérieure Paris together with the Urban Planning Agency Le Havre and other local stakeholders.

WP5 Governance, Authority, Leadership (GOAL) focused on inventorying participative planning models and identifying the most effective measures to generate optimum and sustainable urban solutions for Timisoara. The Intercultural Institute assisted the WUT team in organizing the project meeting in Timisoara, including by facilitating the participation of the deputy mayor Dan Diaconu, who made a general presentation of the city of Timisoara from the GOAL perspective. Representatives of all project partners attended this workshop.

WP6 Dissemination, impact and promotion – the project was disseminated at local and international level in the framework of 6 events, as follows:

1. *Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg)* by participating in the launch conference of the project "CECCUT" Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Network 2018-2021;
2. *Centre for Regional Development, Cross-Border Studies and Territorial Planning (CDR-START)* within the West University of Timisoara, presentation during the

launching of the project “Heritage and Urban Renewal: Creative Spaces, Inclusive Culture and Civic-Mindedness” (CREATONVIL);

3. *JPI Urban Europe*, within Projects Midterm Event in Oslo;
4. *ESPON and the European Commission* – the European conference “State of the European Territory – Digital Innovation Paving the Way for Territorial Cohesion”;
5. *Resource Centre for Ethical and Solidarity-Based Initiatives, Timisoara 2021 – European Capital of Culture Association*, Conference and thematic workshops on the relationship between culture and sustainable development;
6. *Timisoara Community Foundation* workshop “Resilience Lab #2 – From Idea to Impact”.

WP7 Project management – presentation of the project activities developed by the IIT team during the monitoring visit, internal registration of salaries, procurements and budget management, preparation of the project meeting in Le Havre (France) and Timisoara (as hosts), elaboration of the report for the year 2019.

The 3S RECIPE research consortium comprised the University of Oxford as the lead organisation (Dr. Vlad Mykhnenko, Project Manager) and eight other European partners, including B Arts in the UK (Mr. Trevelyan Wright, Beavers Arts Ltd), the Intercultural Institute Timisoara in Romania (Mr. Calin Rus, Institutul Intercultural Timișoara), Normal Superior School in France (Prof. Emmanuèle Cunningham-Sabot, École Normale Supérieure Paris), the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands (Dr. Marco Bontje, Universiteit van Amsterdam), the University of Birmingham in the UK (Dr. Peter Lee), the University Lodz in Poland (Dr. Szymon Marcińczak, Uniwersytet Łódzki), the University of Porto in Portugal (Prof. Paulo Pinho, Universidade do Porto), and the West University of Timisoara in Romania (Dr. Bogdan Nadolu, Universitatea de Vest in Timișoara).

More information:

- <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/3s-recipe>
- Twitter *3S RECIPE* (@3s_recipe)
- Final Conference Birmingham (17 March 2020) – Vlad Mykhnenko presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6pTO7u6UNo&feature=youtu.be>

An innovative methodology for partnerships between local authorities from France and Romania to promote social inclusion

With the support and at the request of the French Embassy in Romania, the Intercultural Institute developed in French and Romanian guidelines for local authorities from France and Romania to cooperate on promoting social inclusion. The main target is represented by municipalities in France hosting Romanian citizens, mostly with Roma background, living in precarious conditions, and their respective places of origin in Romania.

The methodology and the guidelines were based on consultations with representatives of municipalities in the two countries and were presented in a conference organised in Paris on 3 October 2019 by the Interministerial Delegation on Housing of the French Government.

Youth

Consultancy Council on Youth Issues Timisoara

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is an active member within the youth public consultation structure of Timisoara. IIT was one of the founding members of the Consultancy Council on Youth Issues in Timisoara, a consultative structure without legal personality which functions on the basis of a structured dialogue regarding the elaboration and monitoring of public policy application in the field of youth at local level. At present the CCYIT is coordinated by the Timisoara City Hall and has periodical consultancy meetings.

Youth Express Network

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is an active member within this European youth network on social inclusion since 1996. IIT, through Mirela Lupu, had the Presidency of the network between 2015 and 2019. In 2019, IIT has been a partner within the international youth projects coordinated by the network, mainly aiming at engaging young people in non-formal activities which develop their competences in the field of social inclusion, human rights and democratic citizenship.

The Erasmus+ KA1 project entitled “Shake the Box! - Alternative ways of participation”, aimed at empowering young people from vulnerable groups in making their participation in European society recognised, valued and appreciated.

The project had several international activities in order to prepare youth workers engage the project topics within local projects: in June 2019, the seminar “Participation out of the box!” in Oviedo, Spain; in August 2019, the Training Course “Participation Toolbox!” in Berlin, Germany and an evaluation meeting in November in Strasbourg, France.

The local phase of the project in Romania took place on 20-22 November at Middle School No. 1 in Timisoara. The involved young people organized workshops for personal development and orientation to encourage children to continue their studies and get involved in the community.

Entrepreneurship Skills for Youth / Youth for Social Entrepreneurship / ESY/YSE

Entrepreneurship Skills for Youth / Youth for Social Entrepreneurship (ESY/YSE) was a project implemented by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara together with organizations from Cyprus, Hungary, Mexico and Slovakia (coordinated by Eurotender Association in Szeged) aiming to collect, exchange and share good practices and policy initiatives regarding youth entrepreneurship in the participating countries. The project started in January 2018 and finished in August 2019 and was co-financed through the Erasmus + Program - Capacity Building for Youth in ACP countries, Latin America and Asia.

In 2019, the project partners finalized the compilation of good practices and policy initiatives related to involving young people into entrepreneurial activities and to starting and managing social enterprises, based on documents and interviews gathered in 2018. We also finalized and translated two comprehensive, evidence-based, digital training materials for practitioners from all around Europe.



The specific focus of the learning materials is, on the one hand, on entrepreneurship, and social enterprises on the other. This way young people are encouraged and assisted to start entrepreneurial activities, but at the same time they are introduced to the idea of being socially responsible while doing so. These materials are available freely on the project website - <https://eumexent.eu> – to any person who is interested.

In February 2019, a youth worker seminar was held in Szeged, Hungary to provide an opportunity for delegated participants of the partner organizations to discuss and improve the jointly developed curricula and learning materials, and to come up with elements that could enrich these materials. Besides its primary goals, the seminar also made it possible for the participants to visit already established and operating social enterprises in Szeged and Timisoara, Romania, in order to adhere to the principle of European mobility and learn about the good practices and local characteristics of these enterprises.

Between 21 and 31 of May 2019, the Intercultural Institute Timisoara organized a pilot training course for youth focused on entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship, in order to test the educational materials developed within the project. The participants were high-school students, young Roma and NEETs and the learning methods used were digital and non-formal methods, designed and recommended for youth who wish to become entrepreneurs. Among the subjects tackled were: the concept of entrepreneurship, market strategies, launching a new enterprise, the non-profit sector, social economy, social enterprises. At the end of the course, the young participants elaborated business plans which, why not, could be implemented in a near future.

Two participants with the best results were selected to participate, together with other two students from the “Vlad Tepes” High-school Timisoara, in a 5 day boot camp in the Azores Islands in the framework of the project Entrepreneurial Education – A Road to Success, also implemented by the Intercultural Institute.

At the beginning of August, a final event was organized in Szeged, Hungary to close the project. It included an experience sharing seminar (with business sector representatives), which facilitated the planning of future projects, as well as a project meeting of the partners to assess the activities, make a final evaluation for quality assurance reasons, and plan common future work, generate projects based on the results. This event also served as a dissemination opportunity for the project results.

The project and its results were also disseminated at national level in the framework of different activities organized by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara.

Entrepreneurship Education – A Road to Success

In the fall of 2018, the project ***Entrepreneurship Education – A Road to Success*** was initiated, with the aim to achieve a framework of practices at the level of entrepreneurship education programs in different regional and local contexts, contributing to the consolidation of these practices and programs, as well as the sharing of these practices by other partners who find in young entrepreneurship a strategy for creating value in their territory. The project was financed thorough the Erasmus + Program, KA205 - Strategic Partnerships for Youth.

In 2019 there were two project meetings organized for the project partners. One took place in March, in the Azores Islands, in order to consolidate the partnership and finalize the preparation of the project activities (Comprehensive work plan, monitoring and evaluation plan, communication plan, signature of the partnership agreements). The other one was the final meeting and took place in October, in Cascais, where the topics covered were the evaluation of the project, the statement of results and where the final reports were prepared (to be promoted in the portals of the European Commission) in order to close the project.

In February 2019 the Seminar "Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset through Education" was organized in Cascais by DNA Cascais and the Intercultural Institute was represented by three participants. It enabled the different partners to share the different practices in the field of Education for Entrepreneurship in different countries and to identify quality criteria for entrepreneurship education programs, how they could contribute to the social and economic development of territories and to the inclusion of young people in the labor market. It also sought to answer questions such as: How can education systems and municipalities contribute more effectively to a more entrepreneurial attitude? What is the role of the public and private sector in supporting youth entrepreneurship? The program was structured with a balanced combination of

introductory plenary discussions, round tables and working groups supported by invited experts in the different fields approached during the five working days.

In March 2019 a second seminar was organized in the Azores Islands. This short-term training activity was developed by Geslearning and the Intercultural Institute sent two of the three participants that attended the previous seminar. Its main purpose was to train educational agents (teachers, youth workers and educators) and develop a set of pedagogical materials for the theme of how to develop entrepreneurial skills in a formal and non-formal context. On the other hand, the training enabled them to be involved in the implementation and transfer of practices in their country / region, knowing the different didactic packages, the methodology to be followed and performing practical dynamics that facilitate mutual knowledge and interpersonal realities.

Following these seminars, the participants worked with young people in their local contexts to develop their entrepreneurial knowledge and skills. The Intercultural Institute Timisoara worked mainly with the “Vlad Tepes” High-school of Timisoara but collaborated with other schools from Timisoara and Bucharest as well.

As a result, four young people from Timisoara were selected to take part in a boot camp in the Azores Islands. Two were students from the “Vlad Tepes” High-school and two were selected from the participants in the training course Entrepreneurship Skills for Youth / Youth for Social Entrepreneurship, so that the skills developed in the two different educational contexts could be shared and spread. The 5-day International Youth Entrepreneurship Workshop involved young people and project leaders who used their skills to develop business ideas that were then included in a competition among the different groups representing the different project partners. Our team took second place with an idea for a company named “Ecoline” focused on transforming algae into bio fertilizers for agriculture.

Cultural Policies

Municipality of Drobeta Turnu-Severin

In 2019 we continued the counseling, training and support activities for the development of new projects, initiated in 2018 for the Historical Heritage and Cultural Tourism Department within the City Hall of Drobeta Turnu-Severin. Thus, with the support of the Intercultural Institute, this institution won for the first time in 2019 a project with national funding from the National Cultural Fund. This project also included training sessions for the Department's team, which were provided by a trainer of the Intercultural Institute.

Timis County Council

The Intercultural Institute developed a Plan to capitalize the Mocioni Manor historical monument, which was then included in a financing application within the Ro-Culture Programme.

LAG Timis_Torontal_Bârzava

For the first time in 2019 we started consultations with the LAG in Deta in order to collaborate in a common project aiming at mapping the cultural and natural resources of the Timis-Torontal-Bârzava micro-region, in order to develop cultural tourism opportunities in this micro-region.

Timisoara 2021 – European Capital of Culture Association

At the end of the year we initiated discussions with the association with a view to implementing the Visible/Invisible programme included in the Bid Book.

Joint Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG-IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme

In 2019 the Intercultural Institute Timisoara continued to be part of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG-IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme due to the expertise gained by the team members through the implementation of projects aiming at the development of the cultural field – local and regional cultural policies, cultural heritage and cultural tourism, social and cultural inclusion of disadvantaged groups.