



www.intercultural.ro

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Table of Contents

<i>Intercultural Education and Education for Democratic Citizenship</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Project Citizen National Program</i>	<i>3</i>
Competences for Democratic Culture.....	5
Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights.....	5
Learning from the Past, Acting for the Future – Europe for Citizens.....	6
Intolerance has no place in the 21 st century – Europe for Citizens	7
Demogames - Democracy and Games: Analog and Digital Game-Based-Learning Tools for Youth Work	7
Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe network (DARE).....	8
Dealing with popular myths. Youth work against disinformation and distortion of historical facts	9
Unsung Hero Dialogues	10
Digital Destiny.....	11
<i>Diversity, Inclusion and Partitipation</i>	<i>12</i>
Track and Field for All.....	12
People prepared for the future of Vulcan	12
Development of the civic capacity of rural communities by empowering the Roma rural communities	13
ARMS – Migrants Assistance Services in Western Romania.....	14
IIT – member of the Coalition for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees	15

IIT is member of the Board of Directors of the Association Local Action Group Vulcan (LAG Vulcan)	16
Youth	16
Consultancy Council on Youth Issues Timisoara	16
Youth Express Network	16
<i>Culture, Heritage and Cross-Border Cooperation</i>	<i>17</i>
Timisoara European Capital of Culture 2023 Programme	17
Mocioni Mansion in Foeni	18
Participations in conferences, workshops, consultation meetings	18

Intercultural Education and Education for Democratic Citizenship

Project Citizen National Program

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 the education for 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 based on 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 and were 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, support and monitoring system.

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 2017-2021 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);

- The adaptation of the training program to the online environment;
- The <https://cetateanul.intercultural.ro/> online platform for students and broader audience;
- The <https://prof.cetateanul.intercultural.ro/> online platform for the teachers who apply the method – containing a set of educational materials ready to be used in the classroom, both in the framework of the *Project: Citizen* project-based learning method and in the framework of other methodologies used in the Education for democratic citizenship classes, in accordance with the national curriculum;
- Local and national consultations with relevant stakeholders in the field of formal education;
- Training provided for over 600 teachers in 10 counties and Bucharest;
- Implementation of the method with over 11,000 students.

The program continued in 2021, offering training courses to teachers who were not familiar with the method and building a support system for the teachers who applied the method regularly..

Since August 2021 the program has also been supported through the project entitled “Democratic citizenship, a community project”, developed by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara in partnership with the Association for Solidarity, Culture, Education and Development (ASCED) in Râmnicu Sărat and the Human Rights Academy in Oslo, Norway. The project is funded through the Active Citizens Fund Romania, financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021.

This project is implemented between the 1st of August 2021 and the 31st of March 2023 and it aims to develop several local civic groups that will support schools in the counties Alba, Argeş, Botoşani, Buzău, Gorj, Hunedoara, Maramureş and Vâlcea in their endeavour to develop students’ competences for democratic culture.

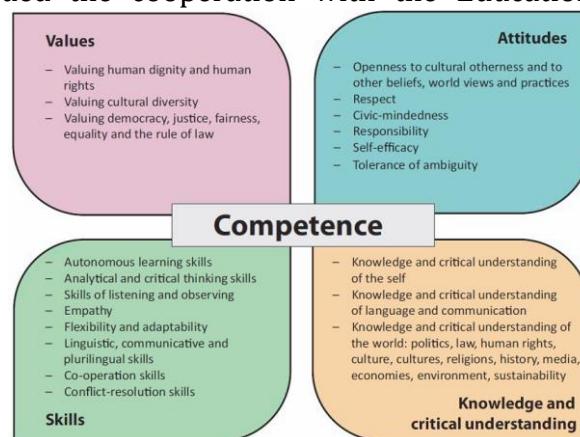
The groups of teachers and volunteer citizens will be trained to implement the civic education innovative methodology “Project: Citizen”. These groups will be active for a period of two school years within the project and for an unlimited period after the project ends, taking also into account the fact that the “Project: Citizen” method is recommended by the Ministry of Education in the Education for democratic citizenship curriculum.

The activities of the students, supported by the local civic groups, carried out over a period of 3-4 months, will materialize in a series of public policy proposals presented to the local authorities. Moreover, the students will participate in consultations with decision makers at local and county level.

A media literacy initiative and a campaign to raise the awareness of the importance of civic engagement will support the students in their local projects, but will also have the role to raise the awareness of this topic among the broader public and to promote the students’ projects among other students, youth and adults.

Competences for Democratic Culture

In 2021 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 2021 the Council of Europe published the additional volume which includes the competence descriptors for children below the age of 10, coordinated by the IIT.

In 2021, the Intercultural Institute also concluded the testing process of the two tools aimed at assisting in the implementation of the RFCDC, respectively the RFCDC Portfolio and the RFCDC Teacher Self-Reflection Tool.

The RFCDC Portfolio has two versions, one for learners below age 10 and a standard version for learners above 10. Learners are thus guided to collect examples of situations, inside and outside of school, where they display behaviours illustrating various competences for democratic culture and to reflect on the situations and respective competences.

The RFCDC Teacher Self-Reflection Tool is hosted by the IIT at www.trt.intercultural.ro and is also accessible in the section dedicated to the RFCDC on the Council of Europe site, www.coe.int/rfcdc

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

Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights

The Intercultural Institute has been partner with The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights 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 2021 seminar, co-financed through the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union, the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund and a donation from the Ausnit family, brought together in Cluj-Napoca 32 teachers from Romania. The seminar program included presentations on historical topics given by Romanian and international experts, a testimony given by Holocaust survivor Vasile Szekely, methodological workshops and case studies, but also a guided tour that included sites relevant for Jewish life in Cluj-Napoca. The teachers had the opportunity to learn about Holocaust History and look at the facts through the lens of human rights in order to understand the atrocities of the past and to identify the best approaches to teach their students to be active citizens opposing injustice, including anti-Roma racism.

As a follow-up of the seminar, teachers had the opportunity to apply for a small grant to implement local projects with their students in order 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 topics related to 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.

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

Two comprehensive projects related to Holocaust education and Human Rights in Europe were accepted for funding by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the EU in 2019.

For the first one, entitled “Learning from the Past, Acting for the Future” 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 the 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) have been 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 in 2021 included the organization of 4 national seminars in each of the 4 countries involved in the project and 120 local projects developed by the participant teachers with students and members of the local community. In 2022, an international conference will be organized and a research about the policies and practices of teaching about the Holocaust and human rights will be finalized.

Intolerance has no place in the 21st century – Europe for Citizens

The second project, entitled “Intolerance has no place in the 21st century”, is coordinated by Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea in Italy in partnership with the Intercultural Institute Timisoara, Terraforming South in Serbia and Big Picture Association in Poland.

Like the previous project, it aims to raise the awareness of the need to oppose injustice, to act for the protection of human rights and ensure that history does not repeat itself.

The main project activities carried out in 2021 included the organization of a national seminar in Serbia and the initiation of local projects developed by the participant teachers with students and members of the local community. In 2022, an international conference will be organized and a guide on the intersectional teaching about the Holocaust and human rights will be finalized.



Demogames - 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), Demokrative - 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 has a duration of 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 active, participative and engaging manner through game based learning. With this project, several game based learning tools have been designed and tested that later on will be applied in promoting democracy education in youth work and non-formal education with the main purpose to engage, connect and empower young people.

The DEMOGAMES game box and the facilitator's manual that will accompany it will advance democracy education with respect to learning about, through and for democracy. Thus, young people will get familiar with the topic of democracy in an engaging and participative way by playing analogue and digital games. The active participation in playful units awakens young citizens' interest in the subject and promotes experiential learning.

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

In 2021, IIT contributed to the development and testing of the games included in the DEMOGAMES box and supported the organization of an international youth event in Spain, focused on testing the games with young people from different countries.

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 2021, IIT participated in the General Assembly of the network, an event that took place online and included workshops on the topic of education for democratic citizenship and the new challenges for this field in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

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

Dealing with popular myths. Youth work against disinformation and distortion of historical facts

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is a partner in this project that started in 2020 and aims to map myths and distortions of historical facts among youth and deconstruct them through the tools of historic-civic education.

The objectives of the project are:

- to increase the capacity of the partners to work with youth on resisting popular myths and distortions of historical facts;
- combat the spreading of fake news and other forms of online disinformation;
- counter myths and distortions with narrations based on historical facts;
- speak against discrimination, segregation and racism;
- fight manipulation and propaganda;
- develop critical thinking and media literacy;
- strengthen democracy and promote the European values.

The main target groups are the project's consortium, youth workers, teachers, youth and the general public. The project is carried out transnationally because it aims to discuss issues that are shared by different European countries, both historically (discrimination of minorities, scapegoating and othering, Holocaust..) and contemporarily (prejudices and stereotypes, fake news and hate speech..).

Tangible Results:

- 5 videos of about 3 minutes length each; each video will tackle one particular myth or historical distortion that will be then deconstructed through historical sources and historic civic education methodologies;
- a guide for youth workers and teachers who want to know how to use the materials elaborated in the framework of the project.

In 2021 a series of online youth exchanges were organized, in which students and young people passionate about history from Croatia, Greece, Romania, Serbia and Spain participated. They were involved in a learning process that resulted in the identification of several popular historical myths in their countries and learned how to deconstruct them using their critical thinking and media literacy competences.

Starting from the young people's suggestions, we started the creation of 5 short videos, each deconstructing one popular historical myth. These video materials and the guide for youth workers and teachers will be finalized in 2022.

Unsung Hero Dialogues

The project «The Unsung Hero Dialogues – Promoting Solidarity and Diversity through Awareness and Policy Reform» took place between April 2020 and November 2021 and aimed to increase awareness among European public of the importance of civic engagement in social and political discourse, as well as increase the competence of NGOs.

To achieve these objectives the project focused on:

- increasing attention on the economically unstable position of young activists, working in small-sized NGOs
- 2) empowering young activists to advocate their rights through collective actions by creating a local and international networking among small CSOs within Europe and building a direct dialogue with policy makers.
- 3) increasing awareness of the importance of civil society by making an international campaign promoting European values and the importance of civic education to a wider public.



After the development of the European Survey on the Economic Situation of Civil Society Workers & small-scale NGOs and the Autumn School focused on training a group of young activists in the field of advocacy activities related to the civil society (2020), in 2021 a series of relevant events were organized at national level:

- 4 local meetings between representatives of civil society organisations and decision makers aimed at analysing civil society-related public policy in all participating countries (Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania);

- 3 local events to promote the value of civic education to the broader public in all participating countries;
- An international conference in Germany, which presented the project results.

Digital Destiny

The activities of the Digital Destiny project, financed by the European Commission through ERASMUS+ program, started in March 2021 and will last for two years. The project is coordinated by North Consulting in Iceland and involves, together with the Intercultural Institute Timisoara, partners from Belgium (DJAPO and Mediawijs, Flemish Knowledge Centre for Digital and Media Literacy) and Greece (The University of Western Macedonia).

A series of open educational resources for primary school teachers will be elaborated to support them in developing sustainable development educational activities. The methods proposed include the use of digital storytelling and digital resources as well as approaching topics that are relevant for society, especially those related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Resources that will facilitate the parental involvement in education will also be created. The original didactic approach elaborated is based upon the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture.

In 2021, the project partnership carried out an analysis, based on questionnaires and focus groups, of the current situation and the needs perceived by teachers and parents in Iceland, Belgium, Greece and Romania. It also considered the way in which the experience generated by the pandemic could be a source for learning regarding the use of digital technology in education and parental involvement in supporting primary school students in the learning process.

Based on this analysis, the partners will elaborate a methodological framework and a digital resource kit. These resources will be tested by teachers who will attend an international training course and then will be promoted at national and European level.

Details on the project are available at: www.digitaldestiny.eu .

Diversity, Inclusion and Participation

Track and Field for All

Initiated in 2020, the Track and Field for All project (T&F4All) is an innovative project which aims to use athletics for social and cultural integration. The project focuses on participation of young people in athletics activities in places where track and field activities are not so much practiced, in those neighbourhoods and streets where children and young people live in disadvantaged conditions.

The main priority of the project consists in encouraging the participation in sport activities of children and young people, from about 12 to 24 years of age, who mainly belong to groups with fewer opportunities, in particular migrants and ethnic minorities, such as Roma. Athletics consists of a series of disciplines that can be carried out by young people regardless of gender, and it also has the advantage that it doesn't require using large or expensive equipment, or complex teams or structures.

The partners in this project are organizations from Cyprus, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey. The project includes various activities in the years 2020-2022 and is co-financed by the Erasmus+ programme.

In 2021, the project partners elaborated a series of training modules for animators of sport activities dedicated to young people from disadvantaged environments.

People prepared for the future of Vulcan



The project *"People prepared for the future of Vulcan"* is financed through the Operational Programme (OP) "Human Capital" - POCU 2014-2020. The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is partner in this project together with S.C. Interlog Com SRL, as Project Promoter, Municipality of Vulcan and Mihai Viteazu Technological High-school Vulcan. The project has a duration of 30 months, starting with April 2021.

Starting from a generous general objective, the project aims to contribute to "the reduction of the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in marginalized urban areas, totally or partially on the territory of Vulcan municipality, by implementing

integrated measures that aim to improve life quality, foster social cohesion, improve the living environment (infrastructure, access to services, housing) through economic growth on the local development strategy territory and specific employment measures for 740 people over a period of 30 months.”

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara contributes to the achievement of the project objectives by implementing two sub-activities:

A 5.1. Actions to combat discrimination among people from marginalized community;

A 5.2. Social innovation actions – creating partnerships at community level.

By implementing methods specific to social-educational animation, intercultural education and participative governance, the IIT aims to obtain qualitative results that support a change in mentalities, behaviours and attitudes both at the level of the majority population and at the level of the population in marginalized communities, with a specific focus on children and young people in situations of social, educational and cultural exclusion in Vulcan municipality.

In 2021, we started the implementation of both sub-activities at the level of the target group and general population by:

- applying questionnaires to identify cases of discrimination;
- informing the target group members about discrimination in general and with a view to identifying the specific discrimination situations they had experienced;
- organizing sports events for young people belonging to the majority community and Roma community;
- organizing meetings among citizens belonging to marginalized communities in order to identify the problems they were facing and suggest solutions;
- creating partnerships within the community and opening the dialog between citizens and local authorities.

Development of the civic capacity of rural communities by empowering the Roma rural communities

The project entitled “Development of the civic capacity of rural communities by empowering the Roma rural communities” started in 2021 and it lasts for almost two years – until the middle of 2023 – and is coordinated by the Urban Regeneration Resource Centre Association in partnership with Nevo Parudimos Association and the Intercultural Institute Timisoara. The project benefits from EEA and Norway Grants funding, through the Active Citizens Fund. The program operator is The Resource Centre for Roma Communities.

The target group includes 800 disadvantaged people, among whom:

- a minimum of 500 Roma

- a minimum of 500 young people
- 25 representatives of local public authorities who will develop their capacity to develop and manage community development projects
- 25 teachers who will benefit from the intercultural education training program.

The project activities will be implemented in the Timis county, including Timisoara municipality and (alphabetically) Checea, Chevereșu Mare, Măguri - Lugoj, Pesac, Periam, Sânpetru Mare, Saravale, Satchinez.

The main expected results of the project are:

- 850 people benefiting from capacity building measures;
- 500 people from disadvantaged groups engaged in advocacy activities focused on their own needs;
- 500 people from disadvantaged groups consulted;
- 1 new and improved model of addressing the needs of disadvantaged groups;
- 800 people benefiting from awareness campaigns focused on the role of civil society organizations in society;
- 10 court actions supported by the project team.

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is involved in developing the intercultural education aspect of the project.

ARMS – Migrants Assistance Services in Western Romania

The ARMS project is coordinated by the LOGS Association – Social Initiative Group – in partnership with the Intercultural Institute Timisoara and is funded through the Active Citizens Fund Program.

The project aims at developing the capacity of the vulnerable group represented by the immigrants who arrive in Western Romania illegally, asylum seekers and refugees with a form of protection in Romania, by:

- counselling and information sessions regarding the available services provided by authorities;
- emergency medical and material assistance (food, hygiene products, clothes);
- short-term integration services, by offering training activities focused on life skills and job accessing, as well as activities aimed at overcoming trauma and intercultural exchange.

IIT is responsible for ensuring the project visibility at local and national level.

IIT – member of the Coalition for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees



Coaliția 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 organizations 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.

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.

IIT insists 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.

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 has been an active member within this European youth network on social inclusion since 1996. In 2021, IIT continued the communication with the member organizations of the network, with the main aim of involving young people in non-formal activities that would develop their competences in the field of social inclusion, human rights and democratic citizenship.

Culture, Heritage and Cross-Border Cooperation

Timisoara European Capital of Culture 2023 Programme

In 2021, IIT supported the implementation preparation process of the “Timisoara European Capital of Culture 2023” Programme by developing a study focused on the evaluation of the public perception regarding certain aspects related to the European dimension of the program.

This study, elaborated by the Intercultural Institute Timisoara at the request of the Association Timisoara – European Capital of Culture in the framework of a project funded by the Timis County Council, aimed at contributing to the start-up of a systematic, coherent, transparent and participative process of implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Bid Book and the monitoring and evaluation requirements established by the European Commission.

The study was developed in November 2021 based on an online questionnaire filled in by 815 people from the metropolitan area of Timisoara city. In spite of restrictions generated by the COVID-19 pandemic context, by the limited time available and the complexity of the problem analysed, the study allowed us to identify several initial elements to be taken into account in the next stages regarding the European dimension of the Timisoara – European Capital of Culture Program. The results obtained can be used, on the one hand, as an initial reference point for future studies focused on measuring the impact of the activities that will be carried out in 2022 and 2023 in the framework of the cultural capital from the European dimension perspective. On the other hand, these results can offer guidelines for the preparation and development of activities that will contribute as efficiently as possible to the strengthening of the sense of belonging to a common European cultural space and of the attachment of the citizens of Timisoara to common European values, including the valuing of cultural diversity at different levels, from local to European.

In the preparation stage, there were consultations with representatives of the Association Timisoara – European Capital of Cultural, representatives of the Project Centre within the Timisoara City Hall and of several other institutions and organizations having an active role in the program, as well as specialists in the field. The data collection was supported by a group of volunteers. The questionnaire used became a real platform for expressing opinions about the problem under focus, offering an interesting and nuanced image of how the perspective of assuming the title of European capital of culture in 2023 is perceived.

Mocioni Mansion in Foeni

The year 2021 marked the start of the activities of the project focused on the rehabilitation and capitalization of the Mocioni Mansion in Foeni, a monument dating from the 18th century situated at about 50 km away from Timisoara. The project is implemented by the Timis County Council, in partnership with the Intercultural Institute Timisoara and NORTH Consulting ehf Iceland, between May 2021 and April 2024, co-funded by the EEA Grants 2014-2021 through the RO-CULTURE Program, the Timis County budget, IIT budget and state budget.

The Mocioni Mansion in Foeni was built in 1750 as a nobiliary residence for the Mocioni family, famous scholars, philosophers and politicians of Aromanian origin, who militated for and supported the rights, education and emancipation of the Romanians in Transylvania during the Austro-Hungarian domination.

The Intercultural Institute Timisoara is responsible for implementing the Capitalization Plan of the restored historical monument, which will last for 15 months, starting with the second half of 2022.

The plan includes the founding of a centre for cultural, educational and artistic activities that will highlight the talent, creativity and cultural heritage that exist in the intervention area, which encompasses the local, regional and international level.

Participations in conferences, workshops, consultation meetings

- The project *InclusiveArt – Access to culture for disadvantaged children and youth*, implemented in the period 2017-2018, still has a local and international impact. Due to the coherence of its activities and results, the project was selected by DG REGIO to be presented as a good approach example for the cultural inclusion of marginalized groups in the framework of the Balkan Trafik Festival. During the Digital Cross-border Debates event, which took place on the 21st of April 2021, the project was presented in the Inclusion section, a live streaming debate. During the presentation, the Intercultural Institute was accompanied by the Serbian partner Terra Kikinda.
- As a result of the Intercultural Institute's efforts, at the end of 2021, the Direction for Social Assistance Timisoara invited the Institute to join the Kuntz work group in order to develop a common action plan for the Roma community in Kuntz.