

INTERCULTURAL
**DIALOGUE
PLATFORM**
Mutual Understanding & Social Cohesion

Annual Activity Report

2022



Contents

1. European Projects	3
1.1. Inclusive Europe Project: Build Bonds	3
1.2. Citizen Z: Strengthening the Participation of Young Citizens in Democratic and Civic Life	9
2. Activities	13
2.1. Seminars on EU Project Writing	13
2.1.1. Seminar I: EU Calls for Proposals	13
2.1.2. Seminar II: EU Project Writing – The Composition of the Application Form	14
2.1.3. Seminar III: EU Project Writing – The Relevance Criteria	15
2.1.4. Seminar IV: EU Project Writing – The Quality Criteria	16
2.2. Public Art Event “Stop Pushbacks”	18
2.3. Art Exhibition “Stop Pushbacks”	19
3. EU Project Development	21
Projects applied as coordinator:	21
3.1 PROTONE: Protect the places of Worship – Harmonising Diversity (ISF)	21
3.2 BE SAFE: Boost reliable information as an alternative to irregular migration (AMIF)	22
3.3 CONVIVENCIA: Move together in Diversity against Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia (CERV)	24
Projects applied as a beneficiary:	25
3.4. EXPOL: Prevention of political extremism and its influence on contemporary social and political dialogue (HORIZON)	25

1. European Projects

1.1. Inclusive Europe Project: Build Bonds



2022 was a key year of the project since most of the campaigns came to their end. The evaluation reports of Intercultural Europe, Intergenerational Europe and Let's Go Forward Together were submitted in 2022. The 2022 also marked the end of the project, officially completed in September. The final GA of the project took place in Madrid, Spain.



A summary of the activities and events carried out during 2022 can be found below:

Research

- LUMSA used the format of the semi-structured interview to the organisers as a tool to monitor the progress of each campaign. At least two interviews per partner were conducted in each campaign by LUMSA. Due to the limited time of each campaign and the high number of activities to be organised, the consortium realised that it was not materially feasible to conduct both mid-term interviews and focus groups. Thus, since already some focus groups had to be conducted by every partner at the end of each campaign, it was decided only to conduct monitoring interviews. Nonetheless, as a mitigation measure, some partners managed to conduct two final evaluation focus groups instead of one, thus compensating for the lack of mid-term focus groups.
- Evaluation of the Campaigns. The evaluation of the campaigns has been conducted through the analysis of the indicators foreseen in the M&E plan, the analysis of the focus groups, the pre-post questionnaires, and semi-structured interviews. This analysis can be found in the campaign evaluation reports. Additionally, a report was delivered addressing key social actors (local authorities, NGOs and other socio-economic actors) to review inclusion strategies, identify the issues that require more attention, and disseminate the project results.

- Production of a Recommendation Paper: The research team produced a policy recommendation paper with the aim of promoting intercultural and interreligious approaches in local integration policy development. This document generally recommends the importance of mainstreaming integration into local policies rather than considering it as a separate area to be addressed without links to other social services and initiatives. This does not imply that the dedicated policy approach should be abandoned altogether, considering the complexity of integration challenges that sometimes deserve specific attention and dedicated interventions. However, the idea is that integration has deeply interlinked economic, social, political, medical, psychological and, of course, cultural and religious dimensions.
 - In addition, a list of more specific recommendations is offered with the aim of providing guidance to local (but also national and EU) policy-makers on integration issues, both when integration is addressed through ad-hoc measures and when there is a need to develop a general focus on integration in all policy areas. These recommendations revolve around the following main aspects:
 - Training and raising the awareness of policy-makers, public administrators and public service providers to help them better understand migration (countries of origin, migration routes, push and pull factors, human trafficking, etc.), develop intercultural sensitivity and competencies interact with the migrants (leveraging the role of cultural mediators), and identify and address all forms of discrimination, including indirect and discursive discrimination.
 - Engaging host communities – i.e., civil society and grassroots organisations, religious institutions, academia, the private sector, etc. – in a more peer-to-peer level of relations that involve them in shaping public policies and services, with a view also to mobilising local support.
 - Supporting migrant associations, and not only financially: particular attention should be paid to Islamic-affiliated bodies and organisations, which often struggle to be included in projects and policy development due to a lack of expertise, resources, and recognition, despite the important role they often play in helping Muslim migrants reconcile their identity conflicts.
 - Involving beneficiaries in policy design and service delivery in order to co-create solutions that reflect the experiences of the migrants and better meet their needs; moreover, increasing migrant representation (through hiring people from a migrant background) in public administrations to make them more representative and responsive to the populations they serve.
- Production of two comparative publications: the research partner, LUMSA University, was responsible for the production of two publications aimed at comparing previous or parallel initiatives similar to the Inclusive Europe project, especially from the perspective of social contact theory and intercultural/interreligious activities. The two publications were developed between May and September 2022 and – in coordination with the lead organisation of the project, IDP – focused on the following topics:
 1. The role of religious institutions and faith organisations in the integration of migrants in Europe.
 2. Media representation and civil society's perception of the migration phenomenon in Europe.

The first publication focused on the interreligious dimension, investigating the role of faith denominations in fostering integration processes in Europe. It compared 15 projects involving the main European religious institutions (Catholicism, Protestantism, the Orthodox Church and Islam) in the six countries participating in Inclusive Europe. The second publication, on the other hand, focused on the intercultural dimension, exploring the impact of media narratives on intercultural dialogue with migrants. In particular, it focused the analysis on a specialised and sensitised audience, that of civil society, involving the staff of Inclusive Europe

partner organisations as an expression of local European civil society. Both types of research were presented to partners at the Final General Assembly of the project. Moreover, they are currently being disseminated in the academic world: both are being published as working papers through LUMSA's Social Work LAB, a university collection of theoretical contributions and research experiences resulting from participation in projects dealing with social issues. The first publication, in particular, has also been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, "Esperienze Sociali".

- **Inclusive Europe Report:** the report aims to evaluate Inclusive Europe Project. In particular, it evaluates the entire project from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective, focusing on the activities implemented and the results achieved and comparing them with those originally envisaged in the project proposal. It also highlights the main outcomes of the project, the main challenges faced by the implementing partners, and the main lessons learnt. The report is structured in 7 chapters, one for each work package and a final section on recommendations for integration project design and implementation and policy development. In particular, guidance is provided to institutional and social actors dealing with social inclusion on how to implement effective integration projects, harness religious institutions' roles and expertise, and embrace an intercultural perspective in the development of integration policies.

Intercultural Europe Campaign

The Evaluation Report was submitted to the EC in January 2022

Intergenerational Europe Campaign

The activities took place in Brussels, Antwerp, Madrid, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Rotterdam.

Fedactio conducted the following activities:

- 4 gaming sessions
- 4 reading sessions

Arco Forum conducted the following activities:

- 7 cinema sessions
- 1 focus group

Platform INS conducted the following activities:

- 4 gaming sessions
- 4 cinema sessions
- 1 focus group

Let's Go Forward Together

- **Definition of the campaign:** LUMSA's experts, CESIE, SVF, Arco Forum and Platform INS examined the state-of-art on the topic, policies and best practices in the field of volunteering.
-The definition of the campaign went through the following phases:
 - a. Analysis of the problems, needs and related objectives in Belgium, Greece, Italy, Spain, Hungary and the Netherlands.
 - b. Mapping out of best practices already implemented.

c. Definition of the added value of social contact, intercultural and interfaith activities in the implementation of integration policy.

-Such activities led to the production of the Campaign's Strategic Action Plan

- Organisation of the training for third-country nationals and elderly people: The unfolding of the training was propaedeutic to the involvement of volunteers in the implementation of the campaign's activities. Four sessions were organised by each organisation to train the future migrant and local volunteers who would participate in the following activities. Arco Forum organised Iftar dinners after every training session, in collaboration with Casa Turca de Barcelona and Chefugee.
- Implementation of the activities: The activities took place in the cities of Palermo, Budapest, Madrid, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Heerenveen, Almere and Den Haag.
 - In Italy, CESIE implemented a total of 23 activities, divided into 4 different training sessions, 2 sport events, 3 photography/storytelling workshops, 11 mentor and mentee activity meetings, 1 dissemination event, 1 focus group and one Art Festival.
 - In Hungary, Szubjektív Értékek Alapítvány organised 4 training sessions, 4 sport events, 4 painting/street art workshops, 8 interfaith/intercultural cuisine workshops, 4 monitoring sessions with a personal mentor for each of the 5 volunteers, 1 focus group, 1 half-day community info session, in total 22 activities and 20 mentoring sessions.
 - In the Netherlands, Platform INS carried out training, 8 cuisine workshops, and mentorship in various cities of the Netherlands, namely in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Almere, Den Haag, and Heerenveen. The activities were implemented between April 2002 and September 2022. Overall, 287 locals and migrants participated in the activities.
 - In Spain, Arco Forum conducted a total of 19 activities within the Let's Go Forward Campaign, including 6 dissemination activities, 4 training sessions, 8 cooking workshops and 1 focus group.

Conclusions

The outcomes evaluation was carried out considering quantitative indicators, mostly the number of participants per campaign, and qualitative indicators, measured by focus groups, questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The number of participants foreseen, according to the project proposal, was considered by the consortium as excessively ambitious and not always realistic, especially in the context of the pandemic of Covid 19.

The starting target number considered for each campaign was as follows:

- Europe of Solidarity: 1000 participants
- Intercultural Europe: 1000 participants
- Intergenerational Europe: 600 participants
- Let's Go Forward Together: 400 participants

Nonetheless, the obtained results in terms of participation were definitely positive.

- Europe of Solidarity: 250 (Greece) + 197 (Italy) = **447** participants
- Intercultural Europe: Greece (237) + Belgium (158) + Spain (241) = **636** participants
- Intergenerational Europe: 68 (Belgium) + 189 (the Netherlands) + 152 (Spain) = **409** participants
- Let's Go Forward Together: CESIE (132) + SVF (322) + Platform INS (558) + Arco Forum (211) = **1181** participants

It is worth noting that the numbers above do not consider the participants reached out via dissemination events.

Finally, the following summary table gives an overall picture of the quantitative results:

	Initial target number	The number reached	The number reached (considering offline dissemination events)
Europe of Solidarity	1000	447	1506
Intercultural Europe	1000	636	5841
Intergenerational Europe	600	409	961
Let's Go Forward Together	400	1181	1214

The qualitative data collection tools echoed the positive results observed from a quantitative perspective. Indeed, focus groups conducted with participants, semi-structured interviews conducted with the organisers mainly and the questionnaires positively evaluated the activities conducted. The gender balance was mostly respected, apart from a few exceptions. For instance, in the Intercultural Europe Campaign, two opposite situations of gender overrepresentation occurred: in Belgium, women accounted only for 26% of the whole audience, whereas in Greece, women represented 86%.





Project Website

www.inclusiveeu.com

1.2. Citizen Z: Strengthening the Participation of Young Citizens in Democratic and Civic Life



Description (context)

Contemporary political attitudes are characterized by significant political indifference, disengagement from public life, and a decline in political participation, especially among young people, whose level of interest in politics is steadily declining in almost all EU countries. The 'Citizen Z' project, which started in November 2022, applies deliberative methods, to both stimulate interest in civic and political life among young people aged 15 to 25 and to involve them in the decision-making process. Special attention is devoted to the intersectionality principle and those groups that are often affected

by low levels of participation: migrants, disadvantaged communities, girls, and women.

The 'Citizen Z' project aims to respond to the European Commission priorities outlined in the European Democracy Action Plan and the EU Citizenship Report 2020 by enhancing civic engagement and democratic participation of EU citizens, particularly youth aged 15 to 25.

The project is also in line with the position supported by the European Committee of the Regions, which in 2019 encouraged a 'cultural change' towards experimenting with deliberative democracy tools as developed at the local level (European Committee of the Regions, putting citizens at the Centre of the EU agenda), as the most authentic democratic participation originates in the context closest to the citizen.

General objectives of the project

- 1) Strengthening the democratic participation of European citizens, especially young people, by complementing a top-down form of democracy, in which people's will is delegated to its representatives, with a bottom-up form of democracy, in which decisions have to be validated and legitimated by the people themselves.
- 2) Expanding innovative forms of participation other than those provided by traditional representative democracy.
- 3) Regenerating the democratic fabric of European societies by educating citizens to practice dialogue and to distrust preconceived ideas that are not based on facts, supported by trusted data and balanced arguments.
- 4) Finding new ways of engaging young people and making the EU relevant to them.
- 5) Fostering, in the context of promoting EU citizenship rights, the inclusion of politically non-active EU citizens in civic and political participatory processes.

Project structure

The deliberative model, considered as a tool to promote informed debate and contribute to the co-design of policies, has been used mainly at the local level. More particularly, it has been deployed at the municipal level to engage citizens in the search for solutions to micro-problems. The Citizen Z

project seeks to stimulate a dynamic of change, which intends to go beyond this *status quo* to also encompass EU-related and other macro issues.

This intention is reflected in the project through **2 rounds of deliberations**:

In the first round of deliberations, the focus will be on local life and the local perception of issues that are immediately problematic for citizens. The first round will represent the process of localising European experience or issues (e.g. related to pollution, environmental problems, job insecurity, well-being, etc.).

Using different methods, such as deliberative workshops, open forums, citizens' assemblies, deliberative polling, etc., a series of local deliberations will be organised to allow participants to discuss their positions (stances) on a certain topic (with input from experts) in order to reach a final consensus, which will result in the development of recommendations.

In the second round of deliberations, the contextualisation of local issues within a European perspective will allow extending the focus of the debate to the European level and to higher policy issues. It will aim at deepening and contextualising the same macro-issues on the regional/European level. Participants will explore whether the macro issues they have identified in their communities are also relevant on a larger scale at the regional or European level and how they are currently handled by policymakers.

The results of each round will be presented and discussed at the annual ***Deliberative Democracy Days* events, the first of which was held in Brussels on [13-15 March 2023](#)**. All countries participating in the project (Belgium, Croatia, Italy, and the Netherlands) will elaborate conclusions and provide recommendations to the relevant actors, decision-makers, and other stakeholders at the local, regional and European level.

Duration and partners

01.11. 2022 – 31.10.2024

The Citizen Z project is funded by the [CERV Program](#) of the European Commission and will last until October 31, 2024. The project consortium is composed of five partner organizations from four EU countries: [Intercultural Dialogue Platform](#) (Coordinator, Belgium), [Fedactio](#) (Belgium), [Udruga Prizma](#) (Croatia), [Istituto Tevere](#) (Italy) and [Platform INS](#) (the Netherlands).



Events, accomplishments and outputs

The Kick-off digital meeting on November 17, 2022

On November 17, 2022, the Citizen Z project held its Kick-off and first Steering Committee meeting, with two representatives from each consortium partner in attendance. The two-hour meeting provided an opportunity for partners to get to know each other better and understand each other's experience and expertise, as well as their potential for project involvement. During the meeting, the Consortium Agreement was discussed and agreed upon, and the Governance bodies were designated. Communication channels to be used among partners were also decided upon. Overall, the meeting was a productive start to the Citizen Z project, setting the foundation for successful collaboration among all partners.

Project identity

The project identity and visuals were designed and created by Katarina Rančić (Graphic Designer, Udruga Prizma). Project logo and various promotional materials were created, including banners, roll-ups, badges, social media graphics, letter head and the visuals for the first edition of the Deliberative Democracy Days, a major annual event dedicated to discussing and sharing knowledge and innovative practices related to deliberative democracy.

Katarina Rančić, graphic designer at Udruga Prizma, designed and created the project identity and visuals for the Citizen Z project. This included the project logo and various promotional materials such as banners, roll-ups, badges, social media graphics, and letterhead. In addition, Katarina created visuals for the first edition of the Deliberative Democracy Days, a major annual event dedicated to discussing and sharing knowledge and innovative practices related to deliberative democracy. The visuals created by Katarina were instrumental in establishing the project's visual identity and promoting its message to a wider audience.





Deliberative Democracy Days

European Parliament,
InfoHub, Brussels

March 13-15, 2023

Launching of the project website

The Intercultural Dialogue Platform in cooperation with Udruga Prizma, has designed and launched the project website. The Citizen Z website presents essential information about the project and serves as the main platform for informing about upcoming activities, events, and outputs. The Citizen Z website is an important tool for promoting the project and engaging with stakeholders, providing a central hub for information and updates. To visit the website, go to: <https://www.citizenz.eu/>

2. Activities

2.1. Seminars on EU Project Writing

Main aim and audience

At the request of its institutional partners, the Intercultural Dialogue Platform has initiated a series of online seminars to help civil society organisations in different European countries better navigate the opportunities to apply for EU funding under the different programs available.

Sessions Description and Topics

During 2022, four seminars were conducted via Zoom featuring the use of different interaction applications and case studies. To ensure participants' contribution during the sessions, the Mentimeter was used. The application allowed participants to ask questions, and share their contributions, ideas, impressions, and suggestions anonymously (see some graphics below). In addition, in order to provide useful and relevant content to participants for future sessions, a survey was shared with participants after each session to ask for their feedback and suggestions for improvement.

2.1.1.Seminar I: EU Calls for Proposals

The first seminar took place on April 14, 2022, and provided a brief introduction to the first steps of applying for an EU call for proposals and familiarised participants with the EU funding and tenders portal. More than 60 people registered for the seminar and more than 20 people from different EU countries participated (Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany).

Where are you joining us from today?



What expectations do you have of today's seminar?

Mentimeter

To learn how to apply eu grants	Getting our proposed project accepted & funded.	practical advice on proposal writing
We think that the procedure for application and requirement for level of expectation for an EU proposal will be clear	Introductory information on how to write a European project proposal	tips & tricks proposal writing
How to write a proposal and what are the timings	To gain a deep knowledge about the eu projects	tips on writing proposals

What questions were left unanswered?

Mentimeter

How long should your process of drafting your proposal last before submitting it?	for the next session: Is it possible to talk about an already written proposal?	for the next session: Can we talk about an evaluated project by the EU, to observe the scoring?
I would like perhaps a series of presentations that go more into deep for each step (object/methodology/impact etc) even though I know it depends a lot on the specific call.	Is it a plus to enlarge the scope of the project?	Is it possible to make the seminar like a course?
To enlarge the scope with partners, is a good option?	This seminar can be more detailed	

2.1.2.Seminar II: EU Project Writing – The Composition of the Application Form

The second seminar took place on June 9, 2022, and provided a brief explanation of each section of the application forms in relation to the three evaluation criteria. 34 people registered for the seminar and 13 people from different EU countries participated (Spain, France, Slovenia, Belgium, Germany), at least half of whom returned after the first seminar.

Where are you joining us from today?



What topic would you like to write a project proposal on?

Mentimeter

Migration background and Refugee background	Migrants, Refugees, Newcomers	Systemic racism
Culture of dialogue	Prevention of radicalisation and other kind of intolerance	diversity and inclusion, religious pluralism, minorities
Advocacy , Human Rights for Migrants and Refugees	no	Yes

At the end of this session, what word comes to mind?

apply to the project
civil society power
better together
being useful and helpful
let's work together
perseverance
teamwork
research
europe
sharing
enthusiasm
planification
funds
passion
i am ignorant
difficult
inspiring

2.1.3.Seminar III: EU Project Writing – The Relevance Criteria

Following positive feedback from participants and their request for separate seminars to have a more detailed explanation of each section, a third seminar was held on September 22, 2022, focusing on the sections related to the relevance evaluation criteria and providing case studies. 39 people registered for the seminar and 13 people from different European countries participated (Spain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, UK, Georgia), the majority of whom returned after the previous seminars.

Where are you joining us from today?



What word comes to mind at the end of this session?



2.1.4.Seminar IV: EU Project Writing – The Quality Criteria

Following positive feedback from participants and their request for separate seminars to have a more detailed explanation of each section, a fourth seminar was held on December 15, 2022, focusing on the sections related to the quality evaluation criteria and providing case studies. 16 people registered for the seminar and 11 people from different European countries participated (Spain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Romania), the majority of whom returned after the previous seminars.

What city are you joining us from today?



What word comes to mind at the end of this session?



2.2. Public Art Event “Stop Pushbacks”

06 March 2022, Sunday 13:00 – 17:00

Brussels Central Station – Europakruispunt / Carrefour de l'Europe

A public art event was organised by the partner organisation of the #StopPushbacks initiative to bring attention to pushbacks occurring at the EU border. The event featured a fully set table with a tablecloth, cotton napkins, plates, knives, and forks for individuals to sit and examine. The tablecloth was decorated with a handwritten letter from a pushback victim and drawings by Nell Berger inspired by these incidents. Attendees were also served soup with little boats floating in it, and the napkins had printed letters and drawings. Participants could take home objects as a reminder of the urgency of the situation at the border. The event took place in a public area for four hours and aimed to start a conversation about pushbacks and gather people's opinions. Topics discussed included whether the European Parliament should prioritise the issue as human rights are being violated, whether journalists should have access to the border area to report on the situation and ways to increase awareness.



2.3. Art Exhibition “Stop Pushbacks”

28.11.2022 – 16.12.2022

Chapel for Europe, Brussels

In November 2022, an art exhibition titled "Stop Pushbacks: Border Conversations" opened at the Chapel for Europe. The exhibit showcased the work of three Dutch artists, Anne Hofstede, Annegien Haselager, and Nell Berger, and ran for three weeks. The event was organised by the Intercultural Dialogue platform in collaboration with Fedactio, Chapel for Europe, Human Rights Defenders, Jesuit Refugee Service Europe, Platform for Peace and Justice, and Solidarity with Others.

The exhibition aimed to raise awareness of the illegal and inhumane push-backs occurring at the Greek-Turkish border. The displayed art conveyed the experiences of individuals who have undergone refoulements, with the goal of communicating the refugees' difficult journeys to the public. At the opening event, 60 attendees enjoyed speeches by an IDP organising member, two artists who explained the creative process and symbolism behind their pieces, and two individuals who recently experienced push-backs at the border. A member of Solidarity with Others also provided context on the issue.

Push-backs refer to the illegal actions of forcing refugees and migrants back over a border immediately after crossing it, with no consideration of their individual circumstances or the possibility of applying for asylum.

The evening concluded with the artists presenting three art pieces, including panoramic images, a paper sculpture, and an embroidered table illustrating testimonies. Attendees had the opportunity to converse with the artists while sharing food prepared for the event by refugees.





3. EU Project Development

Projects applied as coordinator:

3.1. PROTONE: Protect the places of Worship – Harmonising Diversity (ISF)

The PROTONE project proposal was developed and submitted under the Internal Security Fund Program (ISF) of the EU (Call: ISF-2022 - TF1-AG-PROTECT-01-PoW - Call for proposals for actions on the protection of public spaces).

Summary of the project proposal

The project has been proposed in the context of the growing need for greater guarantees of protection of public spaces, in particular places of worship, due to the increasing wave of terrorist attacks and intolerant acts on European soil.

PROTONE is based on cooperation between different faith-based organisations from three Abrahamic religions, with the aim of overcoming the differences between their respective security cultures and improving their ability to address security threats through a coordinated response.

The project adopts a holistic and comprehensive approach that requires taking into account all the different aspects related to the buildings and communities to be protected, including a pluralistic definition of threats that should be extended to non-violent and non-terrorist acts as well including verbal assaults, vandalism, burglary and arson.

At the methodological level, the PROTONE project is mainly based on qualitative and ethnographic research, which was considered the most appropriate to map the sources of threats in the vicinity of places of worship and to prepare an adequate response from religious communities. Furthermore, the methodology is enriched by the integration of the Vulnerability Assessment Model, which allows faith-based organisations to detect vulnerabilities of places of worship that expose them to external attacks. The target group is multi-layered and consists of Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities, religious leaders, volunteers and heads of places of worship, visitors and finally, the general public in the communication and dissemination phase. The consortium is composed of 8 organisations from Southern Europe (Italy and Spain), Western Europe (Belgium and the Netherlands) and Central Europe (Germany).

Main aim and priorities defined by the project:

1. Strengthening the protection of places of worship
2. Reaching faith leaders and establishing cooperation networks with other places of worship
3. Knowledge Acquisition and Vulnerability Identification
4. Creating new collegial bodies composed of different religious communities to strengthen the security posture of places of worship
5. Setting up an Interfaith Council to share information and experiences, coordinate activities to increase the safety of the places of worship and report suspicious behaviour
6. Studying more closely the communities living around places of worship, their behaviour, their level of security awareness, and their preparedness to respond to security threats
7. Empirically identifying the factors that may present a danger to the place of worship in local communities
8. Strengthening multi-religious cooperation between leaders and communities themselves
9. Implementing a straightforward information-sharing process that gives community members the tools to detect, deter, and mitigate threats

10. Establishing knowledge-sharing mechanisms for the different actors in the field and stakeholders
11. Raising awareness within and outside religious communities about the risks to places of worship
12. Raising awareness of the role of interfaith dialogue and multi-religious cooperation in effectively addressing the challenges of protecting places of worship
13. Challenging or deconstructing the myth that a specific religious community perpetrates attacks on another religious community and its places of worship
14. Improving visibility and dissemination of good practices and models serving to protect places of worship
15. Creating a shared and private social media or other communication space for collaboration with other houses of worship in the same geographical area to centralise information-sharing

Results and follow-up

The project PROTONE proposal has been approved for funding, receiving a total of 80 points out of 100. PROTONE is scheduled to start in March 2023, with eight partner organisations from five EU countries (Italy, Belgium, Spain, Germany, and the Netherlands) implementing the action. The project aims to establish synergies with other initiatives addressing similar issues, such as SHRINES and SOAR.

3.2. BE SAFE: Boost reliable information as an alternative to irregular migration (AMIF)

The BE SAFE project proposal was developed and submitted under the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for the following Call: Prevention of irregular migration through awareness-raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in selected third countries and within Europe; TOPIC ID: AMIF-2022-TF1-AG-INFO. The project proposal involved 11 organisations from 9 European countries (Belgium, France, Italy, Croatia, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Albania, and North Macedonia).

Summary of the project proposal

The BE SAFE project responds to the latest priorities set by the EU to combat irregular migration and human smuggling through information and awareness-raising campaigns. The objective of this project is twofold, aiming both to analyse the existing perceptions of irregular migrants about irregular migration and to change the way potential migrants think about the risk-reward calculus of hiring smugglers to transport themselves or their family members illegally.

The BE SAFE action aims to prevent irregular migration and the risks of migrant smuggling by providing trusted, factual and reliable information on the dangers associated with irregular migration, raising awareness of the short- and long-term implications of irregular migration, in particular the psychological repercussions, and informing people of the alternatives available. As such, the project relies on 3 pillars designed in 3 online campaigns combining audio-visual and informative material with offline and online events. Given the previously proven effectiveness of using trusted individuals as messengers, the project plans to directly engage and involve the community and religious leaders, diaspora representatives and returnees in all phases of the campaigns.

The target countries of this action are Turkey, Tunisia and Iraq, while the migration routes targeted are the Western Balkans, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Central Mediterranean, through which many of the targeted nationals transit. The primary target audience is young male citizens, who are most frequently subject to irregular migration, and their family members. The project plans to conduct

in-depth research and explore monitoring and evaluation tools to measure impact and provide best and bad practices, guidelines and recommendations for future campaigns in the field.

Main objectives defined by the project:

1. Create a common glossary of terms using inclusive and effective language when dealing with such a sensitive issue as illegal migration.
2. Provide reliable, trusted, factual and balanced information on the risks of irregular migration – during the journey (dangers of migrating irregularly) and after arrival (hardship of living in the EU irregularly) to targeted communities in third countries, especially taking into consideration specific vulnerabilities (e.g. single mothers, LGBTQI, young women, young men, UAMs).
3. Inform and raise awareness of the risks of human smuggling, in particular through gatekeepers/persons with authority and trusted by the target audience (e.g. families, religious or community leaders, teachers, returning migrants, service providers facilitating migration).
4. Create information and awareness-raising content about irregular migration targeting countries of origin, transit and destination countries.
5. Raise community awareness of human smuggling and the risks of travelling irregularly, specifically focusing on the repercussions that such endeavours entail at the individual/family/community level.
6. Empower credible voices in countering migrant smugglers and diasporas' narratives on irregular migration and narratives on living irregularly in the EU.
7. Encouraging the reporting of suspected cases of trafficking and human smuggling.
8. Engage the target audiences' network connections and cooperate with diaspora communities in EU countries.
9. Inform the target public about the long-term consequences of irregular migration.
10. Raise public awareness of safe and legal migration, as opposed to the potential risks associated with irregular migration.
11. Raise awareness about the psychological impacts on victims of irregular migration.
12. Inform the target audience about relevant alternatives to irregular migration and counter the fake narratives promoted by migrant smugglers.
13. Provide practical information on available legal alternatives to migration and available economic opportunities in the countries of origin.
14. Discourage potential immigrants from attempting irregular migration, either directly (via social media) or indirectly (via diaspora representatives and trusted individuals in the target community).
15. Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation between civil society organisations, researchers, media, local state actors, diaspora, and other relevant stakeholders.
16. Provide practitioners and relevant stakeholders with up-to-date information on good and bad practices in online campaigns aiming to dissuade irregular migration.
17. Ensure knowledge sharing in the area of irregular migration and online campaigns designed to dissuade it.
18. Generate best practices and recommendations to stakeholders and ensure synergies and sustainability of results.

Results and Follow-up

The BE SAFE project proposal received a score of 73 points out of 100, which was above the threshold. However, this was not enough to secure funding. Nevertheless, the project partners remain committed to tackling irregular migration in Europe, given the complexity and urgency of the issue. They intend to broaden their networks and develop new initiatives to address irregular migration.

3.3. CONVIVENCIA: Move together in Diversity against Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia (CERV)

The CONVIVENCIA project proposal was developed and submitted under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Program (CERV) of the EU (Call: CERV-2022-EQUAL - Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination). The project proposal involved 9 organisations from 8 EU countries (Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Spain, Hungary, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands).

Summary

In recent years, Europe has witnessed rising intolerance with increasing levels of toxic polarisation in its social fabric. The COVID-19 pandemic and emergency measures imposed by governments played as a catalyst, with different forms of discrimination, including Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, fuelled with new negative energy. In addition, long-running tensions in the Middle East have gradually intensified mutual distrust between Jewish and Muslim communities in Europe, further exacerbating Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

The CONVIVENCIA project intends to tackle the steady rise of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in European societies through an innovative holistic approach, which considers both majority-minority relations and intra-minorities intergroup relations as potential sources of intolerance. The novelty of the project is twofold, it lies in the choice to adopt a cross-community perspective and dialogue and art-based activities through civic engagement and the Civil Chain methodology to prevent and combat anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Measuring impact and change will be documented scientifically and, as such is part of the project's DNA.

The core idea of the project is to encourage Jewish and Muslim organisations and communities to advocate for each other. Organisations that typically interact with Muslim communities will promote activities to prevent anti-Semitism, while Jewish organisations will aim to prevent and combat anti-Muslim sentiments. Through the arts, awareness-raising, identity building, intercommunity dialogue and advocacy, Jewish and Muslim communities, as well as people of other cultures and beliefs, as well as nonbelievers, will establish channels of communication to find common ground, and strengthen critical thinking and resilience.

Finally, interfaith networks and social mobilisation of young people will be strengthened to support each other and to combat stereotypes, prejudices and misconceptions that both communities still suffer.

Priorities defined by the project:

1. To support intercultural and inter-religious life;
2. To raise awareness of both phenomena among the general public and public authorities;
3. To establish networks against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and to strengthen the resilience of Jewish and Muslim communities in their similarities and diversities;
4. To address negative stereotypes, intolerance and hate speech against Muslims and Jews.

The specific objectives of the project include:

1. Generating new knowledge through academic research on the topics of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, the potential of cross-community promotion, and the role of arts in mobilising civic engagement to counter anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination;
2. Developing best practices, tactics and strategies to combat Islamophobia and anti-Semitism through civic engagement in communities and on a local/regional scale;

3. Providing staff training and other relevant stakeholder training on how to combat anti-Semitism and Islamophobia through arts and civic engagement;
4. Providing non-formal education to the project participants on the topics of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, Judaism and Islam, and the importance of EU values including; human dignity, fundamental rights, religious freedom, tolerance, diversity, and inclusivity;
5. Stimulating the process of identity-building in young people through activities focussing on self-expression;
6. Developing resilience (against prejudices and fake news) and critical thinking skills among youth;
7. Providing ample opportunity for interfaith and intercultural dialogue to foster a greater mutual understanding between different religious and non-religious communities, thereby contributing to the development of a respectful, dynamic, and multifaceted European identity;
8. Fostering an informed public opinion on Jews and Judaism, and Muslim and Islam to combat widespread stereotypes, prejudices, and assumptions regarding these religious communities;
9. Strengthening social cohesion among Muslim and Jewish communities and enhancing social participation of Jews and Muslims in joint activities;
10. Fostering joint efforts among Jews and Muslims to combat intolerance within their own communities;
11. Instilling a sense of common ground between Muslims, Jews, Christians, and other people of faith or non-religious.

Results and Follow-up

The CONVIVENCIA project proposal received a score of 78 points out of 100, above the 70-point threshold. Although the project did not receive funding, the consortium remains highly motivated to improve the proposal and reapply to a similar call for proposals. The partners recognise the importance of the project topic and believe that their knowledge, capabilities and experience make them well-suited to address it.

To this end, the consortium has held several meetings to discuss future steps. All partners have committed to improving the project and submitting it to the same call in 2023. The goal is to secure funding and implement the CONVIVENCIA project as soon as possible. The consortium is unanimous on the relevance and urgency of the issue as well as on the relevance of the methodology and the approach chosen for the project to fight against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

Projects applied as a beneficiary:

3.4. EXPOL: Prevention of political extremism and its influence on contemporary social and political dialogue (HORIZON)

The EXPOL project proposal was submitted under the Horizon Europe Program (HORIZON) of the EU (Call: HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-05). The EXPOL proposal involved 17 partner organisations from 13 European countries (Spain, France, Portugal, Belgium, Italy, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Norway, Ukraine)

Abstract

The project aims to analyse how the phenomenon of polarisation develops through evidence. How this phenomenon affects the social and political reality of the different EU countries: migration,

discrimination on different grounds, policies that are developed, etc. But, on the other hand, the project will also try to identify good practices related to effective governance and positive narratives towards an equitable society and the protection of different political, economic, social and cultural rights within the EU. But these good practices are also, in many cases, identified by polarising elements as extremist or polarized themselves, which can lead to a conception that any element of society has to be placed in the position "either with me or against me", which paralyses the development of a moderate dialogue. Therefore, attention needs to be paid to how extremist narratives that lead to polarisation can be identified, possibly through the definition of certain indicators. It will also analyse how the media and social networks deal with extremist discourses, what filters are used to prevent or counteract them, and the pretexts for adopting editorial lines that justify their use. The project will also pay special attention to gender issues, in relation to polarisation. Whether and to what extent the elaboration of extremist discourses can be seen as gendered, and whether and to what extent polarisation has a gender dimension.

Main objectives defined by the project:

1. Identify the influence of extremist narratives on the relationship between citizens and democracy, paying special attention to the psychological, sociological and anthropological factors that facilitate their penetration in the EU sphere. As well as to address the analysis of the discourse of key actors: opinion leaders, politicians and communicators in order to identify the expository structure and components of extremist and hate speeches, and their differentiation by each country analysed by virtue of the different historical, social and cultural contexts.
2. Design a model for analysing extremist discourse and its dissemination in order to define policies to prevent disinformation and the spread of polarising discourses, and establish an evidence-based evaluation system for policies to prevent extremist and hate speeches that lead to radicalisation.
3. Define the mechanisms of dissemination of extremist speeches and their link to the effectiveness in the penetration of the message in the social groups and stakeholders analysed through the creation of an interactive tool that allows the intervention and containment of the penetration of hate and extremist speeches.
4. Create a catalogue of good practices in the prevention of the dissemination of hate and polarising discourse will be compiled to assist stakeholders in preventing disinformation and containing the dissemination of hate and polarising discourse. The parameters of alternative discourses that disseminate shared social values based on the social and democratic rule of law will be identified.
5. Drafting a white paper for the development of a legal framework aimed at preventing and combating disinformation at EU level that contributes to a pluralistic governance of public policies based on consensus, multilateralism and expertise.

Results and follow-up

The EXPOL project proposal received a score of 11.5 out of 15, surpassing the threshold of 10 points. However, it was not sufficient to secure funding. Despite this setback, the project partners recognise the importance of the topic in contemporary Europe and plan to enhance the proposal and apply for future calls with similar priorities.