EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET – LOCAL

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠ *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

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

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	LA NOSTRA VOCE, LA NOSTRA CITTÀ
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	*In situ*
Location:	Italy, Brescia
Date(s):	27/09/2026 - 16/11/2026 - 23/11/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.adl-zavidovici.eu/2026/09/24/la-nostra-voce-la-nostra-citta-un-percorso-sulla-partecipazione-e-sulla-vita-pubblica/
How did you publicize the event? (attach poster or social media link)	ADL published the event poster on its website and asked members of the minority communities involved to share it within their communities. ADL also invited citizens who had participated in previous meetings and encouraged them to spread the word about the event.
Participants	
Female:	15

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Male:	13		
Non-binary:			
Other			
From country 1 [Italy]:	28		
From country 2 [name]:			
From country 3 [name]:			
From Local authorities/Municipalities	1		
CSOs/NGOs	5		
Minority-led organisations	10		
Total number of participants:	28	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Context and Objectives

The workshop *Our Voice, Our City (La nostra voce, La nostra città)* was organised within WP4 of the PACT project to reflect on the conditions that enable or hinder the participation of minorities in public life and local decision-making processes. In particular, WP4 aims to develop innovative solutions through a participatory process to promote the participation of underrepresented ethnic and national minorities in local governance.

For the minority group ADL is working with, namely young people from the Muslim community, one of the main barriers to participation is the fear of prejudice and hate speech they may face when attending public spaces and events. In this context, addressing hate speech and the way minorities are represented is particularly important, as these factors can influence young people's willingness to take part in public life and feel that they belong.

The activity focused on the relationship between narratives, representation and participation. When minorities are portrayed by others through stereotypes, prejudice or hate speech, what opportunities do they have to define their own identity, share their experiences and take part in public debate?

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The workshop was designed in collaboration with Ron Salaj, a Council of Europe trainer and researcher with experience in participation, communication and human rights education. His contribution was chosen because of his experience in facilitating participatory processes and working on the construction of narratives, connecting the issue of hate speech with the representation of minorities and their participation in public life.

The preparation of the activity took into account some of the main barriers identified during WP3, including language barriers, prejudice and discrimination, as well as the limited representation of minorities in public spaces and decision-making processes. The aim was therefore not to address hate speech as an isolated topic, but to use it as a starting point for a broader reflection on how people and communities are represented and how this representation can affect their opportunities to participate.

Activity Description

The workshop took place in Brescia on 27 September 2026, as part of WP4. The activity was positively received and provided an important opportunity to reflect on the relationship between narratives, representation, hate speech and participation. The invited participants included Raisa Labaran, representing the Municipality of Brescia, members of CCIB (Islamic Cultural Centre of Brescia) and ASMB (Association of Muslim Students of Brescia). The invitation was also open to the wider public, involving people who live and work in the local area.

Ron Salaj guided the group through a participatory process based on interactive exercises, individual reflection and group discussions.

The activity began with a positioning exercise in which participants were invited to express their agreement or disagreement with statements concerning their knowledge and recognition of hate speech, experiences of discrimination and racism, and their ability to intervene or support people who experience these forms of abuse. Participants were not required to explain their choices or necessarily share personal experiences, allowing everyone to decide how much they wanted to share.

Participants then worked in small groups and took part in a plenary discussion to analyse examples of hate speech, reflecting on their seriousness and possible effects. The discussion explored the role of language, stereotypes and prejudice, as well as the importance of context, the people targeted by a message and the consequences it can have, particularly in terms of participation in public life. These issues were also connected to human rights and different forms of discrimination.

The exercises provided a common starting point for addressing a broader question: how do public narratives shape the image of minorities, and how can they influence the recognition of their voices and their participation in city life?

Main Reflections

One of the most significant aspects of the process was the recognition that representation is not only a matter of communication towards the outside world, but also an internal process within communities.

Minorities are often described and defined by others through narratives that may be influenced by stereotypes, prejudice and hate speech. These representations can affect how people are perceived

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by society, but also how they understand and construct their own identities. In some cases, a community's identity may also develop in response to discrimination and the negative narratives surrounding it.

It is therefore important to create the conditions for people and communities to tell their own stories, choose which aspects of their experiences they want to share and decide how they wish to present themselves in the public sphere. The ability to develop their own narratives can help strengthen their capacity to participate in public debate and engage with institutions and the wider community.

However, this process is complex, particularly when working with people with a migration background or belonging to religious minorities. Identities may include religious, national, cultural and generational dimensions that intersect without necessarily coinciding. Belonging to the same community, for example a religious community, does not mean that everyone shares the same experiences, needs or ways of relating to society.

This raises a central question for work on participation: how can communities be supported in developing a shared representation without overlooking internal differences or reducing people to a single identity?

The importance of creating spaces where different voices can meet and contribute to the development of shared narratives emerged clearly from the discussion. At the same time, these spaces need to recognise the diversity of experiences within communities. They can encourage greater awareness within the communities themselves and strengthen opportunities for dialogue with institutions and the wider public.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of continuing this work within the community itself. While the WP4 activity created an opportunity for discussion between community members, institutions and other local participants, it became clear that further reflection was needed to explore the issues in greater depth, particularly in relation to participation, the fear of prejudice and hate speech, and the ways in which these factors can influence young people's presence in public spaces and events.

Challenges and Next Steps

The process highlighted that promoting participation requires time and continuity. It is not enough to organise meetings between communities, institutions and citizens. It is also important to support opportunities for discussion within communities themselves, so that people can reflect on their experiences, discuss differences and identify shared ways of being present in the public sphere.

Following the positive experience of the WP4 workshop, ADL therefore decided to organise two additional meetings on 16 and 23 November 2026 at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Brescia. These meetings are being organised outside the activities and deadlines formally scheduled within the PACT project, in order to ensure continuity and allow the community to further explore the themes introduced during the September workshop.

The two meetings will focus on participation, narratives, representation, identity and hate speech. They will provide further opportunities for discussion within the Muslim community, allowing young people to reflect on the barriers they experience, explore how prejudice and hate speech can affect

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their willingness to participate in public life, and consider how they can represent themselves and make their voices heard.

This additional work also aims to help prepare the community for the upcoming WP6 meeting, supporting participants in reflecting on their experiences and perspectives before engaging in the next phase of the project. The intention is to build on the work started in WP4 and strengthen the community's capacity to take part in future discussions and activities.

This step is important to ensure that the development of a shared narrative is not understood as a uniform process that leaves no room for the different perspectives and experiences within a community. It also recognises that meaningful participation requires not only opportunities to engage with institutions and the wider public, but also time and space for communities to reflect on their own experiences and identify their priorities.

A further reflection concerns how different approaches to tackling discrimination can engage with one another. Alongside its activities with the Muslim community on narratives, representation and hate speech, ADL also runs an anti-discrimination centre dedicated to LGBTQIA+ people.

These areas of work can involve certain tensions, particularly regarding queer issues, which may be perceived as conflicting with some views within the community. Such tensions can make it more difficult to create opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between organisations working to combat discrimination but which do not always share the same perspectives.

This is also a challenge for ADL, which needs to bring together different perspectives, needs and sensitivities without overlooking possible disagreements. It raises an important question: how can dialogue between different experiences of discrimination be encouraged and potential alliances developed without simplifying differences or expecting them to be necessarily overcome?

This reflection does not mean that different positions should be considered equivalent. Rather, it invites us to consider how tensions can be addressed while keeping spaces for discussion open and recognising the dignity and rights of everyone involved.

The work initiated through PACT therefore represents a starting point for exploring how organisations and institutions can support more inclusive participation, recognise the complexity of identities and value people's ability to represent themselves. From this perspective, developing solutions is not only about creating opportunities for participation in the public sphere, but also about supporting the processes through which communities reflect on their experiences, recognise their differences and identify ways to contribute to public life. The additional meetings planned for November are a concrete step in this direction, allowing ADL to continue the work initiated within WP4 and support the community's involvement in the next stages of the project.

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PROJECT	
Participant:	3 - Associació Fons Català de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (FCCD)
PIC number:	947878666
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation — PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	SUMAR VEUS PER A LA COHESIÓ SOCIAL (Bringing Together Voices for Social Cohesion)
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Spain, Barcelona
Date(s):	27/10/2026 The activity had been initially scheduled for October 6th, but the exceptional weather conditions experienced in Catalonia that caused flooding, three fatalities, and the suspension of services and serious disruptions to mobility and public transport forced to postpone the event to late October.
Website(s) (if any):	https://fonscatala.org/sumar-veus-per-a-la-cohesio-social-jornada-participativa-en-el-marc-del-projecte-pact/
How did you publicize the event? (attach poster or social media link)	As usual, the Policy Lab was publicised through a range of communication channels to reach our target audience. First, a visual identity and social media materials containing all the key information about the event were created. All those who had participated in the WP3 roundtable "*Participation and Underrepresented Groups:*

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	Challenges in Defining Public Policy" were reached to foster their engagement in the Policy Lab, and a mailing was sent to share the event poster and programme with all our 320 partner municipalities as well as with organisations working on migration, human rights, and minority issues. In addition, we ensured that the event was featured in the calendars of relevant online platforms.

Participants			
Female:	18		
Male:	9		
Non-binary:	-		
Other			
From country 1 [Spain]:	27		
From country 2 [name]:			
From country 3 [name]:			
From Local authorities/Municipalities	5		
CSOs/NGOs	14		
Minority-led organisations	8		
Total number of participants:	27	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Context and background

The Multistakeholder Policy Lab "Bringing Together Voices for Social Cohesion" was held on October 27th at Pati Llimona (Barcelona) as a session devoted to co-design public policies, grounded in the representation and genuine participation of minoritized groups, in the frame of WP4 of the PACT project. The event brought together representatives from social organizations, minoritized collectives, municipal technical staff, and policymakers, with the aim to develop new public policy solutions and proposals that foster social cohesion.

To identify and discuss on these proposals, the conclusions of the WP3 roundtable "*Participation and Underrepresented Groups: Challenges in Defining Public Policy*" hold on July 14th, 2026, were taken

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as a starting point. That session combined expert panels and a deliberative process. The panels addressed the new European Pact on Migration and Asylum, Spain's extraordinary regularization process and the intersectional inequalities affecting underrepresented groups. Ahead of the event, participants completed a questionnaire to identify and prioritize barriers, challenges and potential improvements. During the deliberative session, participants discussed the survey findings in two thematic groups: barriers to social and political participation, and strategies to counter hate speech and discriminatory narratives. This process enabled participants to validate the initial findings, identify shared challenges and formulate recommendations for public policy.

The first session identified several interconnected challenges affecting the participation of underrepresented groups in local decision-making and political life:

- Limited access to political rights and administrative barriers: complex procedures, insufficient information about voting rights and participation mechanisms, and administrative status can restrict opportunities to participate.
- Lack of time and resources: economic insecurity, precarious working conditions and caregiving responsibilities make sustained participation difficult.
- Limited representation and outdated participation models: existing spaces do not always reflect the diversity of the population, while traditional institutional practices can discourage new forms of engagement.
- Insufficient participatory culture and institutional capacity: both citizens and public institutions may lack the knowledge, tools and experience needed to support meaningful participation.
- Weak community networks and limited trust: a lack of accessible meeting spaces, social connections and a sense of belonging can prevent people from engaging in community life.
- Hate speech and discriminatory narratives: stereotypes, disinformation and limited representation in public debate reinforce exclusion and reduce the ability of minority groups to influence policies affecting them.

According to participants, these barriers particularly affect people with migrant and refugee backgrounds, but also intersect with gender, age, disability, socioeconomic circumstances, sexual orientation and other dimensions of inequality. Participants stressed that underrepresented groups should be involved throughout the policy-making process, rather than consulted only on an occasional basis.

Building on these findings, the project identified four interconnected fields of action:

- **New models of participation**: Adapting traditional participation mechanisms to accommodate different ways of engaging, organizing and participating across generations and communities.
- **Participatory skills and culture**: Strengthening the knowledge, skills, tools and institutional capacity needed to support active, effective and sustained participation.
- **Barriers and inequalities in participation**: Identifying ways to reduce administrative, socioeconomic and practical obstacles and make participation processes more accessible and inclusive.
- **Networks, relationships and community**: Strengthening connections between residents, associations and institutions, building trust and fostering a sense of belonging

These four areas of action identified during the first session served as the starting point for the Policy Lab session held on October 27th 2026, providing a common framework for moving from the identification of challenges to the development of concrete, locally applicable solutions.

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Activity Description

The institutional welcome was delivered by Aminata Sabaly, Councilor for Cooperation and Social Justice in the city of Girona and a board member of the Fons Català. She highlighted the value of inclusive, participatory spaces like this one, noting that "peace and social cohesion are under serious threat from hate speech." She explained that the meeting aims to establish a shared framework for defining public policies and identifying best practices, which will subsequently be shared with the European partnership.

The session was implemented as a Policy Lab using a World Café methodology, which encouraged dialogue, the exchange of experiences and the collective development of ideas. Participants, including representatives of public institutions, civil society organizations, experts and other relevant stakeholders, worked together around four interconnected challenges: new models of participation; participatory skills and culture; barriers and inequalities in participation; and networks, relationships and community.

They discussed each thematic area and explored what should be done, who should be involved and how the proposed actions could be implemented. They were also invited to identify existing initiatives and good practices that could inspire potential solutions.

The discussions through the participative dynamics were run by the by the think tank **Inclusive Strategies (InStrategies)**.and focused particularly on the role of local authorities in cooperation with civil society organizations and underrepresented communities in developing more accessible, representative and effective forms of participation. The four areas therefore served not only as a framework for organizing the discussions, but also as a bridge between the initial identification of barriers and the co-creation of proposals and policy recommendations to inform future local policies and initiatives

The methodology was initially designed around four thematic tables, each dedicated to one of the identified challenges. Participants were expected to work in groups, discussing each topic for 10–12 minutes before rotating to the next table. However, due to logistical constraints related to the room and the fact that some of the participants could not attend the whole session until 8 pm, the discussions were conducted in plenary rather than in separate groups. Nevertheless, the division into four thematic areas was maintained, ensuring that all the identified challenges were addressed during the session.

The discussions followed the same guiding questions: what should be done, who should be responsible, and how the proposed actions could be implemented. Participants were also invited to identify existing initiatives and good practices that could provide inspiration for future actions. Key ideas and proposals were recorded on sticky notes and organized according to the four thematic areas. This approach helped to structure the contributions, capture different perspectives and facilitate the collective identification of potential solutions, while adapting the planned methodology to the practical conditions of the session.

Despite the change in format, the session maintained its collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach, enabling participants to exchange perspectives, build on one another’s contributions and develop proposals addressing the four interconnected challenges. The process fostered collaboration between institutional and non-institutional actors, encouraging participants to combine their knowledge and experiences while considering the different circumstances that influence participation. By enabling ideas to circulate between groups and evolve throughout the session, the methodology supported a collective and iterative process of reflection, helping participants identify common priorities and explore potential responses to the challenges discussed.

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Key findings

1. New Models of Participation

Participants highlighted the need to move beyond traditional, institution-centered participation mechanisms and develop more flexible, accessible and democratic ways for people to engage in public life. The discussion emphasized that institutions should reach people where they are, rather than expecting people to approach public authorities through formal channels. The proposals included (a) the creation of new spaces for collaboration between local authorities and specialised organisations; (b) to make public and community spaces more welcoming and accessible; (c) to develop digital participation spaces for young people; (d) to make participation in schools and neighborhood associations more democratic and accessible, (e) to organize open and informal popular discussion spaces (tertúlies populars); (f) to bring participation to where people are; (g) to ensure that participation has a real impact on decisions.

2. Training and Participatory Culture

Participants stressed that inclusive participation requires knowledge, skills and a supportive culture among citizens and public institutions. They also emphasized that participation is closely connected to the ability to understand, exercise and defend rights. The proposals included: (a) to provide intercultural training for public administrations and public servants; (b) to promote a culture of participation and a culture of rights; (c) to strengthen participatory skills among citizens and community organizations; (d) to equip professionals with practical tools for inclusive participation; (e) to promote peer learning and the exchange of experiences.

3. Reducing Barriers and Inequalities in Participation

Participants highlighted administrative complexity, limited access to public services and institutional procedures as significant obstacles to participation. They stressed that participation should not require excessive administrative knowledge, digital skills or organizational resources. The proposals included: (a) to reduce bureaucracy for associations and community organizations; (b) to make administrative processes more accessible; (c) to maintain accessible, in-person points of contact with public administrations; (d) to adapt opening hours to the realities of community organizations and volunteers; (e) to bring information and support closer to communities; (f) to ensure that participation is accessible to organizations with limited resources; (g) to address language barriers to participation; (h) to recognize and value linguistic diversity.

4. Strengthening Networks, Relationships and Community

Participants emphasized the importance of creating informal meeting spaces and strengthening local relationships as foundations for social cohesion and sustained participation. They highlighted the potential of public spaces that are already part of everyday community life. The proposals included: (a) to create informal spaces for meeting and social interaction; to use public spaces as community meeting points; (c) to strengthen social cohesion at neighborhood level; (d) to connect residents, associations and public institutions; (e) to make community spaces inclusive and non-discriminatory; (f) to support community-led activities and initiatives.

Overall conclusions

The proposals developed during the session emphasized that improving participation requires more than creating additional formal consultation mechanisms. It requires rethinking where participation

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takes place, how people are invited to contribute, what barriers they face and whether their contributions have a meaningful impact.

Three cross-cutting priorities emerged from the discussions: bringing participation closer to people through accessible community spaces and outreach; strengthening the capacity of institutions and communities through intercultural training and a culture of rights; and reducing administrative and practical barriers that make participation difficult.

The examples discussed, including collaboration between municipalities and specialized organizations, informal popular discussions, digital engagement with young people, accessible in-person administrative support and the use of libraries and other public spaces as meeting points, illustrate practical ways to move towards more inclusive and democratic participation.

Implementation will face some challenges like the distrust stemming from tokenism and the lack of real power transfer to underrepresented communities. It will require as well cooperation between local authorities, civil society organizations, community representatives and other relevant actors. These proposals provide a basis for developing locally appropriate actions that strengthen trust, broaden representation and ensure that participation contributes meaningfully to public decision-making.

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EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET – LOCAL

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

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

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	Local multi-stakeholder labs for co-developing innovative solutions
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Greece, Piraeus (Tzavella 106)
Date(s):	29/09/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.kmop.gr/news-i-poli-einai-gia-oles-kai-olous-einai-omos-ola-ta-atoma-meros-tis/
How did you publicize the event? (attach poster or social media link)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DeZuugqDVqC/?psln=OXhzNmFrdTk3M2Q2
Participants	
Female:	22
Male:	8

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Non-binary:	-		
Other			
From country Greece:	30		
From Local authorities/Municipalities	3		
CSOs/NGOs	9		
Minority-led organisations	4		
Total number of participants:	30	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

KMOP organised the national multi-stakeholder co-creation lab titled "Local multi-stakeholder labs for co-developing innovative solutions" on 29 September 2026 in Piraeus, Greece, as part of Work Package 4. The event brought together 30 participants representing local authorities, civil society organisations, Roma and migrant community representatives, educators, youth workers, young people with migrant and refugee backgrounds, researchers, and active citizens. The overarching goal was to transition from consultations to genuine, actionable co-creation of local governance solutions.

The lab commenced with an institutional welcome and address by Marios Psychalis, Mayor of Lykovrysi-Pefki, who highlighted the decisive role of municipal leadership in establishing transparent, participatory mechanisms that guarantee every community member an active voice in public policy. Following this, KMOP project managers Dimitra Noni and Charis Kataki delivered the introductory framing, contextualizing the PACT project's objectives and presenting key diagnostic findings from WP3, specifically the need to systematically bridge the gap between local communities and public decision-making structures.

The first segment featured two thematic roundtables:

- Representation and meaningful participation, led by Eleftheria Koumalatsou (Sociologist / Roma Social Inclusion Expert) and Elisavet Georgiou (Scientific Coordinator, Job Center / Municipality of Athens), exploring administrative hurdles, language barriers, and structural exclusion while stressing the need for permanent dialogue mechanisms between municipalities and marginalized communities.
- Safe and inclusive communities for youth, led by Marilena Maragkou (Youthmakers Hub), Stelios Vellis (The HOME Project), and Aggeliki Ntoula (Connect Athens), addressing the development of safe physical and institutional spaces for young people, particularly those with refugee and migrant backgrounds.

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In the second half of the event, participants, including municipal actors, practitioners, and youth from migrant and refugee communities working side by side, convened in multi-stakeholder working groups to apply the Solution Design Canvas methodology. Grounded in the core barriers identified in WP3 (limited accessibility, inadequate outreach, lack of institutional trust, and symbolic participation), the groups formulated operational solutions. Each group worked through structured steps: selecting a priority local challenge, defining root causes and systemic consequences, mapping essential municipal and grassroots stakeholders, and drafting an implementation roadmap complete with required resources, risk mitigation strategies, and measurable impact indicators.

The lab concluded with a plenary restitution session titled "What We Keep, What We Change". Working groups presented their co-designed blueprints, advocating for blended participation models (combining digital platforms with physical community hubs), formal partnerships recognizing grassroots CSOs as trusted intermediaries, and continuous capacity-building for local authority staff on inclusive governance. The outputs and validated canvas frameworks generated during this workshop constitute direct primary input for Deliverable D4.1 (White Paper on Co-developed Solutions), providing the operational evidence base for the Greek Country Spotlight and informing EU-wide policy recommendations.

Participant evaluation and feedback collected at the end of the event indicated exceptionally high satisfaction with both the organization and the co-creation methodology. Attendees commended the open and supportive environment, noting that the lab successfully established a safe, inclusive space where all voices were heard equally and without unintentional gender or discriminatory bias. Furthermore, participants highlighted the high practical value of the Solution Design Canvas and expressed strong commitment to following up on the co-developed solutions in close cooperation with local authorities.

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EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET – LOCAL

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PROJECT	
Participant:	5 - Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID)
PIC number:	946680619
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe — PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	Bridging Communities, Shaping Change — PACT Policy Lab on Inclusive Youth Participation
Type:	Policy lab
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	North Macedonia, Berovo
Date(s):	6.10.2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://cid.mk/2026/09/20/pact-beyond-the-barriers-%d0%bd%d0%b0%d0%b4%d0%b2%d0%be%d1%80-%d0%be%d0%b4-%d0%b1%d0%b0%d1%80%d0%b8%d0%b5%d1%80%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b5-pertej-barrierave/
How did you publicize the event? (attach poster or social media link)	direct outreach through youth workers and partner organisations
Participants	
Female:	14

Funded by the European Union

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Male:	10		
Non-binary:			
From North Macedonia:	24		
From Local authorities/Municipalities	0		
CSOs/NGOs	1		
Minority-led organisations	1		
Total number of participants:	24	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Note: 26 participants confirmed their attendance, but two were unable to attend on the day, resulting in a final number of 24 participants. For future activities, more participants will be invited to account for possible last-minute absences.

Event Report: Co-developing Inclusive Participation Solutions with Minority Youth in Berovo

Project / Program Context: PACT – Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe (CERV-2025-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT), Work Package 4 – Local multi-stakeholder labs for co-developing innovative solutions

Event: Multi-stakeholder Policy Lab

Date & Location: 06.10. 2026 Berovo, North Macedonia

Host Organization: Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID)

Executive Summary

This report summarises the PACT Work Package 4 (WP4) Policy Lab organised by the Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) in Berovo, North Macedonia. In North Macedonia, CID focuses its PACT activities on ethnic minority communities – in particular the Albanian, Serbian and Roma communities – and on the barriers that keep them from participating meaningfully in local decision-making.

The lab brought together 24 participants: 20 young participants with a focus on Albanian, Serbian communities, 3 youth workers with a minority background, and 1 representative of a minority-led organisation. Building on the barriers identified in CID's WP3 national report, the participants worked

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together to prioritise local challenges and to co-design practical governance solutions, treating minority participants as co-creators rather than beneficiaries.

Methodology and Agenda

The half-day lab followed the common PACT WP4 agenda and used participatory, solution-oriented methods:

1. Opening & Framing: Welcome and introduction, the “Who is in the room?” icebreaker, presentation of the PACT project and of the WP3 findings for North Macedonia as the shared evidence base.

2. Understanding Local Challenges: Presentation of local findings and prioritisation of barriers through a World Café, with participants rotating between thematic tables.

3. Co-designing Solutions: Group work with the Solution Design Canvas – defining the problem, developing the solution, identifying stakeholders and planning first actions.

4. Prioritisation and Next Steps: Presentation of group solutions, prioritisation, definition of responsibilities and agreement on follow-up actions.

Key Challenges Identified

1. Segregation and the risk of inter-ethnic violence: Separate schooling and leisure spaces limit everyday contact between young people from the Macedonian, Albanian, Serbian and Roma communities. Tensions, including fights between groups of pupils and hate speech on social media, are handled ad hoc, with no shared mechanism between schools, municipality, police and civil society to prevent escalation.

2. Formal but tokenistic participation: Municipal Committees for Inter-Community Relations and local youth councils exist on paper but are often inactive or not representative. Minority youth, especially Roma, are rarely reached, and language barriers and informal networks shape who is invited.

3. Low trust and limited capacity: Minority youth have low trust in local institutions and feel that taking part “changes nothing”, while municipal staff and youth workers lack practical tools for inclusive, multilingual and conflict-sensitive participation.

Participants selected the prevention of inter-ethnic violence among young people as the most urgent challenge: incidents directly affect young people’s safety and everyday life, they quickly deepen divisions between communities, and a joint local response can realistically be organised by schools, the municipality and civil society without changes to national legislation.

Co-developed Solutions

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Pillar 1 – Multiethnic Youth Peace & Prevention Mechanism: Trained multiethnic peer-mediator teams in schools, a simple early-warning and referral protocol for inter-ethnic incidents and online hate speech, and regular joint activities (sport, culture, volunteering) that bring young people from different communities together.

Pillar 2 – Inclusive Youth Participation Charter: Reserved seats for minority youth in the local youth council and inter-community bodies, multilingual communication (Macedonian, Albanian, Romani and others as relevant) and outreach through youth workers and Roma mediators.

Pillar 3 – Trust, capacity-building & monitoring: Joint training for municipal staff, school staff and youth workers based on the PACT Toolkit, an annual multiethnic youth forum where the municipality publicly answers young people's proposals, and simple indicators to track minority youth participation and incidents over time.

Roles: The municipality formally adopts the mechanism, appoints a coordinator and provides a small budget; schools host the peer-mediator teams and use the referral protocol; CID and youth workers deliver training, facilitation and outreach; minority-led organisations connect the mechanism with their communities, especially Roma families; police and the social work centre support serious cases; young people act as co-designers, mediators and evaluators.

Policy Recommendations and Next Steps

For local authorities: Establish the youth violence-prevention mechanism by a council decision with a named coordinator and budget line; open the youth council and the Committee for Inter-Community Relations to minority youth with multilingual meetings and published minutes; give a public answer to every youth forum proposal within a fixed period.

For civil society and minority-led organisations: Act as trusted intermediaries by running peer-mediator training and outreach where institutions do not reach, especially in Roma neighbourhoods; work in multiethnic coalitions and jointly monitor incidents and hate speech.

For national and European policymakers: Support integrated and mixed-language educational activities and give schools a clear mandate and resources for violence prevention; make minority youth participation a measurable indicator in EU-funded local governance and youth programmes, with long-term funding for multiethnic youth work.

Conclusion

The Berovo Policy Lab gave young people from Albanian, Serbian and Roma communities, together with youth workers and a minority-led organisation, a structured space to move from discussing barriers to designing concrete solutions. Its main outcome is the Multiethnic Youth Peace & Prevention Mechanism, which links violence prevention to real youth participation. As follow-up, CID will present the results to the municipality and schools, train a pilot group of peer mediators from different communities, and review the mechanism with the young people who designed it. The results feed into the PACT White Paper on co-developed solutions (D4.1).

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EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET – LOCAL

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠ *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	6 - PLACE NETWORK
PIC number:	905706170
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe - PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	DU CONSTAT À L'ACTION
Type:	Policy Lab
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Paris, France
Date(s):	6 October, 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://place-network.org/pact/
How did you publicize the event? (attach poster or social media link)	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/comment-transformer-les-obstacles-à-la-share-7507729352520818689-elUI/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABeRv28Bog1Nt__H40ox3IDAYdYdvNuaQQM
Participants	
Female:	17
Male:	9

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Non-binary:	0		
Other			
From country 1 [France]:	26		
From country 2 [name]:			
From country 3 [name]:			
From Local authorities/Municipalities	3		
CSOs/NGOs	8		
Minority-led organisations	5		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

PLACE Network hosted a Policy Lab on 6 October 2026 bringing together 26 participants, including elected officials from Créteil, Choisy-le-Roi and Fontenay-aux-Roses, activists, students, citizens and civil society representatives.

The session was led by Imtinen Abidi as the main facilitator, supported by three co-facilitators: Ismail, Head of Partnerships and Ecosystem Development at PLACE Network, and Houda, an intern at PLACE. Kaskil, a facilitator from PLACE Network's *Resilient Cities* programme who had previously facilitated Policy Labs in Besançon, also contributed to the session.

Discussions focused on three main challenges: **lack of information, social cloning and material barriers**. Participants explored how educational and socio-economic inequalities restrict access to political knowledge and opportunities; how political gatekeeping, co-optation and the reproduction of established elites limit representation; and how economic constraints prevent people from disadvantaged backgrounds from accessing political internships and networks. The exchanges also addressed colonial legacies, neocolonial power relations and paternalistic approaches, alongside the policy gap between institutional commitments to inclusion and the realities of participation.

Through a World Café and a Design Canvas, participants co-developed practical solutions, including political education activities in youth spaces and neighbourhoods, community-based counter-power spaces, and a national and European exchange programme offering financially accessible political internships. Recommendations for local authorities and EU institutions included strengthening

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dialogue with residents, improving access to political opportunities and exploring dedicated support through Erasmus+.

The outcomes will feed into the **PACT White Paper on co-developed solutions**, contributing actionable recommendations to address structural inequalities and foster more inclusive and representative democratic participation.

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PROJECT	
Participant:	7- Konkav Foundation
PIC number:	872500063
Project name and acronym:	Participatory Action for Community Transformation in Europe — PACT

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	Ferencváros Forum and Solution-Focused PACT Workshop What can we do to address substance use challenges in the 9th District? Problem-Mapping Lab– Inclusive Cities, Open Municipalities
Type:	Policy lab
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Hungary, Budapest
Date(s):	23, September, 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.konkavter.hu/ https://ferencvaros2.magyarhirlevelkuldo.hu/archive/vElfdd4Ah/pUQcstdl1/oYBQQ3aYw https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7511145095996432385

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How did you publicize the event? (attach poster or social media link)	Newsletter, webpage, social media		
Participants			
Female:	17		
Male:	11		
Non-binary:	0		
Other - disabled	2		
From Hungary:	28		
From Local authorities/Municipalities	4		
CSOs/NGOs	20		
Minority-led organisations	1		
Total number of participants:	28	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Professional Report: Addressing Public Substance Use, Stigma, and Democratic Renewal in Ferencváros (9th District)

Project / Program Context: PACT (Inclusive Cities, Open Local Governments / CERV Program) with the Municipality of Ferencvaros

Event: Problem-Mapping & Solution-Focused Workshop

Date & Location: September 23, 2026 | Ferencváros Cultural Center, Budapest

Host Organization: KONKÁV Foundation in collaboration with the Municipality of Ferencváros

Executive Summary

This report synthesizes findings and strategic recommendations from the PACT Work Package 4 (WP4) Policy Lab held in Budapest's 9th District (Ferencváros). The workshop targeted the

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intersection of increasingly visible street-level substance use, social stigmatization, and the erosion of civic participation.

A central takeaway of the session was the urgent necessity to rebuild participatory mechanisms and cross-sectoral governance following a 15–16 year macro-political environment that severely constrained civic engagement, municipal resources, and evidence-based harm reduction policies. By connecting ground-level social workers, district officials, law enforcement, and civil society actors, the event laid out a framework to move from reactive crisis management toward structural, participatory interventions.

Strategic Context and Key Challenges

The policy lab identified three interwoven thematic domains driving the current crisis:

1. Harm Reduction, Prevention and Vulnerable Groups
Institutional Constraints: National policy and legal barriers heavily restrict evidence-based prevention programs from entering public schools, forcing institutions into reactive "firefighting".

Resource Deficits and Burnout: Acute shortages of addictology professionals, social workers, and social pedagogues leave hidden dimensions of substance use unaddressed.

Socio-Economic Pressures: Youth face systemic pressures, boredom, lack of perspective, and generational unhappiness, while older or unhoused users face severe housing instability and untreated mental health conditions.

Atmosphere of Fear and Concealment: Punitive frameworks drive substance use underground, deepening distrust between users and public services.

2. Network Coordination and Systemic Fragmentation
Isolated Authority Responses: Local enforcement, child protection services, and social providers operate in silos, treating symptoms rather than root causes.

Unreached Street Populations: Fragmented inter-agency communication leaves the most visible and vulnerable street-level users without targeted outreach.

Resource Scarcity Impairing Innovation: Severe underfunding forces local stakeholders into short-term operational fixes rather than coordinated, district-wide multi-year projects.

3. Public Perception, Stigma and Political Pressures
Populist Framing and Media Dynamics: Short-term political imperatives, public fear, and social media dynamics foster an "Us vs. Them" polarization.

Communication Gaps: A 20-year deficit in public health communication has left citizens poorly informed about harm reduction, framing street-level addiction strictly as a security or public nuisance issue.

Pressure for Immediate Interventions: Municipalities face heavy public demand for rapid enforcement, which often clashes with long-term social and health interventions.

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Proposed Policy Interventions and Action Plan
To address these challenges, workshop participants formulated actionable proposals categorized into community, institutional, and policy levels:

1. Rebuilding Participatory Governance and Local Coalitions
Establish a District Prevention Team: Form a permanent, inter-disciplinary working group linking child protection services, municipal social providers, civil organizations (e.g., Kék Pont, Konkáv Foundation), and local schools.

Strengthen Municipal-Police Coordination: Foster collaborative communication between district enforcement, police forces, and street-level social workers to balance public safety with harm reduction.

Joint Capital-District Initiatives: Build formal policy links between the Budapest Metropolitan Government (Főváros) and the 9th District to share data, funding, and international best practices (e.g., supervised consumption facilities/medically supervised injection sites).

2. Youth Engagement, Prevention and Harm Reduction
Grassroots Youth Pathways: Expand free, accessible community infrastructure including youth sports, dance programs, and youth scholarships to counteract social isolation.

Digital Outreach: Deploy social worker-managed online platforms and digital harm reduction channels to reach hidden or younger user demographics.

School Access and Health Promotion: Lobby for legislative and local policy adjustments that allow certified experts back into schools for comprehensive, non-punitive drug education and prevention.

3. Destigmatization and Public Communication
Humanizing Narratives: Launch media campaigns and educational initiatives highlighting personal recovery stories (e.g., lived experiences with synthetic cathinones/"crystal") to build social empathy.

Broadening the Public Concept of Addiction: Reframe public communication to contextualize street-level substance use within broader societal issues, such as public alcohol consumption and mental health conditions.

Transparent Public Dialogue: Establish regular municipal reporting and open forums ("Parents' Academy", public information channels) to manage community complaints transparently and counteract panic driven by social media.

Conclusion and Strategic Outlook
The PACT WP4 policy lab highlighted that resolving street-level substance issues in Ferencváros cannot rely on policing alone. Re-establishing participatory governance structures, cross-sectoral coalitions, and empathetic public communication is essential to rebuilding civic trust and delivering long-term urban livability. Success will require sustained political commitment from local leadership, joint Budapest-district coordination, and continuous support for civil society partners on the ground. It is also important not to reinforce the stigmatization of vulnerable groups due to the current crisis.

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