

## **E-WORDS National Reports: ITALY**

### **1) Methods applied to directly involve citizens**

In line with the strategy agreed by the Partnership, a dissemination plan for Italy was outlined at the start of the project. Setting up, managing and contributing to the E-WORDS portal and social networks campaign, printing of brochures, articles and posters were the first actions to make citizens aware of the project. The key word assigned to the Italian Partners was 'Human Rights and Discrimination', but all the events were organised so that the link between all the 4 key words was clear. Special concern was given to the use of informal education to share the knowledge of European history and enhance awareness of democratic values. In particular, the project was presented in schools as a way to educate students to human rights (especially the younger ones) by having fun during theatrical labs. In order to cover more typologies of citizens, the Italian Partners agreed to organise diverse events (webinars, debates, theatrical labs, art exhibitions, training sessions for professionals).

### **2) Typologies of citizens involved**

School students, aged 6-18

HE students, aged 19-25+

Practitioners, mainly in education, communication, law

Ordinary citizens

### **3) Most important achievements of E-WORDS**

The project events in Italy directly involved a number of participants higher than originally planned (over 5,000). This represented a positive feedback on the methods applied (see point 1).

By participating in the E-WORDS events in Italy citizens:

- a) acquired a sound knowledge of the historical meaning of the key words, so that they can analyse, debate, compare their reflection on the past
- b) had the opportunity to debate and compare their reflection on the past with European and non-European citizens from different cultural background
- c) learnt to see the differences between democracy and totalitarianism in an historical context and in today's society.
- d) learnt to analyse the social and economic issues of today in reference to the past



- e) understood the role of the EU in promoting a peaceful and dialogue society
- f) understood the importance of building up a European identity
- g) discussed with UniSi experts how to present the key word 'Human Rights and Discrimination' in the Educational Kit.

The collected questionnaires showed a positive feedback from the participants. In particular, most school students reported they had fun during the theatrical labs!

#### **4) Biggest challenges faced during E-WORDS implementation**

During the project life span Italy experienced a major political shift, as a consequence of March 2018 parliament election. The new political and social climate has been leading towards the historical revisionism of Italian troubled past, a mismatch between some EU and national policies, a change in dealing with the migrant crisis and a surge in xenophobia. This reflected in some debates, when a few participants questioned democracy and wondered if modern society requires stricter rules.

#### **5) How the events contributed to generate any policy activity or keep the cultural debate alive in your country**

UniSi and TsGR events directly involved over 5,000 participants and reached as many all over Italy. Both Partners work on national (UniSi international, too) level. This kept the cultural debate much alive on remembrance, dialogue and European common values right when Italy had to face the challenges listed in point 4. At the same time the project had the chance to contribute to the debate on the EU future with special concern to the EU parliament elections, due in May 2019.

#### **6) How you see the future of the project, its sustainability in your country**

In the short term, E-WORDS Italian Partners are committed to keep alive the dialogue with the citizens as during the project life span. As mentioned in point 5, the approaching of the EU parliament elections requires not to let down the cultural debate on the key words. For this reason UniSi and TsGR are committed to contribute almost daily to E-WORDS social networks, contact the media to publish articles about the project achievements and organise interviews with the participants in the events, our best testimonials. This is particularly needed in Italy now, due to the challenges posed but the political and social climate (see point 4).

In the long term, the Educational Kit represents the best tool for the project sustainability and UniSi is committed to keep it updated in co-operation with E-WORDS University Partners.





Moreover UniSi and TsGR will organise joint labs in schools and local communities with UniSi experts giving a short talk on the key words and TsGR performing them in theatrical labs for school students and citizens.



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