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# Mediterranea

Associazione per lo Sviluppo Locale

re<sup>use</sup>  
cycle  
volution

*A youth exchange funded by the Erasmus + programme*

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## RE-use, RE-cycle, RE-volution

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The founding aim of the project is to promote the **values of environmental protection, bringing attention to the theme of recycle**. No less important is the promotion of a fruitful **cultural dialogue** between the participants so as to contribute to instilling in them a deep-rooted sense of European citizenship.

This need has been identified by the young promoters of the project and the assembly of the partners has been oriented to enhance the different points of view on the issues of intercultural dialogue and recycle. The project involves organizations based in Italy, Spain, Malta, Greece and Romania. All countries, as we have already pointed out, share a tangible awareness of environmental issues among public opinion and national governments and the importance of recycle.

Together with the problem identified above, it is also noted that young people living in rural and peripheral areas experience fewer opportunities for individual and professional growth than their peers living in urban centers. The project also aims to provide participants with an unprecedented opportunity to express their artistic potential through the creation of objects using recycled materials. The project also aims to provide participants with an unprecedented opportunity to express their artistic potential in order to initiate an awareness-raising campaign on recycle.

The main aim is to encourage and promote the personal and social education of young people,



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reinforcing their feeling of being European citizens. The young people involved in the Youth Exchange, are an essential 'active' part from the very beginning till the very end of such a project.

## OBJECTIVES:

Specifically, the project pursues the following priority objectives:

- to promote intercultural dialogue, the values of freedom and active European citizenship by acting on the development of young people's critical thinking through non-formal training activities.
- To raise young people's awareness of the importance of recycle as a method of take care of our world and decrease waste.
- To increase the artistic and professional skills of young participants through peer learning among participants to learn more about the cultures of European countries

Foster the inclusion processes of young people with fewer opportunities "RE-use, RE-cycle, RE-volution" is a youth exchange involving **30 young people** from **5 European countries: Italy, Spain, Greece, Malta and Romania**. All participants share the same passion for art in all its forms and are young people interested in recycling and environmental issues. The participants want to improve their artistic skills and, at the same time, address issues related to environmental protection but also experience intercultural dialogue and face the challenges of active European citizenship. The PARTICIPANTS are aged **between 16 and 30 years**, most of them live in disadvantaged rural or urban areas and suffer from many problems related to this: lack of cultural, recreational and educational opportunities, high rates of youth unemployment and social exclusion.

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## HOSTING ORGANIZATION

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Mediterranea Associazione per lo Sviluppo Locale APS, since 1992, has set itself the objective of promoting the dissemination and implementation of European policies aimed at the development of the territory. A gamble on which the Association has invested its human and professional resources with the conviction that working so that our fellow citizens would have more opportunities, especially in terms of training and employment, would reopen scenarios of new economic and social prominence for the territory.

Numerous awards and funding have been received, including the European Social Fund, the Multiregional Programmes of the Ministry of Labour, the European Fund for Regional Development, the Apulia Region's Rotation Fund, as well as contributions for the implementation of activities and

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services by municipal, provincial and mountain communities, training and educational institutions, companies and consortia, cooperatives and associations.

By way of example and not exhaustively, we highlight the activities carried out for the benefit of young people and in the relevant areas:

- The "INFORMA" project (ESF Youthstart) saw the establishment of the first 3 InformaGiovani desks in Apulia: Cerignola, Bari and Veglie. The project was selected by the European Commission as an exemplary case of use of the ESF. This was followed by the launch of a Network of InformaGiovani services in over 30 towns in Apulia and a Spin-OFF, the Cooperativa INFORMA, which became a leader in guidance. From the longest-established service (20 years of operation), the URP/InformaGiovani of the municipality of Bari, numerous formal and informal learning initiatives started. These, in the area, were embryonic contexts in which young people were openly talked to about issues related to sex education, gender discrimination and activating interventions dedicated to discrimination free job placement.
- The INFORMADONNA multifunctional centre (PIC URBAN FESR LE) aimed at disadvantaged women: an integrated information and guidance service model enriched with specialist advice and non-formal learning initiatives. The desk followed the many discriminated against, in the workplace or elsewhere, who find little listening and support. A Transfer of Good Practices (FSE PON Min.Lavoro) led to the Provincial Orientation Network, ORIENTALAVORO, in partnership with the University of Lecce, with 6 counters in the Province representing the launch of InformaGiovani 2nd generation with a wide range of informal learning initiatives.
- From 2002 to 2006, the CITIZEN MEDIATION SERVICE of the City of Bari, aimed at minors at risk of exclusion and spearheading the three-year municipal programme, and the FAMILY CENTRE, in agreement with the Municipality of Bari, with the primary objectives of helping, listening to and taking charge of needs.
- CAMPAIGN "Metti il Virus alle strette" (Put the Virus on the Spot), which raised awareness among young people on AIDS together with Arci Gay and Cama-Lila.
- The Master's Degree Course in BBCC MANAGEMENT, with the University of Lecce and the Master's Degree Course EXPERTS IN REGULATORY PROCEDURES AND PHARMACEUTICAL DEVELOPMENT, with Tecnofarmaci SCpA aimed at young graduates wishing to specialise with a highly competitive and innovative two-year course.
- Various TRAINING COURSES (FSE POR Puglia) such as: 3 CALL CENTER OPERATOR (1 for Thalassemic children and 2 for the blind). 3 courses aimed at young women wishing to undertake a business

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activity for children.

- The AREA URBAN LABORATORY, within the framework of BOLLENTI SPIRITI (Apulia Region) since 2015 in Alezio (LE), the basis of a network of social and cultural realities, public and private, which collaborate to optimise resources and energies by realising services and activities dedicated to the community, with particular attention to young people, children and families. The Laboratory is home to Erasmus Youth Exchanges and is a meeting centre and reference point for young people in the area in the fields of: art, creativity, work, business, social, etc.

- Since 2018 Youth Exchanges (Erasmus+), we have already implemented 11 of them with the aim of promoting values related to respect for diversity, tolerance, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. To date, we are implementing a strategic activity plan having obtained accreditation in the youth sector.

- ABIL. Abilities - Well-being - Interaction - Work"(Apulia Region) a path of growth and integration for the physically and mentally disabled and skills development for third sector operators.

-ANOTHER WAY" (KA2 Strategic Partnerships - Erasmus +) which intends to give back equal dignity to the other senses and to experiment an innovative methodology of social inclusion that allows young blind people to enjoy the cultural and landscape beauties of the territory.

- "NonCisto!" (Apulia Region) takes place in a property taken away from the mafia and made available by the Municipality of Copertino and envisages the implementation of workshops characterised by non-conventional teaching methodologies to promote legality and active citizenship.

The following are currently in progress: 1) "G.O.A.L" (funded by IMPRESA SOCIALE CON I BAMBINI) aimed at combating educational poverty and school drop-out among young people in the 12/18 age group, through the use of innovative and/or informal activities such as social peer education, family support groups, work orientation and student empowerment. 2) 'LA FABBRICA DELLA MUSICA' (Presidency of the Council) sets up a music industry to support young soloists or bands and enable them to acquire professional skills. Several projects related to youth participation and counteracting educational poverty are being launched: 'ACCADEMIA DEL SOCIALE', 'Conessioni' and 'Opportunit@'. Follow us on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/mediterraneaassociazione>

<https://www.instagram.com/mediterraneaassociazione/>

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## Youth Exchange

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### Dates

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From the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> are the travelling days).

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### Activities

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During the exchange, the participants are engaged in games, convivial and self-management activities, in-depth studies and workshops. The activities are divided into an:

- initial phase of brainstorming and reflection on recycle to provide alternatives to the use of objects and waste materials;
- an operational and workshop phase, in which the young people are divided into six groups. Each group will aim to create as many objects as possible using recycled materials collected during the stay. The workshop activities are interspersed with moments of play and role-playing games that aim to amalgamate the group and to get to know each other. During the exchange there will also be intercultural evenings and a trip to Gallipoli and Lecce;

All activities are carried out through non-formal learning methodologies and follow the approach of learning by doing and peer education. The whole Exchange is conceived, in fact, in self-management: not only the thematic activities, but also the management ones, are carried out by the participants and this favours the active participation and the development of transversal competences.

At the end of the Exchange, there will be a final event open to local citizenship in which the young people, present the Erasmus + Programme and its opportunities through posters and then the different groups deepen their knowledge of the process applied in the upcycling laboratory. Finally, the participants will receive the YouthPass document, which is the certificate describing what they have learned during the project activities. This tool is used precisely to validate non-formal learning,

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recognising the skills that the learners acquire by participating in the youth exchange.

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## Countries

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Italy, Spain, Malta, Greece and Romania

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## Participants

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25 participants (5 each partner) + 5 group leaders (representatives from partner organizations). Age 16-30.

Participant's profile: All participants share the same passion for arts and are young people interested in environmental protection. Participants want to address issues related to global warming, good practices against pollution, environmental protection but also experiment with intercultural dialogue and address the challenges of active European citizenship. Young people are between 16 and 30 years old, most of them live in disadvantaged rural or urban areas and suffer from many problems in relation to this: lack of cultural, recreational and educational opportunities, high rates of youth unemployment and social marginalisation.

The team leader has no age limit, but we give priority to young people.

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## Accommodation

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“Ostello Salento” is a structure in Alezio (Lecce) equipped with all the basic comforts and in accordance with the law, where another successful youth exchange was held. The structure is surrounded by greenery, is distributed on a single floor with bathrooms and services with several bedrooms, a large kitchen, common recreation room and outdoor spaces.

The participants will be accommodated in a dormitory with shared rooms and toilets. We will use a self-management approach, so the participants will be divided in mixed groups (gender and nationality) to cook and to clean. These groups (in rotation) will be responsible to cook and clean the spaces. There will be no washing machine: we'll have so much fun, that you won't need it. Please before arriving, remember to bring all the materials you need for the activities and free time

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on a USB key (video, presentations, files, movies, ..).

Link: <https://www.ostellosalento.com/>

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## Transport

The movements are mostly made on foot or for small stretches in cars driven by staff or with rented vehicles. If public transport is not suitable to manage the arrivals and departures of the group, the rental of a private bus is considered.

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## Insurance

Participants are insured against all risks related to their participation in these activities (accidents and serious illness, death, medical care, etc..).

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## Location

**Alezio:** Alezio is a small town in the province of Lecce (Puglia Region) very close to Gallipoli. This proximity has made tourism an important element in the city's economy, which preserves a primary role for the traditional activity of agriculture. It was certainly a city of Messapia. In the city it is possible to visit the "Museo Civico Messapico" (Messapian Civic Museum) which houses the numerous finds found in the necropolis. The Sanctuary of Santa Maria della Lizza, built by the Normans in the 12th century and bearing traces of a pre-existing Byzantine building, is also worth a visit.



**Gallipoli:** Gallipoli is a small town on the Apulian coast famous for its beaches and crystal clear water.

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The old town is located on an offshore island connected by a bridge to the mainland. Many tourist and cultural attractions of the city: Angevin castle, churches, museums and historical buildings.



*Andrea De Giovanni*



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## Food

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We will arrange kitchen teams, so everybody gets the chance to cook and prepare the meals

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with other young people and leaders. There will be a fully equipped kitchen to cook for a large group. All the food will be provided by the staff. and then the participants can organise themselves to go and buy at a supermarket with which our organisation has a contract, so they can go and buy and we will pay. For any problem about the food we'll have the possibility to buy extra in the markets in the surroundings. Please it is strongly recommended that if you have any particular need about food (allergies, vegetarian,..) to inform us before coming in order to manage it before.

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## Travel reimbursement procedure

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Accommodation, food and activities are fully covered by the project (and paid by Mediterranea directly), while the travel costs will be reimbursed up to:

- **275 euro** (Greece, Spain, Malta, Romania participants)

Each participant will buy her/his own tickets (please send us the travel itinerary and wait for our authorization before to buy the tickets). We'll refund the costs after receiving by ordinary mail in Italy all the **original tickets, boarding passes and invoices** from your home to the accommodation (including busses, trains, shuttles to the airport, etc).

We're allowed from Erasmus+ Agency to refund only the original tickets (altogether including the return tickets) once we'll receive physically by ordinary mail after the youth exchange. No first class tickets or taxi expenses are allowed to be reimbursed.

We'll process only one bank transfer to your sending organization or the group leader, for the whole national group after the youth exchange. No other amount of money will be asked or given to the partners/participants. We can refund your travel tickets in case you wish arrive or leave 2 days before/after the youth exchange, in case you want to have a private tour (but you have to cover food and accommodation by yourself for the extra days, as well for the internal travel tickets).

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## Language

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The language of the exchange will be English. Find below a table with basic Italian:

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yes/no	si/no	Hi	ciao	left /right	destra/sini stro
thank you	grazie	good-bye	ciao	straight on	dritto
your welcome	prego	How much is it?	quanto costa	Street	via/strada
excuse me	mi scusi	where?	dove	Ticket	biglietto
please	per favore	when?	quando	I don't understand	non capisco
good morning	buon giorno	Yesterday	ieri	I don't speak italian	non parlo italiano
good afternoon	buon pomeriggio	Today	oggi	hot/cold	caldo/fred do
good night	buona notte	Tomorro w	domani	no problem	nessun problema

In Italian every written letter is pronounced. You should remember this useful rule and without thinking in a while you'll be speaking Italian ;)

## What to prepare

- Intercultural evening where you will have the opportunity to share something about your identity/culture with others. We suggest that all participants can go beyond the traditional “national culture” and think of their individual cultural identity. Think of the elements that compose your identity, the building-blocks of what makes you ‘you’, and try to show them to other participants during this evening. Maybe some of you are into traditional music and others more into rock culture; someone might really like those folk dances from your country and someone else knows everything about... Hip-hop; maybe you feel you are really a typical person from “your country” or maybe you don't fit so well into that box. Whatever you identify with, that's what you should share.

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## What to bring

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- Anything you may need (USB, PC, video, photo, etc) for the intercultural evenings and workshops you're supposed to prepare.

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## Youthpass

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Every participant is individually entitled to receive a Youthpass Certificate.

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## Erasmus +

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Erasmus+ is the EU's programme for education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget is estimated at €26.2 billion, almost double that of the previous programme (2014-2020).

The 2021-2027 programme places a strong emphasis on social inclusion, green and digital transition and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.

It supports the priorities and activities set out in the European Education Area, the Digital Education Action Plan and the new Skills Agenda for Europe. In addition, the programme:

- supports the European pillar of social rights
- implements the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027
- develops the European dimension in sport.

## Opportunities

- Erasmus+ offers mobility and cooperation opportunities for higher education
- vocational education and training
- school education, including early childhood education and care
- adult education
- youth
- and sport.



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## Key Action 1 – Mobility of Individuals - Youth exchange

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Youth Exchanges are intended to contribute to the personal development of the young participants. The exchanges are open to all European youngpeople, regardless of their background, education, or socio-economic situation.

A Youth Exchange brings together groups of youngpeople from two or more countries, providing themwith an opportunity to meet, discuss, and confrontvarious themes, while learning about each other'scountries and cultures. The main aim is toencourage and promote the personal and socialeducation of young people, reinforcing their feelingof being European citizens. The young peopleinvolved in the Youth Exchange, are an essential 'active' part from the very beginning till the very end of such a project.

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## Contacts

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mediterraneaassociazione/>

Other useful/emergency numbers:

**Police: 113 / 112**

**Fire Brigade: 115**

**Ambulance: 118**

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