

INSIGHTS INTO YOUTH-LED EXPERIENCES FOR LOCAL POLICY-MAKING IN MIGRATION ISSUES

This paper is part of a selection of good practices gathered from the E-LoCUM partner countries. These examples showcase successful models and mechanisms for fostering youth participation in migration-related initiatives. The initiatives described serve as practical references for youth workers, educators, and practitioners, offering real-world examples of how youth engagement can be effectively structured and implemented.

These practices are designed not only to inspire but also to encourage creative thinking about how similar models could be adapted to your own local contexts. Furthermore, the practical insights from these models will provide additional "food for thought" to deepen discussions on migration and democratic participation.

CCR – Consiglio Comunale dei Ragazzi - Youth City Council (Italy)

- **Location:** City of Lignano - Italy
- **Year of creation:** Autumn 2018
- **Status:** Formal (institutional) initiative

Context and background: The initiative was funded and requested directly by the Municipality of Lignano in response to the SCHOOL-TERRITORY PACT of the Comprehensive Institute "Carducci". The local community is welcoming and enthusiastic, very pro-active and experiencing its territory. It is a dense community of associations that includes other political bodies in the municipality such as the sports council and the third age council. A very important point is that the Municipality has developed specific priorities as regards educational objectives for the young people participating in the council.

Youth engagement strategies: The Codess cooperative, in agreement with the school, organizes meetings in classes from the fifth to the eighth grade to present the boys' city council project. The idea is to have one or two councillors from each class, voted by their classmates. The council members hold their assemblies in our youth centre, which is physically located next to the school. The assemblies are assisted by the youth centre educators.

Everybody can apply young people from neighbouring municipalities who attend the school. There are also, second-generation children in the JRC. In the promotion workshops, done at school, foreign students who have just arrived in Italy often participate, and they are often supported by other peers who speak their language or English to better understand the reason for the meetings. The nationalities encountered are Albania, Morocco, South America, Romania.

Partnerships and collaboration: The network of local associations and NGOs is very large and very dynamic. Thanks to this network, CCR has been able to participate in various charity initiatives, environmental awareness, human rights initiatives.

Capacity building: Through the meetings implemented in school: the assemblies are organized in the youth center of Codess FVG and assisted by the youth workers of the center.

Inclusivity and diversity: The inclusion of young people with migrant background is the base of each activity implemented in our cooperative. The strategies to overcome the difficulties are multiple and in each situation the youth operators arrange the best practice to deal with them.

Decision-making processes: During the assemblies we discuss a chosen topic, usually the vote, however, takes place in a second topic to allow time for the young people to reason together with their peers at school and reach a vote that is as close as possible to the thinking of all the young involved and thus not just an expression of the councillors.

Communication and outreach: Communication of the initiative was made by the school secretary to all parents through a letter sent by mail. Subsequent meetings at school served to spread the initiative among the children. A WhatsApp group is used among the counsellors but only for quick communications. The social channels used are Instagram and Facebook for spreading the initiative. The youth group is age-inappropriate for using social media.

Feedback mechanisms: We use internal method of feedback like monthly reports. In some cases, we used questions form (ex. Google form).

Challenges faced: One of the most important challenges to achieve is the young people capacity to organize their own free time and to fulfil the commitment.

Sustainability and impact: The word-of-mouth among peers, the possibility to voice your opinion even if you are not on the council has allowed the initiative to endure over the years. The council is also highly sought after by the community, which tries to get involved at every opportunity