



# Connect ACT Youth

## The World Café

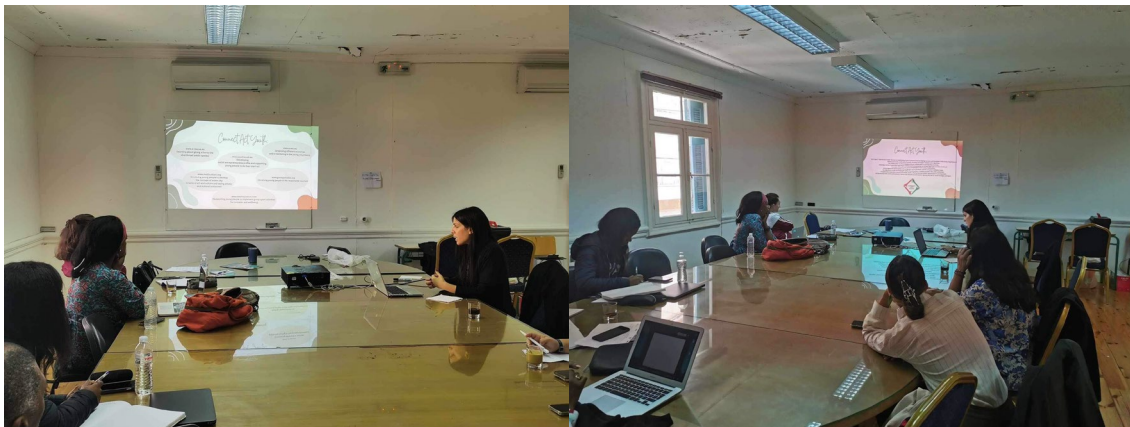
Report of initiatives by partners



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- The organizer: **Solidarity Tracks, Greece**
- Date and place of the activity: **13th of November 2023, Lefkada, Greece**
- Number of participants: **10**

Participants sat at a big round table, in 2 groups of 5 people. After 20 minutes, participants moved to different tables. One person from each table typically stayed behind to provide continuity. The person who stayed at the table shared the key ideas and insights from the previous discussion with the newcomers, and the conversation continued. In our final session, we focused on practical implementation and collaboration with all the groups together.



During the Word Café activity the focus was on these questions:

#### Virtual Community Spaces

1. Engagement Strategies: How can we enhance engagement within virtual communities? What innovative methods have you implemented to keep members active and involved?
2. Conflict Resolution: addressing conflicts is crucial in any community. How do you manage conflicts within online spaces, ensuring a respectful and inclusive environment for all members?
3. Content Curation: What content strategies work best to maintain interest and relevance? How do you balance promotional content with valuable, community-driven content?

#### Real Local Community Spaces

1. Sustainable Operations: How can local community spaces be managed sustainably, considering environmental impact and community needs? What are some eco-friendly practices that can be implemented?
2. Inclusivity: Creating spaces that are inclusive and accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ability, or background. What initiatives have you seen or implemented to ensure inclusivity in physical spaces?
3. Community Engagement Events: Organizing events and activities that bring the community together. What kinds of events have been successful in fostering a sense of belonging and pride among community members?

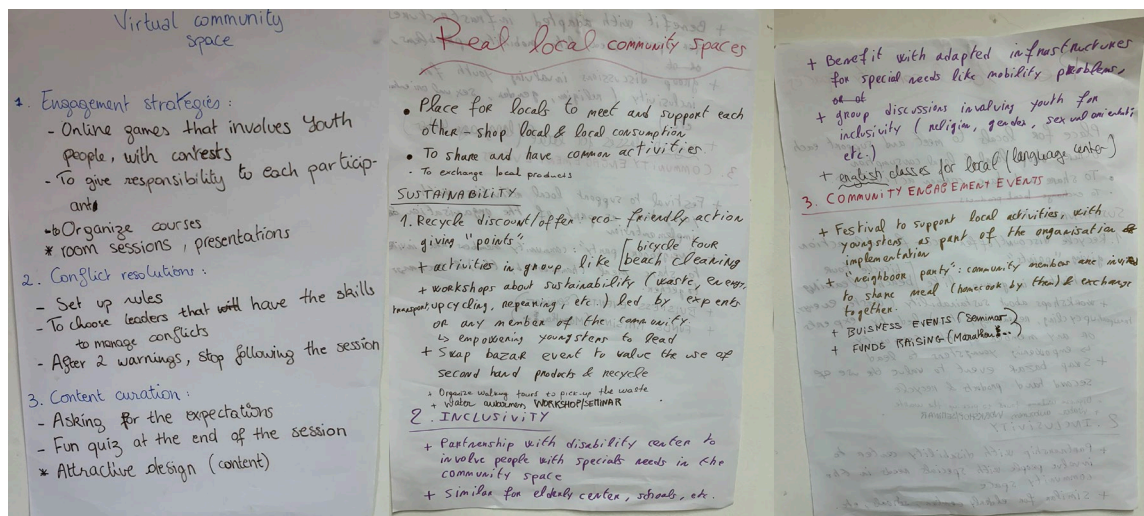
- Recommendations of the participants:

In regards of Virtual community space, participants suggested:

1. Engagements strategies:
  - Organising online games that involve Youth, contests.
  - Giving responsibility to each participant.
  - Organize courses, room sessions, presentations.
2. Conflict resolutions:
  - To set up rules.
  - To choose leaders that will have the skills to manage conflicts.
  - After 2 warnings, stop following the session.
3. Content creation:
  - Asking for the expectations.
  - Preparing a fun quiz at the end of the session.
  - To make sure the design (content) is attractive.

In regards of Real local community spaces, participants suggested:

1. Sustainability:
  - To collaborate for recycle discount/offer eco-friendly action giving locations.
  - Organize group activities like bicycle tours, beach cleanings.
  - Organize workshops about sustainability (waste, energy, transport, upcycling, repairing, etc.) led by experts, community member, or empowered youth leaders.
  - Organize Swap Bazar event to promote value of second hand product use and recycle.
  - Organize walk tours to pick up the waste.
  - Organize workshop/seminar on water awareness.
2. Inclusivity:
  - Partner with disability center to involve people with special needs in the community space.
  - Collaborate with elderly center, schools, etc.
  - Adapt infrastructures for special needs like mobility problems.
  - Organize group discussions involving youth for inclusivity (religions, genders, sex orientations, etc.)
  - Organize English classes for the locals, or other languages in matter.
3. Community engagement events:
  - Organize festival to support local activities with youngsters as part of the organization and implementation.
  - Organize 'Neighbour party': community members involved to share homecooked meals
  - Organize business events, seminars.
  - Organize Fund Raising, for example, marathon.





## ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMICIANS UNION

- *The organizer:* **Association of Academicians Union, Turkey**
- *Date and place of the activity:* **3rd of October 2023, Ankara, Turkey, Gazi University.**
- *Number of participants:* **12 students from Gazi University**

The purpose of the World Café event was to exchange ideas and obtain suggestions regarding the administration and use of physical and virtual local community spaces. The purpose of the event was to include the community and youth in determining the future of these areas and to provide the local government with these insights so that they may take appropriate action in the future.

### *Café Layout*

- The place was set up with two groups, and each team focused on a different subject.
- The first group focused on young people's key needs in community spaces and the effects of community spaces on youth development, while the second team focused on how people can collaborate with each other while managing community spaces and how we can improve their operation with changing technology.
- After 45 minutes of discussion, the groups made presentations about their subjects and brainstormed together

### *Discussion Team Topics:*

#### Team 1

- Key needs of youth in community spaces
- Effects of community spaces on youth •
- Young people and community spaces

#### Team 2

- Collaboration in community spaces
- Changing technology and its effects on community spaces

### *Conclusion:*

- The World Café event gave attendees a useful forum to exchange their opinions and suggestions.
- The significance of technology, inclusivity, sustainability, and community involvement is emphasized in the recommendations put forth by both teams.

### *Recommendations from Participants:*

(One selected person from each groups made the presentation)



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Group 1:

- Developing community spaces that are hospitable and inclusive to a variety of youth groups while taking abilities, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity into account.
- Ensure that community spaces provide access to resources such as education, mentorship, and extracurricular activities.
- Offer a variety of cultural and recreational activities that cater to different interests and preferences.
- Establish mentorship programs connecting experienced individuals with young people to provide guidance and support.
- Integrate technology and innovation in community spaces to appeal to the interests of tech-savvy young people.

Group 2:

- Creating transparent and easily accessible communication channels for all stakeholders involved in managing community spaces.
- Delegating tasks based on individuals' strengths and empower team members to take ownership of specific aspects of community space management.
- Regular team meetings and feedback sessions
- Leverage online platforms and social media to engage with the community, gather feedback, and promote events or initiatives.
- Exploring smart technologies for facility management, such as automated booking systems, IoT devices for resource monitoring, and energy-efficient solutions.



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- *The organizer:* **Euroteam, Czech Republic**
- *Date and place of the activity:* **12<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, Hrádek, Czech Republic.**
- *Number of participants:* **8 young participants aged 15-17, chairman of NGO**

World Café was organized with objectives to identify present situation and opportunities for youth in their towns, discuss possibilities to improve the situation and discuss the ways of how to turn to youth, how to attract them for youth work. The activity was attended by 8 young participants and was lead by the chairman on NGO.

The youngsters participating in World Café 1 described their point of view on situation of youth in their town, opportunities that municipality, schools, NGOs and other bodies offer to leisure time activities, institutions they can turn to to get involved, equipment for youth activities in their towns regarding cultural activities, sport activities, youth clubs, interest clubs etc. Most participants of the discussions declared that they missed better information process for young people to learn about opportunities in their town. Discussion was also focused on participating of youth in European youth programs and international projects, here the participants said they had not been informed of youth program within Erasmus+ before, about opportunities that Norwegian funds or Visegrad fund offers and about how to get involved into such programs. The only program they were at least a bit informed was Erasmus+ VET as they were students of vocational schools mostly.

During discussions on engagement of youth into youth work and into European projects we could see that the participants would be interested in some engagement into cooperation with an NGO and youth work, however they feel lack of leisure time because of their school duties and attending either a sport club or a musical school. However, the participants think that there is a big space for higher engagement of young people into voluntary work, into youth work and into European projects in their town as just few young people are aware of such possibilities. The participants would appreciate if more NGOs working in their town shared information about their activities and informed young people. The participants were not familiar with any NGO working in their towns directly with youth except the youth centre which is ran by the municipality of Orlová or Youth centre in Havířov and Ostrava. The participants knew only public institutions working in the area of their town with youth but did not know any NGOs that does such work and gives opportunities for youth.

Discussion about how to improve informing youth and attract them to youth work, youth opportunities and engagement and participation in youth events was focused mainly on virtual area. The participants



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agreed that informing youth just via webpages of the organizations is not working as young people are mostly interested in getting information through social network. Here also they preferred Instagram to Facebook, most participants of the World café follow Instagram daily and learning about youth opportunities this way could improve their awareness about youth events and youth activities in their towns. Another idea was that NGOs could come to the schools to inform students about their activities, or at least share the information about their work and where to follow their activity plan and events to be organized in the future. The output from this discussions was a suggestion to improve online promotion and communication with youth to rise awareness of youth events and youth opportunities in the town.

### *Recommendations from Participants:*

1. Improve informing youth about youth opportunities, particularly about youth projects they could take part in within various European programs and about local events to be held for youth apart from various cultural events, concerts etc. organized by the municipality.
2. Improve online communication with youth using modern digital tools and apps via social network, create attractive promotion for youth and share links to details of events and activities young people could attend or take part in more actively.
3. Organize more discussions with youth or more World Café where young people could discuss their problems and interests with representatives of NGOs and search for ways of cooperation and/or engagement into the work of an NGO.



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- *The organizer:* **Globers, Spain**
- *Date and place of the activity:* **28<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, Comaruga, Spain.**
- *Number of participants:* **15 youngsters from 18 to 30 registered at the public library**

The World Café event was convened to discuss and gather recommendations on the management and operation of both virtual and real local community spaces in Comaruga. The event aimed to engage young people and community members in shaping the future of these spaces and to share these insights with local authorities for potential action in the future.

#### *Café Layout:*

The venue was set up with two discussion teams, each focusing on different topics.

Team 1 discussed virtual community spaces, while Team 2 discussed real community spaces.

Participants rotated between tables every 20-30 minutes.

#### *Discussion Team Topics:*

Team 1 (Virtual Community Spaces):

- Enhancing virtual community engagement
- Innovative use of technology in local spaces such as the library, youth centre in Vendrell
- Inclusivity and diversity in community spaces

Team 2 (Real Community Spaces):

- Sustainable management of real community spaces
- Funding and resources for local community Projects
- Community-Led initiatives for space Improvement

The World Café event provided a valuable platform for participants to share their insights and recommendations.

The recommendations from both teams emphasize the importance of technology, inclusivity, sustainability, and community involvement. It is clear that the community is eager to collaborate with local authorities to enhance local community spaces and they are eager to have the YOUTH CENTRE re-open in Comaruga.

The World Café event was adjourned with a commitment to continuing the dialogue and working together to improve and sustain both virtual and real community spaces in Comaruga.



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### *Recommendations from Participants:*

#### Team 1 Recommendations (Virtual Community Spaces):

1. Emphasize the use of social media and virtual events to get better community connections.
2. Develop a user-friendly community platform for information sharing and discussion organized by Vendrell City Hall
3. Promote online skill-sharing workshops and training for community members. Or may be young people teaching each other.
4. Create virtual spaces specifically for youth to voice their concerns and ideas.

#### Team 2 Recommendations (Real Community Spaces):

1. Establish a dedicated fund for community space maintenance and improvement to reopen the YOUTH CENTRE in Comaruga again.
2. Encourage partnerships with local businesses for resource sharing and financial support. Like other NGOs or sport clubs...
3. Prioritize sustainability by incorporating green initiatives into community spaces asking youth about their green habits.



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- *The organizer:* **FIIT Timis County Youth Foundation, Romania**
- *Date and place of the activity:* **24<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, Casa Tineretului, Timisoara, Romania**
- *Number of participants:* **10**

The world cafe was held during the opening of the Youth Info Centre in the Youth House, where youth workers, teachers and representatives of the Municipality, youth NGOs and also ERYICA - The European Youth Information and Counselling Agency were invited.

*Some key points that have been discussed:*

- It has been discussed about the Timișoara municipality's online platform for informing young people.
- A new municipal website is underway, with the proposal of a dedicated youth section in the consultative council.
- Presenting ERYICA's publication on designing information services for young people, emphasizing a 4-stage process.
- It has been highlighted the Career counselling and guidance centre's (CCOC) networking efforts, focusing on career counseling for students and graduates.
- Caution against grouping too many services, citing examples from the Netherlands, and emphasized avoiding stigma-associated services.
- Psychological support for young people was discussed, raising the question of municipal responsibility and the potential for a subscription platform.
- The idea of a touristic info point was mentioned.

*Recommendations from Participants:*

1. To improve the municipality's online platform for better outreach and engagement with young people, including interactive features and youth-generated content.
2. To advocate for a youth-dedicated sections on the websites of municipalities, managed and curated by young people to ensure relevance and appeal to the youth demographic.
3. Adopt ERYICA's publication guidelines for designing youth-centric information services, ensuring services are tailored to young people's needs.
4. Expand CCOC's network to include more schools and universities, providing comprehensive career counseling and guidance accessible to all students.
5. Increase the visibility and accessibility of community centers, possibly through social media campaigns and collaboration with local youth influencers.



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6. Create a collaborative platform for mapping and coordinating various community services offered by different authorities, ensuring no overlap and efficient resource utilization.
7. Advocate for the municipality's role in providing psychological support for young people, possibly through a dedicated subscription-based platform or partnerships with mental health organizations.
8. Incorporate a touristic information point within the youth center, providing a dual service of community engagement and promoting local tourism.



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# VITATIIM

- The organizer: **VitaTiim, Estonia**
- Date and place of the activity: **21<sup>st</sup> of November 2023, Narva, Estonia**
- Number of participants: **8**

While organizing the World Cafe event, we brought together community managers from two different schools. Coming together with the youngsters, they explained the opportunities in their respective schools. Subsequently, they engaged in discussions with the youth on how to improve school opportunities and create a better environment for the youngsters.

The presentations by school community managers highlighted specific opportunities in each school. This covered school stuff like classes, after-school things, and help services for students. After that, everyone tossed around ideas, and the young folks shared thoughts on how to make things better. The main thing we were really into was adding more after-school stuff and talking about fixing up the school buildings.

To sum it up, the event didn't just show what's already there but also kicked off trying to make things better based on what the young folks really want.



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*Recommendations from Participants:*

1. To add a diverse range of after-school activities tailored to various interests, including arts, technology, sports, and academic support.
2. To renovate and upgrade school facilities to create a more inviting and functional environment for students.
3. To encourage the implementation of programs and clubs initiated and managed by students to foster a sense of ownership and relevance.
4. To create spaces within schools that cater to diverse needs, including quiet areas for study and relaxation, and areas for creative expression.
5. To propose partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide students with real-world experiences and additional resources.
6. To organize regular feedback sessions with students to assess the effectiveness of the programs and make ongoing improvements.





- The organizer: **Arrimage Goodiles, Guadeloupe**
- Date and place of the activity: **17<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, Charles Coeffin high school in Guadeloupe.**
- Number of participants: **28**

At Charles Coeffin high school in Guadeloupe, a World Café event was organized to discuss the management and operation of virtual and physical youth community spaces. Key discussion points included identifying the primary needs of young people in community spaces, strategies to boost collaboration and engagement among various stakeholders, innovative tools and technologies for enhancing community space operations, and methods for assessing the impact of these spaces on youth development. Additionally, the event explored Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps opportunities for youth in Guadeloupe, participants shared ideas on how these programs can be more effectively promoted within the Youth community.



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*Recommendations from Participants:*

1. To provide high-speed internet and modern digital tools in Youth spaces to support education, connectivity and attract youth.
2. To organize more workshops and events on arts, sports, technology, and environmental projects.
3. To include accessible mental health support for Youth.
4. Provide career counseling and educational guidance, including information sessions about Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.
5. Launch awareness campaigns and organize more workshops in schools to inform youth about opportunities available through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, emphasizing their benefits for personal and professional growth.





- *The organizer:* **The Starry Start of Talents Foundation, Bulgaria**
- *Date and place of the activity:* **26<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, Sofia, Bulgaria**
- *Number of participants:* **14**

World Café aimed at exploring strategies to stimulate artistic expression among young individuals within dedicated youth spaces. We focused on understanding the motivations, barriers, and preferences of young people regarding artistic expression and engagement within these spaces. The discussions included valuable insights into the factors influencing creative expression among youths, offering recommendations for fostering a conducive environment that encourages artistic engagement.

Participants emphasized the importance of inclusive and safe environments within youth spaces. They highlighted the significance of feeling accepted, respected, and comfortable to freely express themselves without fear of judgment or discrimination.

Lack of access to resources such as art supplies, workshops, and mentorship programs emerged as a significant barrier. Participants expressed the need for easily accessible resources and opportunities that facilitate skill development and exploration of various art forms.

Participants emphasized the role of peer support, collaborative projects, and connections with established artists as motivational factors for sustained artistic engagement.

The need to promote diverse art forms beyond traditional mediums was highlighted. Participants expressed interest in exploring digital art, multimedia, performing arts, and unconventional forms of expression within these spaces.

#### *Recommendations from Participants:*

1. Ensure that youth spaces prioritize inclusivity, diversity, and safety, fostering an environment where young individuals feel comfortable expressing themselves.
2. Provide easy access to art supplies, workshops, and mentorship programs within youth spaces, ensuring equitable opportunities for all.
3. Facilitate networking events, collaborative projects, and connections with established artists to create a supportive community for young artists.
4. Encourage exploration of diverse art forms by organizing events, workshops, and exhibitions that showcase various mediums of artistic expression.



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- *The organizer:* **Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie Kulturalne Krzywy Teatr, Poland**
- *Date and place of the activity:* **26<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, Żyrardów, Poland**
- *Number of participants:* **17**

The involvement of about 10 young people, the support of the Mayor of Żyrardów and the consistency in striving to create a place in the city for young people resulted in the city gaining additional space and the association gaining a headquarters that it did not have before.

In this new Youth Space we organized a World Café to which we invited guests, including representatives of the Youth Council of the City of Żyrardów. We talked about the needs of young people, ideas for implementing social activities and management of the Youth Space. As a result of the conversations, the youth declared their willingness to cooperate with groups of seniors from our city.



#### *Recommendations from Participants:*

1. Encourage programs that foster interaction between young people and seniors, promoting mutual learning and community bonding.
2. Propose a variety of social activities that cater to different interests and talents of young people, including arts, technology, and environmental projects.
3. Allow the Youth Space be partly managed by young people themselves to provide leadership experience and ensure the space meets their needs.
4. Implement a system for regular feedback from young people to continuously adapt and improve the space and its activities.
5. Recommend partnerships with local organizations for resource sharing, joint events, and program diversification.



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- *The organizer:* **ENVERÇEVKO, Turkey**
- *Date and place of the activity:* **29<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, Muğla, Turkey**
- *Number of participants:* **18**

18 university students were involved in the activity around 4 tables where they communicated their ideas in about 2 hours. Main 4 questions were discussed during the activity:

1. What are the core needs of young people in our community spaces?
  - Concerts, theater plays, tournaments; orientation units; raising environmental awareness; encouragement on cultural improvement; easy and quick access for educational equipment and materials at low costs; entertainment and basic needs; facilities in natural areas which enables socialization; lesson curriculum decided by the students ( free content), easy access for the disabled, we are forced to opt only for one set of meal a day: either lunch or dinner. Why not both?; text message reminders for events , exams and for all needs; special materials for the disabled such as books with brel alphabet.
  - Main obstacles: housing is expensive /hard to find affordable house rentals; inflation /life is highly expensive; high costs of traveling; high entrance fees for museums (decision makers should provide museum card, cinema card, etc which enables low cost or free access; poor infrastructure of the campus needs renovations
2. How can we enhance collaboration and engagement among stakeholders in managing community spaces?
  - Fundings provided by the government; volunteers; communities or youth centers, better and faster communication could be enabled via chat rooms, etc.; exchange of ideas via apps like jamboard or social media; youngsters should be involved in any kind of decision making bodies, especially local administrations.
3. What innovative tools and technologies can improve the operation of community spaces?
  - Creating a social beneficiary app; we need a solution to costliness of goods and services; an app providing discounts on purchases for food and basic needs; communicative skills of the youth should be improved; facilities providing free internet access while enabling more socialization; social activities; public transportation modes needs to be integrated such as bicycles on buses. And fees are high; book reading competition via dedicated apps; the money received through recycled waste should be given to to the consumer; apps, chipped cards, or qr codes which help find discounts on transport, food,etc.; an app which provides info about maps, houses for rent, job opportunities, etc
4. How can we evaluate and measure the impact of community spaces on youth development?
  - Via surveys; raising societal awareness; trying to find out how one would like to exist in the society; surveys via social media, or in person surveys; discussions with the youngsters on relevant issues.



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- *Recommendations from Participants:*

1. Address the concern about limited meal choices by offering both lunch and dinner options in campus facilities.
2. Collaborate with local authorities to find affordable housing solutions for students.
3. Negotiate with museums and theaters for special student discounts or cards, lowering or eliminating entry fees.
4. Advocate for renovation and modernization of campus facilities to enhance the learning environment.
5. Increase the representation of young people in local administrative bodies for more youth-centric decision-making.
6. Work towards integrating more public transportation options like bike-friendly buses and reduced fares for students.
7. Encourage recycling programs where proceeds benefit the students, promoting environmental responsibility and community engagement.





- *The organizer:* **Centro Fonti San Lorenzo, Italy**
- *Date and place of the activity:* **28<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, Recanati, Passepartout bookshop**
- *Number of participants:* **11**

We have realized the world cafe during an extra session of the “linguistic tandem” activity, that usually involve many youngsters, where we have invited also youth workers and local policy makers.

The main topics discussed included need for cultural events, presence of games, space to discuss with peers, fewer consumption spaces and more socio-cultural spaces. Participants shared the need to have a safe space to express oneself without feeling judged. To broaden the collaboration and engagement of stakeholders, it was suggested to create participatory paths to highlight the needs of stakeholders and to make them protagonists in the management of community spaces. It was then suggested to hold sharing meetings on the social objectives of the association and the spaces managed, as well as on new projects, in particular ASK (Art, social, Kitchen).

Among the proposals for innovative tools, it was proposed to make a mailbox to be placed in the most frequented streets by young people to collect their suggestions and proposals on things to create in the city. It would then be interesting to give feedback on the proposals received on the association's social media anonymously.

As regards measuring the impact of community spaces, participants expressed interest in statistical surveys of how the well-being and needs of young people change in places where these youth spaces do not exist. In any case, the importance of the presence of spaces like Fonti can be seen in the long term, with the change of generation and in listening to how this has changed their lives.



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- *Recommendations from Participants:*

1. Increase the number of cultural activities like concerts and crime dinners.
2. Provide more games such as board games, ping pong, and table football.
3. Create spaces for socializing and discussions, focusing less on consumption and more on cultural engagement.
4. Establish safe spaces for open and non-judgmental expression.
5. Develop participatory paths for stakeholder involvement in managing community spaces.
6. Organize meetings to discuss social objectives and new projects, like ASK (Art, Social, Kitchen).
7. Implement a mailbox in popular areas for youth to submit suggestions and provide feedback on social media.
8. Conduct statistical surveys to understand the well-being and needs of youth in areas without community spaces, observing long-term generational changes.





- The organizer: **Euro Jugend, Germany**
- Date and place of the activity: **7<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, Aachen, Germany**
- Number of participants: **16**

The World Café event organized by Euro Jugend on September 7, 2023, in Aachen, Germany, was a dynamic gathering aimed at discussing and formulating recommendations for Youth Space Management and youth involvement. With 16 participants, the session focused on engaging young people in a meaningful conversation about how they envision their ideal community space. It provided a platform for youth to voice their needs and preferences, ensuring that the management of youth spaces aligns with their interests and aspirations.

- *Recommendations from Participants:*

1. Enhance visibility and engagement by actively promoting activities on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. This could involve sharing weekly updates on upcoming events, highlighting special interest group activities, and featuring user-generated content from the youth participants. Regular posts showcasing the vibrancy and diversity of activities would help to attract more participants, create a sense of community online, increase engagement and provide a direct line of communication with the youth.
2. Expand on the existing groups for climbing, sewing, circus, theater, and cooking, ensuring diverse options for all participants.
3. Empower youth to have a say in determining the activities and programs, fostering ownership and engagement.
4. Strengthen programs like Radio Ragazzi, providing opportunities for young people to develop skills in media and communication.



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