



Citizens, Equality,  
Rights and Values  
programme



# Town twinning meeting

CERV Programme

## Culture is richness

Arrival date: 02th NOVEMBER 2023

Departure date: 05th NOVEMBER 2023

Venue: VERBANIA, Piedmont region – Italy

### Infosheet PART I – General information

#### *The project*

#### *The themes approached were:*

young people

Eu

[identityhttps://www.comune.verbania.it/Documenti-e-dati/Documenti-tecnici-di-suppoto/Culture-is-richness](https://www.comune.verbania.it/Documenti-e-dati/Documenti-tecnici-di-suppoto/Culture-is-richness)

European citizenship and democratic participation

Youth future

Creativity

Cultural diversity

European community and its future

#### *Project summary*

**"Culture is richness" is promoted by the Municipalities of Verbania and Mindheleim.**

#### *The main aims of the youth exchange are:*

The workshop and seminars used non formal education methods to reach the aims.  
A wide set of interactive sessions was promoted:

- thematic workshops
- creative work - meetings
- brainstorming
- team works
- round tables and debates
- guided visit to hosting town Verbania

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project brought together citizens from two very successful municipalities Verbania from Italy and Mindelheim from Germany, giving them the opportunity to discover their cultural diversity and remind them that European values and cultural heritage are the foundation of a common future, to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship. to their citizens and to encourage cooperation between them and the exchange of examples of good practice. Gathering citizens of different nationalities who participated in joint activities was effective to raise awareness of the richness of culture and languages in Europe, which was the primary priority of the project and oriented the discussions on what kind of Europe we want as European citizens from Italy and Germany.

The project organized a three-day international conference "European future through friendships at the local level" in the town of Verbania, Italy, the Municipality of Verbania. The conference resulted in bringing together 56 guest participants from Germany, the city of Mindelheim and 94 local citizens. There were a **total of 150 direct participants in the event. The project gathered 2 partners from 2 EU member states: Italy and Germany. 15,000 citizens indirectly benefited from this Project.** Within the Conference, the project organized a panel discussion: "European identity as we see it" where participants, representatives of different cultures and communities establish democratic dialogue and common relations.

The debate about the Future of Europe and the new generations gave participants the opportunity to discuss how to support European integration.

The discussion was based on concrete achievements of the EU and scientific lessons from history, as well as on trends that call into question its achievements. Within the Conference, some round tables are held on the following topics: exchange of experiences of young people in volunteering and active participation programs, lifelong learning toward better living conditions and young people as active citizens of the community.

### *Participants:*

We had a total number **56 Germans and 94 Italian** participants supported from the sending and hosting organizations. Participants were aged from 18 years old to any age. Medium average age was at around 18-19 years old.

### VENUE

The project venue was the Verbania Province, Piedmont region (Italy).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verbania>

### COUNTRIES

Young people and youth workers from Italy and Germany participated in the project.

### TRAVEL

Travel was organized by bus.

TRAVEL & HEALTH INSURANCE coverage was activated for each participant.

The sending municipality was responsible for ensuring participants had adequate travel and medical insurance. For EU participants it was a must that you have the EU medical card or health insurance with them.

### *Local stakeholders involved from Italy:*

***Municipality of Verbania***

***Comitato Gemellaggio di Verbania***

***Local services in youth and intercultural field***

***Eurodesk Provincia del Verbano Cusio Ossola, Italy***

***Ufficio scolastico Provinciale di Verbania***

***Ngos***

***Associazione 21 Marzo***

***High schools***

***Iis Cobianchi di Verbania***

***Itc Ferrini Franzosini di Verbania***  
***Liceo Cavalieri di Verbania***  
***Coordinamento Provinciale Protezione civile Vco***

### ***Accommodation***

The project took place in Verbania, a medium scale town located in the Province of Verbania in the Italian region Piedmont, about 1,30 hours by train /car far from Milan city center.

Verbania is the most populous municipality and the capital city of the province of VerbanoCusio-Ossola in the Piedmont region of northwest Italy. Beautiful landscapes on the lake Maggiore. For more information about the Verbania municipality please visit the website:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verbania>

**The accommodation was provided by 2 options:**

**- hostel in Verbania - Al Centro guest house**

Via alle fabbriche, 8 – Verbania (VB)

Click here and you'll have some more info about the accommodation

<https://alcentro.it/>

**- accommodation in hosting families**

Accommodation and meals for the duration of the mobility program are fully covered.

### ***PART III Program – overall view***

The events and the workshops of the International town Twinning meeting

Verbania Mindheilm were included in the Time To Move 2023 Campaign managed by Eurodesk network.

<https://timetomove.eurodesk.eu/it/>

Workshops allowed the following topics: transnational mobility for life learning, European citizenship, volunteering and youth participation.

### **Daily Program**

#### **THURSDAY – 2th of November**

**Welcome ceremony, welcome party**

#### **FRIDAY - 3th November**

##### **MORNING - ACTIVITIES AT Eu lifelong learning system**

Ice breakers games and Games to know each other

Creative contest "Europe at school, Eu lifelong learning system in Europe"

***1st ice breaker game – It's me!***

***2nd GAME ICE BREAKER speed date***

***3rd CREATIVE CONTEST "Europe at school, Eu lifelong learning system in Europe"***

The contest asks young people to describe and to represent in images how they feel as Eu citizens and the Eu lifelong learning systems they would like in today's Europe... What are the key factors of the ideal education system able to promote the well-being and personal/professional growth of young learners? How to promote student inclusion? and what sort of key skills should the European education system and educational experiences provide to young learners, towards better job integration prospects after graduation?

##### **FRIDAY AFTERNOON – European Treasure hunt**

The aim of the Treasure Hunt was to allow participants to get to know the host city of Verbania and learn more about European and local culture, as well as about mobility opportunities in Europe in a fun way.

**SATURDAY - 4th November**

**MORNING – EU PROJECT DESIGN GYM**

- Presentation for young people
- What is Eurodesk – Eurodesk in Europe
  - Opportunities for young people toward european mobility, active citizenship and intercultural learning:

It's your turn: design your own ideal Eu project - working groups.

Plenary session & Conclusions

**AFTERNOON – GUIDED VISITS AND OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:  
MULTIPLE PROPOSALS IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM, CULTURE, CONNECTION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY  
EVENING – meeting and visit to the youth center –Music & party**

**DISSEMINATION**

Dissemination is a very important aspect of all European projects within the Cerv program, as it increases the visibility and impact of a project by providing an opportunity to share outcomes with a wider audience. Following we report about the results of the multiple sessions of intercultural confrontation held during the seminar. In the described framework this report can be conceived as a tool to support the dissemination of the project results and outcomes.

**CREATIVE CONTEST “Europe at school, Eu lifelong learning system in Europe” - Session 1**  
**Results and findings from the session**

This activity was aimed at providing the twinning participants with the chance to work in international team, consisting of German and Italian learners, with the possibility to share and compare your experiences in the Eu lifelong learning systemworld, looking for similarities and differences between the Italian and the German educational system in the framework of the European educational system and in a lifelong learning perspective. Participants were asked to share their experiences and try to find out some strength elements toward the best Eu lifelong learning system/ lifelong learning model in Europe, able to support them, as European citizens, able to study, volunteer and work in any Eu country. The activity was supported by a series of guiding questions that participants could use to help them to confront their experiences with the ones of your peer age from Germany or Italy.

<u>Learning paths</u>	<u>Participation</u>
- What are the teaching methods? (theoretical lessons vs more interactive sessions) - How interesting is it? How challenging is your Eu lifelong learning systems experience? - How much and how is training mobility facilitated or supported in your school? (e.g., are European projects such as Erasmus+ or other organized?)	Is there any extracurricular project and/or leisure time activity organized by the Eu lifelong learning systems within the school? - Is there any form of student representation and participation in your school? - How much and how are parents involved in the key decisions regarding your school? - How much and how is the Eu lifelong learning systems networked with associations, groups, private bodies and/or local community services?

	- How much and how does the Eu lifelong learning system supports any youth initiative about active and European citizenship, as well as democratic participation of learners?
<u><b>Learners and psycho-physical wellbeing inclusion:</b></u> - Is there any sort of support service for the psychological and physical wellbeing of young people (e.g., psychological consultancy desks?) -In your experience, does the phenomenon of bullying still exist at school, or are there other ways of exclusion or discrimination? - How much and how is the Eu lifelong learning systems inclusive?	<u><b>Evaluation, certification of skills:</b></u> - What is the skills assessment and certification system adopted by your school?

**Guiding questions**

Reports on the results after comparing the educational systems in Germany and in Italy within the European educational system framework and in a long term perspective strengths, weaknesses and opportunities SECTIONS of the matrix below with the results of your confrontations!

*SWOT Analysis?*

<b>SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.</b>	
<b>Strengths.....</b>	<b>Weaknesses...</b>
<b>Opportunities.....</b>	

<b>&amp; any other question that looks interesting to you!</b>	
<p>GERMANY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-no phones</li> <li>-afternoon lesson</li> <li>-breaks throughout the whole year</li> </ul>	<p>ITALY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shouldn't use phones</li> <li>-not common afternoon lessons</li> <li>-long summer break</li> </ul>

## SWOT Analysis?

**SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.**

### Strengths.....GERMAN (PRO)

- keine Hausaufgaben
- no Nachkuttage
- 30 minuten Pause
- <sup>nur</sup> Schreiben Text
- ~~Prinzip~~ Prinzip
- Prinzip "kostenfrei"
- don't pay

### Weaknesses...

- ITALIAN SCHOOL (CONTR)
- less free time
- a lot of homework
- a lot of texts during the week
- DEUTSCHE SCHOOL (CONTR)
- Grossen Klassen

### Opportunities.....

- 1-6 Notem
- Esabac

## CREATIVE CONTEST Session 2

### "The Eu lifelong learning system we want in Europe: visions of European youth"

Learners were Divided in teams consisting of 07 people, both German and Italian, the groups had to create a VISUAL /MULTIMEDIA PROJECT (PHOTO, VIDEO, PAINTING., POSTER WITH INFO GRAPHICS) .. **based on the track below: "Through your creativity and imagination, describe and represent the lifelong learning system you would like today, drawing inspiration from one or more of the following themes:**

- **Well-being and health.**
- **Inclusion of all learners.**

Participation and representation of learners within the European Union (How should the Eu lifelong learning system help you to make full use of your rights as an European citizen such as living, studying, working, and volunteering in Europe?).

- **Training system and structure of the Eu lifelong learning system**(courses, programs, and projects), learning key skills in the Eu lifelong learning system for better socio-economic integration into the working world."

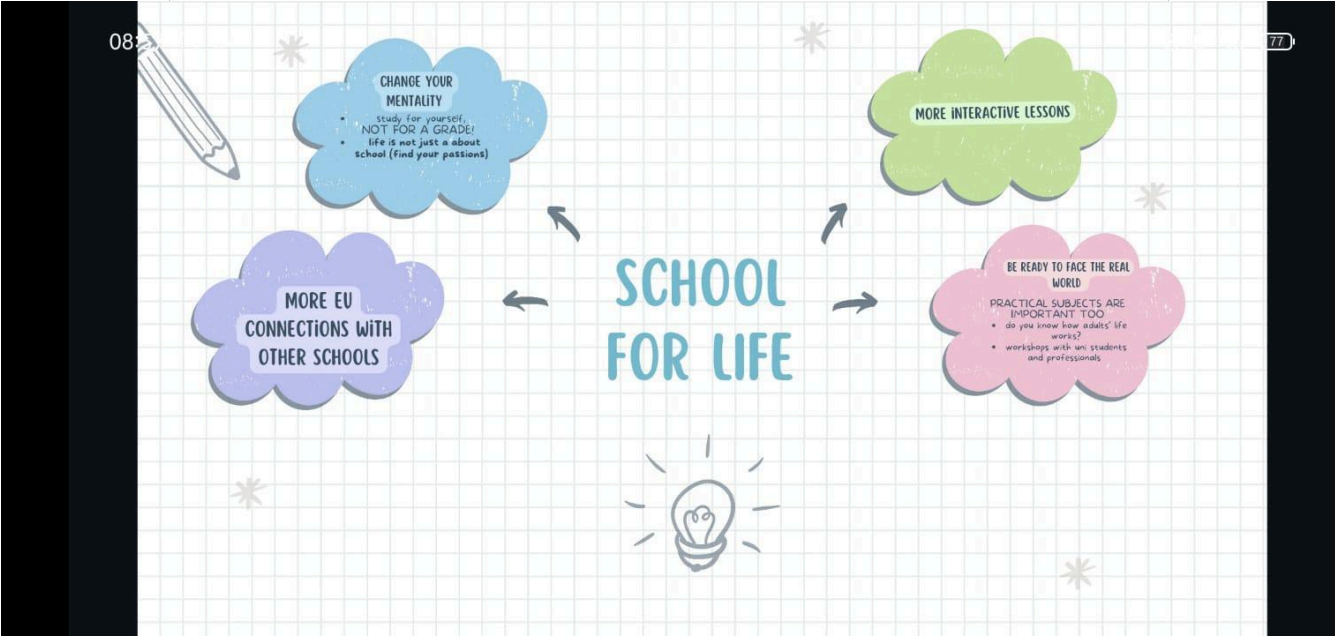
*The visual project could be a visual creation (a photograph, a painting, a drawing, a collage ecc...) accompanied by a short text in English to give a background explanation of the image.*

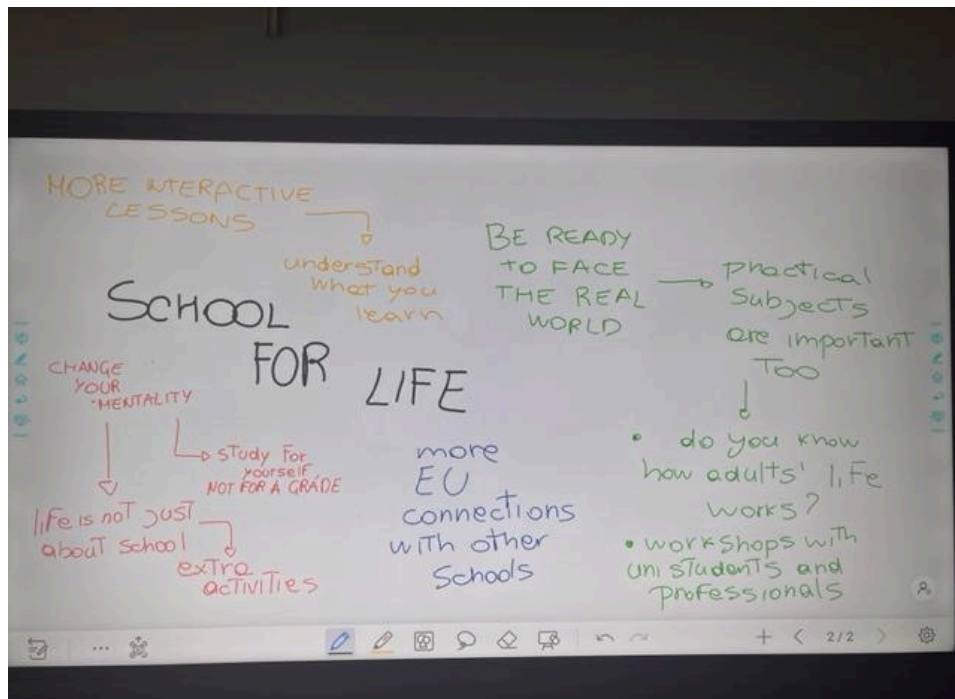
Results and findings from the session: visuals representing the ideal Eu lifelong learning system

Everyone is different and has different strengths, the focus should be more on individual education so that students can excel in their respective areas.



“School is about students”





**Team name: Eurovision**

Sara Millo, Saffa Nasredine, Oriana Perucchini, Rita ferrari, Valentina Moni, Chiara Varveri Jessica landthaler, Erica Stocco, Zain Shaker

**Title: Eurovision**

**Explanation:** we decided to draw a school representing the idea of our dream school with our dreams and possibilities to make the school a better and enjoyable place for every student, allowing students to learn something new everyday.

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## Team name: Choose 4 your future

Sofia Onorato, Giorgia Albertini, Giada Lucerna, Victoria Bremer, Noortje Kleisen, Manuel Nehring, Alessia Pianezzoli

## Title: Choose 4 your future

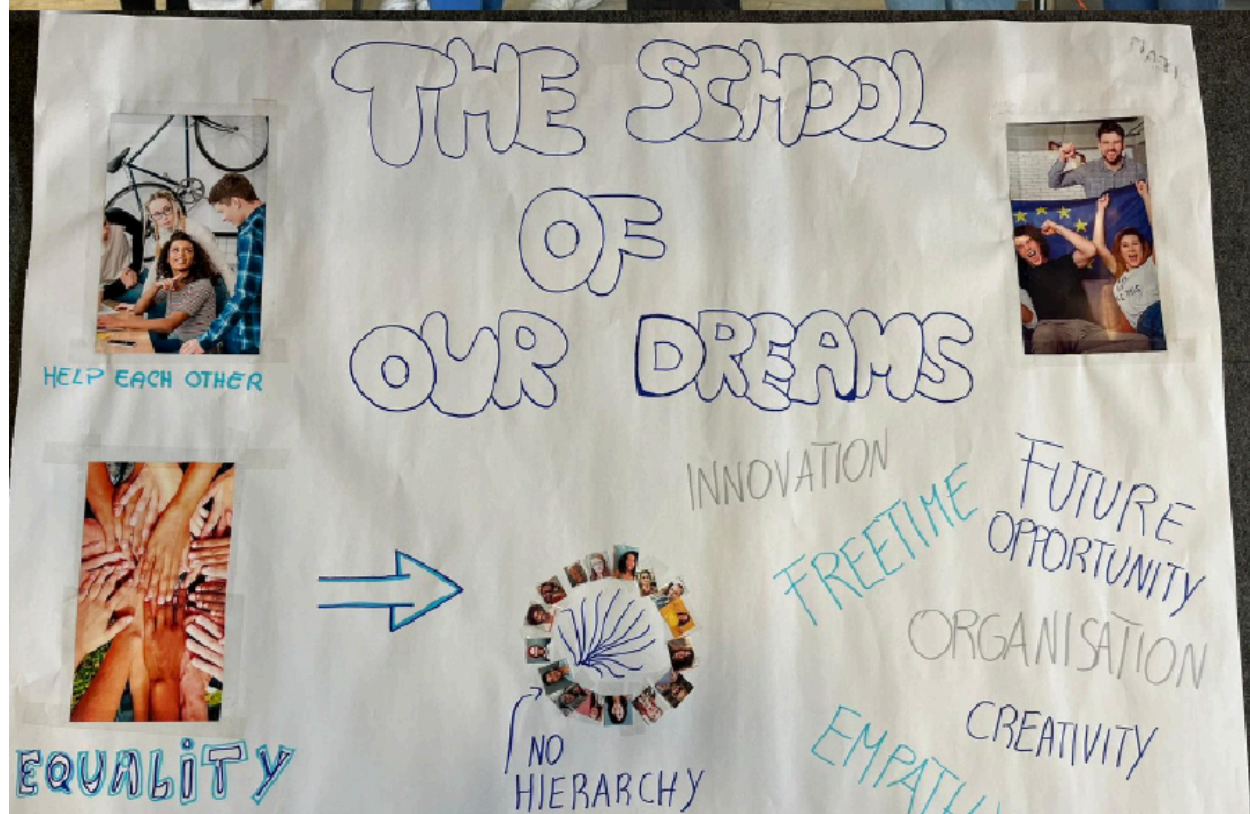
**Explanation:** in our dream school different factors play an important role like relationships, subjects, projects and free time. With relationships we mean relationships between classmates and teachers: everybody has to be friendly, helpful and respectful. Moreover not only working on your own but also working in groups would be great to get more ideas. It also would be great to have native speakers as language teachers. We would like to choose specific subjects so we can learn things more close to our interests. Moreover we don't want lessons in the afternoon because everybody is already exhausted and not really able to memorize concepts. It would be great to have the opportunities to do internships in companies we can choose. Finally we would like to have more projects like Erasmus projects and more trips with the school to different places. We would like to have more clubs for people with different interests, like music, photo, sports, acting . A good balance between school and freetime it is important, so it would be good to have less homeworks.



**Team name: Dream school**

**Title: No one is superior to anyone**

**Explanation:** we want an innovative European school and lifelong learning chances with no hierarchy, with more interactive lessons, more connected with the labor market, with more free time, with more organization.

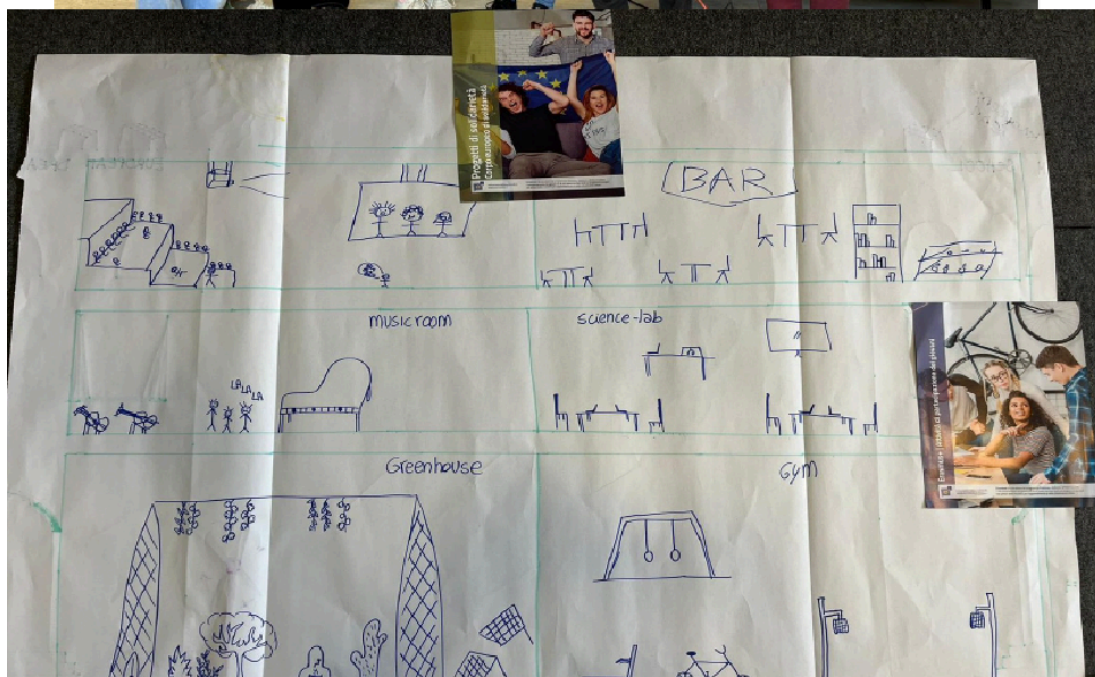


**Team name: Knowledge wall**

Lucia Lori, Melis Messner, Kostanze Richter, Petra Salger, Chiara Villabruna, Alessio Ferrari  
Leonardo Cultrera

**Explanations:**

Our project is an eco school with different floors and different rooms dedicated to labs or to competences. There are columns: music labs, sciences and chemistry labs, informatic labs but also a greenhouse to stay in touch with nature.



**Team name: The European school**

**Title: Better together**

**Explanation:** In our dream school teachers help the students to grow by providing them with all what they need to grow like when cultivating the plants, specifically: motivation, freedom, imagination, culture, independence.







**Outcome: results from the Session about needs and project ideas on topics such as training mobility, inclusion, participation, culture. Results of the project design “gym “ activity**

Each group had the task of planning a project idea, starting from a problem actually felt in its own territory, transforming the problem into an objective, identifying a target and planning the activities that allow the objective to be achieved.

Working groups were aimed at jointly developing some project ideas, finding out some common interests connecting Italian and German participants, objectives and priorities between participants from the two countries on the following topics: learning mobility, inclusion, participation and culture.

The discussion took place on topics of common interest that connect the participants from Italy and Germany, and around which the kids want to discuss. The discussion started from the comparison of the previous experiences gained abroad or in an intercultural framework, in the view of helping the young people to share experiences as well as to help them to decide whether they want to organize a European group cultural exchange or an international volunteering project. The participants were thus helped to discuss the issues of volunteering and European citizenship. Furthermore, discussion was stimulated on the type of target of young people from Germany and Italy to be involved in any projects activated as a development and follow-up action resulting from the town twinning.

We thus attempted to identify the type of target to be involved by asking to the participants the following sub-questions:

What type of young people do you think can participate more frequently/ or is / are more interested in participating in intercultural comparison opportunities / in your opinion is there any

type of target for young people who have less ease/possibility of accessing opportunities for European citizenship, volunteering abroad or intercultural learning. Specific attention was devoted to thinking about inclusion objectives for young people with fewer opportunities so as to include them to access intercultural education, and in order to bring them closer to the available chances for European training mobility and volunteering programs abroad.

The young people also discussed about the main barriers to European mobility encountered by young people in their area. Another topic addressed was that of lifelong learning, analyzing what the participants believe they can learn thanks to cultural exchange experiences or volunteering abroad. It was thus highlighted what changes could be generated at an individual and group level in the participants involved in a cultural exchange, volunteering or democratic participation project for young people from different countries.

The final aim was to highlight what changes we would like to generate in the communities of the two cities involved in the twinning, giving value to the presence of young people from another country as a resource to help in raising public awareness of the respective cities on intercultural issues, as well as on the value of cultural diversity and European citizenship. The results of the comparison were translated by each working group into the clear identification of European project ideas, with the definition of objectives and the changes they would like to produce in themselves, in the group of young people and in the community participating in the exchange.

The project ideas were developed by the working groups also with the definition of priority themes of interest, types of activities to be organized within the respective projects, opportunities and ideas for extending the impacts of the project even beyond the targets of the direct protagonists, also including young people who do not directly participate in the initiatives.

Furthermore, the project ideas were defined and described by the working groups also in terms of the final event of the projects, which can be activated in order to actively involve the community stakeholders from Italy and Germany.

Finally, the participants confronted which entities, both at a local and both at national or European level, could support the implementation of their project ideas (supply of funds, equipment, skills, thus identifying any local, national or European partners who they intend to be involved in supporting the them emerged project ideas).

### **Output: descriptive sheets of the project ideas developed by the working groups of mixed nationalities**

#### **Conclusions**

Main project ideas emerged from the activities are referred to youth exchanges focused on the following topics: green, inclusion, digital, culture.

The proposed activities have as a key and main common element the possibility to use the art, and creativity as strategic resources so as to overcome the language and cultural barriers connected to diversity from Italy and Germany. All projects give value to intercultural learning and the use of formal education methods and practices. Projects ideas are generally aimed at valuing the youth ideas and proposals toward social innovation impacts applied to multiple issues with special regard to digital and green transition and the inclusion of disadvantaged targets. Expected impacts are also referred to the respective local communities from Italy and German in the view to increase awareness about cultural diversity.