

ERASUMS +

**YOUTH  
TACKLING  
RACISM**



SMALL SCALE  
PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

**“YOUTH TACKLING RACISM  
ERASMUS + SMALL SCALE PARTNERSHIP  
PROJECT”**

**December 2023  
– July 2024**

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# INDEX

**INTRODUCTION** 04

## **CHAPTER 1**

1.1 OBJECT AND AIM OF THE PROJECT 05

## **CHAPTER 2**

2.1 PRESENTATION OF THE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS 06

2.1.1 SOCIETA COOPERATIVE SOCIALE DAMARE

2.1.2 BALKAN SOCIAL INTEGRATION CENTRE

2.1.3 BAUHAUS CAFE IRELAND

2.1.4 ILK SEN OL GENCLIK HAREKETI DERNEGI

## **CHAPTER 3**

3.1 ITALY 12

3.2 BULGARIA

3.3 IRELAND

3.4 TURKIYE

## **CHAPTER 4**

PARTICIPANT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
TO WORK WITH PEOPLE FROM MIGRANT AND  
REFUGEE BACKGROUND 20

**Conclusion** 22

**Links** 23



# INTRODUCTION



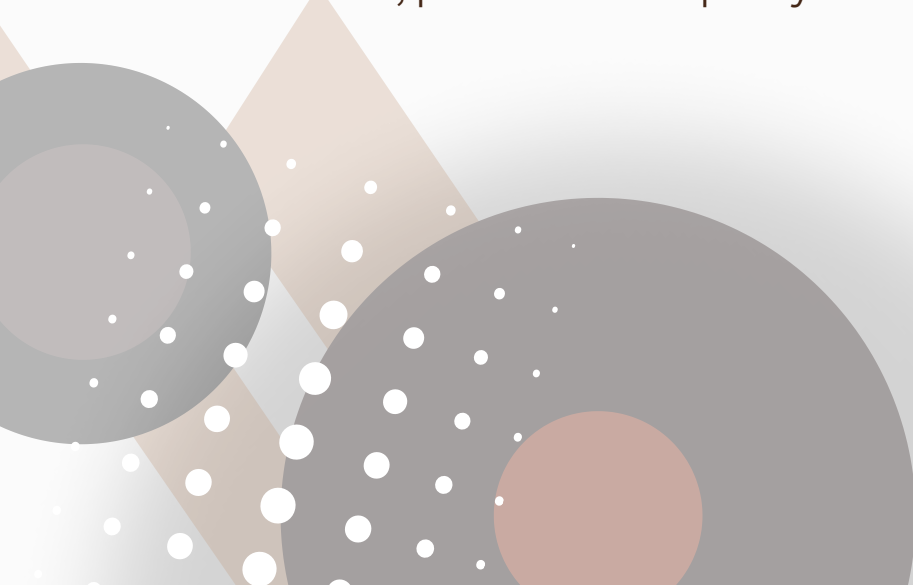
“**Youth Tackling Racism**” is a small-scale partnership project, co-financed by the European Commission under the Erasmus + program – key action 2. The application was submitted in March 2023 session by the organization “**Cooperativa Damare**”, located in Mondragone (Italy).

The partnership was also composed by:

- **BSI centre** (Bulgaria)
- **Bauhaus Cafè** (Ireland)
- **Ilk Sen Ol Genklic Hareketi Dernegi** (Turkiye).

The project starts in January 2024 and ends in July 2024. Five meetings are planned, including the initial and final one in Italy and then a meeting for each country involved. Two members from each participating organization participate in these meetings. The first 4 meetings aimed to exchange good practices while the last one had the aim of producing this booklet.

The main topic is the exchange of good practices regarding the following areas:

- Reception and integration of refugees and migrants;
  - Prevention of racism and discrimination;
  - Inclusion, promotion of equality and non-discrimination
- 

# CHAPTER 1



## ● 1.1 OBJECT AND AIM OF THE PROJECT

The goal we set out to achieve, through this project is to increase the capacity of organizations involved, in designing effective activities to promote the inclusion of individuals with a migratory background.


Also, thanks to this increase in capacity in organizations, we have set ourselves the goal of encouraging the inclusion of individuals with backgrounds migratory from a social, academic and working point of view.

Furthermore, we wanted to promote the value of diversity and of inclusion in the countries of origin of the organizations and in the European context.

These objectives connect to the theme previously described because they directly favour the inclusion of migrants and refugees by helping organizations to develop better inclusion skills.

Moreover, the activities developed also targeted the local population. In this way we went to combat phenomena of racism and discrimination.

Finally, one of the general objectives was to promote equality.



# CHAPTER 2

## ● 2.1 PRESENTATION OF THE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

### ● 2.1.1 SOCIETÀ COOPERATIVE SOCIALE DAMARE



The Cooperative sees its birth, thanks to the beginning of the experimentation of a social-health activity with what was previously called ASL CE2, then incorporated into the ASL CE.

**Individualized Therapeutic Rehabilitation Projects** (PTRI) supported by Health Budgets are a method of providing social and health services at the macro- level “Territorial, outpatient and home assistance” for the micro-levels:

- I Scheduled assistance at home
- II Health or social health activities in favor of people with psychiatric problems and/or families
- III Health and social care activities in favor of drug addicts and/or families
- VI Health and social health activities in the context of rehabilitation programs in favor of physically, mentally and sensory disabled people.

PTRIs are individual enabling courses in the areas of learning/sociability/affection, training/work, home/social habitat and represent a model of social and health policy which, by profoundly changing the relationship between institutions.

The quality management system of  
**“DAMARE Società Cooperativa Sociale Onlus”** has the  
**UNI EN ISO 9001.2015** and the **UNIEN ISCO 14001:2015** Quality  
Certifications, with the following scope:

- Management of residential and semi-residential facilities for the elderly, disabled people, minors, migrants and psychiatric subjects.
- Design and provision of social-health and social-welfare services for the elderly, disabled people, minors, migrants and psychiatric subjects in home care.
- Tutoring and play-creative activities for minors.
- Social agriculture (social farms and social gardens).
- Provision of social transport services for disadvantaged people.
- Management of youth information desks, libraries and media libraries.

Organization’s target group is formed by citizens in conditions of fragility and/or non self-sufficiency concomitant with or resulting from psychic or physical pathologies or states of serious risk and vulnerability such as migration, which require individual projects characterized by the inseparability of health and social interventions, starting from needs with a prevalence of health and social expression.

Our work aims to help minors and adults with migratory background.

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine we’ve been hosting Ukrainian refugees.

## ● 2.1.2 BALKAN SOCIAL-INTEGRATION CENTRE



The “**Balkan social-integration centre**” (BSI centre) is an organization based in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The main activities of the the BSI centre are focused on integration and social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

The organization also conduct activities that empower and support the development of common human and cultural values, as well as the education, the arts and the free medias.

All activities of the BSI centre are focused on enhancing the active participation in the society of societal groups with different backgrounds, as well as to affirm among them democratic and European values.

The BSI centre also has the goal to support talented students during their education, apprenticeship and career. The organization aims at implementing various projects for achieving its objectives. For this reason, BSI centre focus also on researches, networking and international cooperation.

The **Balkan Social-integration centre** is a newcomer to the Erasmus+ programme and the activities under Small-scale partnerships. One of the main approaches of BSI centre for achieving its objectives is through initiating international cooperation for implementing projects in various societal areas.

One of the general objectives of BSI centre is to contribute to social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Moreover, through its regular activities BSI centre aims at promoting the active participation in the democratic life of youth. In this sense, BSI centre will contribute for the active participation of youth through engaging them into providing equal opportunities in the society by opposing racism.

## ● 2.1.3 BAUHAUS CAFE IRELAND



“**Bauhaus Café Ireland**” is a community pop-up Café and art collective. It is also a non-governmental organization that volunteers to lead positive changes in society. It is organised and delivered by a group of young creatives and entrepreneurial individuals of all disciplines, who work together to create high-quality educational and artistic opportunities for the most vulnerable and excluded residents of the county.

We offer:

- Accredited and vocational educational opportunities Volunteering and work opportunities
- Local and international collaborations and exchanges Festivals (music, arts, dance and others)
- Arts Conferences
- Monthly events and exhibitions
- Live music sessions introducing local young and newly formed bands or musicians

***The aim of Bauhaus Café Ireland*** is to offer inclusive spaces in the community in which to meet, network, collaborate and produce work that is original, unique and uses local talent available.

We have worked with a group of young musicians and artists and create collaborative projects using creative medium to help raise their levels of motivation and aspirations. We have worked with young people who are creative and help them consider careers in the arts and creative industries. We have advised them about routes and industries available to them, teach them how to present their work, market and sell, how to choose agents, about copyright laws, social media marketing, online sales, promotion and fundraising. We also help them be more marketable and saleable by producing prints, postcards and glass-work if suitable. When young artists could not afford to present their work or hold exhibitions, we applied for funding on their behalf or help them personally, or by finding sponsors and donors.

## ● 2.1.4 ILK SEN OL GENK LIC HAREKETI DERNEGI



Our association focuses on reinforcing youth and increasing their participation in social and economic life. We believe that by providing youth with opportunities and sources, we may help them to develop their own potential, reach their aims, and meaningfully contribute to their society.

That's why we work on various projects that aim at supporting youth in different fields, such as education, teaching, employment, civil participation, and societal development.

These projects can range from hosting workshops and events to providing mentoring and support services to young people.

We are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of young people in our community and society as a whole.

In addition to direct programming, we also conduct advocacy work to support the importance of youth participation and empowerment in society.

Our association is an organization that has just researched and dealt with the issues of youth, employment and participation in social life. We recognize that this is a complex and multifaceted field, and we are excited to take the first steps to support and empower young people in our community. Although we are a new association, we have a dedicated team of members who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of young people and will work hard to learn, grow and be effective in our efforts.

We look forward to working with partners, experts and other organizations who can guide and support us on this journey to provide education, training and support services to help youth understand the issues and opportunities associated with employment and civic engagement.

As a new association, we understand that we have a lot to learn and a lot of work to do to make a meaningful impact in the lives of young people. But we are committed to making a positive difference in our community.

We believe that by raising awareness and advocating for policies and programs that support young people's development, we can create more opportunities for them to contribute and benefit society. We recognize that young people face many challenges in today's society, including limited access to education and employment opportunities, lack of civic participation and lack of representation in decision-making processes.

Our association aims to meet these challenges by providing young people with the tools, resources and support they need to overcome these barriers and navigate the world successfully.

We encourage young people to become active and engaged citizens, learn new skills and take advantage of the various opportunities we offer. We strive to empower young people to take charge of their own lives, set their own goals, and make a real difference in their communities and society as a whole.



# CHAPTER 3

## 3.1 ITALY

The first project meeting was held in January 2024. It followed several online meetings in which the partners exchanged ideas on content and organization. The meeting was coordinated by the lead organization, the **Cooperativa Damare**, and saw the presence of two representatives from each of the partner organizations.

On day 11 the participants were welcomed and seated in their rooms. The activities began on Friday 12 January and were held on the social farm “**La Giuggiola**” located in Mondragone, and managed by the **Damare cooperative**. The first morning was dedicated to deepening mutual understanding and better defining expectation regarding the project. The representatives of the organizations introduced themselves and presented the mission, experience and activity of their organization.



Subsequently, representatives of the **Damare coop** described their work dedicated to the inclusion of young people with a migratory background. In particular, the presentation concerned the description of work with unaccompanied foreign minors and the reception of Ukrainian refugees. In fact, the **Damare cooperative** manages several community homes that welcome foreign minors and accompany them on the path to integration into the Italian social, scholastic and working fabric. The young people are hosted in a second level reception community. Furthermore, the cooperative presented its work in the field of welcoming Ukrainians. This form of reception is part of the “**Accoglienza diffusa**” initiative, which is held at a national level. The cooperative is a partner of the Italian Ministry of the Interior in this initiative



In the afternoon we visited an important reality on the Domitian coast “**Il Faro International Baptist Church**”.

The group met the young pastor Danilo Bozza, who has been managing the church located in Castel Volturno (Caserta) for years.

This reality carries out important work in order to encourage the inclusion of the large population of African origin present on the Domitian coast. ***It was an important and deeply felt exchange.***

The next day we visited another important organization in **Castel Volturno**, the “**Centro Fernandez**” belonging to the Italian Caritas network. We met many migrants there who told us about their experience of inclusion in Italy and in the area of the Domitian coast.

Finally, before greeting the guests and making an appointment for the next meeting, we held an evaluation, follow up and feedback workshop.



# CHAPTER 3

## 3.2 BULGARIA

From February 8th to 11th, Bulgaria hosted a vibrant experience exchange meeting, organized by the **Balkan Social-Integration Centre** in Sofia. This two-day event brought together two staff members from each partner organization: Balkan Social-Integration Centre (Bulgaria), **Ilk sen OI** (Turkey), **Bauhaus Café** (Ireland), and **Cooperative Damare** (Italy). The Balkan Social-Integration Centre took care of all logistical arrangements, including accommodation, meals, and the training venue.

The training sessions, held on February 9th and 10th, took place at the **Higher Institute of Insurance and Finance (VUZF)**, a private economics university in Sofia known for its diverse student body, including many migrants from **Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran**. The choice of venue was intended to provide a thematic environment conducive to discussions about migration and integration.



On the first day, participants gained in-depth insights into the current situation of migrants in Bulgaria, exploring local policies and the challenges faced by migrants. An online session with **the Governor of the Silistra district**, home to the Balkan Social-Integration Centre, provided detailed information about local integration policies and allowed participants to ask questions. In the afternoon, the group visited one of Sofia's most well-known migrant neighborhoods, immersing themselves in various migrant cultures.



The second day featured a meeting with representatives from the **Bulgarian Council on Refugees and Migrants (BCRM)**, a prominent non-profit organization advocating for the protection, reception, and integration of refugees and migrants. BCRM works to enhance cooperation between state institutions and NGOs within the national asylum and migration policy framework. *Participants learned about the organization's activities and the challenges they encounter in migrant integration efforts.*



In addition to the formal sessions, participants enjoyed **tours of Sofia**, experiencing the rich cultural and historical tapestry of Bulgaria's capital.

# CHAPTER 3

## 3.3 IRELAND

Our meeting took place in the city of **Galway on Ireland's west coast** where we hosted participants from **Italy** and **Bulgaria**. The beginning of the project focused on the current climate of discrimination for migrants in Ireland. The first presentation focused on those who experience racism in Ireland including testimonies from ethnic minorities and migrants on their personal experiences of how they have been neglected or faced unfair treatment.

We then began to use a series of **workshops** throughout the project to understand our own unconscious biases and how this can affect our behavior and attitudes to those who face discrimination. Following this *we discussed the importance of advocacy when working with migrants*, this theme was further explored through a guest speaker from **Ireland's mental health recovery organization SHINE** who discussed the importance of inclusion and support for those facing prejudice.



We gained an understanding of the social issues and living conditions that refugees are subjected to in Ireland and discussed the **mental and physical impacts** this can have. Throughout our project we also incorporated visits to the city to experience Irish culture, including **live music, walk on the coast** and **local food**.

Learning about different organizations in Türkiye, Bulgaria and Italy has significantly helped in our work with migrants in Ireland. The variety of support that is provided from the organizations that we learned about provided a diverse learning experience.

In Türkiye we visited organizations such as the **Red Crescent** which provide aid and relief in areas of conflict or natural disasters but with organizations in Italy we learned about the importance of **community driven work** with migrants to provide wrap around support. Not only meeting basic needs but also mental health support and integration into new communities for migrants.



This project has taught us the importance of both wide scale and community support with an approach of multi disciplinary teams to provide wrap around support.

# CHAPTER 3

## 3.4 TURKIYE

As part of the project, we had guests from Italy, Ireland, and Bulgaria. Together with our guests, we studied the **social fabric in Turkey**, the fight against racism, and **methods to combat radicalization**. In this context, we visited some official institutions in Turkey.

In addition to official institutions, we had the opportunity to visit **non-governmental organizations, associations, and some foundations**.

During these meetings, we had the chance to see more detailed information about *the legal status of refugees in Turkey, their living conditions, social security issues, integration processes*, and related information. Our guests from abroad asked these institutions questions to obtain detailed information as part of the project.



We also had the opportunity to receive detailed answers to their questions. Discussions were held about the legal status of refugees and migrants in Turkey. Their problems, the racism they face, and similar issues were discussed in detail.

Apart from the meetings held as part of the project, various **social and cultural activities** were organized to enhance the relationships between the project teams. **Historical and cultural sites** in Istanbul, Turkey, were visited, food tastings from different cultures were conducted, and programs focused on entertainment culture were organized.



Our project was **successfully completed** without any issues. We produced some outputs as part of the project. Successful models from Bulgaria, Italy, Ireland, and Turkey were identified.

**The working methods and success of these models were examined.** Experience sharing was conducted between countries and institutions. Our findings were shared on our project's website and social media accounts. The booklet related to the project has also been added as a PDF document under the relevant project section on our website.

# CHAPTER 4



## PARTICIPANTS' REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO WORK WITH PEOPLE FROM MIGRANT AND REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS

One observation that we feel to share with whoever work with refugees is related to the importance of participating in a network. Through this project, we learned a lot of new activities from our partners and each one of them opened our mind on different features of the work with the migrants. So, our recommendation is to be in networks that work on the same topic. This is very enriching and can foster an organization's growth.

Moreover, we indicate the importance of working with small groups, according to the model of the widespread hospitality. It's more effective to work with many small dimension groups than with one large group.

*- Rocco, Davide (Coop Damare - Italy)*

Our recommendation to work with migrants is to include a creative dimension to the lives of the refugees/migrants in order to improve their mental health. Furthermore, creative dimension could be important also to improve their social inclusion and career prospects.

*- Zach, Grace (Bauhaus Cafè - Ireland)*



Within the scope of the project supported by the Italian national agency, we carried out activities in Italy, Ireland, Bulgaria, and Turkey. We explored how young people in these countries combat racism, which institutions fight racism through youth, ways to prevent racism, and how young people can work harmoniously together. In this context, we visited public institutions, non-governmental organizations, and youth groups working on these issues. We had the opportunity to see and discuss the methods young people use to help each other and combat racism. As Ilksenol Youth Movement Association, we observed what needs to be done for the integration processes of the many migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in our country to work harmoniously with young people. We identified the good practices and examples from the countries we visited to transfer to our country. In this context, we would like to thank the Italian team, especially Rocco and David, for managing the project smoothly and always supporting us. Thank you, Italian national agency and Damare team.

- *Murat, Ramiz (Ilk Sen Ol – Turkyie)*

The project contributed to the capacity building of “Balkan social-integration centre” in Bulgaria in the field of supporting migrants in their social integration. The staff members of the organization improved their skills in providing logistical support and social activities for integrating migrants into the host countries. “Balkan social-integration centre” also grew their network of partner organizations. The organization exchanged best practices in migrant integration with the other partner organizations and will apply the best methods for integration and support accordingly with the socio-economic specifics in Bulgaria. The end users- staff members of the partner organizations and people with migrant background will benefit from the project in the following ways:

Staff members improved their competences for supporting migrant integration

Staff members improved their networking opportunities

Partners developed new project ideas for future initiatives in the field of migrant integration

Migrants that participated in the project activities improved their communication and cultural skills

Migrants will feel the support of volunteers

Migrants would feel the tolerance of volunteers

Migrants will have access to more prepared staff members in the field of migrant integration

Recommendations for organizations working with people with migrant background:

Do a lot of network activities for organizations with similar aims and mission

Try to develop a community for supporting migrant integration in each partner country

Spend time with the migrants in their typical environment

Hear the migrants’ personal stories

Become responsible as an European citizen for supporting the equality of all cultures in your country.

- *Miroslav, Desislava (BSI centre – Bulgaria)*

# CONCLUSION

At the end of this project, we can say that it has enriched the people that participated.

As previously mentioned, the value of the project stands in the network that it allowed us to create. There is a solid relationship amongst all the partners. We think that the most important thing that we learned is the importance of the relations. People with migrant background usually come from adversities and difficulties. It is important for them to find people they can trust and rely on.

In our meetings, we agreed that an important dimension that walks together with social inclusion is mental health.

So, the partnership born in this project intend to follow up their collaboration with a new partnership project that will focus on mental health of people with migrant background.

We want to thank the European Commission, the Erasmus + program and the Agenziaitaliana per la Gioventù for the support.

# IMPORTANT LINKS

## FACEBOOK

[\*https://www.facebook.com/ilksenolgenclik\*](https://www.facebook.com/ilksenolgenclik)

[\*https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554773949589\*](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554773949589)

[\*https://www.facebook.com/BauhausCafelreland\*](https://www.facebook.com/BauhausCafelreland)

## INSTAGRAM

[\*https://www.instagram.com/ilksenolgenclik/\*](https://www.instagram.com/ilksenolgenclik/)

[\*https://www.instagram.com/bauhauscafecic/\*](https://www.instagram.com/bauhauscafecic/)



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