

Youth Democracy Summit “Solidarity and Inclusion” – Italy *Marineo, Palermo, 21 of April, 2026*

RECOMMENDATIONS¹

I. Context

The Youth Democracy Summit "Solidarity and Inclusion", organized within the framework of the EU-Childocracy project, took place on April 21, 2026, in the municipality of Marineo (Palermo), hosted at the historic Beccadelli Castle. Marineo was chosen as the ideal host location due to the strong, ongoing collaboration established with the local high school throughout the entire project. The summit brought together local high school classes alongside international delegations from partner organizations in Bulgaria and Greece, fostering a rich environment for intercultural dialogue and civic engagement.

Over the course of two intensive sessions, the participants were not merely an audience, but active contributors to the conversation on how solidarity and inclusion can serve as driving forces for democratic resilience and community cohesion. The discussions brought to light a generation of young people eager to bridge theoretical values with tangible civic actions. Rather than treating solidarity as a static concept, participants and keynote speakers framed it as a dynamic imperative encompassing cultural integration, disability rights, peer support, and active citizenship.

The dialogue underscored that local governance and educational institutions play a pivotal role in embedding inclusive values into the daily fabric of municipal and school life. Through key contributions from local administration, academic researchers, school leadership, and regional representatives, the summit highlighted successful models of social agriculture for migrant integration, anti-bullying awareness, and regional legal frameworks supporting a culture of peace and human rights.

Furthermore, interventions focused on disability rights emphasized that true inclusion goes beyond physical accessibility; it requires dismantling non-physical and socio-cultural barriers through specialized vocational training, assistive technology, and lifelong learning. Moreover, the interactive sessions spurred direct peer-to-peer discussions on peer discrimination, social responsibility, and youth empowerment.

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During the proceedings and interactive panels, participants synthesized these multi-level discussions into concrete ideas aimed at strengthening social inclusion, active citizenship, and human rights protection at both national and European levels.

II. Recommendations

Here are the specific recommendations summarized during the Youth Democracy Summit "Solidarity and Inclusion" in Marineo, Palermo, Italy:

National Level:

- 1. Institutionalization of social agriculture and community-based inclusion programs.**
National and regional policy frameworks should support and fund cooperative models between municipal administrations, universities, and local agricultural sectors. By integrating migrants, refugees, and marginalized individuals into sustainable farming practices, local communities can simultaneously promote ecological stewardship, economic independence, and civic solidarity.
- 2. School-based peer support and interactive anti-bullying protocols.**
Educational authorities must transition from traditional, top-down lectures to interactive, dialogue-driven educational formats within secondary schools. School curricula should formally incorporate structured peer-support programs, empathy-building modules, and student-led anti-bullying initiatives to guarantee safe, welcoming, and discriminatory-free learning environments.
- 3. Holistic empowerment frameworks for persons with disabilities.**
National legislation and funding must move beyond basic physical integration toward full empowerment and functional autonomy for individuals with physical, sensory, cognitive, and social disabilities. This requires long-term investment in specialized vocational training, state-of-the-art assistive technologies, and accessible lifelong learning pathways to ensure active labor market and civic participation.
- 4. Expansion of local and regional "Culture of Peace" legislation.**
Regional and national governments should adopt and fund legislative frameworks (modeled after initiatives such as Sicily's Legge Regionale n. 11/2019) that promote non-violence, intercultural dialogue, and human rights education. Municipalities should establish local Peace Charters (Carte della Pace) to serve as institutional anchors for anti-racism and international solidarity programs.

EU Level

- 1. EU-wide Charter for inclusive youth engagement in local governance.**
The European Union should establish structured mechanisms requiring local and regional authorities to incorporate youth-led advisory bodies into civic planning.

Drawing from project models like EU-Childocracy, these platforms must empower young people to participate directly in decision-making processes regarding social inclusion, diversity, and community welfare.

2. Standardization of assistive technology and vocational training standards across member states.

The EU should harmonize certification standards for inclusive vocational training and increase funding through European structural funds to guarantee equal access to adaptive technologies and specialized skills development for young people with disabilities across all Member States.

3. Intercultural Mediterranean & cross-border solidarity networks.

Building on the role of Southern and Eastern European regions as intercultural bridges, the EU should expand funding for youth exchanges, grassroots advocacy networks, and international delegation programs. These initiatives should specifically focus on migrant integration, peer discrimination, and sharing best practices in grassroots youth activism across EU borders.