

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	PRISM Impresa Sociale S.r.l.
PIC number:	947328191
Project name and acronym:	EU Childocracy — EU-CHILDOCRACY

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP14		
Event name:	Youth Democracy Summit “Solidarity and Inclusion” – Italy		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Marineo, Palermo, Italy		
Date(s):	21 st of April 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.prisonline.eu/		
Participants			
Female:	78		
Male:	59		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 Italy:	117		
From country 2 Greece:	15		
From country 3 Bulgaria:	5		
...			
Total number of participants:	137	From total number of countries:	3
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Preparatory phase Preparations for the "Solidarity and Inclusion" Summit officially kicked off in January, focusing on establishing the event's core framework, agenda, and logistical setup. During this initial phase, the team finalized the program and identified the key special guests to be invited. Strong local ties were leveraged by actively involving the Municipality of Marineo and the local high school, building upon the successful collaboration previously established during the EU-Childocracy project. In parallel, comprehensive logistical management was			

carried out to host the incoming international delegations, including student groups from Bulgarian and Greek partner organizations. This involved handling all travel and accommodation arrangements, selecting suitable venues, securing vendor quotes, and managing bookings for catering and overall event operations.

Implementation phase

The "Solidarity and Inclusion" Youth Democracy Summit took place on April 21, 2026, in the municipality of Marineo (Palermo). Marineo was chosen as the ideal host location due to the strong, ongoing collaboration established with the local high school throughout the entire duration of the EU-Childocracy project.

The summit brought together all the local high school classes involved in the project, alongside international delegations of participants sent by our partner organizations in Bulgaria and Greece. The morning session convened at the historic Beccadelli Castle, a venue selected to provide a suitable setting for the institutional guests in attendance.

Following standard administrative procedures, including participant registration and attendance tracking, the assembly was seated and the official proceedings of the summit commenced.

The summit was structured into two main sessions. The morning opened with a first panel featuring prominent institutional representatives: Alessandro Melillo, President of PRISM; Franco Ribaudo, Mayor of Marineo; Carlo Greco, Deputy Mayor of Marineo and Professor at the Department of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Palermo; and Elisa Inglima, Principal of the Marineo High School, who actively supported the EU Childocracy project from its inception. Following these presentations, participants enjoyed a networking coffee break featuring a selection of refreshments. The second session continued with key contributions from Antonino Zangara, representing the Sicilian Region, Roberto Pili, President of IERFOP ETS, and representatives from the international delegations, including members of the National Youth Forum of Bulgaria. To conclude the event, all attendees were offered a catering buffet lunch showcasing traditional Sicilian cuisine, providing a further opportunity for informal exchange and networking.

Keynote presentations and panel interventions

- Alessandro Melillo – President of PRISM Social Enterprise

Opening the panel discussions, Alessandro Melillo emphasized that solidarity must not be understood as a static concept, but rather as a dynamic, multifaceted imperative that extends across diverse societal spheres. He highlighted how solidarity encompasses cultural integration—particularly concerning migrants and refugees—as well as the full inclusion of persons with disabilities, youth empowerment, and equal opportunities. Melillo underscored PRISM's enduring institutional commitment to designing and executing European initiatives, such as EU-Childocracy, that translate abstract democratic principles into tangible social inclusion strategies, fostering cohesive, resilient, and non-discriminatory communities.

- Franco Ribaudo – Mayor of the Municipality of Marineo

Taking the floor, Franco Ribaudo addressed the crucial role of local governance in embedding solidarity within the daily fabric of municipal life. He outlined Marineo's active local policies aimed at migrant integration, social welfare assistance for individuals with disabilities, and support mechanisms for vulnerable households. Mayor Ribaudo stressed that the municipality actively prioritizes close institutional synergies with local educational facilities, particularly in launching joint anti-bullying awareness campaigns and youth involvement initiatives designed to guarantee a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for the younger generation.

- Carlo Greco – Deputy Mayor of Marineo and Professor at the University of Palermo

Professor Carlo Greco bridged municipal administration with academic research by illustrating how solidarity and inclusion can be operationalized through sustainable development and social agriculture. Drawing on initiatives co-managed by the Municipality of Marineo and the Department of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Palermo, Greco

detailed European-funded agricultural projects that actively incorporate migrants and marginalized individuals into local farming practices. He concluded with a call for active citizenship, offering practical recommendations on how daily inclusive behaviors and environmental stewardship reinforce civic solidarity.

- Elisa Inghima – Principal of Marineo High School

Principal Elisa Inghima expressed great satisfaction with the successful implementation of the EU-Childocracy project within her institution, noting its positive and visible impact on student engagement and civic awareness. In a memorable moment, Principal Inghima chose to leave the main podium to deliver an energetic, interactive presentation directly among the students. She engaged the audience with direct questions, turning her intervention into a dynamic dialogue centered on anti-bullying, empathy, and respect. Her lively approach urged students to internalize solidarity not merely as a theoretical value, but as a daily practice of peer support.

- Antonino Zangara – Representative of the Sicilian Region

Representing the Regional Government of Sicily, Antonino Zangara delivered a structured presentation on the Regional "Culture of Peace" initiative and the regional framework governing peace, non-violence, and international solidarity (Legge Regionale n. 11/2019). Zangara explained the core values of the region's Peace Charter (Carta della Pace), highlighting Sicily's historical and geopolitical vocation as a Mediterranean bridge for dialogue, anti-racism, human rights protection, and intercultural solidarity. His intervention underscored how regional policy actively backs educational and civic frameworks that promote non-violent conflict resolution and global citizenship.

- Prof. Roberto Pili – President of IERFOP ETS and Researcher

In a deeply impactful address, Prof. Roberto Pili approached the topics of inclusion and solidarity through the lens of disability rights, research, and functional autonomy. Drawing from his extensive research background and leadership at IERFOP ETS, Prof. Pili examined disability in all its expressions—physical, sensory, cognitive, and social. He emphasized that true inclusion requires removing non-physical and socio-cultural barriers through specialized vocational training, assistive technology, and lifelong learning. He urged institutions to move beyond simple integration toward a model of full empowerment and active participation for individuals with disabilities.

- International Delegation – National Youth Forum of Bulgaria

The panel concluded with a collaborative contribution from four delegates representing the National Youth Forum of Bulgaria. Drawing upon their direct field experience in youth activism and grassroots social initiatives, the delegates shared perspectives on how solidarity and inclusion are mobilized among young people across Eastern Europe. Rather than delivering a conventional lecture, the Bulgarian representatives structured their session around direct audience engagement, posing thought-provoking questions regarding peer discrimination, civic responsibility, and youth-led decision-making, thereby sparking an active exchange among the attending students.

Photos:



HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1	31/07/2026	N/A