

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	2 - Agorà Società Cooperativa Sociale (Agorà)
PIC number:	[918449254]
Project name and acronym:	Actions Supporting the Participation of Youth through Relevant Education in Europe — ASPYRE Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	7		
Event name:	Active Youth Forum - Italy		
Type:	training		
In situ/online:	<i>in-situ</i>		
Location:	Italy, Genova, Rapallo		
Date(s):	26-27 June 2025 22 October 2025 24 October 2025 27 October 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	http://agoracoop.it/progetti/aspire-europe/		
Participants			
Female:	38		
Male:	69		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 Italy:	99		
From country 2 Romania:	4		
From country 3 Bosnia and Herzegovina:	4		
...			
Total number of participants:	107	From total number of countries:	3
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The **Active Youth Forum (AYF) Italy** was held in **June** and **October 2025** in three different locations: “*Centro Giovani Fuoridabinari*” located in the municipality of Rapallo, Genova; “*Parco Gavoglio*” in Genova; High School “*Calvino*” in Genova. The Forum aimed to **train and mentor young people to engage meaningfully in democratic decision-making processes** (Objective 3).

The event focused on:

- Presentations and discussions on the Italian political scenario, to strengthen young people's **understanding of Italy's political system** and particularly the decision-making processes at Regional and Municipal level.
- Collective reflection and identification of the meanings, tools, and possibilities of **Participation and Political Action** at the local and individual levels from a youth perspective
- Hands-on workshops from the **ASPYPE EUROPE Toolkit (D3.1)**, including **problem mapping and finding your allies**. (applied solely in the formal settings i.e. High School and Centro Giovani)
- Inclusion of youth from **diverse backgrounds** (urban and rural, gender-diverse, second generation migrants youth, youth who showed deviant behaviours and disengaged youth).
- Establishing **Youth Advocacy Groups (YAGs)** as a direct outcome of the process.

Four Forum sessions were held:

- **Thursday and Friday, 26-27 June 2025**
- **Wednesday, 22 October, 2025**
- **Friday, 24 October 2025**
- **Monday 27 October 2025**

For this event, **Agorà** adopted a decentralized working model, engaging three different locations and implementing an outreach-based approach aimed at stimulating the development of youth advocacy groups in diverse contexts, including schools, open-access youth centers, and informal gathering places such as streets, parks, and squares. This strategy made it possible to involve young people from formal educational settings and more advantaged socio-economic backgrounds, as well as youth of predominantly second-generation migrant origin living in marginalized or “ghettoized” neighborhoods. It also reached young residents of Rapallo, a highly touristic district, where the strong contrast between affluent and low-income families is particularly visible, and where local policies and services have for years prioritized the needs of tourists over those of the resident population - especially young people. In such contexts, youth often face limited opportunities for socialization and participation, which can lead to various forms of disengagement and, in some cases, youth deviance. Participation in non-formal contexts has represented a significant challenge and required a long process of trust-building and mutual understanding. Nonetheless, some difficulties persist; for instance, several participants - particularly those with previous encounters with the law - still refuse to sign the official registration form of the ASPYPE EUROPE project.

The involvement of teachers and youth workers who had previously participated in the **Co-Creation Workshops (WP3)** helped motivate students to join the Forums while reinforcing the understanding and use of toolkit methodologies and activities in youth participation and activation.

Participants per target group

- Youth (16-24): 68
- Teachers, educators and youth workers: 39
- Decision-makers: 0
- Others / the general public: 0

Additionally, and not counted here, there was also a small group of participants who participated in the advocacy groups aged 15 years old (10 people).

Overview of activities

Activity 1: 26 - 27th of June 2026

The first Forum of the AYF Italy was inaugurated in the month of June, for the occasion partners representatives were invited to Genoa, (2 youth workers and 2 youth for each country). The mobility was strategic to show partner organisations the contexts of intervention and particularly street-workers techniques and contexts. After visiting key places of the street-working activities implemented daily by Agorà (Piazza Palermo square and Parco Gavoglio) the consortium moved to Rapallo for the First Forum. The two days activity was held in the Youth Association "Nassa", located in Rapallo (Genoa), a place that serves as a meeting point for local youth and a key space for socialization, creativity, and civic engagement. The event held there provided an opportunity to explore how young people experience life in Rapallo, with a particular focus on the challenges and opportunities related to youth participation in a medium-sized, tourism-oriented town.

- How is life in Rapallo? - Two youth workers from Romania and Bosnia and Herzegovina participated as *external observers*, deliberately taking on the role of curious outsiders. Their presence created a stimulating environment that motivated young participants to describe their everyday reality in Rapallo—how life feels for youth in the city, what opportunities are available, what is missing, and what changes they would like to see.
- Problem identification - helping the group articulate key local issues affecting young people.
- Ally-finding, municipal engagement, and approaching local institutions, including school as allies in reaching their own objectives.
- The session concluded with a short mentoring and leadership exercise, facilitated by the Romanian youth worker, aimed at strengthening participants' confidence and agency in leading local initiatives.

Activity 2: 17Th of October 2025 - Rapallo II round

After the meeting at the end of June, it was necessary to resume work, finalizing it towards building the advocacy groups. For this Forum Agorà involved the Youth Center 'Fuoridabinari', a place where youth from Rapallo gather in ludic and animation activities. This approach required waiting for the Youth Center to reopen after the end of summer and the start of the school year. On Friday, October 17th, the conditions were met with a larger group of young people - including the ones who participated in the first Forum - to redefine the themes and related strategies for the work.

The activity was organized as follows:

- Workshop and open discussion: How the decision-making at regional and municipal level works in Italy;
- Brainstorming on possible concrete actions that could be taken forward;
- Grouping and discussing the underlying problems and needs;
- Identifying possible operational strategies;
- Building the Advocacy Groups.
- Voting the representative for each advocacy group

Activity 3: 22nd of October 2025

All the participants of the 3rd Forum were students enrolled in the **High School 'Calvino'** - whose 4 professors participated in the co-creation event (D4.1). The collaboration with teachers from the high school demonstrated to be essential in order to activate a long-term process of voluntary participation and engagement of students. Discussion and training to set the Active Youth Forum began in May 2025 and culminated in the Active Youth Forum in October 2025.

- The first phase consisted of a presentation of the Italian political system, its decision-making processes and differences in national, regional and Municipal level.
- Followed a two-hour motivational and value-based activation session, which began with the sharing of situations that generate feelings of discomfort or frustration. Building on these reflections, group discussions were facilitated to identify common issues that could serve as starting points for actions aimed at positive change. (problem identification workshop)

- Finally, a second two-hour workshop was organized to define the concept and structure of *Advocacy Groups*, beginning with a discussion on the meaning of *political action*. After a collective reflection on some of the key dimensions that characterize political action—such as its transformative, collective, and visible nature—participants engaged in group work to identify specific themes around which they could begin to take action. This process ultimately laid the groundwork for the creation of two Advocacy Groups.

Activity 4 - 27th of October 2025 - Lagaccio and street-working techniques

The last Forum of the AYF Italy was held in public spaces, particularly Parco Gavoglio, where young people gather voluntarily. The recent opening of Parco Gavoglio (two years ago) has given back to the Lagaccio neighborhood of Genoa—an area long characterized by urban density and limited open spaces—large areas dedicated to socialization and play for all age groups. At the same time as its inauguration, a street education team began to regularly engage in the park's spaces in order to observe and connect with local youth and community dynamics.

Within this context, the ASPYRE Europe project was seen as an opportunity to support the creation of an interest group focused on specific issues related to life in the park. Working in a street-based context required the adoption of specific engagement methods, building both on the relationships already established by street educators and on the potential to attract new participants.

- An event was organized directly in the park, with the support of the Community Center located at its entrance, featuring a buffet open to everyone. This informal occasion provided an opportunity for several adolescents to engage in a structured dialogue with project facilitators, addressing the themes of participation and political legitimacy, and identifying topics that would serve as the foundation for the Advocacy Group dedicated to the park.
- Agorà's youth workers encouraged the participants to assess the problems and issues they face every day in the park, what they would like to change (problem identification & proposal)
- Later youth participants were mentored to identify the key stakeholders to talk and engage to in order to reach their objectives (the guardian of the park, the Association managing the Park activities, the Municipality).

Communication and Dissemination

Event 26-27 June

Website: [link](#)

Facebook: [link](#)

Indicators:

Like : 13

Views: 1095

Reach: 591

Event 17 October

Facebook: [link](#)

Like : 6

Views: 202

Reach: 128

Event 22 October

Facebook: [link](#)

Indicators:

Like : 7

Views: 443

Reach: 239

Event 27 October

Facebook: [link](#)

Like : 6

Views: 202

Reach:128

Gender sensitivity and non-discrimination

The event embodied a strong commitment to **gender sensitivity, inclusivity, and non-discrimination**, ensuring that all participants could take part meaningfully and safely.

However, among the youth engaged, only 14% identified as female. The low female participation is mainly due to the unpredictability of street work techniques and the logic of free participation. Even in the high school setting, students were given the freedom to decide whether or not to participate in the Forum.

Nevertheless, the results provided valuable insights and guided the next steps for the newly established advocacy groups, which aim to engage more participants in future advocacy activities, with a gender mindset, and in the upcoming engagement processes over the next few months.

On the other hand, the composition of the five advocacy groups reflected a balanced gender distribution. Of the five groups established, four are represented by participants who identify as female and who were democratically elected by their peers. All communication materials leading up to the event - such as invitations and registration forms - were written in **gender-sensitive language**, carefully avoiding stereotypes and ensuring respect for diverse gender identities.

Inclusion & Diversity

The Forums ensured that young people from a wide range of social, cultural, and personal backgrounds could participate meaningfully in the Forums. For instance,, three youth participants with disabilities were actively involved in the activities - the ones held in the High School. Furthermore, 37% of participants were second-generation migrants, reflecting the project's objectives to include youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and often excluded in participation and civic life. The decentralized approach adopted by Agorà—spanning schools, youth centers, and public spaces—proved instrumental in reaching both urban and rural youth, including those from marginalized neighborhoods and socio-economically disadvantaged contexts. The questionnaire distributed among participants underlined the voice of some youth, here is reported one significant contribution:

- “I would like to improve my neighborhood by removing architectural barriers to make it easier for people with disabilities to get around.”

Outcomes and Impact

Two surveys were conducted after each event:

- EU Survey on Justice, Rights, and Values
- Anonymous Feedback Survey

Main results from the feedback survey:

- Youth who reported an increase in Italian political system understanding: 90%
- Likelihood in future active engagement : 70%

In line with the Grant Agreement (DoA, Part B, Chapters 1 and 3), the Active Youth Forum in Italy contributed to:

Objective 3: To train and mentor youth with the capacity to meaningfully engage in democratic decision-making processes.

- Indicators:

1.1 Number of youth (16-24) engaged in ASPYRE Europe activities (reach: 68/ target: 400)

1.5 Number of youth advocacy groups established (reach: 5 / target: 4)

Final Reflections

The process of creating the AYF-IT in the three implementation settings — schools, open-access youth centers, and informal contexts — presented several challenges but also significant opportunities. The process, which began in June 2025 with the valuable socio-educational support of youth workers from both partner countries as well as youth groups, initially involved the informal setting of Parco Gavoglio and the open-access youth center *Girovagli*.

These environments revealed and demonstrated various difficulties in communication, engagement, and trust-building between youth workers and young participants. Youth participation in these contexts was spontaneous and informal, driven mainly by a sense of trust that was established only after a long process, culminating in October 2025.

Due to the informal nature of these settings, it was never possible to ensure consistent participation or attendance at scheduled meetings. Consequently, more sessions than initially planned had to be organized, often beyond single events, requiring the introduction of additional methods such as targeted mentoring and dedicated discussion spaces to foster trust and continuity.

On the other hand, the preparation and development of activities within the school context, specifically at *High School Calvino*, followed different logics and methodologies. Despite some difficulties, mainly linked to the strict bureaucratic constraints, the event achieved strong — though still spontaneous — participation. This setting also allowed for the design of activities more closely aligned with the AYF toolkit.

Across all three contexts, five well-structured Advocacy Groups were created. A high quality of engagement was observed, sometimes expressed only by a few members, yet these individuals have been carrying forward meaningful and concrete initiatives that hold the potential to significantly influence how young people experience and shape their own environments.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).