actionaid
REALIZZA IL CAMBIAMENTO

A.GI.RE

Engaging Young People Through Networks

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Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Family Policies	ActionAid Italia	Collina del Sole and El CHentro	Local associations, the Municipality of Reggio Calabria, and the Municipal District

Project objective

"We want to increase young people's participation and active citizenship in their local communities by building shared responsibility for addressing problems and supporting solutions."

Project summary

Working with its partners, ActionAid promoted a youth-led approach across every stage of the project. Participants helped design and deliver activities, which were therefore flexible by nature. Workshops covered writing, storytelling, journalism, digital education (including an online newspaper and web radio), and street art.

Participatory methods included cooperative and experiential learning, grounded in reflection on participants' own contexts and an action–reflection–action cycle, as well as peer education, which involved participants directly in creating and sharing knowledge with their peers.

Context analysis

The project areas face high levels of poverty and social exclusion, as well as barriers to accessing services. In Tor Bella Monaca, Municipality VI of Rome, an estimated 41% of families live in absolute poverty, 17.3% of residents have a migrant background, and the estimated school dropout rate is 15%. The area also lacks schools, recreational spaces, and places for cultural and leisure activities. El CHentro Social Centre is one of the few exceptions and has for years served as a point of reference in addressing social hardship and educational poverty. For the Arghillà district of Reggio Calabria, no estimates are available for the share of families living in absolute poverty, although the figure is considered substantial. Thirty per cent of residents have a migrant background, and there is a sizeable Roma minority. The estimated school dropout rate is 13%.

Informal employment is widespread, and many homes are in unacceptable condition. Here too, schools are lacking and there is a serious shortage of spaces for positive community activities. In recent years, several organisations, including the Collina del Sole cooperative, have joined forces to respond to this situation.

Project locations

The project was implemented in the Arghillà district of Reggio Calabria and the Tor Bella Monaca district (Municipality VI) of Rome.

Implementation period **1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025**

Participants

Direct participants

- Around 100 young people aged 11–17 took part in the two project areas (Rome and Reggio Calabria). They came from diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, with roughly equal numbers of boys and girls.
- At national level, a further 200 young people in other areas took part in the "missions" hosted on the Agente 0011 platform.

Indirect participants

- 40 parents
- 10 representatives of local institutions and organisations
- 10 young people aged 17–29 who contributed to developing the "missions" for the Agente 0011 platform.

Project budget **€158,306.50**

Funding received **€118,078.26**

Link

To learn more about other activism projects, visit the website.

- **Main activities**
- JOURNALISM WORKSHOP (Reggio Calabria and Rome): built skills in critical analysis, communication, and awareness-raising, resulting in a print and online newspaper.
- "OUR VOICE, AGENT 0011" WORKSHOP (Reggio Calabria and Rome): supported participants in developing a community radio station.
- ART WORKSHOP "BRING JOY AND COLOUR TO OUR WALLS" (Rome): young people developed their creativity and reclaimed neighbourhood spaces, creating three murals.
- THEATRE AND REGENERATION WORKSHOP (Reggio Calabria): young people staged theatre activities and regenerated the neighbourhood amphitheatre.
- AGENTE 0011 NATIONAL COMMUNITY: platform missions helped young people aged 11–17 identify and share local services and opportunities, and engage peers and adults on related issues.
- The missions took place in the project areas and were open to the whole Agente 0011 community across Italy.
- CO-DESIGN AND ADVOCACY WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONS: young people prepared and led a workshop to develop active citizenship proposals.

- **Outputs**
- Print and online newspaper
- Audio content produced and shared
- 3 murals
- Theatre activities and neighbourhood regeneration
- 150 materials produced (presentations, interviews, creative work)

- **Expected results**
- Young people aged 11–17 are motivated and gain artistic, creative, communication, and teamwork skills.
- Young people aged 11–17 take an active role in their local area and engage adults and institutions.