



PRESS RELEASE

Work has started on the international Erasmus+ Youth exchange “*Artistic Expression to facilitate youth inclusion processes*” that the Italian ngo ARCI Chieti is organising in cooperation with the youth centre Zdravo da Ste in the city of Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina. 37 group leaders and young participants from Italy, France, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Portugal, and Germany are participating in the project.

Tanja Boromisa, director of the youth centre Zdravo da Ste, states that "*The main objective of the project is to directly involve young people in the cultural and social life of the community in Banja Luka, in order to encourage, empower and enhance their active citizenship and social engagement at European level.*"

Giorgio Micoli, Group Leader of ARCI Chieti and reference person of the project, explains that "*Participants will have the opportunity to express and expose their own point of view and creativity and to acquire new skills, abilities and methodologies through an educational path mainly composed of three practical workshops: Murales/Graffiti, Graphic Journalism, Media team. At the end, participants will share with the local community in Banja Luka the results and products realised during the Youth Exchange, in order to facilitate the process of inclusion of young people, support their personal engagement and community development. Furthermore, in a couple of specific working sessions, a number of possibilities on how to use the knowledge gained in local and international contexts will be established, together with an overview of the upcoming activities planned by the project and taking place in Italy in the coming months.*"

Mario Serrao, President of ARCI Chieti, concludes that "*Artistic processes are among the most popular ways for young people to express themselves, their desires and ideas, and are increasingly identified as the tools they use to interact with society, local contexts and their peers. For this reason, it is important to initiate and consolidate paths of inclusion and reflection on their social role through art and culture that allow these young people to freely express their real aspirations, imagine future prospects and promote better lifestyles.*"

The Youth Exchange will end on the next 20 June with the departure of all delegations. The project is implemented thanks to the support of the Erasmus+ Programme and the Italian Youth Agency.