



Co-funded by the Justice Programme
of the European Union

Welcome to Voicity!

Voicity

aims to improve social integration through reinforcing social dialogue and communication in European urban neighbourhoods characterised by ethnical and cultural diversity.

The Consortium

coordinated by Comparative Research Network (Germany), Mine Vaganti NGO (Italy), PVM (UK) and CERSHAS (Hungary).

We intend to

- improve and make sustainable the communication and interaction between different social groups
- deepen dialogue between policy makers, stakeholders and citizens in order to promote more efficient management of diversity

Co-funded by

- The European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020



The project studies four diverse European neighbourhoods: Wedding in Berlin, Józsefváros in Budapest, Salford in the greater area of Manchester and the old town in Sassari.

The research will be done through three main activities:

- 1) collecting and curating stories of citizens through Community Reporting (80 citizen stories)
- 2) collecting and analysing stakeholders' views through semi-structured interviews (45 interviews);
- 3) comparing the results of the two methods and elaborating a series of policy recommendations through participative workshops and consensus meetings.



Justice programme

contributes to the further development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust.

It promotes:

- Judicial cooperation in civil matters, including civil and commercial matters, insolvencies, family matters and successions, etc.
- judicial cooperation in criminal matters
- judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal
- effective access to justice in Europe, including rights of victims of crime and procedural rights in criminal proceedings
- initiatives in the field of drugs policy

Expected results

Expected results VOICITYS will collect information on local diversity from citizens and stakeholders and outline multilevel policy recommendations. In doing this our consortium intends to develop a new model of citizen participation in local and European policies related to diversity.

Type and number of outputs to be produced Deliverables include 4 local and 1 EU Reports on Challenges of Diversity – local and European level (in 4 languages), 4 local and 1 EU reports on policy recommendations, and a “Voices of Diversity” book and film.

More information at:

<http://www.voicitys.eu/>

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<https://twitter.com/VoicitysJustice>

<https://www.facebook.com/VoicitysJustice/>





Spotlight on Wedding, Berlin

Wedding is a neighbourhood in Berlin, Germany.

Wedding today:

- is one of the **poorest** areas of Berlin, with a high **unemployment** rate (almost 26%). Almost 17% of the population live on **social welfare**; 27% live below the poverty line.
- Foreigners make up 30% of the population
- Low rental costs accompany the poverty in Wedding. Therefore, like many inexpensive areas in large cities, it is home to a vibrant **artists'** community.
- Wedding is one of the most ethnically diverse localities of Berlin. The **multicultural** atmosphere is visible in the bilingual shop signs (predominantly German and **Turkish** or German and **Arabic**).

Gathering stories of life in diverse neighbourhoods



Community Reporting is a storytelling movement that supports people to tell their own stories, in their own ways. As part of this movement, people's authentic stories are connected with decision makers who can use the insights in them to make positive change for communities. At the Voicitys Kick-Off meeting 10 trainers from across the participating countries and organisations were trained as Insight Advocate Trainers and equipped with the skills to deliver Community Reporting for Insight programmes that seek to gather lived experience stories of what life is like in diverse neighbourhoods across Europe.

With these skills, the Insight Advocate Trainers have been delivering 2-Day training programmes in Sassari, Salford, Budapest and Berlin in which participants will use Community Reporting storytelling practices and smartphones and/or tablets to record their own and other people's stories in relation to diversity and life in the neighbourhoods in which they live. The Trainers are also holding local meet-up sessions to help their Community Reporters to continue to develop their skills and gather more stories from different

people who live in their neighbourhoods. They have begun to share them online at www.communityreporter.net/voicitys and so far over 40 stories have been gathered and over 50 participants trained in Community Reporting storytelling methods. All of the participants are now Silver members of the Institute of Community Reporters.

The results so far

Stories gathered so far include exploring what life is like settling into a new community, what an area is like now compared to the past, experiences of being a carer, life as a single partner and other interesting topics. Watch this space for what other interesting stories are uncovered and how we use these to inform policy recommendations!

A snapshot story from Wedding

A 24 year old civil engineering student told how she is experiencing diversity in Wedding.

“Most people are just open minded here,” says she. “A lot of cultures are living together here, and they are open if you have another culture or rituals.”

According to her, the girls integrate better in Germany, as they are more willing to educate themselves. “I don’t know why, but boys drop out of schools more often.”

“Tolerance and open mind is the most important thing for diverse communities.”



Watch the story here:

<https://communityreporter.net/story/girls-integrate-berlin-better-boys>