

The REcup Project, under the European program CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN, hosted its First Training Activity, “From Inclusion to Activation (1st Circle),” from November 8 to 9, 2023, in Bucharest, Romania.

The first training activity of the REcup Project, titled *“From Inclusion to Activation (1st Circle),”* was held in Bucharest, Romania, bringing together participants from Romania, Croatia, and Italy to engage in intercultural dialogue, knowledge exchange, and active citizenship initiatives. The event aimed to empower participants with the skills and strategies needed to foster civic participation and strengthen European citizenship.

The event began with a warm welcome, where facilitators introduced the REcup Project’s objectives and acknowledged the diverse backgrounds of participants. An interactive icebreaker session encouraged attendees to connect and share their expectations for the training.

The first training session focused on intercultural dialogue, where participants analyzed case studies of successful collaborations, engaged in group activities, and discussed the importance of intercultural communication in community initiatives. The following session explored innovative approaches to community engagement, with participants brainstorming citizen-led initiatives and addressing potential challenges in implementation.

A panel discussion with representatives from unemployed citizens, stakeholders, and community groups allowed for an exchange of perspectives, followed by capacity-building workshops on skills development, resource mobilization, and communication techniques for effective community leadership. The first day concluded with an action planning session, where participants developed and refined strategies for community initiatives, setting the groundwork for future projects.

On the second day, participants reflected on the previous day's discussions before embarking on a city tour of Bucharest, exploring its cultural and historical significance. The event concluded with a closing ceremony, where participant groups presented their action plans and commitments, reinforcing their dedication to fostering active citizenship. Facilitators and organizers expressed their appreciation, and participants exchanged contact details, ensuring that the dialogue and collaboration would continue beyond the training activity.

The first training activity of the REcup Project successfully laid the foundation for intercultural collaboration and participatory engagement, equipping participants with practical tools and strategies to drive inclusive and democratic community initiatives across Europe.

