

CALL FOR GROUP LEADERS: Youth Exchange “MAD Voices: Media Activating Dialogue”



Registration form [HERE](#) - DEADLINE for applications: 24th February 2026

We're looking for **group leaders** for **Italy, Spain, Türkiye and Kosovo** for the youth exchange that will take place from the **16th to the 24rd of June 2026**, in the beautiful place called “La Città dell'Utopia” located in Rome.

Project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union with the support of the Agenzia Nazionale per i Giovani.

ACTIVITY DATES

1. Online meeting organized on March 2026
2. In person Advanced Planned Visit in Rome: 26th-29th March 2026
3. In person Youth Exchange in Rome: 16th-24th June 2026
4. Follow-up and evaluation online meeting: June-July 2026

VENUE

Rome, Italy, at [“La Città dell'Utopia”](#) (Via Valeriano, 3f).

ABOUT THE PROJECT

MAD Voices: Media Activating Dialogue is a youth exchange taking place in Rome at *La Città dell'Utopia* from 16th to 24th June 2026. The project empowers young people to challenge gender and LGBTQIA+ discrimination through media, creativity, participation, and activism. Participants will develop practical skills to critically analyze media content, identify stereotypes, and create campaigns promoting inclusion and equality.

In recent years, the rise of hate speech and fake news targeting LGBTQIA+ communities, combined with restrictive legislation and anti-LGBTQIA+ discourse, has threatened the progress of past decades. MAD Voices addresses this challenge by equipping young activists to counter misinformation, challenge discriminatory narratives, and foster informed, inclusive public dialogue.

The exchange combines workshops, hands-on labs, site visits, creative activities, and public activism, allowing participants to apply their learning in real-life contexts. It brings together 20 young people aged 18–25 (Group Leaders over 18) from Italy, Kosovo, Spain, and Türkiye (4 participants + 1 group

leader per country), including youth activists, students, media enthusiasts, and young leaders committed to gender equality, LGBTQIA+ rights, and media literacy.

Objectives

The project aims to strengthen young people's ability to critically analyze gender and LGBTQIA+ representation in media, create digital campaigns to challenge online discrimination, and foster intercultural dialogue. It promotes a broader, intersectional, and decolonial understanding of gender, valuing non-binary and culturally diverse perspectives, and equips participants with tools to apply their learning in local communities.

Methodology

MAD Voices uses a non-formal education, learning-by-doing approach that prioritizes co-creation of knowledge. The project combines group reflection in a safe transfeminist space with practical digital workshops. Participants turn personal insights into ethical, inclusive media content (social media campaigns, visual storytelling), linking critical thinking, creativity, and activism.

Key Activities

Workshops on media, identity, intersectionality, and gender decolonization; labs for counter-narratives and digital campaigns; creative art-therapy sessions; active participation in the Rome Pride Parade; meetings with local organizations and activists; walking tours in Rome; intercultural evenings; team-building; and reflection sessions to plan local actions.

TASK AS GROUP LEADER

BEFORE the Youth Exchange

- Participate in an **online meeting** with the organizational team in March 2026.
- Participate and support the project coordinators in the **Advanced Planning Visit (APV) in Rome from the 26th to the 29th of March 2026**.
- Be responsible for collecting communication materials during the APV such as pictures, videos and small interviews about the experience, which are going to be posted and shared by the participating organizations in real time during the APV.
- Help with the logistics of your group - 4 participants (organize trips, prepare meetings with the group, collect specific needs)

DURING the Youth Exchange

- Be responsible for your group (its well-being, motivation and team spirit) during the week of the **Youth Exchange (16th - 24th June 2026)**.
- Support the implementation of the project and its activities
- Daily evaluation with the group

AFTER the Exchange

- Support the national group with administrative follow-up (tickets, photos, reports, evaluations, etc.).
- Take part in an online follow-up and evaluation meeting

REQUIREMENTS

The ideal group leader:

- Over 18 years old;
- has experience in working with young people, coordinating groups and non-formal education methods;
- has the interest, motivation, and willingness to follow the project from its beginning to its end;
- has a good knowledge of English and can translate for the participants if necessary;
- has a positive and proactive attitude;
- is very patient, tolerant, and open minded;
- has good organizational skills;
- can cooperate with the organizational team;
- feels responsible for the group, especially for the participants that come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

This project is granted by Erasmus+, meaning that all the essential costs of the activities are covered: accommodation, food, travel costs.

Travel costs (including visa and visa-related expenses) will be reimbursed at 100% up to the maximum amount, after submission of original tickets and receipts.

The reimbursement follows Erasmus+ distance bands:

Distance	Not green travel (plane, ferry)	Green travel (shared car, train, bus)
10 – 99 km	23 euro	23 euro
100 – 499 km	211 euro	285 euro
500 – 1999 km	309 euro	417 euro
2000 – 2999 km	395 euro	535 euro

The distance band is determined according to the distance between Rome and the departure city. For further details, check [here](#).

Kindly note that the calculation is based on the specific cities of departure and arrival, not the countries. We strongly recommend verifying the applicable distance band **before purchasing your tickets**, as any reimbursement will be made according to these criteria.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in the position as group leader for this Youth Exchange, please fill out [THIS FORM](#) by **24th February 2026**. For any questions or doubts, you can write to comunicazione@sci-italia.it.