

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	Ateneo de Jerez (Spain)
PIC number:	PIC 876606946
Project name and acronym:	Culture PIE Project — Promotion of Inclusion and Equity through Culture

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	[Inclusion Seminar – Jerez–Gozo Town Twinning on Culture, Inclusion and Equity]
Type:	Seminar
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Spain, Jerez de la Frontera
Date(s):	5–6 October 2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://soloist.ai/culturepie www.ateneodejerez.es https://regjunghawdex.com/ https://rabatghawdexlc.gov.mt/en/ https://www.jerez.es/
Participants	
Female:	58
Male:	43
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Spain]:	76
From country 2 [Malta]:	25
From country 3 [name]:	
...	
Total number of participants:	101
From total number of countries:	2

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

1. Introduction

The Inclusion Seminar held on October 5–6, 2025, at the Monumental Complex of the Alcázar of Jerez is part of the Culture PIE Project (Promotion of Inclusion and Equity through Culture), co-financed by the European Union through the CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-T program, and promoted by the Ateneo de Jerez and the Gozo Regional Council. This meeting is part of the twinning process between the cities of Jerez de la Frontera (Spain) and Victoria (capital of Gozo, Malta), both candidates for the European Capital of Culture 2031, and it is designed to make inclusion and equity central elements in the selection of these cities.

The seminar brought together institutional representatives, academics, and members of civil society from both regions, aiming to strengthen mutual understanding, promote social inclusion, and develop shared cultural strategies that reflect the values of equality, diversity, and European cooperation. Approximately 120 participants from both cities attended the seminar.

2. Objectives

The seminar was designed with the following main objectives:

1. To promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the communities of Jerez and Gozo regarding Roma inclusion and migrant populations.
2. To create a space for reflection and co-creation of future joint initiatives on inclusion and diversity under EU and frameworks.

3. Seminar Development

The program was carried out over two days, combining academic presentations, institutional testimonies, and practical experiences, along with cultural activities aimed at fostering interaction between the delegations from both countries.

3.1 First Day – Sunday, October 5

The opening session was presided over by:

- María José García Pelayo, Mayor of Jerez de la Frontera
- Brian Azzopardi, Mayor of Victoria
- Gustavo Cordero Bueso, President of the Ateneo de Jerez
- Fabian Galea, Head of European and Local Funds at the Gozo Regional Council

Following this, Patricio Pérez Pacheco, General Coordinator of the project, presented the Culture PIE Project, highlighting the importance of culture as a tool for social cohesion and inclusion, principles considered essential in selecting cities as European Capitals of Culture.

Subsequent presentations by Javier J. Jiménez Royo (PhD in Social Anthropology, University of Seville, currently faculty at the University of Valladolid) and Francisco Agarrado (President of the Fundación Secretariado Gitano de Jerez) provided a theoretical and practical framework on the situation of the Roma community in Jerez, identifying progress in awareness, education, and social integration, as well as the need to continue strengthening equal opportunities, especially for Roma women.

The day concluded with a debate and cultural exchange activities between the delegations from Jerez and Gozo.

3.2 Second Day – Monday, October 6

The second day focused on migrant populations, their achievements, challenges, and integration experiences.

A joint presentation by Marcela Iglesias Onofre (Sociology Professor and Vice-Rector of Internationalization) and Siham Zebda (Professor of Public International Law and Coordinator of the Master's in Culture of Peace, Conflicts, Education, and Human Rights), both faculty at the University of Cádiz, analysed migration from a multi-level and multidisciplinary perspective, highlighting three main work areas:

- Multi-level governance (European Union, State, Autonomous Communities, and municipalities)
- Bidirectionality and involvement of the host society
- Importance of civil society organizations in effective integration

The Immigrant Reception Center (CEAIN) was represented by Gema Lozano Prieto (Head of International Protection) and Macarena García Martínez (Head of Social Intervention), who shared over three decades of experience providing comprehensive support to migrants and vulnerable populations in Jerez. Their work includes programs for reception, employment, housing, education, training, legal assistance, and awareness, achieving significant results in labor and social integration.

The seminar ended with the reading of conclusions by Patricio Pérez Pacheco and a joint final declaration reaffirming the commitment of both cities to inclusion, equity, and cultural cooperation.

4. Main Conclusions

From the presentations, debates, and contributions, the following conclusions were drawn:

4.1 Institutional Commitment

Local administrations of Jerez and Gozo have demonstrated their willingness to work together on social and cultural inclusion projects.

There is a highlighted need for multi-level coordination between the EU, States, regions, and municipalities to avoid fragmented integration policies. Cultural policies should be conceived as tools for social transformation, not merely recreational activities.

4.2 Role of Civil Society

Civil society organizations and NGOs play a fundamental role in implementing inclusive policies, acting as a bridge between administration and citizens.

The work of organizations such as CEAIN and the Fundación Secretariado Gitano is recognized for complementing public action and creating community support networks, alongside numerous participating associations from Spain and Malta (Ateneo, cultural associations, theater groups, scouts, sports clubs, dance and folk groups, etc.).

4.3 Intercultural Perspective and Gender Equality

Interculturality is considered the most effective model for integration, based on bidirectionality, mutual respect, and positive interaction between cultures. Gender inclusion is essential, especially in vulnerable communities such as Roma and migrants.

It is necessary to strengthen the participation of women in cultural and social decision-making spaces.

4.4 Identified Challenges

Lack of financial and human resources at the local level to implement effective inclusive policies.

Need to evaluate and update existing strategies to ensure measurable results. Strengthening intercultural education, access to housing, and decent employment as pillars of inclusion

4.5 Culture as a Driver of Inclusion

Culture should be understood as a driver of cohesion and community empowerment, facilitating dialogue between different identities and backgrounds.

Town twinning cultural activities between Jerez and Gozo should be designed with an inclusive, participatory, and gender-sensitive approach, integrating diversity as a positive value.

5. Expected Results and Next Steps

Joint design of inclusive cultural activities between the twinned cities, based on seminar learnings.

Creation of a Steering Committee and an Executive Committee to coordinate preparatory actions for cultural events

Publication of event descriptions and this conclusions document on the project's website

Consolidation of a permanent cooperation space between the Ateneo de Jerez and the Gozo Regional Council on inclusion and culture

6. Final Conclusion

The Jerez–Gozo Inclusion Seminar allowed for a deep and constructive dialogue among institutions, researchers, and civil society. It reaffirmed that culture, understood through interculturality, equity, and citizen participation, is an essential tool to build fairer and more cohesive communities. It also emphasized that inclusion and equity principles must be central in selecting European Capital of Culture cities.

The Ateneo de Jerez and the Gozo Regional Council committed to continuing collaboration on joint projects that promote social inclusion and cultural diversity within the European framework, reinforcing

the importance of promoting inclusion and equity through culture and supporting Jerez and Victoria's candidacy for European Capital of Culture 2031.

7. Links to News

3rd october 2025

https://www.diariodejerez.es/ocio/ateneo-jerez-organiza-primer-acto-hermanamiento-gozo-jerez_0_2004937240.html

<https://jerezsinfronteras.es/195979-hermanamiento-jerez-y-gozo/>

5th october 2025

<https://www.andaluciainformacion.es/articulo/jerez-local/jerez-formaliza-hermanamiento-ciudad-maltesa-victoria/202510051357063147886.html>

https://www.diariodejerez.es/jerez/nuevo-paso-hermanamiento-jerez-ciudad_0_2004954580.html

<https://jerez2031.com/jerez-y-victoria-avanzan-en-su-hermanamiento-como-ciudades-candidatas-a-capitales-europeas-de-la-cultura-en-2031/>

https://www.lavozdelsur.es/ediciones/jerez/jerez-ya-es-hermana-ciudad-maltesa-tambien-quiere-ser-capital-europea-cultura-en-2031_343311_102.html

6th october 2025

<https://www.portaldecadiz.com/provinciacadiz/140932-jerez-y-la-ciudad-maltesa-de-victoria-formalizan-su-hermanamiento-con-vistas-a-la-capital-europea-de-la-cultura-2031>

8. Television

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkB354PuM_g

9. Social Media

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1205776758245813&set=pcb.1205760171580805>

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/p/DPiUfrdJa1/?img_index=1

Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc0aGbfiqu4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkSDo5roYKY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ql4bTfalpkg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEogf4JN1I4>

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
1.1	23.10.2025	Event 1
1.2	16.02.2026	Event 1 rectification
1.3	10.06.2026	Event 1 correction