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VOICES FROM MIGRATIONS

Rosarno, Capital of Integration: MEP Princi hosting an exhibition at the European Parliament and welcoming 17 Mayors from Calabria to Brussels for Historic Local Action Plan Against Racism

Pioneering municipalities set to become first in Italy and among the first in Europe to implement EU's Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025 at a local level.

Brussels, Belgium - 6 January 2026 — In a groundbreaking initiative for European integration policy, MEP Giusi Princi (EPP) will host on 13 January 2026, in the European Parliament, a delegation of 17 Calabrian mayors for a collaborative working session on the definition of a *Local Action Plan Against Racism and for Integration*, and the opening of an exhibition on stories from migrants in Rosarno.

European Pioneers: Bringing EU Policy to Local Action:

The town of Rosarno (Italy), along with its neighbouring municipalities, positions itself among the first local authorities not only in Italy but also across Europe to implement the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025. The mayors' delegation will convene at the European Parliament to work jointly on the Action Plan, engaging in direct dialogue with European policymakers and sharing experiences that will inform both local strategies and broader EU integration policies. This collaborative approach ensures that anti-racism and integration measures are grounded in the lived realities of local communities.

From Voices to Policy: The VOICES Project Vision

This historic initiative has its roots in the “[VOICES from Migrations](#)” project, an innovative EU-funded programme coordinated by the European University College Association (EucA) in partnership with Perrotis College - a division of the American Farm School, in Thessaloniki, Greece -, and the Municipality of Rosarno. From the outset, VOICES envisioned precisely this



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pathway: transforming migration testimonies into concrete policy recommendations through direct community engagement.

During the VOICES event held in Rosarno from 14 to 17 July 2025, international university students of the EucA network collected 30 testimonies from migrants who established themselves in Italy between 1990 and 2025. These stories, gathered through professional interviewing and audiovisual techniques, now form the evidential foundation for public policy development — a bottom-up approach that ensures integration strategies reflect actual community needs and experiences.

Rosarno: A Transformation Story for Europe:

Rosarno, a municipality in Calabria with approximately 15,000 inhabitants, has one of the highest concentrations of immigrants relative to population in Italy. Over the past years, Rosarno has begun a structured pathway towards transformation, moving from a context long marked by labour exploitation, precarious housing, and social tension towards more rights-based and inclusive local responses.

A significant step in this process was the opening, in 2023, of the *Village of Solidarity*, a housing facility built on land confiscated from organised crime, which now provides dignified accommodation for around 90 migrant workers. Developed with the support of public authorities and managed by non-profit organisations, the Village has helped reduce the presence of migrants in informal settlements that lack basic services such as electricity, sanitation, and access to water. Additional housing facilities are planned, reinforcing a local strategy aimed at replacing irregular settlements with safe, regulated, and humane living conditions.

By embracing MEP Princi's vision and the objectives of the VOICES project, Rosarno and its neighbouring municipalities are now actively starting to rewrite their narrative.

The 13 January event comprises two key components:

- Roundtable Discussion: The delegation of 17 mayors will engage in a collaborative working session focused on the definition and implementation of the Local Action Plan Against Racism and for Integration, with input from European policymakers
- Exhibition Opening: 'Rosarno, Capital of Integration: Voices from Migrations for European Inclusive Policies' will showcase the personal migration stories collected by



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students, featuring photographs, video testimonies, and documentation that informed the policy development process

The exhibition serves as a powerful reminder that effective integration policies must be built on understanding lived experiences. By bringing these voices from the frontlines of migration to the heart of European decision-making, the event demonstrates that inclusive policies are essential for building cohesive, prosperous societies.

About “VOICES from Migrations”:

“VOICES from Migrations” is a project co-funded by the European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. The project includes five international events across Belgium, Italy, and Greece, bringing together over 1000 participants from 20 countries.

University students learn audiovisual and interviewing techniques, engage directly with migrant communities, and co-create policy recommendations that reach decision-makers at local and European levels. It confirms the commitment of EucA in growing young Europeans as active citizens, changemakers of their own communities.

For more information about the VOICES project, visit: www.euchangemakers.com/voices

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