

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

*(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)*

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

PROJECT	
Participant:	[Compagnia Il Melarancio Coop. Soc. TES] ([Il Melarancio])
PIC number:	[897340987]
Project name and acronym:	[Age Against the Machine - European Solidarity Network for Older Citizens Rights] — [AgeAgainstTheMachine]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[1]
Event name:	[Premiere of the performance Interwoven rights]
Type:	[Intergenerational puppets theatre performance]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Italy], [Cuneo]
Date(s):	[31/10/2024]
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://www.melarancio.com/age-against-the-machine/">https://www.melarancio.com/age-against-the-machine/</a>
Participants	
Female:	43
Male:	21
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [Italy]:	64
From country 2 [name]:	
From country 3 [name]:	
...	
Total number of participants:	64
From total number of countries:	1
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
The choice to decline ageism in terms of intergenerational solidarity, intergenerational stereotypes, gerontocracy and power of the elder population was born from a series of reflections on the social	

situation in Italy.

The intergenerational divide and gerontocracy are important social issues in Italy that intersect with its aging population, economic challenges, and political dynamics. These phenomena reflect tensions between younger and older generations, the concentration of power among older individuals, and societal attitudes toward aging.

In Italy, the intergenerational divide is particularly pronounced due to several factors. First of all, **youth unemployment and job insecurity**. Italy has long struggled with high levels of youth unemployment, particularly in the south. Many young people face precarious, low-paying work or struggle to enter the job market at all. This is exacerbated by a lack of long-term investment in education, training, and innovation. For example, the youth unemployment rate in Italy has been higher than the EU average, which has led to frustrations about limited career prospects. Another factor is **economic inequality**: younger Italians are burdened by economic stagnation, high public debt, and rising housing costs, which make it more difficult to achieve financial independence or homeownership. In contrast, older Italians, especially those who own property or have stable pensions, are often less financially vulnerable. In addition to these factors, must be considered the aging population. Italy has one of the oldest populations in the world, with a median age of over 47 years. This demographic shift has led to concerns that younger generations are shouldering an increasingly heavy economic burden to support pension systems and healthcare for the elderly. There is also a feeling that younger people are not getting a fair share of resources or opportunities.

Another of the dominant aspects of Italian society that lead to the implementation of ageist behaviors is **gerontocracy**. Italy's political system, particularly at the national level, has often been characterized by a form of gerontocracy due to the dominance of older politicians and the longevity of their careers. The fact that many politicians stay in power for extended periods limits opportunities for younger leaders to rise to prominence. Furthermore the Italian public sector, especially in central and local government, is often dominated by senior officials who have spent decades climbing the ranks. This concentration of power in the hands of older individuals can result in slower reform processes and limited adaptability to new ideas or challenges.

As a result of all this, in Italy, **ageist attitudes** affect both younger and older individuals. Older people may face discrimination when seeking new jobs, and young people often struggle to get their first job or face underemployment. This discrimination is sometimes rooted in the belief that younger workers lack experience, while older workers are often seen as technologically or mentally outdated. In both cases, the employment system may not be flexible enough to accommodate the needs of different age groups. Then, there is a tendency in Italian society to idealize older generations in terms of wisdom and experience, while simultaneously undervaluing the energy, creativity, and potential of younger people. The expectation that younger Italians should respect the authority of older generations can sometimes create generational tensions, especially when younger people feel they are not being listened to or understood. Ageism can also manifest in social isolation, where the elderly are marginalized in terms of social participation, leading to loneliness and exclusion. Similarly, younger people may feel disconnected from their elders, who are perceived as out of touch with contemporary issues.

Family plays a central role in Italian society, and the Italian family is often multi-generational. However, the expectation that younger people will care for older family members can create a sense of generational burden, especially as older Italians live longer due to improvements in healthcare. This dynamic places added pressure on younger Italians, especially as the economy becomes more globalized and family structures shift. Italy, like many Southern European countries, has a cultural reverence for aging, with older generations often seen as repositories of wisdom and tradition. However, this can clash with more modern ideals, where aging is often associated with decline, both physically and socially. This clash can create a sense of frustration among younger people who feel they are not given a fair chance to shape the future.

Something from below is being born, like movements aimed at combating ageism, with advocacy for more inclusive policies that address the needs and rights of both the elderly and young people and some campaigns that focus on intergenerational solidarity and creating spaces where both young and old can collaborate, learn from each other, and address shared challenges. But addressing these issues requires policies that promote greater social mobility, reform political structures to accommodate younger leaders, and foster a more inclusive approach to aging, where both young and older generations are valued for their contributions. As Italy's population continues to age, finding ways to bridge these divides will be crucial for creating a more equitable and dynamic society.

<https://webpub.istat.it/progetto/benessere-e-disuguaglianze-una-lettura-statistica-territorio-genere-e-titolo-di-studio/documento>

<https://www.istat.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Capitolo-3.pdf>

On the artistic side, the process that led to the identification of the theme underlying the work developed for the AGM project began with a series of theatre workshops, carried out in parallel with the one addressed to an intergenerational group foreseen by the project, aimed at the younger generations.

A path was developed through 3 laboratory meetings held with primary school children, involving 65 children between the ages of 7 and 10. The work done with them was aimed at bringing out what is the image that a child has of the elderly person, starting from her/his experience with her/his grandparents to explore the relationship, made up of full and empty spaces, between childhood and old age, reconstructing its emotional, educational and social dimension. The meetings started with a tale from popular tradition, subsequently, play and drama activities were carried out to lead to the development of a series of questions which were translated into a questionnaire. The questionnaire was completed at home, in the family environment, and returned in the following days.

With the other group of young people, aged between 15 and 18, however, we worked on age-related stereotypes, to collect to gather ideas and suggestions for working with the intergenerational group. The workshops began a few months before the kick-off meeting in April 2024 and ended in September 2024 and involved 15 youngsters. What emerged from the meetings is the desire to dismantle the prejudices that adults have towards young people. The common thought is that it is necessary to talk about it in order to be more aware: "We know that stereotypes are unfounded and that they should not have much value, but in reality they influence our lives". Through brainstorming words, images and moods, eight posters were created that were displayed on the streets of the city. Bright colors were chosen to attract the attention of those who see them. Even the words and their dimensions are not random: prejudice is always evident, while reality must be observed closely.



Alongside this, the theater workshops concluded with a performance held on 27 September 2024 in the streets of the old city, involving the public and passers-by.



Starting from the idea that intergenerational dialogue and learning and the transfer of meaning and values based on respect, participation and conviviality between different generations can be the driving force for the construction of the common good and bringing to value the experience of the *Charter of the rights of Children's in Art and Culture*, created in 2011 in Bologna, from a proposal of La Baracca – Testoni Ragazzi, within the European project "Small size" of which Compagnia Il Melarancio was a partner, (<https://www.testoniragazzi.it/carta-dei-diritti/>) we set ourselves the goal of writing a **Charter of Rights between generations**.

We have thus created a laboratory path, which involved a mixed group in terms of age and gender of 19 persons, taking inspiration from what emerged from work with children and young people, we set out the path starting from prejudices between generations. So, through the story and sharing of

"traditional values" and "flourishing values" and a work of comparison on an idea of a supportive society, we could identify the themes of the **first 5 articles** of this Charter: the right of every person, regardless of age, to **be respected in their dignity**; the right, regardless of age, to **be listened to and to see their opinions and experiences recognized and valued**; the right to live one's old age in a **dignified and autonomous way**; the right of future generations to be entrusted with a **healthy and liveable planet**; the right of new generations to have opportunities for **personal and professional development**.



“**Interwoven Rights**”, which involves six artists (3 men and 3 women) of heterogeneous ages between 19 and 69, using the technique of **puppet theater**, the visible manipulation of puppets and live music, stages these first articles, with poetry and irony. The aim is to stimulate in the spectator the desire for comparison, dialogue and participation: the show foresees a strong interaction of the public, to allow, performance after performance, a deepening and expansion of the themes, which will enrich the Charter with new contents. In fact, by using the Mentimeter platform on their smartphones, the audience, after having watched the five scenes of the show, was able to express, anonymously, with the only indication of their age group (0-25, 26-60 and over 60), their level of identification with the rights represented, and was able to suggest a theme dear to each one of them to be covered in the next articles that we will add to the Charter of Rights between generations.

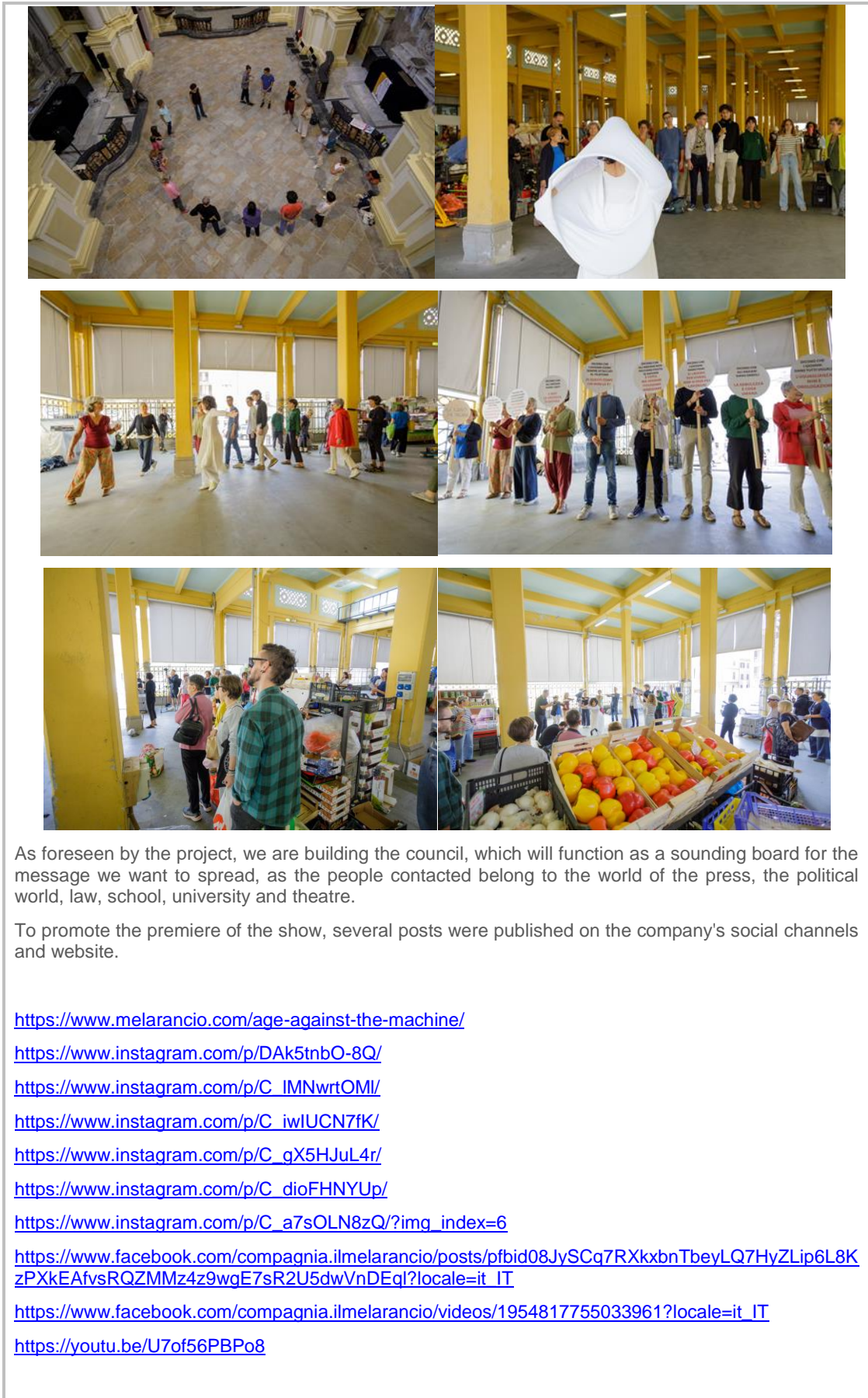
Similarly to the *Charter of the rights of girls and boys to Art and Culture*, the complete **Charter of Rights between generations**, thanks to the contribution of the CRC Foundation, will be translated into a publication aimed at overcoming stereotypes and prejudices and fighting discrimination.

The premiere took place on October 31st in the conference room of the Sant'Antonio elderly care facility, thanks to the collaboration with the Cuneo social welfare consortium. The audience, very varied in age and social background, was made up of people from 9 to 85 years old, 43 females and 21 males and included guests of the facility, students of the primary and secondary school, educators, psychologists, journalists and common citizens.





Among the actions foreseen by the project to promote the premiere, a flash mob was organized on September 6th among the stalls of the crowded city market. The action involved an intergenerational group (18-80), composed of 9 women and 3 men, with whom a theatrical workshop on ageism was previously carried out. The actors, initially mixed in with the crowd of the market, at the call of the music, played live by a professional clarinetist, joined the dance led by a professional dancer, and closed the action, each showing a sign which showed a series of phrases related to ageism, developed together during the workshop process. The video footage of the flash mob was published on social channels and on the Melarancio website on October 1st, International Day of Older Persons.



As foreseen by the project, we are building the council, which will function as a sounding board for the message we want to spread, as the people contacted belong to the world of the press, the political world, law, school, university and theatre.

To promote the premiere of the show, several posts were published on the company's social channels and website.

<https://www.melarancio.com/age-against-the-machine/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DAk5tnbO-8Q/>

[https://www.instagram.com/p/C\\_IMNwrtOMI/](https://www.instagram.com/p/C_IMNwrtOMI/)

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[https://www.facebook.com/compagnia.ilmelarancio/posts/pfbid08JySCq7RXkxnbTbeyLQ7HyZLip6L8KzPXkEAfvsRQZMMz4z9wgE7sR2U5dwVnDEql?locale=it\\_IT](https://www.facebook.com/compagnia.ilmelarancio/posts/pfbid08JySCq7RXkxnbTbeyLQ7HyZLip6L8KzPXkEAfvsRQZMMz4z9wgE7sR2U5dwVnDEql?locale=it_IT)

[https://www.facebook.com/compagnia.ilmelarancio/videos/1954817755033961?locale=it\\_IT](https://www.facebook.com/compagnia.ilmelarancio/videos/1954817755033961?locale=it_IT)

<https://youtu.be/U7of56PBPo8>



HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).