ROOTS Project

(Respect, Origins, Openness, Tolerance, Society)

1. Summary of the Project

The **ROOTS Project** is a European initiative fully aligned with the priorities of the **Erasmus+ Programme 2021–2027**. It aims to promote a more inclusive, sustainable, digital, and participatory society through **non-formal education** and **intercultural dialogue**.

The project was developed in collaboration with the **Edith-Stein Schule Institute** in Darmstadt (Germany) and seeks to bring together students from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds through interactive and engaging activities. These aim to strengthen participants' social and civic competences — such as respect, responsibility, tolerance, empathy, collaboration, and cooperation — while valorising the richness of cultural diversity and identity.

2. Rationale and Context

Values are universal and represent the most important elements connecting human beings across cultures, countries, and religions. ROOTS provides young people with opportunities to develop a **deep understanding of common values** that underpin all societies.

By encouraging students to work collaboratively, the project enhances social skills, empathy, and self-confidence, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

ROOTS also focuses on **interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding**, promoting reflection and exchange on tolerance, respect, and freedom of belief. Through analysis of the host school's experiences in interfaith dialogue, the project raises awareness of **religious freedom** as a core element of modern democratic societies, addressing the political and legal significance of **religious multiculturalism**.

The philosophy of **Edith Stein** serves as an educational reference, emphasizing the universality of the human person and the ethical dimension of coexistence.

3. Objectives of the Project

General Objective:
To promote **European values** by strengthening **intercultural dialogue**, **social inclusion**, and **civic participation** among young people and educators.

Specific Objectives:

- Promote mutual respect, tolerance, and appreciation of cultural diversity as resources for social cohesion;
- Encourage understanding and defense of one's own ideas while respecting the perspectives of others;
- Strengthen civic, social, and communication competences essential for active democratic citizenship;
- Foster peaceful cooperation, teamwork, and solidarity among participants;
- Ensure equitable access to Erasmus+ opportunities, especially for participants with fewer opportunities;
- Enhance linguistic, digital, and intercultural competences;
- Raise awareness about responsible, sustainable behavior, linking individual choices to societal and environmental impact.

4. Methodology and Approach

ROOTS adopts a **non-formal and participatory learning** methodology, based on the principle of *learning by doing*.

The approach integrates:

- **Inclusion and accessibility:** ensuring participation of young people with fewer opportunities;
- **Transnational cooperation:** leveraging the complementary skills of partner organizations;
- **Digital transformation:** using open, collaborative platforms and inclusive digital tools to promote learning and knowledge sharing;
- **Environmental sustainability:** reducing the environmental impact of activities and promoting responsible, eco-friendly behaviors.

All activities are designed to develop key competences — **civic, social, intercultural, and digital** — and ensure **transferable and lasting outcomes**.

5. Relevance to Erasmus+ Priorities (2021–2027)

- **Inclusion and Diversity:** ROOTS uses inclusive methodologies and non-formal education to reach participants from disadvantaged backgrounds, combating stereotypes, discrimination, and social exclusion.
- **Civic Participation and European Values:** The project promotes awareness of fundamental rights, a sense of European citizenship, and active engagement in the democratic life of local and European communities.
- **Digital Transformation:** Collaborative use of digital tools supports intercultural learning, competence development, and dissemination of results in accessible, inclusive ways.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** ROOTS embeds sustainability within all project phases, fostering reflection on the relationship between active citizenship, social responsibility, and environmental protection.

6. Expected Results and Impact

For Participants:

- Increased intercultural and interreligious awareness and respect for diversity;
- Strengthened civic, social, and digital competences applicable in personal, educational, and professional life;
- Enhanced sense of belonging to the European community and responsibility as active citizens.

For Partner Organizations:

- Improved capacity to work in transnational and multicultural contexts;
- Adoption of innovative, inclusive educational methodologies;
- Reinforced cooperation and exchange of good practices at the European level.

For Local Communities:

- Increased awareness of European values, inclusion, and sustainability;
- Creation of reusable and transferable materials and methodologies;
- Long-term impact ensured through quality dissemination at local, national, and European levels.

7. Dissemination and Sustainability

The dissemination strategy aims to ensure wide visibility and durable impact of project outcomes:

- Organization of **multiplier events**, public presentations, and workshops;
- Use of **digital channels and social media** for communication and engagement;
- Publication of **open-access materials and digital resources**;
- Involvement of **stakeholders, educational institutions, and European networks**.

Sustainability is ensured through the integration of project outcomes into the regular activities of partner organizations, the replicability of methods, and the potential to inspire future European collaborations.

8. Expected Outputs and Competence Development

- Improved **ICT and digital competences**;
- Enhanced **language proficiency and intercultural communication**;
- Strengthened **teamwork and conflict resolution skills**;
- Deepened **awareness of human rights, tolerance, and democratic values**.

9. Long-Term Impact

ROOTS contributes to building a European society based on **cohesion, respect, and responsibility**. Through transnational cooperation and non-formal education, the project supports the **development of key competences**, the **promotion of European identity**, and the **empowerment of young people** as active, responsible, and tolerant citizens

Work Process

Schools	Teachers	number of pupils
Liceo "F. De Andrè"	Marina Giudici	10
	Paola Cavagna	
	Paola Antonioli	
Edith-Stein-Schule	Grazia Battista	10

month	Task	leading school	tools
JANUARY	Create the project • add ideas • form targets • agree on methodology • agree on tools • agree on outcomes Get the project approved Start working on Twinspace.Add more partners	Liceo F. De Andrè	eTwinning platform Google meet Mails Google Drive: docs and present
FEBRUARY	Get students in teams Register them Allocate tasks First on-line meeting Kick-start Create presentations for: • each partner school and hometown • each team • basic elements of Inclusion	Liceo F. De Andrè	Twinspace Google drive Padlet Canva
MARCH	ERASMUS+ mobility	Liceo F. De Andrè	Twinspace Canva Padlet Google drive
MAY-JUNE	DISSEMINATION IN: school community local community key stakeholders	Liceo F. De Andrè	Twinspace Canva Padlet Google drive You Tube Google forms QR codes