



Convention on the Rights of the Child United Nations General Assembly

November
20
1989

recognizes, for the first time expressly, that Children and adolescents also have civil, social, political, cultural and economic rights, which must be promoted and protected by all.



The DAY Project Democratic Activation of Youth

It seeks to promote one of the **4 principles** of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: **Article 12**.

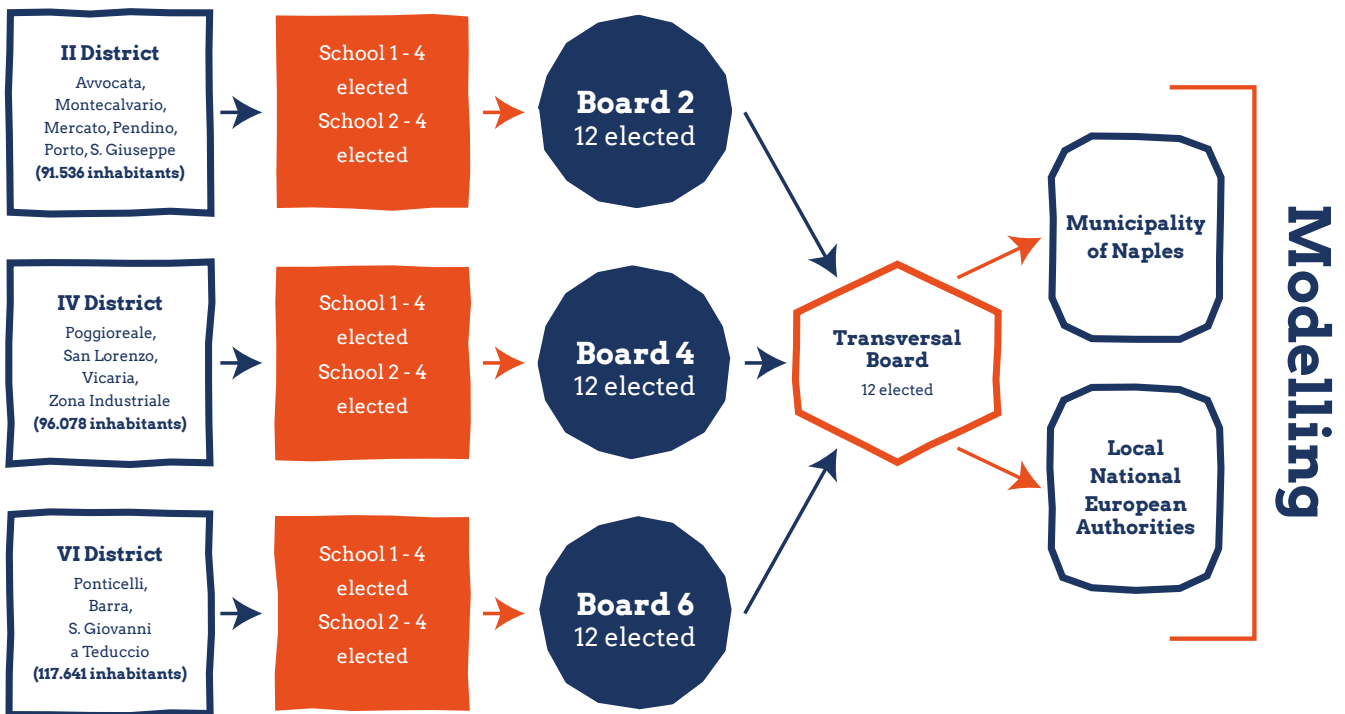
It aims to guarantee the **participation** of young people in democratic life at a local level.

Young people are considered **capable of deciding about their own lives** and therefore of **participating in decisions** that concern them.

Funded by the European Commission under the CERV Programme, the DAY Project is coordinated by Fondazione L'Albero Della Vita ETS and the partners CIDIS ETS and Eurochild, as well as the associated partner Municipality of Naples.

The Project

The partners together decided to create a tailor-made intervention in the city of Naples. In particular, they started experimenting involving **3 of the 10 districts** of the metropolitan city.



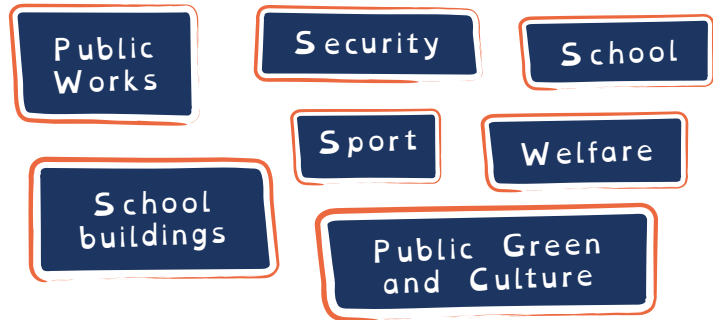
Districts are the political and administrative level closest to citizens and through which young people can exercise their citizenship rights, especially with respect to issues that affect their lives.

The project's target was represented by **1350 boys and girls** aged **between 14 and 18**, selected in **9 high schools** and vocational institutes.

The elections of the **36 delegates** took place at the institutes, involving classmates.

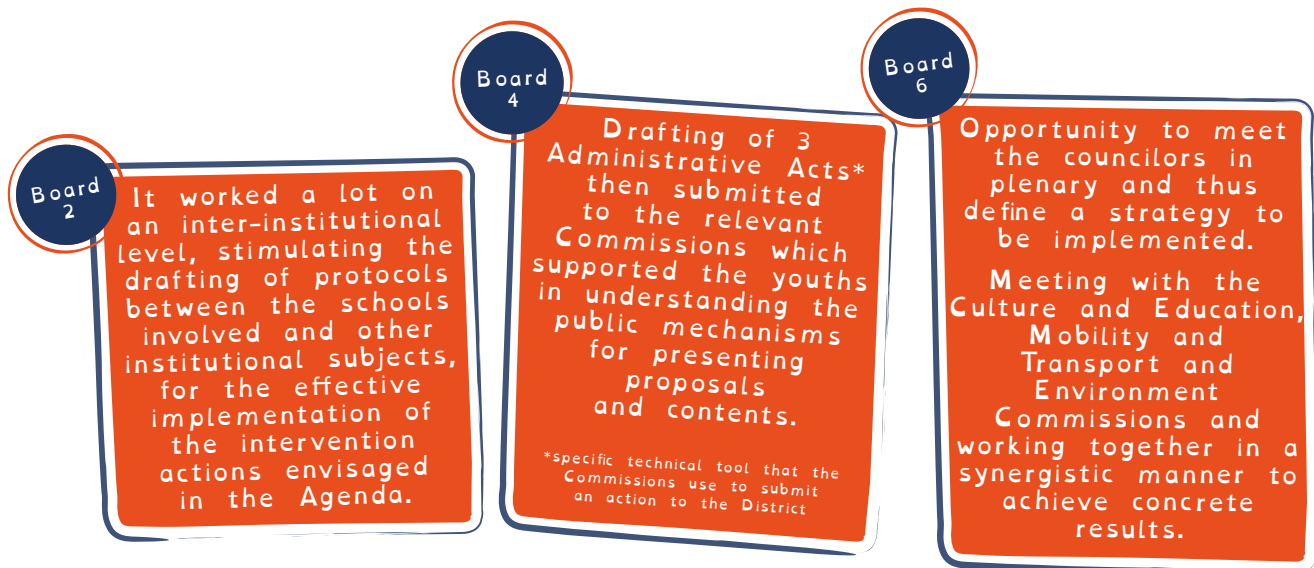
Model

The young representatives received a **training** to be able to participate in political life at a local level and in particular to be able to meet the **District Commissions** that work on different thematic areas.



The approximately **2,000 youths** who previously elected representatives were **asked to express their opinion** by selecting the two thematic areas on which the delegates would start a discussion.

The two areas chosen were **Environment and Educational and Scholastic Activities**: from here the work began with the relevant Commissions, with respect to these two thematic areas on the 3 Districts.



From the 3 boards, **12 delegates** were elected to form a transversal board which had the opportunity to discuss the agendas with the **Councilor for Youth Policies and Work, Chiara Marciani**, and the **Councilor for Education and Family, Maura Striano**.



This group compares and updates on the work carried out in each district and discusses it at municipal level.

Finally, a delegation of **6 members of the Transversal Board** made the model created known to all the other Districts of Naples, as well as at a European level, meeting members of the **Parliament** and the **European Commission** in **Brussels**.



3 Messages to deliver

The possibility of guaranteeing active participation of young people in the democratic life of their territory.

The importance of the role of youth-led advocacy campaigns.

The change that can happen thanks to cooperation between politicians and young people at local, national and European levels.

The institutional dimension. The participation of the Municipality of Naples as an associated partner of the project is the central factor of sustainability. The patronage will allow future adoption of the model and local scale up.

Youth empowerment: it allows young people to experience participation in the decision-making process at local level in the field, connecting and participating in district councils and citizen committees.

The education system dimension. The commitment of the schools and the signing of a memorandum of understanding constitutes the basis for effective involvement of the students and delegates and the replication and expansion to other schools.



3 Success factors



3 Challenges to overcome

The difficulty of institutes in following and promoting all the projects in which students are involved.

The difficulty in joining the activities of the group involved: the commitment into after school activities as well as the complexity of the territory do not facilitate participation in afternoon events such as meetings, focus groups, cultural events.

The difficulty of political actors in understanding that making young people the protagonists of decisions that concern them helps to improve the quality of interventions in the area.

The Voice of the youths

The agenda outlined by us from the Second District Committee focuses on the following thematic areas: social-welfare, scholastic and educational activities and maintenance and urban hygiene. Our intent is to direct our work towards the needs of the most vulnerable population (minors but not only) in the area.

Thanks to synergistic work with local institutions, we are committed, as delegates, to developing ideas and project proposals with respect to the issues that have emerged to be brought to the attention of the relevant Departments aimed at improving the area we live in and frequent.

We will always be ready to have our say, we want to represent the voice of young people, remaining open to any type of discussion with all citizens. We hope to succeed in this undertaking and to spread a good practice of youth participation throughout the city of Naples.

We propose synergistic work with local institutions so that this Agenda can become a virtuous model that can be integrated into the work program of our District and so that it can open others to the idea that even our age group, if correctly consulted, can be a resource for improve and make the city more livable.

We hope to carry forward our ideas as best we can, so that this Agenda can become a virtuous model, which can be integrated into the work program of our District, to demonstrate how we young people can also make a difference for the area in which we live.

With the following Agenda, we commit to work for the IV District so that it can become a more inclusive place suitable for boys and girls and a model to follow for other Districts.

The agenda starts from the idea of implementing changes and improvements in our territory, based on the areas of interest of the District, the needs of the entire population and specifically, the most vulnerable groups.