

Associació NDIATIGUIA

C/ la Palma 6



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INTRODUCTION

The Associació Juvenil Ndiatiguia, an Afro-Catalan organisation based in Lleida, plays a leading role in promoting anti-racism, social justice, and youth empowerment. As the coordinating entity of the Cultural Bridges Erasmus+ project, Ndiatiguia is committed to creating spaces for dialogue, reflection, and advocacy against racial discrimination.

In line with this mission, Ndiatiguia organised its first local workshop within the Erasmus context on **21 March 2025**, coinciding with the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.** The date was intentionally chosen to amplify the significance of the event and foster public awareness. This year's observance also coincided with Ramadan, which inspired the association to design the event in an inclusive way, enabling Muslim participants to fully engage. A special Iftar break was integrated, offering traditional foods such as dates, warm soup, tea, milk, coffee, and a variety of halal-friendly sweet and savoury items.

The workshop gathered a rich mix of participants, including young people, grassroots associations, and representatives of local administrations, united in their commitment to combating racism and institutional discrimination.



The Cultural Bridges project was born out of a shared vision between grassroots organisations in Spain, France, and Poland to strengthen intercultural understanding and support youth from racialised and minority backgrounds across Europe. In a context marked by growing inequality, racism, and social exclusion, the project aims to foster inclusive spaces where young people can reclaim their narratives, share their experiences, and engage in transformative learning.

In Spain, and particularly in regions like Catalonia, institutional racism remains a persistent challenge, especially for African and Afrodescendant communities. The city of Lleida, with its large population of migrant and racialised residents, has been the focus of both resistance and social innovation. Ndiatiguia, as an Afro-Catalan association rooted in this local reality, recognised the need to address how discrimination operates through public institutions—whether in education, housing, employment, or social services.

This workshop emerged as a response to that reality. It sought to provide a space for reflection, collective analysis, and concrete proposals for change, bringing together not only youth and associations but also voices from civil society and public institutions. By anchoring the event in March 21st, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the workshop connected local struggles to a broader global agenda of justice, equity, and recognition.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



WORKSHOP

REPORT

The workshop was designed as part of **Cultural Bridges** project to foster a deeper understanding of institutional racism and its impact on racialised communities. The goals and objectives reflect Ndiatiguia's commitment to creating inclusive, participatory spaces where dialogue, critical reflection, and collaboration can lead to meaningful proposals for change. Each activity aimed to empower participants to share their experiences, build solidarity, and collectively identify ways to promote equality and social justice at the local level.

- To provide a safe space for dialogue on institutional racism and its impact on racialised communities.
- To facilitate knowledge-sharing between youth, community groups, and public administration representatives.
- To develop proposals and strategies for improving institutional practices and policies.
- To use artistic performance as a tool for reflection, critical thinking, and awareness-raising.



ACTIVITIES



Roundtable discussion

Youth, representatives of associations, and members of the local administration engaged in a deep dialogue on institutional racism, sharing lived experiences, challenges, and examples of resistance. This space fostered mutual understanding and set the stage for collective reflection.

Working groups

Participants formed smaller groups to brainstorm and draft concrete proposals aimed at improving administrative practices, policies, and services. This hands-on activity promoted collaboration and helped translate shared concerns into actionable ideas.

Artistic monologue by #UnaDeTantas

The session concluded with a powerful monologue blending humour and critical insight. The performance highlighted everyday experiences of racialised individuals and the contradictions faced when confronting racism in institutional settings, offering both a reflective and emotional closure to the workshop.

A culturally sensitive break coincided with the time of Iftar during Ramadan, creating a warm, respectful, and inclusive atmosphere that honoured the diversity of participants.

Friday, 21st March 2025

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Friday, 21st March 2025



OCAL WORKSHOP



EVALUATION

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop brought together a diverse and committed group of participants representing **key community organisations**, **civil society**, and **racialised youth from Lleida**. Among them were members of Reintegra Lleida, an organisation dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for individuals facing social vulnerability by providing tools and strategies for empowerment and inclusion. Fruita amb Justícia Social also took part, sharing their perspective as an organisation that defends the human rights of agricultural workers involved in Lleida's fruit harvest campaigns, advocating for fair labour conditions and social justice.

Additionally, representatives of Unim Cultures, an antiracist organisation focused on cultural exchange and educational support for immigrant-origin communities, contributed to the discussion with insights on reducing school failure and fostering intercultural understanding. The workshop also included members of the wider civil society, as well as **racialised children who shared personal experiences of racism within the educational system.** Their voices offered a vital, first-hand perspective on the challenges faced in schools and the urgent need for change.



The workshop was a meaningful and inspiring step in Ndiatiguia's ongoing work for racial justice. It successfully facilitated dialogue among key local actors and generated ideas for future action. The integration of cultural elements, such as the Iftar, was especially appreciated and strengthened the community spirit of the event.

However, a key challenge emerged: several associations in Lleida unintentionally scheduled parallel events on the same day, leading to fragmented participation across the city. This situation highlighted the need for stronger coordination among local organisations to avoid overlapping initiatives, particularly on dates of shared importance.

Despite this, the workshop demonstrated the power of collective action and the importance of creating inclusive spaces where every voice can contribute to building a fairer, more equitable society.

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WORKSHOP REPORT

CONCLUSION