EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

AllonBoard: The Road to Democracy · CERV Programme

PROJECT	
Participant:	6 — Associazione San Giuseppe Onlus — SG (WP7 lead)
PIC number:	910511647
Project name and acronym:	AllonBoard: The Road to Democracy — AllonBoard

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	7
Event name:	WP7 — European Civic Mentors Exchange
Type:	Transnational exchange and Toolkit validation workshop
In situ / online:	In situ
Location:	Cerignola and Orsara di Puglia (Italy)
Date(s):	28/09/2026 – 29/09/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.allonboard-project.eu/wp7-european-civic-mentors-exchange/
PARTICIPANTS	
Female:	52
Male:	53
Non-binary:	3
From country 1 — Portugal:	4
From country 2 — Italy:	84
From country 3 — Spain:	4
From country 4 — Slovakia:	4
From country 5 — Croatia:	5
From country 6 — Germany:	4
From country 7 — Sweden:	3
From other countries:	0
Total number of participants:	108

Grant output target:	≈100 mentors (minimum 3 per country)

DESCRIPTION (MAX 1 PAGE)

WP7 was organised by Associazione San Giuseppe (SG), as WP7 lead, together with Meridaunia, and delivered in person on 28–29 September 2026 in Cerignola and Orsara di Puglia (Italy). Building on the WP6 Local Mentor Training Labs, it brought together civic mentors from the seven partner countries in a transnational learning environment.

The exchange had three objectives: to share the experiences of the Local Mentor Training Labs and compare approaches across countries; to test and validate the draft Civic Mentoring Toolkit with mentors and stakeholders; and to launch a European Community of Practice of AllonBoard civic mentors.

Day 1, in Cerignola, opened at the Episcopio with SG and the project coordinator, the Municipality of Lisbon, presenting AllonBoard and the link between WP6 and WP7. Participants introduced themselves and shared their Lab experiences, then visited Oltre Babele APS and Biblioteca IKIGAI, a public space regenerated by young people. Day 2, at Palazzo De Gregorio in Orsara di Puglia, opened with the President of GAL Meridaunia and the Mayor, Mario Simonelli, on how youth involvement in local traditions grows into civic engagement. Its core was the Toolkit Validation Lab: five mixed international groups applied the tools to case studies, completed worksheets and feedback forms, and presented their recommendations in plenary. The event closed with the next steps of the mentoring pathway and the launch of the Community of Practice.

The exchange gathered 108 participants — 52 female, 53 male and 3 non-binary — from all seven partner countries, above the target of about 100 mentors, with every country above the minimum of three. Participants formed a mixed group of youth workers, teachers, educators, volunteers, representatives of institutions and young people, 71 of them under 35.

The Validation Lab confirmed the value of the tools for structured reflection, collaborative analysis and the design of civic initiatives. Its recommendations — simpler instructions, examples for different contexts including rural areas, tools usable without AI, attention to language barriers and stronger involvement of institutions and civil society — were incorporated into the validated Civic Mentoring Toolkit, now used in WP12. The two territorial good practices showed how participation can grow along different paths, in an urban and in a rural community.

Participants particularly valued the new perspectives and the network built across Europe, and the mixed international groups. The European Community of Practice, launched at the exchange, extends these connections beyond the event and accompanies mentors through the next stages of the project.