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NEWS**



# CHAMPIONING EQUALITY, INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

## Newsletter #2 | January, 2025

**pal network**  
Fighting discrimination and anti-Gypsyism

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024:

The **PAL Network General Assembly** on December 18, 2025, welcomed new members and set plans for the future. Key updates included no membership fees for 2024-2025, new working groups on employment, inclusion, education, and digital development, and a three-year strategy focused on advocacy, hybrid assemblies, and local initiatives. Communication and dissemination plans were also strengthened, with a rebranded website coming in 2025.

## Organization

### PAL NETWORK

## News

### PAL IDEA INCUBATOR:

The **PAL Network** hosted its **PAL Idea Incubator** on December 4th, 2024, bringing together members from across Europe to exchange ideas, promote collaboration, and develop impactful project concepts.

This year's event was a resounding success, thanks to the active engagement and creativity of all participants.

### ROMDIEM PROJECT:

The **PAL Network** is proud to announce its role as the applicant organization for the **ROMDIEM** project, a transformative initiative funded under the CERV-2024-CITIZENS-REM-HOLOCAUST program. Running from March 2025 to March 2027, the project seeks to preserve the testimonies of Roma Holocaust survivors and their descendants.

### PROUD AMBASSADORS PROJECT:

As part and partner of the project, we invite mental health professionals, child psychologists, youth workers, activists, and policymakers to participate in online inception meetings on February 11th or 13th, 2025. These sessions will explore best practices, challenges, and opportunities for empowering LGBTQIA+ youth aged 18-30.

**Register now and join us in fostering inclusion, awareness, and positive change for LGBTQIA+ communities.**



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## Title of Project:

**PAL Voice: Empowering Women and Young Roma for an Inclusive Society**

Organization  
SEGE



## News

### “PAL Voice” Project: Empowering Roma Women and Youth

The “PAL Voice” project, led by the Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs (SEGE) and funded by EEA Grants, aimed to empower Roma women and youth in Attica, Central Macedonia, and Eastern Macedonia-Thrace. Running from April 2023 to May 2024, the project supported 362 beneficiaries by enhancing their professional, entrepreneurial, and psychosocial skills.

Key actions included over 880 sessions on job searching, CV writing, interview preparation, and business planning, alongside psychosocial support to boost self-esteem and resilience. Awareness campaigns on labor rights further fostered social inclusion.

The project showcased how targeted interventions can improve lives, promoting social cohesion and equality while offering a model for future inclusive initiatives.

PAL VOICE  
ΕΝΔΥΝΑΜΩΣΗ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ & ΝΕΩΝ ΡΟΜΑ

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### Organization ABARKA ONGD

ABARKA ONGD is dedicated to fostering youth development, promoting social inclusion, and facilitating international cooperation through innovative projects and exchanges. ABARKA designs and implements a wide range of initiatives focused on education, entrepreneurship, and intercultural learning. In December 2024, ABARKA took a significant step by joining the PAL Network, a global network of civil society organizations.



### News

December was a dynamic month for ABARKA ONGD, filled with impactful projects and collaborations that fostered youth development and international exchange.

- **Youth Exchange on Healthy Habits**

The month kicked off with an engaging Youth Exchange held in Hondarribia, Spain from November 28th to December 6th.

- **Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusion**

From December 10th to 15th, ABARKA representatives traveled to Oviedo to participate in the SEED Volunteering Partnership Building Activity organized by Youropia.

- **Virtual Exchange: YOUth Lead The Future**

ABARKA continued its commitment to virtual exchange with a program held from December 13th to 15th. Organized in partnership with three other organizations from four countries, this online initiative gathered 20 young people under the banner of the "YOUth Lead The Future" small-scale project.

- **Fostering Rural Entrepreneurship**

On December 18th, ABARKA facilitated a dynamic workshop in Hernani as part of the ECOBRUB project.

- **Training for Coordinators**

To further enhance its expertise, ABARKA participated in a Training of Coordinators program in Segovia from December 20th to 22nd.



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Organization  
CUBE

## News

### **E-ART PROJECT:**

As part of the E-ART project, we have proudly created the E-ART platform which promotes Sustainable Art and helps artists share their artworks with a wider audience.

E-ART partners are glad to organize the E-Residencies which are inviting artists to participate in, and be part of this 5-day event, from 7th to 11th of April, which will include both theoretical/ educational sessions by experts and workshops as well.

### **RESET-ART PROJECT:**

The CUBE team is excited to do the Study Visit in Guadeloupe in January, as part of the project, and not only has the chance to meet in person the project's partner, but also to meet other relevant organizations there.

### **PROUD AMBASSADORS PROJECT:**

As a partner in the Proud Ambassadors Project and coordinator in promotion&dissemination, CUBE contributes to empowering LGBTQIA+ youth by addressing mental health challenges and promoting societal acceptance. The project includes inception meetings and focus groups, bringing together mental health professionals, policymakers, and activists to share best practices and address challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ youth.

### **ROMDIEM PROJECT:**

CUBE is partner in the ROMDIEM project, which successfully approved in December.



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Organization  
ASES TRAINING



## News

### THE REVIVE 5.0 PROJECT in progress

The REVIVE 5.0 (Revolutionizing SMEs through Emotional Intelligence in the 5th Industrial Era) project aims to develop an innovative vocational training programme to equip Human Resources Managers in SMEs with the necessary emotional intelligence skills and competences to manage the transition of their workforce to Industry 5.0.

Work-based learning opportunities will be provided to help HRM better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by Industry 5.0.

### **WE WILL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WHILE CARRYING OUT OUR REVIVE 5.0 PROJECT:**

- 1) Research on the emotional competencies that could affect the HRM practices to secure the transition of the workforce of SMEs to the Industry 5.0 (Desk and field research).
- 2) Creation of an Innovative VET training curricula & material for HRMs and piloting activities
- 3) Creation of an e-learning platform and a digital interactive game for HR Managers
- 4) Piloting activities to test the project results
- 5) Dissemination activities



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### **AMIL Project: Alliance Multi-Stakeholder for Migrants Integration and Labor**

Launched in June 2024, AMIL fosters migrant labor integration in Cyprus through a multi-stakeholder approach, enhancing employability and inclusivity. Co-funded by the EU and AMIF.

### **Theory of Change (ToC) Project**

Started in March 2024, ToC empowers migrant children through rhetoric-based education, enhancing skills for academic and social integration. Co-funded by the EU and AMIF.

**Organization**  
CODECA, CYPRUS

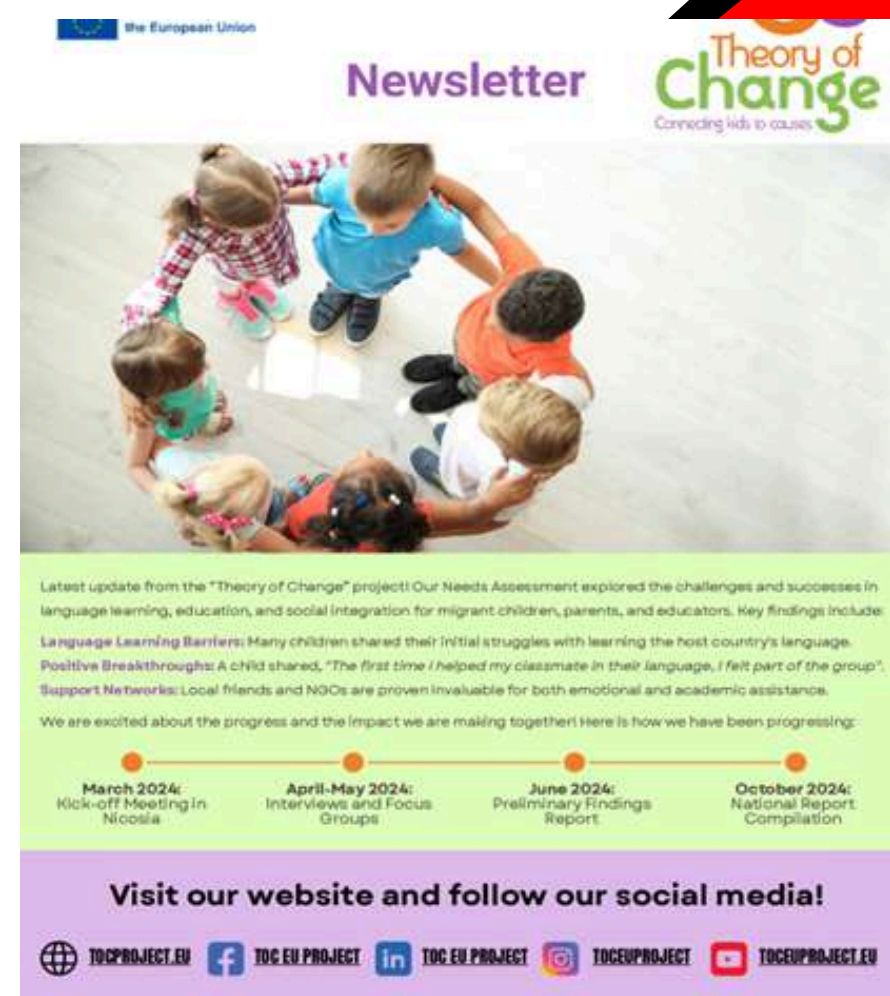
## News

### **TRACeD Project: International Recognition**

CODECA, representing Cyprus, proudly contributed to the EU co-funded TRACeD program, recognized by the EU's "Empowering Citizens for Equality, Rights, and Values" campaign. TRACeD addresses cyberviolence against women and girls through training and an interactive platform providing direct victim support. Learn more via the TRACeD Platform and the Reuters Article.

### **Juvenile Liaison Officers' Service Programme**

In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, CODECA launched the Juvenile Liaison Officers' Service Programme in May 2024 to support children in conflict with the law. The program emphasizes rehabilitation, supervision, and educational activities to promote reintegration into a supportive, non-punitive environment. Early results underscore the importance of stakeholder collaboration in fostering protective frameworks for children and their families.



**CODECA**

Center for Social Cohesion, Development and Care

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Libanaises pour l'Egalité – LPE Joun – Chouf - Lebanon



## Organization

LPE

## News

### LPE Refugee Support Initiative. Distribution of Hygiene Supplies – October 2024

#### Objective:

To ensure refugees have access to essential hygiene tools and supplies to promote health and prevent disease outbreaks.

### LPE launched the initiative of the Library Visitor Program: Inspiring Minds through Reading – Summer 2024

#### Objective:

To provide a welcoming environment for visitors and children, encouraging personal growth, creativity, and a positive mindset through books and storytelling.

LPE was taking part in the Mobility Study Visits in Alicante, Spain from 3 until 7 July 2023 under the frame work INVESTMED Project – co financed by the European Programme ENI CBC MED

#### Objective:

To explore best practices in Spanish organizations, foster cultural understanding, and establish networks for potential collaborations under the INVEST MED initiative. With the aim of contributing to learning on the sport about sustainable entrepreneurship.



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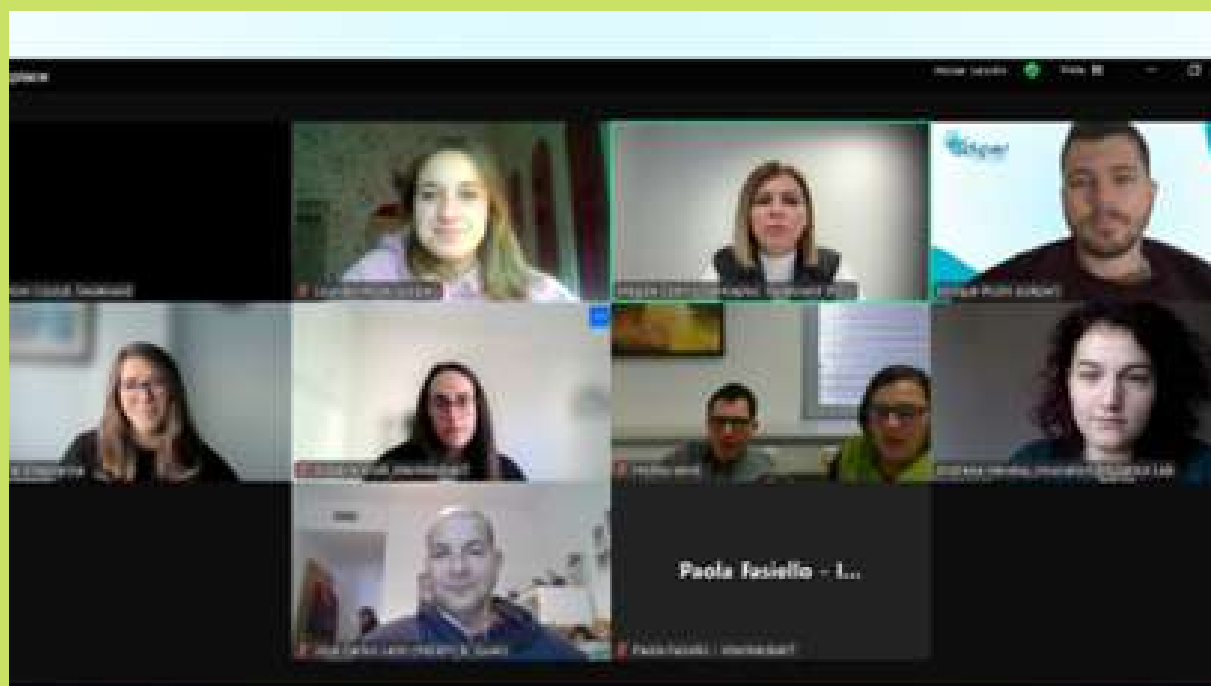
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Organization  
ADIPER

## News

We have officially kicked off the Erasmus+ project "Bridging Generations", an inspiring initiative aimed at fighting age discrimination through an intergenerational (re)connection approach. This project seeks to promote mental health and well-being for both young and seniors, restoring social connections across generations.



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Until we are all equal

Organization  
Plan International España

## News

Plan International España is now engaged in a new Erasmus+ Sport project titled “Mentor on the Move - Sports-Based Mentoring Across Borders” (Nº 101185227): this project is aimed at locally making physical exercise and sports more accessible and welcoming to migrant women, and other vulnerable groups through capacity building for organisations and professionals working in the field of sports, migration, or inclusion work. By acknowledging the multifaceted challenges faced by migrant women, encompassing social isolation, language barriers, and cultural nuances impacting their engagement in physical activities, the project will create and test a standardized framework programme for sport-based mentoring, focused on migrant women’ and other people who are at a risk of social exclusion’s promotion of personal development and self-agency. The project will be implemented in 6 EU countries (Finland, United Kingdom, Romania, Belgium, Spain and Greece) by 7 experience partners in the project field, leaded by the Finnish organization Monaliiku, and it has a total duration of 36 months, starting from the 1st November 2024.

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## ROMO DROM

Organization  
Romodrom, o.p.s.

### News

#### **Marie Gailová Receives Alice G. Masaryk Award**

Our founder, Marie Gailová, was honored with the prestigious Alice G. Masaryk Award by the U.S. Embassy in Prague for her contributions to human rights. This recognition highlights her inspiring leadership and the impactful work of Romodrom.

#### **Global Recognition by Citi Foundation**

Romodrom was selected as one of 50 organizations worldwide for the 2024 Citi Foundation Global Innovation Challenge. This partnership will help us develop innovative solutions to combat homelessness and housing insecurity, supporting low-income communities and Ukrainian refugee families.

#### **Successful Partnership with UNICEF**

Since 2022, Romodrom partnered with UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour to support over 1,400 Ukrainian Roma children and families. Services included mental health support, education, and case management, while also building the capacities of frontline workers. We're honored by UNICEF's gratitude for this impactful collaboration.



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**Sensus Music Calendar 2024:** In December 2024, Sensus presented the Music Calendar, an annual tradition where they showcase various bands, artists, and musicians they collaborate with. Every day until Christmas, a new door was opened on their Instagram and Facebook, providing the audience with a musical surprise each morning.

**Organization**  
Sensus Stockholm Gotland

**sensus**

## News

### Folk Education Prize 2024:

In September 2024, Sensus called for nominations for the Folk Education Prize, which aims to highlight associations, groups, or organizations that have made significant contributions to folk education in the region. The prize was awarded during the event "Folk and Fest" at Medborgarhuset on November 12, 2024.

The winner was:

### **Sakurakören, and Fools Gold:**

Sakurakören for spreading Japanese choral tradition for nearly 50 years, and Fools Gold, creating a unique music festival that unites generations in Stockholm. Both organisations are honored for their contributions to diversity, inclusion, and innovation in folk education.

### CREA Project:

Sensus is a partner in the new Creative Europe project CREA, which aims to develop skills and promote exchange between artisans across Europe to elevate craftsmanship and their professional development.

Sensus Stockholm-Gotlands  
Folkbildningspris 2024



Sensus Stockholm-Gotlands  
Folkbildningspris 2024 Fools Gold



**Sakurakören**



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Faros tou Kosmou (Light House of the World) began its activities in 2024 at Dendropotamos Thessaloniki with the main purpose to help children and young people of the neighborhood, which had alarmingly high dropout of school rates, to join the school environment and after succeed in their social inclusion and acceptance. The main mission of Faros is to help young Roma to love education and to pursue their self development through education and vocational training. Remedial teaching is provided every day as well as other educational and sports activities in order to improve their knowledge, also at the same time through seminars, scholarships and many others, its take care of improving their education. Furthermore, Faros ensure that all families facing problems receive essential and hygiene items and to facilitate access to public administratives and health services.

## Organization FAROS TOU KOSMOU



## News

Faros tou Kosmou (Light House of the World), in December, organized activities for the socialization of the children living in Dendropotamos, Thessaloniki. There was a trip to a circus, an amusement park and other Christmas events that made our children very happy.

Our organization have always been on the side of the people who need it and that's the reason we provide daily meals to residents of Dendropotamos who experience extreme conditions of poverty. Also, on the occasion of the Christmas holidays, products were provided to more than 100 families so they could have the opportunity to cook at their homes.



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OPUS CENTER - CENTER FOR PROMOTION AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIC INITIATIVES



Organization  
Centrum OPUS

## News

**Project: SocialECONomy – Circularity for the Social Economy (2024-1-AT01-KA210-ADU-000248117)**

We're excited to share that we're part of the Erasmus+ SocialECONomy project, an initiative designed to promote circular economy practices among social economy entities (SEEs) in Austria, Poland, Germany, and Italy. This project is all about empowering these organizations to reduce waste, reuse resources, and adopt sustainable practices that support the European Green Deal. Through hands-on training, follow-up workshops, and local events, we aim to help these entities strengthen their resilience, boost their competitiveness, and increase their positive environmental and social impact.

As part of this journey, we'll be inviting SEEs to participate in surveys to assess the circularity of their operations and to join a key training event in Vienna in April 2025. We're also committed to helping introduce circular economy solutions into the daily operations of local social enterprises across these countries. We believe this project will foster collaboration, spark innovation, and provide much-needed support, helping these organizations transition from traditional linear models to circular ones



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## Organization

VIKA

Vika

## News

"Turkey's First Women's Social Recovery Team: A Landmark Achievement by VIKA"

In an extraordinary step towards disaster management and social recovery, Vizyoner Kadınlar Derneği (VIKA) has established Turkey's first Women's Social Recovery Team. This groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in empowering women and ensuring effective disaster relief efforts in the region.

Highlighting this remarkable achievement, VIKA's President recently received the accreditation certificate from the Minister of Interior of Turkey. This honor underscores the trust and recognition bestowed upon VIKA for its commitment to disaster management and community empowerment.

With this development, VIKA is now positioned to work even more effectively in the field of disaster response and recovery. The organization is determined to expand its reach and deliver vital aid to more individuals in need. Through ongoing projects and innovative initiatives, VIKA aims to amplify its impact and foster resilience in communities affected by disasters.

"We believe this accreditation is a testament to our dedication and a catalyst for achieving greater heights in disaster relief," said the President of VIKA. "We remain committed to serving communities with passion and purpose, ensuring no one is left behind."

VIKA's journey continues with unwavering determination to create a stronger, more resilient society. Stay tuned as they set new benchmarks in social recovery and disaster management.



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