

Newsletter

#5 | MAY, 2026

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PAL Network (Belgium)

LET'S MEET IN BRUSSELS - PAL NETWORK NETWORKING DINNER



PAL Network is delighted to **invite you to our upcoming Networking Dinner Event in Brussels, Belgium on Thursday, 11 June 2026.**

If you are based in Belgium or you will be in Brussels during those days, we would be very happy to welcome you for an evening of networking, exchange of good practices, and meaningful discussions around:

- Social inclusion
- Youth work
- Non-formal education
- Equality
- Future collaborations

The **dinner will be offered by PAL Network.**

This gathering aims to create a friendly and inspiring space to connect, strengthen partnerships, share experiences, and explore future opportunities for cooperation.

Interested participants are **kindly asked to complete the registration form by 05/06/2026.**

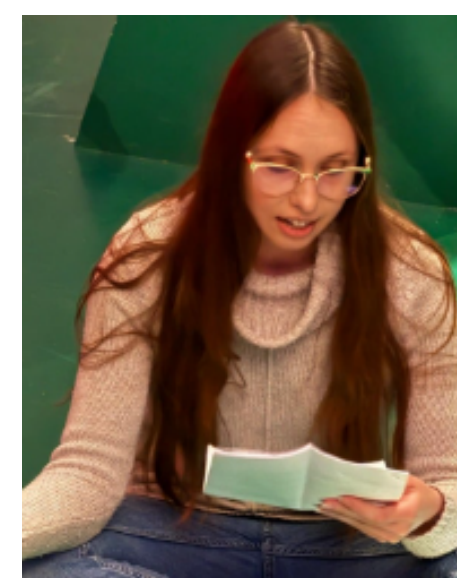
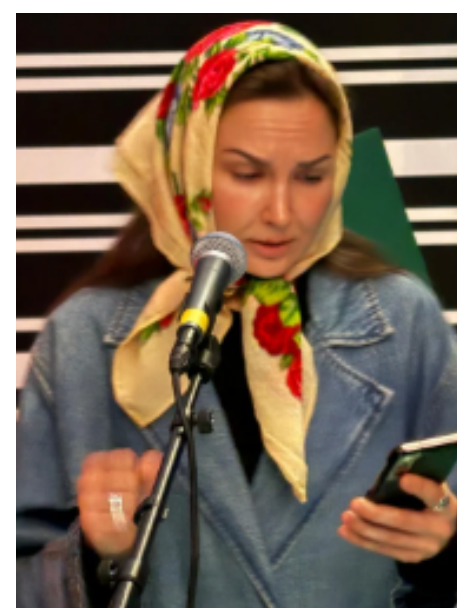
Time and venue details will be shared soon with all registered participants.

We look forward to meeting many of you in Brussels!

This month, PAL Network successfully implemented **four Storytelling Nights across Europe, in Bulgaria, Spain, Sweden, and Greece,** as part of the **Resilient Threads project.**

The events brought **together artists, audience members, Roma and non-Roma youth, community representatives, and local stakeholders** in warm and inclusive spaces of dialogue. Through personal stories, artistic expression, and shared reflections, participants **had the opportunity to celebrate Roma culture, resilience, identity, and diversity.**

The Storytelling Nights created meaningful moments of connection between Roma and non-Roma participants, promoting intercultural understanding, empathy, and visibility for Roma voices across Europe.





OECON GROUP BULGARIA

“Artisans in Cooperation: Building Social Craft Partnerships in Europe”

This session is made for **craft collectives, social cooperatives, and organizations working with vulnerable groups**. It is a vibrant space designed to help you **showcase your work on a European stage, find like-minded partners for future EU project collaborations, and discover innovative, sustainable practices from other countries.**

When: 19 June 2026 | 11:00 – 13:00 (EET)

Where: Online (via Microsoft Teams)

Language: English

 **Ready to Join the Conversation?**

 **Register Now: Fill out the Coffee Talk Registration Form:**



Join Our Next Online Coffee Talk!



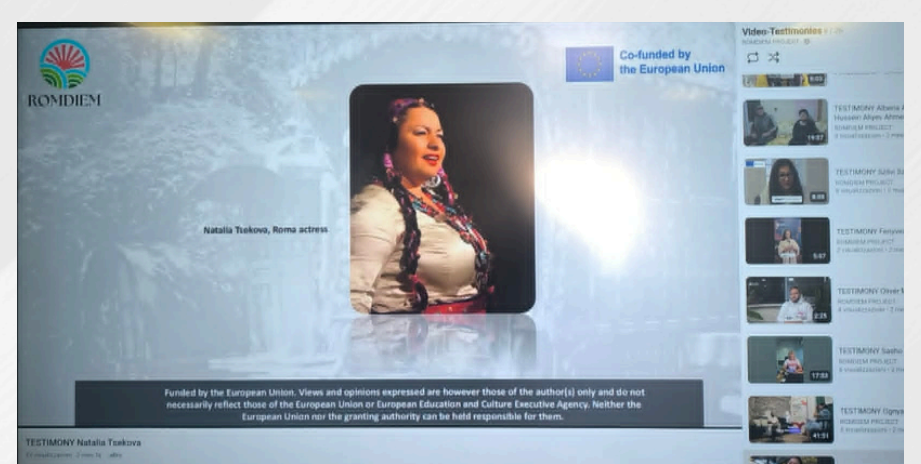
OECON Group Bulgaria, with the assistance of LARGO Association, held a **community screening event** in Kyustendil, within the ROMDIEM project activities, engaging 15 participants from **Roma and non-Roma communities, including NGO and institutional representatives.**

The discussion highlighted the **importance of authentic personal stories, clearer historical context, and including diverse generational perspectives in the ROMDIEM documentary.** Participants also recommended involving experts and gathering more stories to better reflect the diversity of Roma experiences.

The event underlined the **value of community input in shaping impactful and inclusive storytelling.**



ROMDIEM



AHA Federation (Romania)



Looking for an Intern – Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

We are currently **looking for a motivated intern** to join us in Bucharest through the **Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs program**

Check more about AHA: <https://ahanonformal.ro/>

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Starting period: August 2026

Duration: minimum 4 months (up to 6 months), according to the program rules

During the internship, the participant will:

- work on Erasmus+ projects, especially Youth Exchanges
- learn how an NGO operates in practice
- support partnership research and international cooperation
- be involved in non-formal education activities
- assist in volunteer coordination
- help organize events and workshops in our Youth Center
- have the opportunity to develop their own project idea



📌 How to apply (Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs process):

Interested candidates should:

1. Create an account on the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs platform
Link: <https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/page.php?cid=19>
2. Contact their local intermediary organization (Erasmus contact point)
3. Once their profile is approved, search for Federatia AHA in the EYE tool
4. Send a collaboration request

After that, we will review the request and get back to selected candidates for an interview.

Find us in Social Media:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Romni APS (Italy)

Living Library: stories that help us understand and overcome prejudice

The association UILDM Lazio Odv – Italian Union for the Fight against Muscular Dystrophy organized the sixth edition of the “**Living Library**”, which took place on 24 May 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Bocciofila di San Lorenzo, in Via dei Luceri 9.

The event is inspired by the international Human Library project and focuses on people who personally share the discrimination they experience in society and in everyday life, often because of stereotypes and prejudices. In this special library, in fact, the “books” are not made of paper, but are real people who share their stories, experiences and the difficulties they have faced.



This year as well, as in previous editions, **the organization Romni APS participated in the event**, confirming its commitment to promoting dialogue, inclusion and the fight against all forms of discrimination. **Saska Jovanovic represented Romni APS**, taking part as the organization’s representative for the fourth year. We are happy to share this journey and to be part of a coalition that works to give visibility to stories, experiences and voices that are often marginalized. Participants were able to read the back-cover descriptions from a catalogue of living books and choose which person to listen to. In this way, they had the opportunity to come into contact with stories that are often made invisible and to reflect on their own prejudices as well.



Among the testimonies collected, a review **dedicated to the living book “Saska”** clearly shows the value of the experience:

“It was a reading that helped me get to know Saska, but also the world — a world that is sometimes only glanced at briefly. Saska is proof that perseverance is something extremely important.”

The Living Library is therefore much more than a simple cultural event: it is a space for listening, meeting and dialogue. Through people’s stories, it helps us better understand discrimination and invites everyone to look at others with greater attention, respect and humanity.



Until we are all equal



Plan International España

The Mentor on the Move EU Project keeps moving forward with exciting new tools to support the inclusion of migrant women through sport and mentoring. The new Online Training Course on sports-based mentoring is now available for free and is designed for programme coordinators, mentors, sport clubs, and NGOs working to create more inclusive participation opportunities. The course includes seven practical modules focused on topics such as inclusion, intercultural communication, well-being, and how sport can help build a sense of belonging and active participation. And there's more: participants who complete the training will receive a certificate of participation. You can find this new resource for learning, networking and promoting more inclusive communities through sport via the following link: [Online training course - Monikansallisten naisten hyvinvointi ja liikunta ry](#)

Moreover, between January and April 2026, consortium partners organised Local Training Workshops in Finland, Romania, Belgium, Greece, and Spain, bringing together around 120 participants from the fields of sport, education, NGOs, and social work. These workshops introduced the Online Training Course and created spaces to exchange experiences, identify local challenges, and co-develop practical solutions to support migrant women through mentoring and sport. The positive response confirmed the strong interest in accessible, action-oriented tools.



Looking ahead, the project is now gearing up for its next major milestone. Following the latest partner meeting held in Madrid in April 2026, preparations are underway for the launch of the Pilot Phase, which will run across all partner countries. In Spain, activities will kick off between mid-September and early October 2026, bringing mentors and mentees together in a shared experience built around inclusion, community, and the power of sport. Organisations and individuals interested in taking part are invited to save the date — full details on recruitment and participation will be announced very soon. To express your interest or learn more, write to us at programas.locales@plan-international.org. Stay tuned!



MATERIA GROUP
CARE - NURSING - REHABILITATION

Materia Group (Cyprus)

Materia Group is pleased to announce a major expansion of its premises in Nicosia, marking an important milestone in the organisation's continued growth and commitment to innovation and social impact. The expansion will strengthen the organisation's operational capacity and create additional opportunities for project development, stakeholder engagement, training activities, and international cooperation. At European level, Materia Group is also proud to announce that the project "**The MOSAIC Network – Connecting European Initiatives for Migrant Women**" has successfully entered the Grant Preparation phase under the AMIF2027 programme. Furthermore, the project Monit_Us: Managed Observations and Notifications to Improve Timely User Support, funded under Eurostars 4, is currently in the testing phase with users in Cyprus and Poland. Building on the experience and results generated through the eSticky AAL project, Monit_Us focuses on smart monitoring systems and digital support solutions designed to improve timely care interventions and quality of life for older adults and caregivers

At the same time, the project **WeCare – Assistive Technology Integration and Digital Skills Training for Caregivers**, funded under KA210-VET Small-Scale Partnerships in Vocational Education and Training, continues to promote digital upskilling and practical assistive technology integration for caregivers working in ageing and support services. Materia Group is also leading PERMA – Permaculture Education for Resilience and Meaningful Ageing, supported under the EE 2025 — EAC/A08/2024 framework. (picture 2) The initiative combines sustainability, wellbeing, intergenerational learning, and meaningful ageing approaches through innovative educational practices and community engagement activities.



In addition, the project **EDU-MENT – Education in Mental Health for Nurses in Home and Residential Care**, funded under Erasmus+ KA220-VET (Project Code: KA220-VET-2FD42AAD), is currently finalising its pilot phase. Running from October 2023 until September 2026, the project focuses on strengthening mental health education and professional capacity-building for nurses and care professionals working in home and residential care settings. The initiative aims to improve resilience, psychosocial support competencies, and quality of care through innovative educational methodologies and training tools. Our developed tools are open here <https://edu-ment.eu/screening-tool-starting-page/> Materia Group is also advancing **PROHEALTH – A Novel Technology-Based Care Concept** for an Accessible and Personalized Cognitive-Motor Therapy to Counteract Frailty and Promote Health, funded under the C4 Transforming Healthcare Systems 2023 programme.



ABARKA ONG (Spain)

SereniSleep – A New Erasmus+ Project Putting Sleep at the Heart of Adult Learning

ABARKA ONG (Basque Country, Spain) is proud to share the project: SereniSleep – "Unlocking Deep Rest for a Healthier Tomorrow", an Erasmus+ KA210-ADU Small-Scale Partnership. SereniSleep addresses a growing but often overlooked challenge: sleep deprivation and its direct impact on adult learning, mental health, employability, and social inclusion. Despite strong scientific evidence linking poor sleep to reduced cognitive performance, increased stress, and lower productivity, sleep education is rarely integrated into adult learning programmes across Europe.



ABARKA ONGD officially launched the **I-PLAY project — Inclusive Heritage Games: Practice, Learn, Appreciate, and Youth** — with a two-day kick-off meeting held on 12–13 March 2026 at the ABARKA ONGD offices in San Sebastián, Spain. The meeting brought together representatives of the three consortium partners: ABARKA ONGD (Spain, lead coordinator), Biga Gelisim Spor Kulubu (Türkiye), and Association SEDA (Poland).

I-PLAY is an 18-month Erasmus+ Sport project that uses traditional sports and games as a tool for social inclusion, gender equality, and health-enhancing physical activity.



EMPOWER HER MENT

EmpowerHERment — Equipping Migrant Women for Social Business and Leadership

ABARKA ONGD is proud to share the progress of EmpowerHERment, our Erasmus+ KA220-ADU cooperation partnership project launched in November 2025 together with four European partners: DIMITRA Education & Consulting (Greece), GODESK S.R.L. (Italy), ASGA (Turkey), and We-Mean (Latvia).

EmpowerHERment aims to equip 100+ young adult female migrants (aged 18–45) with entrepreneurial, digital and employability skills, through AI-powered learning and Problem-Based Learning (PBL) methodologies. At the same time, the project trains 50+ adult educators in inclusive, experiential and digital teaching approaches.





BÜYÜK ORTADOĞU
SAĞLIK VE EĞİTİM VAKFI

Büyük Ortadoğu Sağlık ve Eğitim Vakfı-BOSEV (Turkey)

The **SHIFT-MED Project – Shaping the Future of Universities: Twin Transitions across the Mediterranean – is an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)** initiative co-funded by the European Union. The project aims to modernize Higher Education Institutions in Tunisia and Palestine by integrating sustainability and digital transformation in line with the European Green Deal and the Digital Education Action Plan 2021–2027. Through governance reform, innovative training programmes, AI-enhanced learning approaches, sustainability leadership, and cross-border collaboration, SHIFT-MED supports universities in becoming active drivers of the green and digital transition. The consortium brings together universities and organizations from Tunisia, Palestine, Türkiye, and Italy to strengthen institutional capacities, promote inclusive and sustainable education, and contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SHIFT-MED Successfully Completes Governance Workshops for Twin Transition in Universities

The SHIFT-MED Project – Shaping the Future of Universities: Twin Transitions across the Mediterranean – successfully completed its intensive training programme titled “Governance Workshops for Twin Transition in Universities”, held in hybrid format between 4–15 May 2026



The training programme brought together academics, sustainability committee members, institutional leaders, and experts from partner universities and organizations in Tunisia, Palestine, Türkiye, and Italy. Throughout the workshops, participants explored key topics related to sustainability governance, stakeholder engagement, innovation ecosystems, strategic planning, institutional transformation, and sustainable resource management in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). **The programme included interactive sessions on:**

- Innovation ecosystems and stakeholder engagement
- Sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Strategic planning for sustainable universities
- Sustainability leadership and institutional governance
- Resource management and monitoring systems
- Green campus practices and sustainability indicators

<https://shiftmedproject.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61587204742470>

<https://www.instagram.com/shiftmedproject/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/shift-med-cbhe-project>

CCIF (Cyprus)



CCIF Cyprus, based in Paphos, is **dedicated to social inclusion, digital innovation, and sustainable development**. As proud holders of the **Erasmus+ Youth Accreditation and ESC Quality Label**, we empower youth, migrants, and vulnerable communities through non-formal education. Our local and international initiatives are closely aligned with EU horizontal priorities to create lasting and inclusive community impact.

This year marks a major milestone for CCIF Cyprus as we proudly celebrate our 10th Anniversary! For a decade, we have been bridging cultures, empowering citizens, and driving positive social change across Paphos and Europe. In tandem with our anniversary celebrations, our impactful community inclusion project BAGAP is officially reaching its successful conclusion next week. This initiative has been a cornerstone in promoting active civic participation and creating safe, welcoming spaces for everyone.



We warmly **invite all PAL Network members, partners, and friends** to participate in our final events next week! **Join us** to learn about our project results, share best practices in non-formal education, and celebrate this incredible journey with us.

BAGAP Event Info & Participation:

<https://www.ccifcyprus.com/bagap.html>

CCIF Cyprus Website: <https://www.ccifcyprus.com>

Slobodná demokratická škola
Košice (Slovakia)



We warmly welcome worldschooling families and communities to Žakarovce — on the eastern edge of Western civilization.

A place where nature and learning meet: forests for hiking, lakes for swimming, and space to live, explore, and grow together. Come experience a different rhythm of life.

VOLNOBEH

Stay in our area near Gelnica. We offer spaces for group trips, educational stays or schools in nature under acceptable conditions. Find out about the current options by email or phone.

- Rooms from 3 people
- 3 common rooms
- Fully equipped kitchenette
- Shared showers and toilets
- Large outdoor space with a stream in the area
- Possibility of camping on the plot
- Affordable price

We build on the many years of experience and history of our non-profit organization, which deals with environmental topics in formal and informal education, especially for children and youth.

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*The world is our
classroom, and every
place we visit is a
lesson waiting to be
discovered*

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Championing Equality, Inclusion & Empowerment for Vulnerable Groups

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