

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	WeWorld Onlus Focus
PIC number:	930268122 986253224
Project name and acronym:	My Resistance My Democracy - MyResistance

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP6
Event name:	National Meeting SI+IT
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>
Location:	Italy, Bologna and Ljubljana, Slovenia
Date(s):	20/06/2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.weworld.it/cosa-facciamo/progetti-in-europa/my-resistance-my-democracy https://www.weworld.it/en/what-we-do/european-projects/my-resistance-my-democracy https://focus.si/projekti/mojupor-mojademokracija/
Participants	
Female:	21 (Italy) + 16 (Slovenia)
Male:	14 (Italy) + 17 (Slovenia)
Non-binary:	/
From Italy	35
From Slovenia:	33
...	
Total number of participants:	68 (35 + 33)
	From total number of countries: 2

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Slovenian part:

The Slovenian part of the National Conference was held on June 20th. The conference was divided into three main parts. The first part of the event was a Ljubljana tour on resistance and democracy, while the second part was a youth workshop focused on active citizenship, which took place at the Primary School Savsko naselje. At the end of the event, we connected with Italian youth via Zoom, and the participants shared what they had seen and learned during the day. The aim of the event was to introduce the youth to how people from the past found ways in their local environment to bring about change. Moreover, we wanted to not only empower them with knowledge but also motivate and encourage them to take an active role in addressing issues that are important to them.

Students from the Primary School Savsko naselje, who had previously participated in workshops, took part in the conference. The headmaster, who liked our initial workshops at the school, organized a day for the conference specifically for the class that had participated before. Another class was also invited to participate. This class had also attended a similar workshop on resistance and democracy with the same museum advisor the previous month, so they already had similar knowledge on the topic. The headmaster recognized the potential for collaboration with us, aiming to encourage participation and engage the youth in taking an active role in shaping the future.

At this event, the 33 participants in Slovenia were divided in 16 males and 17 females. The Conference has started at 9.00 and finished at 14.15.

The Conference has been organized in this way:

- Ljubljana walking tour on resistance and democracy
- Interactive game as introduction to workshop
- Youth workshop focused on active citizenship
- Meeting online with Italian youth

At the beginning of the conference, we gathered in front of the school and went to the city center of Ljubljana by city bus. The walking tour started in front of the Faculty of Arts, led by Aljoša Šikovec, one of the Slovenian coordinators of the project, who designed it in an interactive way. Participants were asked questions regarding different topics at tour stops and encouraged to give their opinions. The tour began with the question: "Can you tell me, what is social activism?" and set the tone for the tour, which focused on rebellious acts from the past that brought about change. Aljoša connected these acts to similar movements today and challenged participants to think about some movements they know.

Stops on the walking tour were:

- Faculty of Arts (student protests 1968)

The Faculty of Arts, being a hub of intellectual and academic activity, became a significant site for student activism and demonstrations in 1968. During the protests, students voiced their dissatisfaction with various societal and political issues, such as authoritarianism, lack of academic freedom, and restrictions on civil liberties. They demanded educational reforms, increased democracy, and a more open and inclusive society. The Faculty of Arts served as a gathering point for students, where

they organized meetings, discussions, and demonstrations. It became a symbol of student activism and the quest for social change. The protests at the Faculty of Arts and other universities in 1968 had a profound impact on the cultural and political landscape of the time, helping to shape the future direction of society and inspiring subsequent generations of activists.

- Republic Square (Monument of Revolution + Youth For Climate Change protests)

Republic Square in Ljubljana holds historical significance in connection to the revolution. During times of political change and societal transformation, Republic Square often becomes a central gathering point for demonstrations, rallies, and public expressions of dissent. Throughout history, this square has witnessed various revolutionary events and movements that have shaped the course of Slovenia's political landscape. In particular, during the revolutionary period in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Republic Square served as a symbolic site for citizens to express their desire for independence from the former Yugoslavia and their aspiration for a democratic nation. The square became a focal point for public speeches, gatherings, and demonstrations during this critical time. Citizens rallied together, demanding political reforms, freedom of expression, and self-determination. The collective energy and spirit of the people in Republic Square played a significant role in mobilizing support for the democratic movement and laying the groundwork for Slovenia's path to independence. Today, Republic Square continues to be a symbol of democracy, civic engagement, and social change in Ljubljana. It stands as a reminder of the transformative power of the people and their ability to shape their nation's destiny through collective action and the pursuit of shared ideals.

It is also the location where Youth climate protests (Fridays for Future) make a stop, during which they present their demands regarding the environment in front of the parliament.

- Congress Square (Monument to Women's Demonstrations)

Congress Square is closely connected to the Monument to Women's Demonstrations in Ljubljana. The square itself holds historical significance as a gathering place for Women's Demonstrations that took place on October 8, 1945. The Monument to Women's Demonstrations, located in Congress Square, commemorates these significant demonstrations. It serves as a tribute to the women who played a vital role in the anti-fascist movement and the liberation struggle of Slovenia during World War II. The demonstrations were a powerful display of solidarity, courage, and resistance against occupying forces. The Monument to Women's Demonstrations stands as a symbol of women's contributions and their dedication to fighting for freedom, equality, and justice. It serves as a reminder of the historical struggles and achievements of women in Slovenia's history.

- Gallery (LGBTQ incident at the coffeshop that led to first LGBTQ protest)

The scandal at Galerija bar, where security guard dismissed two poets because they were gay. This captured public attention and raised concerns about issues such as discrimination or misconduct, ignited a wave of discontent among the people. In response, individuals and groups organized a protest centered around drinking Radenska, a popular Slovenian mineral water brand, as a symbolic act of resistance. This unique form of protest became a catalyst for unity and a collective expression of dissent against perceived injustices. As a result of these demonstrations and the growing momentum for change, the first parade in Ljubljana was born. This parade represented a public display of solidarity, activism, and a shared vision for a more inclusive and equitable society.

- Adamič-Lundrovo Embankment (Slovenian protests 1908)

During Slovenian protests in 1908, the embankment became a gathering place and a symbol of resistance against perceived injustices. In 1908, Slovenia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and tensions were mounting due to various political and social issues. Slovenian workers and activists began organizing protests and demonstrations to voice their demands for better working conditions, political rights, and national recognition. Adamič-Lundrovo Embankment became a central location for these protests. It served as a platform for public speeches, rallies, and gatherings, where individuals expressed their grievances and united in their pursuit of social and political change. The embankment became a site of solidarity and resistance against the oppressive regime, providing a space for Slovenians to come together and demand their rights. The protests played a significant role in raising awareness, mobilizing the public, and pushing for reforms. Embankment represents a historic moment of collective action and the determination of the Slovenian people to fight for their rights and freedoms. It stands as a testament to the country's rich history of activism and the ongoing pursuit of social justice.



Following the walking tour, we returned to the school for a workshop. The interactive game and workshop were facilitated by Samanta Pahole, the project coordinator, and Lovro Klinar, who is involved in youth work.

After a lunch break, we began the workshop with **an interactive game** as an introduction. We placed three colored papers in a line: red at the beginning, yellow in the middle, and green at the end. Red represented "I don't agree," green represented "I agree," and yellow represented "I partially agree." We then read various statements like: "Only Slovenian/local food should be served in schools", and participants moved to the paper that represented their opinion. For each question, participants standing at different papers explained why they agree, disagree, or partially agree. At times it also led to debate between them and expansion on their point of view.

This activity was chosen for several reasons. Game encourages active participation from the youth by physically moving to the paper that represents their opinion. This hands-on activity keeps them engaged and involved throughout the process which is important for primary school students. It provides a platform for youth to express their opinions on various statements. By standing at different papers, they visually demonstrate their stance and can share their thoughts and perspectives. Throughout the game, youth are prompted to think critically about the statements presented. They consider their own beliefs and values and articulate their reasoning behind their agreement, disagreement, or partial agreement. This promotes critical thinking skills and the ability to form well-reasoned arguments. As participants explain their opinions, it fosters respectful dialogue among the youth. They have the chance to listen to different viewpoints and engage in discussions where they can challenge or support each other's ideas in a constructive manner. Moreover, game encourages youth to consider and understand different perspectives by observing where their peers stand. It promotes empathy and helps them recognize that people can have varying opinions on the same topic.



Game was a perfect introduction into following workshop. For it, groups were randomly divided into groups with 4 to 6 members. Each group got the paper with different topic with the possibility to change it. Participants of each group discussed topic with each other and think about if they would have any wishes/suggestions/demands regarding it and which would they be. They wrote them down on a poster. Coordinators helped them with questions regarding the topics, encouraged them throughout the activity and helped them to formulate demands. Each group later presented their topics and wishes/suggestions/demands regarding it to other groups.

Topics were (not all were chosen):

- Climate change
- Environmental pollution with plastic
- Social media
- Tolerance among young people
- War and peace
- Excessive burden on primary school students
- ChatGPT
- Artificial intelligence



Some of the suggestions were:

- Youth should be educated about social media, especially those between the ages of 8 and 12.
- Hate speech should be restricted.
- Regarding war, we want more contacts and conversations between people and countries and diplomatic resolution of issues.
- We demand prohibition of the use and sale of weapons.
- With increased use of artificial intelligence and electronic devices, it is necessary to ensure proper protection for workers (goggles, limited hours of use...).
- Let robots perform the most dangerous professions, while humans handle less dangerous ones.
- With the help of artificial intelligence, we would monitor abuses in schools and workplaces (such as pedophilia...).

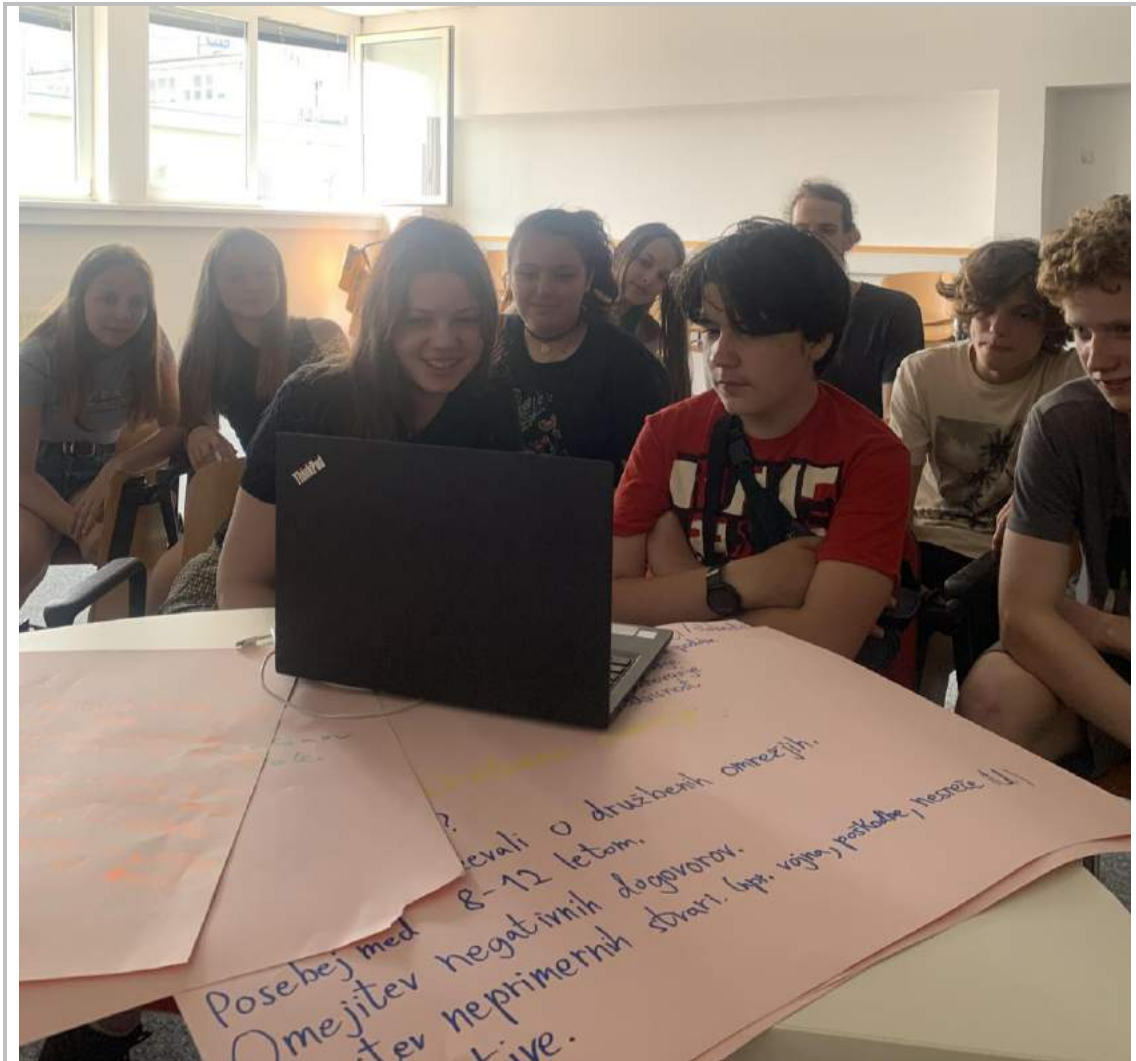


Overall, workshop provided a dynamic and interactive way for youth to engage with different ideas, express their opinions, cooperate, and together write suggestions for brighter future. It promoted respectful dialogue and active participation.

End and meeting online with Italian Youth:

The National Conference closed with an online meeting with Italian partners, it gave the chance for the young people to share among themselves their expectations about the next phases of the project. At the same time, the youth shared what had already been done, in their respective countries, in the previous phases of the project. In particular, the participants exchanged some ideas on the topics, wishes and demands, that they would like to bring in the following steps of My Resistance My Democracy.

The National Conference concluded with a virtual gathering on Zoom with our Italian counterparts, providing an opportunity for the young participants to share their insights from the Slovenian conference. During this session, the youth had the chance to discuss their activities during the day and in the earlier project phases. Additionally, participants actively exchanged ideas, expressing their thoughts, desires, and aspirations regarding the topics they wished to explore and the direction they wanted to pursue in the subsequent stages of the "My Resistance My Democracy" project.



Evaluation:

We received feedback from the students' workshop in person. Some said they were not familiar with the majority of historical events associated with different places/monuments on the tour and found it highly intriguing. The stories they heard prompted them to contemplate how even small movements can result in significant change. They expressed enthusiasm for the interactive game and were eager to hear the perspectives of participants with different opinions. Following the workshop, many of them felt inspired to reflect further on the world they inhabit and consider how they could (begin to) actively participate in its transformation.

Italian part:

The National Conference took place on June 20th at Vag61, a social centre in Bologna that carries out various social activities in the city. WeWorld has a long-standing collaboration with Vag61 and the people that animates the space.

All youth who participated in the previous six workshops were contacted to participate at the Conference. Furthermore, we promoted the event using our common channels (social media, mailing list, newsletter, etc.) to broaden the participation and engage also those who were not able to participate in the previous phase of the project.

At this event, the participants in Italy were 35 people divided in 14 male and 21 female. The Conference has started at 14.00 and it finished at 19.30.

The Conference has been organized in this way:

- Meeting online with Slovenian youth;
- Historical lesson on partisan resistance with inputs of an expert;
- Role- game to learn how to assess national and interdependent issues;
- Discussion on wishes and demands;
- Walking tour on Resistance.



CONFERENZA NAZIONALE

Vag61, 20 giugno 14:00-19.30

Programma della giornata

Ore 14.00-18.30: National Conference

Con circa 40 ragazzi e ragazze coinvolti nei laboratori CERV

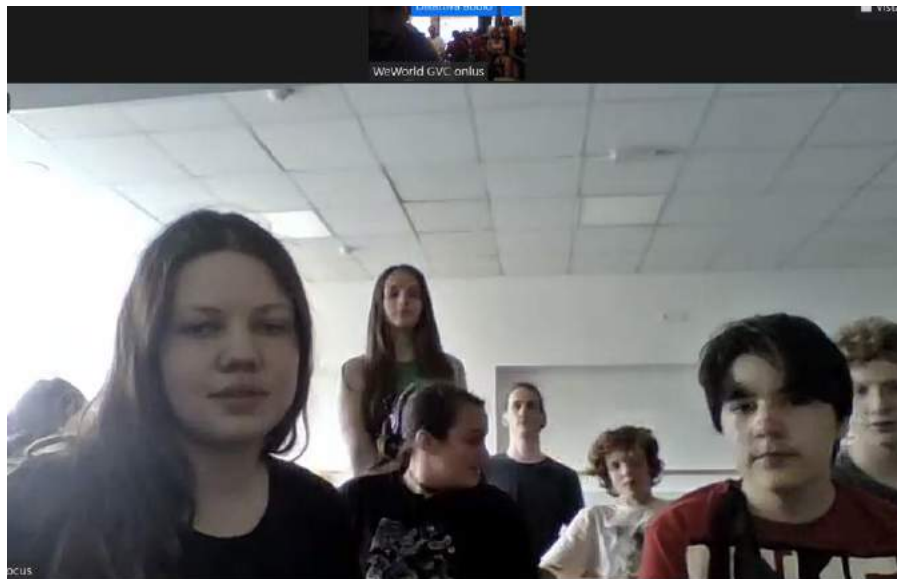
- Ore 14.00-14.30
 - o Collegamento online con partner Sloveni e momento di condivisione delle istanze nazionali.
- Ore 14.30-15.30
 - o Andrea Filippi e Patrizio Ponti (WeWorld): introduzione
- Ore 15.30-17.00
 - o Nadia Pagani (ANPI Pratello) dialoga con i ragazzi e le ragazze facendo un excursus storico sulla resistenza partigiana
- Ore 17.00-18.45
 - o Andrea Filippi e Patrizio Ponti (WeWorld): Gioco di Ruolo e creazione dei wishes and demands.
- Ore 18.45-19.30
 - o Walking Tour Walking Tour organizzato da: Valerio Montevetti



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The National Conference opened with an online meeting with Slovenian partners, it gave the chance for the young people to share among themselves their expectations about the next phases of the project. At the same time, the youth shared what had already been done, in their respective countries, in the previous phases of the project. In particular, the participants exchanged some ideas on the topics, wishes and demands, that they would like to bring in the following steps of My Resistance My Democracy.



Afterwards, Nadia Pagani, the host speaker, gave some historical inputs on the Italian Resistance. Nadia Pagani is a member of ANPI (National Association of Partisans of Italy), an organization that is concerned with keeping alive the memory of what the resistance in Italy was. Indeed, ANPI with its more than 135,000 members,

is among the largest associations present and active in the country today.

Founded in 1944, ANPI since then brought its contribution in many social fights; one of its main goals is to restore full freedom and foster a regime of democracy to prevent the return of any form of tyranny and absolutism in the future.



Nadia focused her lecture on showing the links between partisans and today's youth values and commitment to defend the social rights.

She questioned the audience on the importance of taking sides and making choices. Furthermore, the youth were asked, "According to you, what is worth fighting for nowadays?", "What are the resistances of today?". Some responded that climate change, even though it seems far away, is an issue as strong as the war was at the time. Also, school and educations were pointed out as important issues for them.

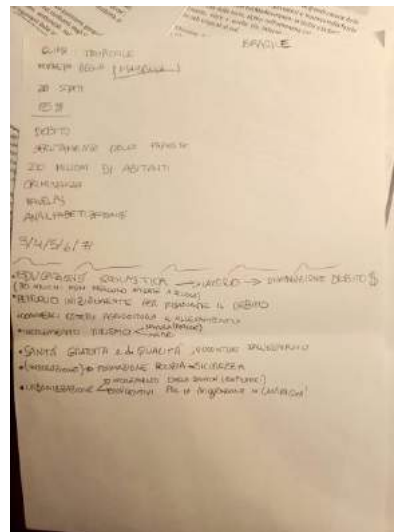
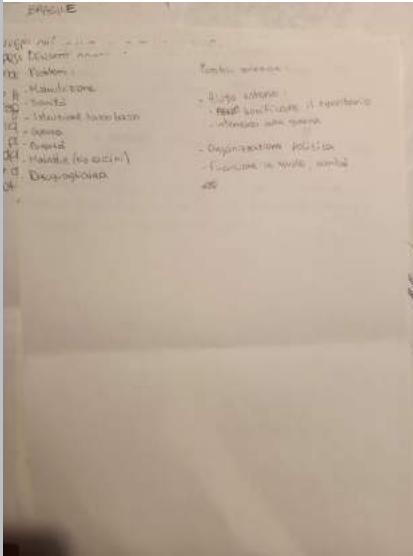
After this session, we organized a role-playing activity. The game is called "Let's Rule". The goal of the exercise was to stimulate empathy, identification, and trying to imagine how the problems we have today are linked and bonded with other actors and countries around us.

The participants were first divided into four groups and each group had a specific country: Italy, Japan, Yemen and Brazil. By arguing and debating, participants were asked to identify the issues each of these countries might have, and then reflect on the differences and similarities between the selected country and Italy. Moreover, youth could also try to identify solutions for the identified problems. Below the main 4 issues and solutions conceived and found by the youth:

- Firstly, they pointed out the importance of the role of education as a tool to avoid wars, face social issues, and promote integration.
- Secondly, the high living costs in the city; youth proposed to create incentives to sustain an internal migration to the countryside.
- Thirdly, the issue of energy was also analysed by the participants, with the

idea that governments should invest in renewable energy.

- Finally, the need of gathering space in the cities, in order to allow discussion and exchange of ideas, key ingredients for the overall growth of society.



The exercise was aimed at identifying issue of another context and then analyse the same issues at a national context, thus also using empathy. Then, We World staff brought back the focus of the event, by holding the youth as protagonists and asking them what problems, desires, and hopes they have for their future.



As results of this discussion, several topics emerged:

- The topic of education has been taken up as key: better education could benefit all spheres of society.
- Furthermore, the demand of a freer access to information was raised, as it would give the possibility of knowledge, and knowledge enables the resolution of disputes and issues.
- Climate change was mentioned by almost everyone, a topic dear to all youth given also the recent flooding in the region. Young people believes that climate change brings negative effects on all spheres of society including, for example, health care.

- Moreover, the participants also referred to the category of MAPA (Most Affected People Areas) a theme that they declared would like to discuss further in the upcoming international conferences.

WISHES AND DEMANDS

- EDUCATION
- ACCESS TO INFORMATION
- CLIMATE CHANGE: ALL THE PROBLEMATIC LINKED TO IT
- MAPA: MOST AFFECTED PEOPLE AREAS
- HUMAN RIGHTS

(A slide where facilitators noted the participants wishes and demands)



Finally, a small walking tour was organized in the neighbourhood of Vag61, called Cirenaica. This neighbourhood has a strong importance for the city Remembrance of the Resistance. In the 30's it was named after the colonial enterprise of Mussolini's Italy, and after the Second World War all the streets were renamed after partisans. The walking tour was an occasion to reflect on the history of Italian Resistance in order to be effective in changing the future, but it also showed how toponymy can be a political tool. Moreover, it was also an opportunity to understand how much the places where we live have a long history behind, which it is important we reconnect with.

Following the National Conference, youth were invited to participate to an event realised in the frame of the DEAR project #ClimateOfChange, at Vag61. It represented a chance for youth to keep discussing on global issues, such as climate

migration, and to have new inputs on the forms of resistances in the contemporary times. The event, titled “La lotta dei migranti climatici e le moderne resistenze” (“The fight of climate migrants and the modern forms of resistances”), saw an open debate among scholars, civil society and WeWorld staff working on migration.

It was an excellent time for reflection and discussion that was fully appreciated by the youth.



EVALUATIONS

At the end of the Conference, it has been asked at the participants to fill out 2 questionnaires : 1 elaborated by WeWorld and 1 provided by the EU (for the latter, the lead organization has the related data).

The results tend to be positive.

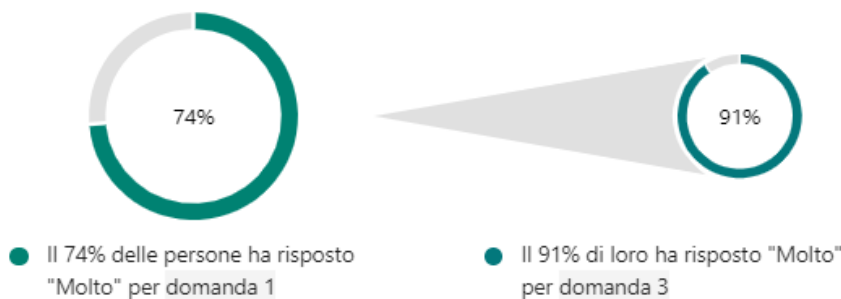
Questionario Valutazione della conferenza del progetto #MyResistance

1. In generale, sei soddisfatt@ della tua partecipazione alla conferenza? *

- Per niente
- Poco
- Abbastanza
- Molto

Indeed 74% of the participants answered “very” to the question “Are you satisfied of the conference?” and from these 91% answered “very” to the question “Are you satisfied from the activity?”

74% delle persone ha risposto **Molto** per questa domanda e la maggioranza ha risposto “**Molto**” alla domanda 3.



Also 60% of the participants answered “very” to the question “Do you feel that participation in the workshop has increased your level of awareness and critical understanding of the issues addressed?”

60% delle persone ha risposto **Molto** per questa domanda e la maggioranza ha risposto "**Molto**" alla domanda 3.



Finally, 65 % of the participants answered "Very" to the question "Do you feel you received interesting stimuli on the themes of 'the event (rights, participation, activism)?"

65% delle persone ha risposto **Molto** per questa domanda e la maggioranza ha risposto "**Molto**" alla domanda 1.



Overall, therefore, the experience of the participants was positive, and the comments all revolve around the benefit they derived from it. The only negative point observed in the questionnaire evaluation is the short time to discuss the issues.

Dissemination: (Co-) Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. The European Union cannot be held responsible for them.



HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).