



Italy: Social empowerment of migrants lies at the heart of a project, which is carried out by the Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo (Italy) in collaboration with associations, voluntary organisations (Gruppo di Volontariato Vincenziano and Casa degli amici dell'accoglienza) and a Croatian cultural mediator.

The initiative "UNITED COLOURS OF CINISELLO" aims, in particular, to create a place of privileged reception for migrants as well as to develop the latter's social networks as a basis of social empowerment and active participation.

Among the activities that have been realised figure:

- a) Italian language laboratories, which take into account – through an individualised approach - the needs of the users, and therefore diverse cultural and religious origins (example: ad hoc courses for women from Arab countries);
- b) creation of a centre in which third-country nationals and other persons with migration background may find a person (a local or a migrant) listening to their worries and concerns;
- c) development of a space for active listening and guidance regarding health issues and
- d) the provision of a space for cultural exchange on and mutual assistance (between different migrant groups and locals) in questions related to everyday life such as childcare, ways of tackling family problems in respect of different cultures, information and guidance on the services provided by the city etc.