



Co-funded by
the European Union



TRACER Project

Transformative Roma Art and Culture for European
Remembrance

TRACER project activities in the cities of Florence and Prato

International seminar, Braga, Portugal, September 20th, 2024

Leaving a trace: Roma and non-Roma young people between memory and present
Campus de Gualtar – Auditório Multimédia, University of Minho (UMinho)

Project objective

The project aims to mobilise groups of Roma and not Roma adolescents/young adults, male and female, to collect narratives about the Holocaust and the Roma genocide making young people an active part of historical knowledge.

Reconstructing and documenting the history of the crimes through historical research.

Increase awareness of the history that links the Roma community to Europe and re-evaluating their membership in the EU.

Activating teenagers to be trainers/informers through an artistic event on genocide aimed at a wide audience (graffiti, murals, music, theatre, film/documentary, etc.) helping to preserve remembrance.

Promoting training and educational workshops on genocide in schools with Roma students and multi-ethnic classes.

Team building

The Team composed of young roma, sinti and gagé had the objective of promoting artistic and educational events, within schools or public places, to encourage the re-elaboration of the memory of the genocide of the Roma and Sinti with the support of groups of students from the schools involved.



Art as a vehicle for historical narration

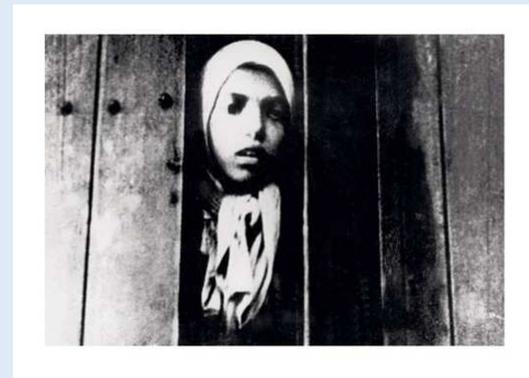
Following the team building process it was gradually decided to:

- Collect significant historical materials
- Select some objects from the collected materials
- Plan: **1)** laboratory activities to be proposed in schools and other social contexts with the support of adolescents **2)** a final event, in the form of a theatrical performance, based on narratives linked to the collected objects

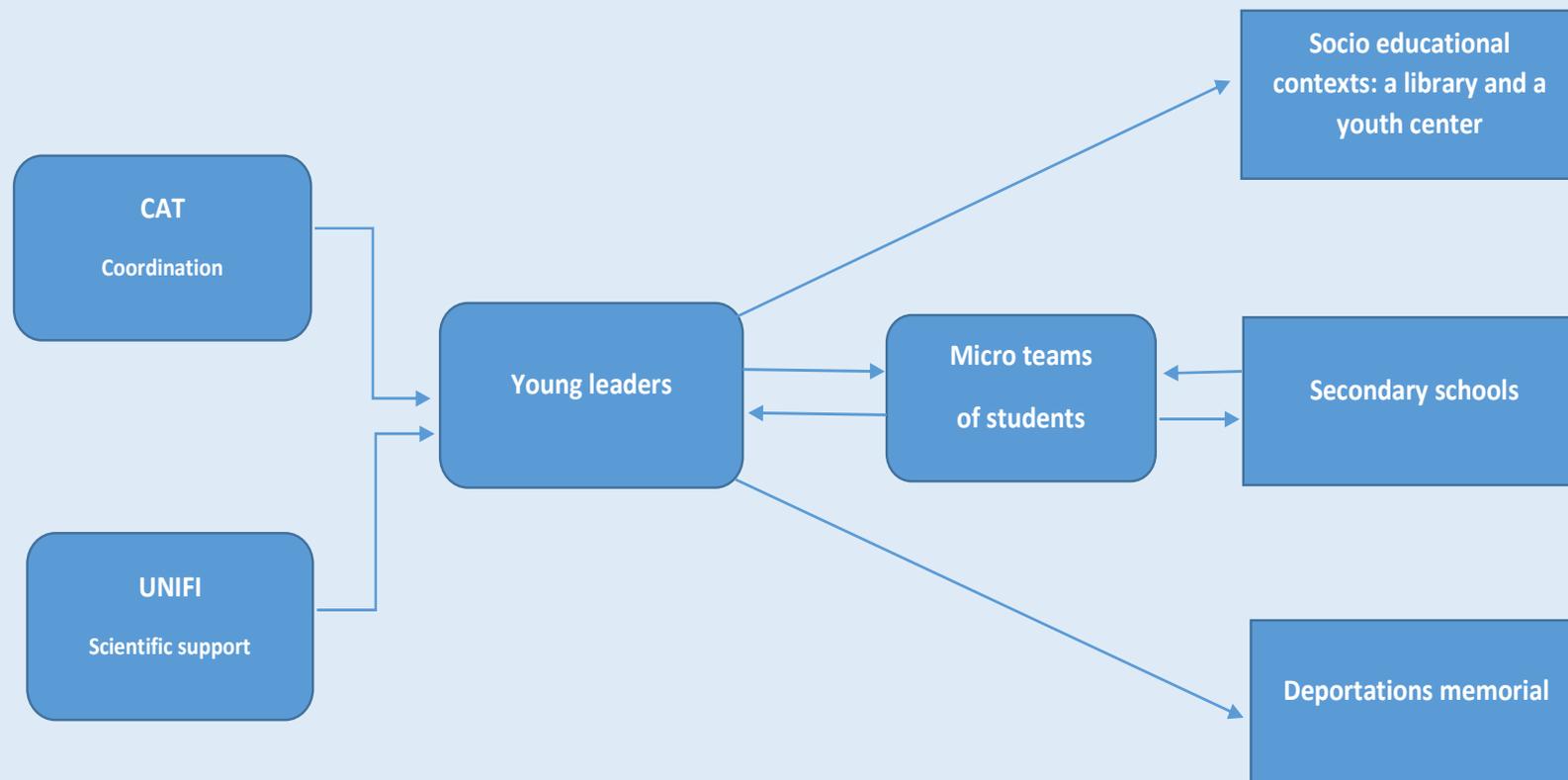
Objects and images as work themes



...Then we moved on to the analysis of the images collected. In particular, reference is made to: Dinah Babbitt and the portraits of the Roma in Auschwitz; Maria Malikowska and the coat of liberty; Amos Steinberg and the hidden evidence of the crime. Following a brainstorming session, the group decided to use what had been collected so far and to rework it in artistic terms through the proposal of thematic workshops. - From W5 Descriptive sheet



Our work structure



The deportations memorial

Florence

One of the major references of our actions

The Deportations Memorial houses the Memorial set up inside Block 21 of Auschwitz I camp, an extraordinary work of art resulting from the intersection and cooperation of figures who were prominent in Italian and European culture. The museum itinerary that introduces the visit tells the story of deportations to the Nazi concentration camps, in the context of the European history of World War II and fascisms.



Secondary schools

The secondary schools involved were 4 technical and professional institutes



Social and educational centers



Some data on the activities

People involved in project activities 367

Gender

Female 248

Male 117

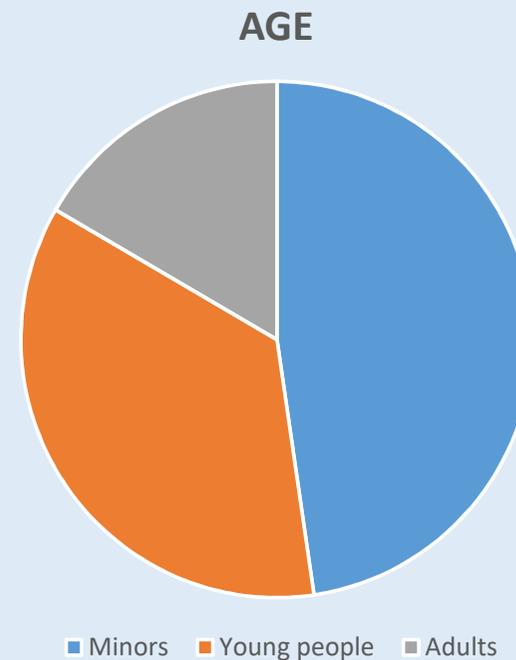
Not binary 2

Nationalities

Italy 96%

Other nationalities:

Germany, France, Croatia, Spain, Albania,
Ecuador, Romania, North Macedonia, Serbia



Final artistic event

Deportations Memorial houses, January 26, 2024

The idea we worked on was to start from some **significant objects** that connected the past, referring to the genocide of the Roma and Sinti, with the present.

The artistic choice referred to a **staging approach**. The young leaders and some teenagers involved worked on the texts under the supervision of Prof. Luca Bravi.

The show took place through the **recitation of the pieces, each linked to an object**, done by the young leaders or adolescents in the audience. Audience placed in a circle around a stage tree. At the end of the performance of a piece the actor got up to place the object, he had spoken about, on the branches of the tree.

The objects were: a **scarf, some shoes, a hair clip, a violin, a hat, a drawing of a woman portrayed** inside the Auschwitz camp. The performance ends with music and the actors who involve the spectators in a circle dance around the tree.

A further objective that the team worked towards was the **replicability** of the proposal



Sustainability of project activities

The proposed workshops have received significant interest from the teenagers and young people involved and also from teachers and public officials

Many of the teenagers involved have had the opportunity to delve into little-known historical themes

The skills learned by the young leaders and some of the young people involved represent a legacy on which to invest through other future projects

Schools and institutions have shown interest in continuing to delve into the proposed themes

One of our main objectives, for the near future, will be to continue to spread the themes proposed by the TRACER Project to develop a more competent social knowledge

Thanks for your attention

