

Wednesday, 22nd October 2025

Giving a V.O.I.C.E. to Equality Across Europe

Promoting gender equality and shared caregiving responsibilities through community-based action

After years of ongoing dialogue around gender equality and the unequal division of caregiving responsibilities, a new European initiative, [V.O.I.C.E. \(Vision, Opportunity, Inclusion, Community, Equality\)](#), has been launched to address the persistent gender care gap and promote a culture of equality and inclusion across Europe.

Supported by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV-2024-GE) programme, V.O.I.C.E. will run from February 2025 to January 2027, uniting ten partner organisations from six European countries. Together, they will explore how **gender stereotypes** are formed and transmitted, and how communities can foster shared caregiving responsibilities free from bias and imbalance.

At its heart, V.O.I.C.E. is built on the belief that every woman should have the freedom to make life choices without being limited by social expectations or the unequal mental load of domestic care. By engaging children, young people, educators, and families, the project will work to inspire a mindset shift that recognises caregiving as a shared human value.

Through field research, V.O.I.C.E. will analyse the root causes of **gender inequality** in **caregiving** and identify how stereotypes are perpetuated across generations. Building on these findings, the partners will co-create the **V.O.I.C.E. Model**, a European framework and toolkit designed to support educators, youth workers, and community leaders in embedding gender equality principles into their daily work.

Across its two-year journey, V.O.I.C.E. will carry out **awareness-raising campaigns and community activities** that give visibility to diverse caregiving experiences. The podcast series “Let’s Hear Your V.O.I.C.E.” will amplify the project’s impact by sharing personal stories and reflections from across Europe, inviting citizens to join the conversation on equality and inclusion.

To support stakeholders, the project will produce a Methodological Report and a Toolkit featuring interactive learning modules for children and resources for educators. An interactive online platform will also document the project’s progress and share good practices with a wider audience.

In Italy, the gender care gap remains particularly pronounced. According to national data, women carry out over **75% of unpaid domestic and care work**, while only around 20% of men are regularly involved in daily care activities. The economic value of domestic and care work is estimated to contribute over €15 billion annually to the Italian GDP, yet it remains largely

unrecognised and unpaid. This unequal distribution has a direct impact on women's employment opportunities, mental wellbeing, and economic independence, reinforcing long-term gender inequalities.

The project is coordinated by Association Community (France), and includes: Bellidée (France), VIF / Association FLVS (France), Arci Solidarietà Società Cooperativa Sociale (Italy), CESIE ETS (Italy), APS European Campus (Italy), Asociația Secular-Umanista din România (Romania), AY Institute (Lithuania), CCIS (Spain), and De Mussen (Netherlands).

About V.O.I.C.E.

[V.O.I.C.E. – Vision, Opportunity, Inclusion, Community, Equality](#) is funded by CERV-2024-GE programme.

Partners

- [ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY](#) (France, coordinator)
- [Association Bellidée](#) (France)
- [VIF / ASSOCIATION FLVS](#) (France)
- [ARCI Solidarietà Società Cooperativa Sociale](#) (Italy)
- [CESIE ETS](#) (Italy)
- [APS EUROPEAN CAMPUS](#) (Italy)
- [Asociația Secular-Umanista din România](#) (Romania)
- [AY Institute](#) (Lithuania)
- [Cámara de Comercio Italiana para España](#) (Spain)
- [De Mussen](#) (Netherlands)

For further information

<https://cesie.org/en/project/voice-cerv/>, follow as on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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