



## **“Musica in gioco”: an urban challenge for social inclusion**

### **The problem**

Adelfia is a town of about 17.000 inhabitants, in Apulia, South of Italy. Some data (ISTAT 2015):

- 20% of the population is under 18
- 22% of the population under 18 are immigrants
- Youth unemployment rate is about 54% of the total unemployment
- 32% of the adult population has a low level of instruction.

These data are clear at-risk-of -poverty and social exclusion indicators.<sup>1</sup>

### **The proposed solution**

“Musica in gioco” as a good practice supported by the Municipality of Adelfia, contributes to social inclusion, as the 9th Thematic objective of EU Strategy 2020.

It is a good practice based on “El Sistema” method by J. A. Abreu. It consists in a children’s orchestra as a solution to social unrest of young generations living in the urban context.

“Musica in gioco” manages 3 orchestras composed by kids from different social contexts, including immigrant communities and people with disabilities. Furthermore, “Musica in gioco” gives priority access to the orchestras to young people indicated by the local social service. Some members come from the middle class.

“Musica in gioco” supports the city in the fight against discrimination, segregation, racism, bullying and violence. How? By enhancing access, participation and learning performance of disadvantaged people, giving equal opportunities in learning outcomes to the young community living in the urban context.

### **Timeframe, dates, important milestones**

“Musica in gioco” started in Adelfia on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 thanks to a public funding

In 2016 the Municipality of Adelfia and the association “Musica in gioco” have signed 1 Memorandum of Understanding: Adelfia provides an headquarter to the orchestras whereas the Social Services together with the schools identify the young people and children to be involved in the orchestras.

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<sup>1</sup> As reported by Eurostat, poverty and social exclusion are measured through the analysis of such aspects as education, unemployment, immigration rate.



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### Link to the specific strategy

“Musica in gioco” has been inspired by the experience of “El sistema” in Venezuela, where music is seen as a solution to big problems linked to the social exclusion of young people.

In Adelfia, “Musica in gioco” has experienced “El sistema” in an urban area in South Italy. The “reuse” of this experience has gone through 3 stages:

- I. Experiencing “El sistema”: familiarizing with the pedagogic approach and definition of the profile of young beneficiaries.
- II. Definition of the social and cultural hardships that foster social exclusion in urban areas like Adelfia.
- III. Forecasting the expected results of implementing “el sistema” and the subsequent impact on the urban area.

Today Musica in gioco is composed by three orchestras:

- I. 1<sup>st</sup> Orchestra: 60 kids (12 - 16 years old) at advanced level;
- II. 2<sup>nd</sup> Orchestra: 80 kids (7-11 years old);
- III. 3<sup>rd</sup> Orchestra: 20 children (3-6 years old).

The instruments and music lessons are completely free, but the kids are required to practice with the instrument for 15 minutes a day and to attend all rehearsals.

### The main outputs for achieving objective, innovative elements

Musica in gioco uses innovative learning methodology. Each lesson is organized in specific activities: body percussion, instrumental improvisation, vocal games, instrumental techniques, videos and guided listening.

**The learning methodology is not based on an evaluation of results, but on the level of engagement and participation of each kid.**

In fact the orchestra is proposed as a community space, where kids experiment together their talents by playing music in a “**cooperative learning**” dimension.

The engagement is measured on three defined stages:

1st experiencing on the instruments: the kid will enjoy

2nd practicing with the instrument: the kid will obtain results

3rd playing in a concert: the engagement of the kids will be recognized by the community.

This means that the kid becomes aware that through motivation and engagement, all people can have the same opportunities regardless social and health conditions.



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### **Results and monitoring**

Today “Musica in gioco” has 3 orchestras for a total of 160 kids from Adelfia.

Over the last 2 years thanks to the project “Harmonies to health in the schools” by “Musica in gioco”, 20 primary schools teachers from Adelfia have been formed on “El sistema Abreu” and 70 students have been trained as a school orchestra.

6 teachers of Conservatory “Nicolò Piccinni” of Bari, care of the orchestras as volunteers.

The activities are supported by Apulia Region.

The Social Services together with the primary schools of the Municipality of Adelfia are now monitoring the follow up of the activities implemented on the kids involved.

### **Potential for re-use and improvement**

“El sistema” has been re-used in 13 urban contexts in South Italy (Adelfia is the 1<sup>st</sup> Municipality that supports this experience): 11 orchestras for a total of 1.500 children involved; the re-use has been already validated many times, so it’s evident that the “reuse” approach could be done in other European cities