

MAPPING DIVERSITY WORKSHOP - SICILY, ITALY
29/09/2022
ASSOCIAZIONE DON BOSCO 2000

On Thursday 29th of September, a workshop on Mapping Diversity took place at Don Bosco 2000's center for unaccompanied minors in Sicily. The activity used in the workshop is part of a set of activities proposed by the Youth In Transition project. The age group of the participants was from 14 to 17 years old. This workshop consisted of the participation of the minors in the creation of a map, including the continent where they came from and the continent they are living in at the moment. To add an extra touch of excitement, participants had to color the country where they came from and the country where they are at the moment. The facilitator asked some questions that the participants had to answer to and later connect on the map. Some of the questions included:

- Where were you born?
- Where are you at the moment?
- Where would you like to live in the future?

After these questions were answered, there was a moment of reflection. The main outcomes were:

- Many participants recognized they came from the same country, but from different cities and towns
- Participants were able to see the size of their country compared to others
- Participants indirectly learned about geography
- Many expressed their willingness to go back to their countries in the future, while others mentioned they would like to study or work in other European countries
- Participants shared about their countries

When doing this kind of activity, it can oftentimes be challenging to work with hard-to-reach youth, and another challenge is added when you work with migrants and refugees. Therefore, from the experience of this workshop, here are some considerations to keep in mind while doing this type of activity.

It is important to have a mediator participants trust in order for the workshop to go smoothly. The facilitator needs to be familiar with the target group, as some questions might touch on personal subjects. The facilitator must be ready to act or intervene if he/she senses it is needed. Time should be taken after the activity to discuss the topics mentioned in order to make sure that participants are comfortable.

There might be some concepts these participants do not understand, therefore the facilitator should take the time to explain everything in detail if needed.

