



ART-ICULATE

**Association
of Innovation
and Inclusion
in Education**

**Pilot Testing
Results**

IMPACT MEASUREMENT SERIES



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Phase 1

Pilot Testing with Youth Workers



Number and profile of participants included

We involved 6 people working with young people from Istanbul, Turkey, in the pilot testing. The group included professionals and volunteers active in non-formal education, youth empowerment, social inclusion, migrant support, disadvantaged youth engagement, and Erasmus+ youth activities.

How did we select and invite participants?

We selected and invited participants through the local network of IENGO in Istanbul, using existing partnerships, personal contacts, social media channels, and previous Erasmus+ and local youth work networks.

We prioritised people actively involved in youth work, especially those with experience supporting disadvantaged, migrant, or socioeconomically vulnerable young people. The aim was to collect practical feedback on the handbook and assess its relevance for different youth work settings in Turkey.

How did we prepare participants before the activities?

Before the pilot testing, we informed participants about the ART-iculate project, its objectives, target groups, and main outputs. We also introduced the “30 Days Art Challenge” and its use of art-based activities to support emotional intelligence, self-expression, wellbeing, empathy, and social inclusion. We invited participants to review the relevant handbook sections before the session. During the activity, we explained the handbook structure, expected testing outcomes, and feedback process. We asked participants to assess the materials in terms of clarity, practicality, creativity, inclusiveness, design, and use in their professional contexts.

What was the duration of testing activity?

The pilot testing activity lasted approximately 4 hours. It included an introduction to the ART-iculate project, presentation of the handbook, review of the facilitator section, testing and discussion of selected activities, feedback collection, and final reflection.

How did participants evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the developed training?

We evaluated participant satisfaction through informal discussion, oral feedback, facilitator notes, and a final reflection session. Participants assessed the handbook's structure, language, relevance, design, applicability, and usefulness. Overall, participants were highly satisfied. They found the handbook practical, creative, easy to use, and relevant for different youth work settings, including youth centres, NGO activities, workshops with disadvantaged youth, and informal learning environments.

How did participants evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the developed training?

Participants evaluated the training programme and "30 Days Art Challenge" materials as creative, practical, and relevant to current youth work needs. They found the activities short, accessible, adaptable, and suitable for different groups, including young people facing social, economic, or migration-related barriers. They also appreciated the facilitator section and its guidance for implementation and reflection. The materials were assessed positively in terms of design, creativity, relevance, and practical value, with minor suggestions to simplify the language and add more examples for facilitators.

What improvements did participants suggest for the training programme?

Participants found the training programme and handbook useful and effective. They suggested simplifying the language, especially in the youth section, adding more practical examples for facilitators, and including short adaptation tips for different target groups.

Phase 2

Pilot Testing with Youth Participants



Number and profile of participants included

For the youth part of the pilot testing, IENGO involved around 30 young participants in Istanbul, Turkey. The group included young people from diverse educational, social, and cultural backgrounds, including students, volunteers, and participants connected to local youth, NGO, and community-based activities.

How many participants with fewer opportunities were involved?

The pilot testing included 22 young people with fewer opportunities, mainly facing socioeconomic, cultural, geographical, and migrant-related barriers. IENGO aimed to ensure inclusive access and to assess whether the handbook was understandable, engaging, and useful for diverse youth groups in Turkey.

How did we select and invite participants?

We selected and invited youth participants through IENGO's local networks in Istanbul, including social media, personal contacts, volunteer networks, and previous local and Erasmus+ connections. We focused on young people interested in creativity, wellbeing, personal development, youth participation, and non-formal learning, with special attention to participants with fewer opportunities. Before the activity, we informed participants about the ART-iculate project, the purpose of the pilot testing, and the planned activities, including project presentation, testing, reflection, and feedback collection.

How long did the pilot testing activity last?

We implemented the youth pilot testing in Istanbul with around 30 young participants. The one-day activity included introduction and ice-breaking, project presentation, testing of selected handbook activities, group reflection, feedback collection, and closing discussion.

How did we evaluate participants' satisfaction with the activity?

We evaluated participant satisfaction through observation, group discussion, oral feedback, and final reflection activities. Overall, young participants were highly satisfied and found the activity engaging, creative, and different from traditional education. They appreciated the opportunity to reflect, express themselves creatively, and interact in a relaxed non-formal setting. Some participants suggested adding digital tools, visual examples, or social media-based challenges to make the activities even more attractive.



Summary



Key findings

At the end of the pilot testing, participants showed a better understanding of how creative activities can support wellbeing, emotional expression, and personal development. The activities helped them reflect on emotions, strengths, relationships, empathy, stress management, and self-expression. The pilot testing also confirmed that art-based activities can effectively engage young people in a relaxed and non-formal learning environment.

Adjustments proposed by youth workers after testing the program with participants

After observing the youth testing process, people working with young people suggested simplifying the language, adding more visual examples, and making activities more flexible in terms of time and group size.

They also recommended developing a digital or social media-friendly version of the “30 Days Art Challenge” to increase youth engagement and support continued use after the workshop.

Overall evaluation of the pilot testing activities with youth workers and youth participants

The piloting phase with people working with young people confirmed that the facilitator section of the handbook is useful for professionals and volunteers. Participants appreciated the creative structure, practical instructions, and inclusive approach of the materials. They also emphasised that the handbook can support people working with young people in addressing emotional awareness, wellbeing, empathy, and creativity through non-formal education. The piloting phase with young participants demonstrated that young people responded positively to the activities. Around 30 young participants actively engaged with the tasks, shared their reflections, and showed interest in continuing similar creative activities in the future. The activities helped participants explore self-expression, emotional awareness, stress management, empathy, and personal development in an accessible and engaging way.



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Thank you!



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