

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 – Nuova Associazione Culturale Ulisse – NACU 2- Unverszitetska Biblioteka Svetozar Markovic – UBSM 3 - Universiteit Utrecht - UCU
PIC number:	1 - 895783652 2 – 930863217 3 - 999980805
Project name and acronym:	Migrants and Local communities Actively GROwing together for inclusive societies – MILAGRO

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	5
Event name:	SUMMER CAMP
Type:	Cultural, sport and recreational activities
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	The Netherlands, Utrecht Italy, Siena Republic of Serbia, Belgrade
Date(s):	7-11 JULY 2025 (SIENA) 13 JULY 2025 (BELGRADE) 14 AND 27 JUNE, 6 AND 10 JULY 2025 (UTRECHT)
Website(s) (if any):	https://milagroproject.eu/news-events/
Participants	
Female:	131
Male:	165
Non-binary:	1
From country 1 :	ITALY, 35 females, 120 males
From country 2 :	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, 42 females, 24 males
From country 3 :	THE NETHERLANDS, 54 females, 21 males, 1 non-binary

Total number of participants:	297	From total number of countries:	3
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>MILAGRO Project: WP5 - Task 5.2 Summer Camp in Siena (7–11 July 2025)</p> <p>Within the framework of Work Package 5 (WP5) of the MILAGRO project (Migrants and Local communities Actively GROWing together for inclusive societies), the Nuova Associazione Culturale Ulisse (NACU) hosted a five-day Summer Camp in Siena from 7 to 11 July 2025.</p> <p>The goal was simple yet ambitious: to create opportunities for locals and migrants to meet, share experiences, and discover one another through culture, dialogue, and play. The programme was designed to foster mutual understanding and meaningful connections — the foundation for inclusive and democratic communities.</p> <p>From the very first day, the atmosphere was warm and joyful. Every evening brought together people of different ages, languages, and backgrounds, filling the spaces of Siena with laughter, curiosity, and genuine human connection.</p> <p>Day 1 (7 July): Language Challenges</p> <p>The first day explored the theme of communication and curiosity. Pakistani and Italian volunteers guided participants through basic words and phrases in Pashto, Urdu, and other languages. Particular attention was given to Pashto as many of the migrants benefiting from the MILAGRO project speak it as their first language. What began as a simple learning exercise quickly turned into a joyful and unifying experience: participants laughed as they tried to copy the Pashto alphabet and proudly showed each other their attempts at writing their own names. It was the perfect icebreaker, setting a tone of openness and playfulness for the days ahead.</p> <p>Day 2 (8 July): Storytelling with Aperitivo</p> <p>The second day was devoted to storytelling and connection. In the cozy setting of a local restaurant, participants shared personal stories over food and drinks. The atmosphere was relaxed and convivial, and stories flowed naturally — sometimes moving, sometimes funny, always authentic. This exchange of lived experiences allowed participants to discover common ground and recognize the richness of their different backgrounds. The evening closed with a sense of trust and emotional closeness, which would continue to grow throughout the week.</p> <p>Day 3 (9 July): Dance & Music</p> <p>Midweek marked one of the most vibrant and energetic moments of the Summer Camp. The focus was on celebrating unity through art and movement. Traditional Pakistani and Afghan rhythms filled the air, and participants learned the <i>Attan</i>, a circle dance symbolizing unity and resilience. Traditionally, the <i>Attan</i> is a male dance performed in community rituals; however, in Siena it naturally transformed into a dance for everyone — men and women, locals and migrants dancing side by side in the same circle. This spontaneous reinterpretation beautifully embodied the spirit of MILAGRO: traditions evolving through inclusion. The music of the <i>rabab</i>, a traditional string instrument, created an enchanting atmosphere. With <i>chae</i> (tea) and sweet snacks to share, the evening turned into a celebration of joy, rhythm, and togetherness. Smiles, applause, and improvised dance moves made this one of the most unforgettable moments of the week.</p> <p>Day 4 (10 July): Cooking together from our memory</p> <p>The fourth day was dedicated to culinary exchange and collective creativity. In a city park, participants gathered for a multicultural picnic, each bringing a dish or snack from their own tradition.</p>			

The relaxed setting encouraged people to share recipes, memories, and stories linked to their food, creating a mosaic of aromas and experiences. The event highlighted how food can bridge cultures — transforming difference into dialogue and friendship. The evening ended with laughter, conversation, and the comforting feeling of belonging to a shared community.

Day 5 (11 July): Cricket: the great unknown

The final day celebrated sports as a tool for inclusion. At the Siena Baseball field in Castellina Scalo, participants discovered cricket, a sport unfamiliar to many locals but beloved by many migrants. Mixed teams played short matches, with migrant participants enthusiastically explaining the rules and techniques. The atmosphere was festive and supportive, filled with cheering and good humour. The camp concluded with a barbecue offered by NACU, where everyone shared food and reflections on the week. Cricket, like dance, emerged as a symbol of fair play, equality, and friendship, perfectly capturing the spirit of the Summer Camp.

Conclusion

When the Summer Camp came to an end, the feeling was unanimous: it had been a week full of discovery, warmth, and meaningful encounters. The evenings of dance and cricket stood out as moments of pure collective energy, where cultural differences dissolved into shared joy. Participants left with new friends, new skills, and the wish to repeat the experience, embodying the spirit of MILAGRO: growing together through diversity.

SUMMER CAMP MILAGRO
7 - 11 LUGLIO

Migrants and Local communities
Actively GROWing together for
inclusive societies

Finanziato dall'Unione europea

*Il Summer Camp è il cuore del secondo anno del progetto europeo MILAGRO.
Questa nuova serie di eventi mira all'incontro fra la comunità locale e la comunità migrante
presente nel territorio.*

LUNEDÌ 7 LUGLIO 17:00 - 19:00
SFIDE LINGUISTICHE
Approcciarsi alle lingue pashto, urdu, etc. sotto la guida dei volontari pakistani e afgani
Nuova Associazione Culturale Ulisse
Via Fontebranda 95, Siena

MARTEDÌ 8 LUGLIO 18:00 - 20:00
STORYTELLING CON APERITIVO
Raccontami la tua storia (scambio di esperienze di vita)
Ristorante "A un passo da..."
Via San Pietro 84, Siena

MERCOLEDÌ 9 LUGLIO 17:00 - 19:00
DANZA E MUSICA
Alla scoperta di danze tradizionali pakistane e afgane con degustazione di tè chay e delizie pakistane
Strada Massetana 40, Siena

GIOVEDÌ 10 LUGLIO DALLE 18:30
CUCINARE INSIEME IL PIATTO DELLA MEMORIA
Lezione di cucina per conoscere e scambiarsi storie attraverso il cibo e le ricette tradizionali
Parco Unito d'Italia
Strada di Pescola, Siena

VENERDÌ 11 LUGLIO 16:00 - 20:00
IL CRICKET, QUESTO SCONOSCIUTO
Attività sportive e giochi per cimentarsi in nuovi sport. Barbecue offerto dalla Nuova Associazione Culturale Ulisse
Siena Baseball,
Strada di Gabbrice 2, Monteriggioni

Con il Patrocinio dell'Università per Stranieri di Siena
ATENEIO INTERNAZIONALE

UNIVERSITÀ INTERNAZIONALE
Università per Stranieri di Siena

NUOVA ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE ULISSE

Università di Padova

University College Utrecht

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Né l'Unione europea né l'EACEA possono esserne ritenute responsabili.

Summer Camp Flyer



Day 1 (Siena)



Day 2 (Siena)



Day 3 (Siena)



Day 4 (Siena)



Day 5 (Siena)

MILAGRO Project: WP5 - Task 5.3 Summer Camp in Belgrade (13 July 2025)

The Summer Camp within the WP 5 of the MILAGRO project was the most cheerful, funniest and most laugh-out-loud event in the implementation of the project so far. This event, throughout its duration, exuded a great atmosphere and smiling faces, and the socializing between representatives of the migrant population and the local community took on the signs of true friendship. However, before describing the event itself, it is necessary to make a few remarks. Namely, the Summer Camp had to be organized in just one day for objective reasons: first, due to the civil blockades and the situation in Serbia and Belgrade, the Police, when we registered the gathering, advised us to organize this event in just one day. For the same reason, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia could not provide us with permission to take the refugees out of the Migrant Camp for two nights in a hotel, giving us the same advice as the police - to organize the event in one day. We emphasize that we nevertheless organized all the planned activities from the project application in one day (all day). This means that during the Summer Camp we also held a *Sports Event: Challenging Cultures* (it was cricket due to the fact that a large number of migrants know this game well), but also a planned workshop *Refugees to Refugees: sharing trauma and its healing*.

Due to all the above-mentioned circumstances, the local project management decided to hold the event on Sunday (when traffic is at its lowest) at the Lisičiji Jarak Cricket Ground, in the suburbs of Belgrade. We took advantage of the beautiful day and this event to gather all those who have actively participated in the implementation of the project so far and combine business with pleasure, and through socializing and fun activities - to implement WP5 in accordance with the set project goals.

A total of 66 people attended the Summer Camp itself, but we note that this does not include members of the project team, as well as support staff: drivers, restaurant staff where lunch was organized, support staff from the cricket field, etc. Among them were representatives of migrants from 6 countries, staff of the NGO Atina from 2 countries, a representative of the NGO Terraforming, representatives of the Cricket Federation of Serbia, representatives of the University Library Belgrade, representatives of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia, three students from the Netherlands who are on an internship in Belgrade within the WP7 of the project, and the complete local project management. Some of those present were there only for part of the day, while most were present for the whole day. Most migrants had organized transportation in cooperation with the NGO Atina, while some, who had meanwhile found jobs and apartments, came to the cricket field on their own.

At the beginning of the Summer Camp, after the welcoming remarks of the project management, an introduction to the rules of cricket was held with the help of representatives of the Cricket Federation of Serbia, and joint games were organized between representatives of migrants and local citizens, along with professional cricket players, many of whom were migrants themselves, and now live in Serbia and play for the Serbian national cricket team. This was extremely interesting to all present, as evidenced by the smiles throughout the activity. This was followed by refreshments in the form of cold drinks, fruit and pizza.

After a break, a workshop was held, in the nearby natural shade, under the name *Refugees to refugees: sharing trauma and its healing*. The workshop was led by Miško Stanišić, founder and director of the NGO Terraforming, who in the MILAGRO project itself stood out with the already extremely successful and visited workshops within the framework of WP4 in the University Library. This time too, Miško showed his class and the fact that he is an exceptional storyteller, so that the workshop in its second part was extremely interactive with the participation of those present, who spoke about their experiences. The fact that we were in the natural environment of a cherry orchard and that there was already an extremely warm and cordial atmosphere, further contributed to the exceptional engagement of all those present at the workshop.

After that, a cricket tournament followed. Although we thought during the writing of the project that a basketball tournament would be adequate, it turned out that cricket was a much better choice, because almost all migrants were very familiar with this game, and it was extremely interesting to all the local

citizens present, so, with the help of representatives of the Cricket Federation of Serbia and professional players, this proved to be the right choice. All those present were divided into four teams and with the help of representatives of the Cricket Federation of Serbia and professional players, several short matches were held in an exceptionally sporting and friendly atmosphere. At the very end of the tournament, awards were also presented: trophies for all four teams, plaques for the best catcher, best batsman, most useful player and for fair play, and all those present received plaques for participation in the Summer Camp. With the appropriate speeches of Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Jerkov, Director of the University Library, and Professor Haris Dajč, President of the Cricket Federation of Serbia, as well as the presentation of awards, the Summer Camp was brought to an end.

But that was not the end yet - in a nearby restaurant, a late lunch was organized for all participants of the Summer Camp, and the socializing continued until the night hours, with smiles and a great atmosphere throughout the day. Many of those present had already registered that they wanted to continue playing cricket (to the delight of the Cricket Federation representatives), and many continued to socialize privately. All those present emphasized that they had an exceptionally good time and suggested that a similar event be repeated, outside of the project itself. It was a pleasure and a true honour to be part of that fantastic day and the great energy throughout the entire Camp.



LETNJI KAMP

Beograd,
kriket teren "Lisičiji jarak",
Padinska skela,
13. jul 2025.



Finansira
Evropska unija

SUMMER CAMP

Belgrade,
"Lisičiji jarak" cricket ground,
Padinska skela,
July 13, 2025.

U okviru projekta *Migranti i lokalne zajednice aktivno rastu zajedno za inkluzivna društva - MILAGRO* Finansirano od strane Evropske unije preko Evropske izvršne agencije za obrazovanje i kulturu, pod projektnim brojem 101147104, u okviru CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) programa.

Within the project *Migrants and Local communities Actively Growing together for inclusive societies - MILAGRO* Funded by the European Union through the European Executive Agency for Education and Culture, under project number 101147104, within the CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) program.

Satnica:

11.00 - 12.30 - upoznavanje sa kriketom kroz adekvatne igrice.
12.30 - 13.00 - pauza uz osveženje: voće, hladno piće, pica
13.00 - 14.00 - radionica NGO Terraforming
14.00 - 15.30 - mini kriket utakmice
15.30 - 16.00 - uručenje medalja i pehara
16.00 - ručak u obližnjem restoranu

Timeline:

11.00 - 12.30 - introduction to cricket through appropriate games.
12.30 - 13.00 - break with refreshments: fruit, cold drink, pizza
13.00 - 14.00 - NGO Terraforming workshop
14.00 - 15.30 - mini cricket matches
15.30 - 16.00 - presentation of medals and cups
16.00 - lunch in a nearby restaurant







MILAGRO Project: WP5 - Task 5.4 Summer Camp in Utrecht (June-July 2025)

The summer camp, which consists of five half days spread out over June and July is about how to create meaningful connections, necessary for democratic citizenship. The whole programme is based upon the idea that everybody is unique but not perfect. Thinking in terms of right and wrong does not foster tolerance for people that have different perspectives. We aimed at building tolerance for different perspectives and practicing different ways to achieve one's goals as active democratic citizens..

Day 1 (14 June): *Me, myself and we: roots & rhythms.*

The day addressed the theme of Identity & Self-Awareness through a workshop aimed at seeking one's core identity (for the day) and put it in connection to the core identity of others. An identity wall was created. The day was organized in collaboration with our local partner *Welkom in Utrecht* in the framework of and during their initiative '*Africa Safari Festival*', in collaboration with social enterprise *Beats of Hope Africa*, whose founder performed during the workshop.

Day 2 (27 June): *Many roads, one path.*

The day explored the themes of being together and different, of tolerance and mutual support. The day was organized in collaboration with our local partners *Het WelkomHuis* and *AllOne*. The two workshops took place during the Dutch lesson time for a group of Brazilian (speaking) migrants. The first workshop aimed at connecting through sharing a memory of a very happy moment. The second workshop was a creative workshop aimed at reliving a memory of a moment of freedom and tolerance, and materially recreating that memory with dough and objects in a glass jar as a tangible memory to take home. At the end, the memories were told to each other. The afternoon ended with Brazilian snacks and drinks.

Day 3 (6 July): *What matters most.*

The day explored shared values and aspirations to foster empathy. The aims for this day were: reflecting on what's truly important in life; visualizing personal priorities and encouraging sharing and connections. The day was organized in collaboration with one of the local partners: *Welkom in Utrecht*. Eight people with different (migrant) backgrounds participated: they crafted their personal *life wheel* using collage techniques and discussed the choices of the values that they had incorporated in their wheel with the other participants. After the workshops, participants and the MILAGRO team celebrate the session with music and dinner.

Day 4 (10 July, afternoon): *Tomorrow starts with Me/Us.*

The day explored the theme of Active Citizenship & Empowering citizens to and by Taking Action. The workshops were co-created with our local partners *WelkomHuis* and *Beats of Hope Africa*, and centered on Ubuntu as an Africa-centered policy and community based framework. Participants experienced the importance of circle and belonging through making music, listening to songs and guided meditation. The topics addressed were: belonging and fitting in (being yourself); dignity and feeling value in yourself / feeling value for who you are, and the three-stage Ubuntu pathway: connection, nurturing, and empowerment. The founder of *Beats of Hope*, Mr. Daniel Okiror, read passages from his new book "Reaching Beyond". The afternoon ended with snacks and drinks.

Day 5 (10 July, morning): *Conflict as Opportunity*

The day was organized as a workshop for practicing non-judgemental and non-violent communication and was offered to a group of status-holders during one of their Dutch language classes (which are a mandatory component of the integration pathway for newcomers), and some of the Dutch teachers. Using role-play games and group debriefings, participants learned in a fun and active way about how conflicts arise, and how to manage them at a personal level by using non-violent communication. The workshop was offered in Dutch, so participants also learned and practiced with new Dutch words related to emotions. During the break, cake, treats and drinks were shared, and participants had the chance to connect with others.

A Journey of Self, Solidarity, and Social Impact!

MILAGRO UTRECHT SUMMER CAMP



Roots & Rhythms
Saturday, 03:00 PM
Beton-T, Wilhelminalaan 4, Utrecht
JUN 14 2025



Many Roads, One Path
Friday, 03:00 PM
Grebbeberglaan 3a (New Welgelegen Building), Utrecht
JUN 27 2025



What Matters Most
Sunday, 3:00PM
Herculesplein 5, Utrecht
JUL 06 2025



Tomorrow Starts with Me/us!
Thursday, 02:00 PM
Welkomhuis, Grebbeberglaan 3A, Utrecht
JUL 10 2025



CONFLICT ALS KANS
Laan van Vollenhove 2939, 3706 AK Zeist
JUL 10 2025



Summer Camp Flyer



Day 1 (Utrecht)



Day 2 (Utrecht)



Day 3 (Utrecht)



Day 4 (Utrecht)



Day 5 (Utrecht)

MILAGRO Project: WP5 - Task 5.5 Summer Camp: COIL Evaluation event (19 November 2025)

In the afternoon of 19 November 2025, a COIL- **Collaborative Online International Learning**, evaluation event was organised in order to assess strengths and weaknesses of the camps, held in the Summer.

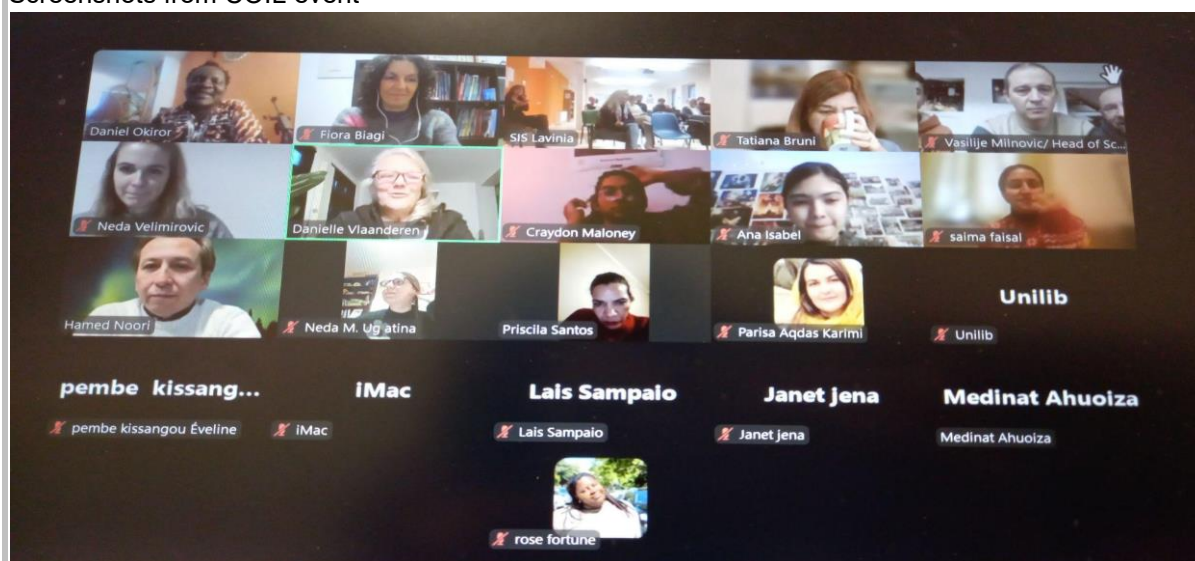
A total of 48 people took part in this event: 30 were connected online via Zoom and 18 were in presence in Siena and connected through NACU's account.

During the COIL session, participants engaged with enthusiasm, ease, and a relaxed, stress-free attitude. The discussion highlighted how the project has genuinely succeeded in bringing together people and communities from different backgrounds, fostering meaningful connections both face-to-face and online. Contributions were numerous and the time passed quickly; everyone who wished to speak had the opportunity to do so, and there were no empty or silent moments. Several examples emerged during the conversation, showing how intercultural connection often goes far beyond language. Participants recalled how sports activities helped them bond quickly, breaking down barriers even when verbal communication was limited, and how music and dance enabled them to express themselves freely and connect through shared emotions. The sharing of food also played a meaningful role, as tasting dishes from one another's traditions or simply discussing favourite meals became an accessible and joyful entry point into different cultures. Collaborative tasks during the Summer Camps, such as preparing activities, solving small challenges, or supporting one another, further strengthened trust and mutual understanding. Many participants noted that language played only a minor role, as genuine exchange was possible even with very limited vocabulary: gestures, smiles, patience, and curiosity often proved far more effective in creating real human connection. The project teams involved expressed their appreciation for the strong human dimension that emerged and for the unique value this shared experience has created.

Participants highlighted how the diversity of perspectives, stemming from varied linguistic and cultural backgrounds enriched discussions and broadened insights. Participants also emphasized the welcoming and respectful atmosphere, which encouraged open sharing and constructive exchange.

As far as Summer Camp in Utrecht is concerned, while overall feedback was positive, some areas for enhancement were identified. Participants expressed a desire for more time dedicated to deeper interaction and discussion, as certain sessions felt too brief for comprehensive exploration of the topics. Additionally, scheduling the workshops during the summer period limited availability for some target groups.

Screenshots from COIL event





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