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D5.7 – FIRST PUBLIC EVENT IN ITALY (MUSIKART)

WP5 – PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DISSEMINATION

COMBATHATE
COMBATING HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIMES AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES.

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

PROJECT NAME
COMBATHATE (Combating Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Against Individuals with Mental Disabilities)

PROJECT NUMBER
101205522

EU PROGRAMME
Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV)

WHY THIS PROJECT?
Individuals with mental disabilities frequently face hate speech and hate crimes that undermine their dignity, safety, and well-being. COMBATHATE seeks to address this challenge by developing tailored support systems, raising public awareness, and strengthening cooperation between civil society and public authorities (including law enforcement).

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PROJECT CONSORTIUM

1. Purpose and scope of the deliverable

This deliverable reports on D5.7 - First Public Event in Italy (MUSIKART), implemented within Work Package 5 of the COMBATHATE project. The event was organised by ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE MUSIKART and held on 12 May 2026 at Cittadella dei Bambini e dei Ragazzi, Viale B. Buozzi, Corigliano-Rossano, Italy.

The purpose of the public event was to present and discuss the project results developed during the first phase of COMBATHATE, with particular attention to the WP2 deliverables: the needs assessment evidence base, the support systems, the training materials, and the practical resources for psychological, legal and referral support.

The deliverable is prepared as a public document. It therefore provides a complete narrative, agenda, materials summary and aggregated feedback analysis, while excluding personal data such as names, signatures and identifiable photos. The signed attendance list is retained by MUSIKART in the project archive for audit and verification purposes.

2. Event overview and compliance with deliverable requirements

The event was designed as a one-day public awareness and stakeholder engagement activity. It brought together local community members, NGOs, educators, health and social-sector professionals, lawyers/psychologists and other local stakeholders to discuss hate speech and hate crimes targeting people with mental disabilities and to review the tools produced by COMBATHATE.

Requirement	Implementation status
Public event in Italy	Completed on 12 May 2026 in Corigliano-Rossano, Italy.
Organising beneficiary	ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE MUSIKART.
50 participants	Achieved. The signed attendance list records 50 participants.
1 day duration	Achieved. The event was implemented as a one-day activity from 09:30 to 16:00.
Agenda	Included in this deliverable as clean written text.
Signed presence lists	Collected and archived by MUSIKART. Not annexed in this public version due to personal data and signatures.
Participant feedback	Included as an aggregated evaluation report based on 50 completed questionnaire responses.
WP2 outputs presented	The support system, training materials, legal rights framework and other WP2 project results were presented and discussed.

Overall assessment: the D5.7 deliverable requirements were met. The only intentional limitation is that the public version does not include personal attendance records or photos, in line with data protection and public dissemination principles.

3. Event methodology and implementation approach

The event used a participatory public-awareness methodology combining project presentation, practical explanation of support tools, moderated dialogue and small-group reflection. The approach was selected because COMBATHATE addresses a sensitive topic that requires both knowledge transfer and trust-building among local stakeholders.

The methodology was built around the following elements:

- plain-language presentation of hate speech, hate crimes, discrimination and stigma;
- interactive discussion on online and offline forms of hate speech;
- case-based reflection and human-perspective activities to strengthen empathy;
- stakeholder dialogue on local responsibilities, gaps and cooperation mechanisms;
- presentation of the COMBATHATE WP2 support systems and training resources;
- group discussion on building inclusive and safe communities; and
- collection of structured participant feedback through a standard evaluation questionnaire.

The event was aligned with the WP5 objective of increasing public awareness while also supporting the exploitation of WP2 outputs by making support tools visible and understandable to community-level actors.

4. Implemented agenda

The following agenda was implemented during the public event.

Time	Session	Content
09:30 - 10:00	Registration and welcome coffee	Registration of participants; distribution of information materials and agenda; informal networking; background visual presentation of the COMBATHATE project and goals.
10:00 - 10:20	Official opening and introduction	Welcome by MUSIKART; opening remarks by local stakeholders/municipality representatives; brief introduction to the COMBATHATE project.
10:20 - 11:00	Session 1 - Understanding hate speech and hate crimes against people with mental disabilities	Presentation and interactive discussion on hate speech, discrimination, stigma, hate crime, online/offline hate speech, stereotypes, and impact on mental health, confidence, participation and social inclusion.
11:15 - 12:15	Session 2 - Real stories, real impact: empathy and human perspective	Case studies based on real-life situations; personal stories/testimonials; small-group reflection exercise.
12:15 - 13:00	Session 3 - Stakeholder roles and responsibilities	Panel discussion/moderated dialogue on current local challenges, gaps in support systems, prevention measures, institutional responsibilities, and cooperation between stakeholders.
14:00 - 15:00	Session 4 - Workshop: building inclusive and safe	Mixed stakeholder groups discussed local challenges, institutional improvements, community responses to

	communities	hate speech, preventive actions, and support for people with mental disabilities.
15:20 - 15:40	Session 5 - COMBATHATE resources and support opportunities	Presentation of project resources, psychological and legal support concepts, local services and organisations, and opportunities for future cooperation and awareness activities.
15:40 - 16:00	Final reflection, evaluation and closing	Summary of the day, final reflections, completion of evaluation questionnaire, and closing remarks.

5. WP2 outputs and materials presented

A central aim of the event was to bring the WP2 results into public discussion. The WP2 outputs were presented as practical tools that can improve reporting, first support, access to help and stakeholder coordination. The materials were not presented only as technical documents, but as resources that local actors can understand, discuss and apply in their own contexts.

WP2 output/material	How it was presented and discussed
Needs assessment evidence	Key findings on exposure to hate speech/hate crime, under-reporting, psychological impact, service awareness and barriers to support were summarised for participants.
Support system development	Participants were introduced to the overall support-system logic: emotional first response, accessible reporting, evidence support, legal pathway information and referral to services.
Psychological First Aid (PFA) card	The PFA tool was explained as a simple first supportive response, not therapy, with emphasis on safety, calm, connection, options and warm referral.
Icon-based reporting form and proxy reporting	Participants discussed how visual and assisted reporting can reduce barriers for people with communication or literacy difficulties.
Evidence Bundle Kit	The event explained the importance of preserving basic evidence, such as screenshots, timelines and witness information, without over-collecting personal data.
Legal flowcharts and template letters	The legal-rights framework was presented as practical guidance to help victims and supporters understand possible pathways and referral points.
Help Maps and local support opportunities	Participants discussed how local services, NGOs and institutions can be connected more clearly to people needing support.
Training materials	The training package developed under WP2 was presented as a resource for staff, professionals and multipliers, including PFA, legal rights and support protocols.
Digital and communication resources	Participants were informed about the project website/social media channels and the role of awareness materials in improving public understanding.

The presentation of these outputs encouraged participants to see COMBATHATE not only as an awareness project but also as a practical support initiative. The discussion focused on how the tools can be adapted to real-life situations, how to avoid re-traumatisation, how to communicate respectfully, and how institutions and civil society can cooperate more effectively.

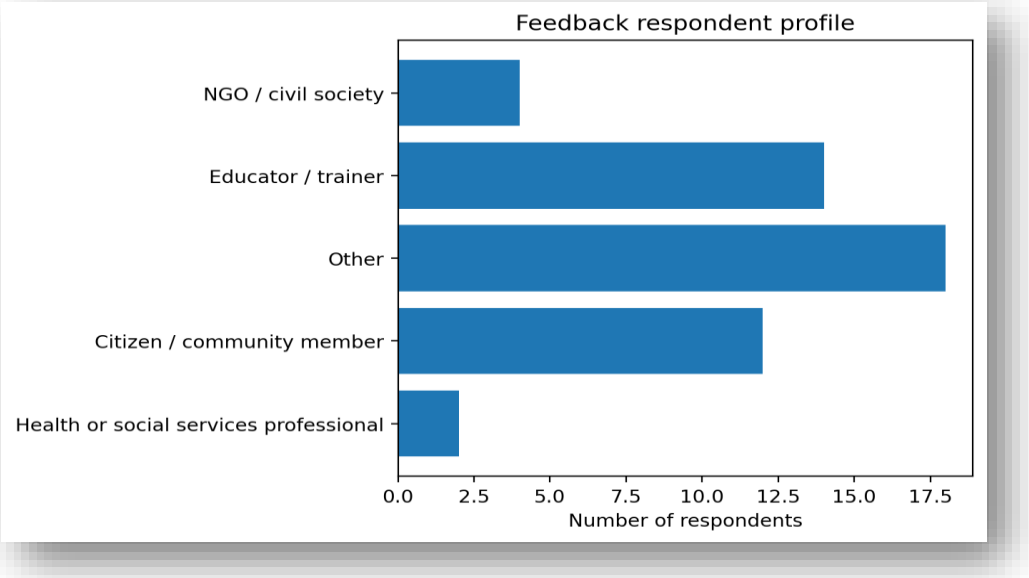
6. Participant profile and attendance summary

The signed attendance list records 50 participants. The gender composition extracted from the attendance documentation was 23 male and 27 female participants. No non-binary participant was recorded in the attendance categories.

Category	Number	Percentage
Male	23	46%
Female	27	54%
Non-binary / other	0	0%
Total	50	100%

The event gathered a varied public audience. The attendance list and feedback forms show participation by local community members, educators, NGOs/civil society organisations, health and social-sector professionals, and other stakeholders. This diversity supported a broad discussion on both the social and institutional dimensions of hate speech and hate crimes against people with mental disabilities.

Role/profile from feedback questionnaire	Number of respondents	Percentage
Other	18	36%
Educator / trainer	14	28%
Citizen / community member	12	24%
NGO / civil society	4	8%
Health or social services professional	2	4%
Total	50	100%



7. Summary of event content and stakeholder discussion

The first part of the event established a shared understanding of key concepts. Participants discussed the difference between discrimination, stigma, hate speech and hate crime, as well as the distinction between online and offline hate speech. Particular attention was given to how harmful language, stereotypes and exclusion can affect mental health, confidence, participation and social inclusion.

The second part focused on empathy and human perspective. Through case studies and story-based reflection, participants considered the everyday impact of verbal abuse, social exclusion, online hostility and institutional barriers. This part of the event was important because it moved the discussion from abstract concepts to the concrete experiences of people affected by hate and discrimination.

The stakeholder dialogue highlighted local responsibilities and cooperation needs. Participants discussed gaps in support systems, the need for clearer pathways, the importance of respectful communication, and the role of NGOs, educators, professionals and local institutions in creating safer communities.

The group workshop generated practical reflections on how communities can respond to hate speech, how institutions can improve prevention and referral, and how public awareness can support inclusion. The discussion confirmed that local-level awareness and cooperation are essential for the practical implementation of the COMBATHATE support systems.

8. Participant feedback and evaluation report

8.1 Evaluation methodology

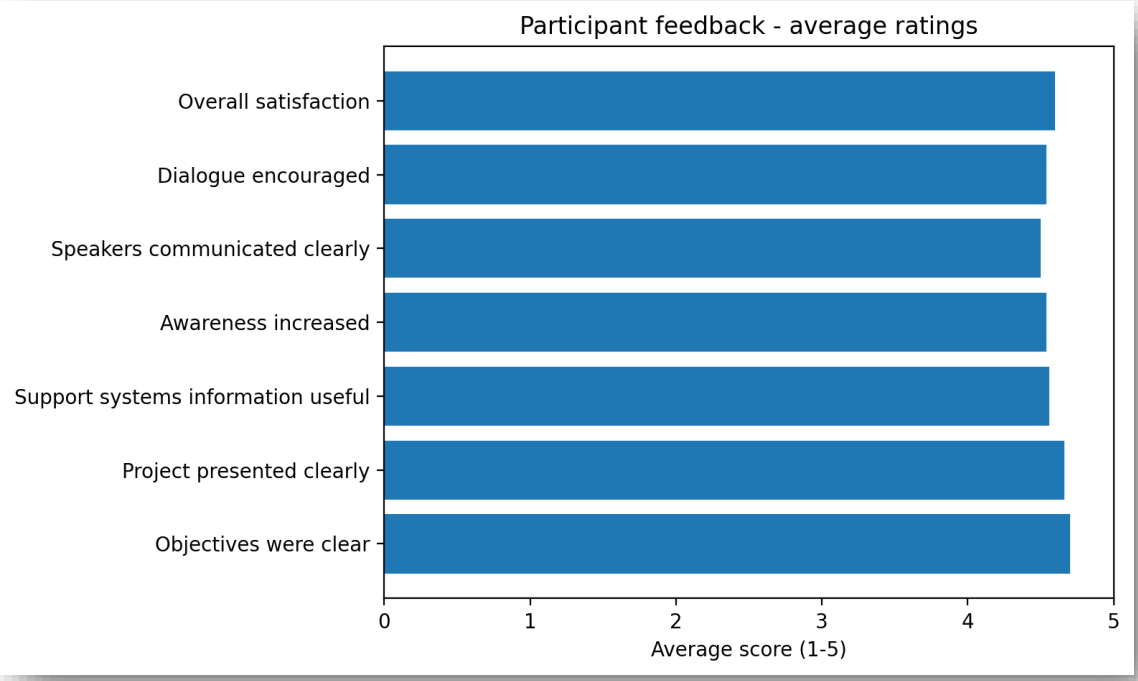
Participant feedback was collected through a structured evaluation questionnaire at the end of the event. The questionnaire included respondent profile questions, seven Likert-scale questions on clarity, usefulness, awareness and satisfaction, and one question on interest in future collaboration. All 50 participants completed the questionnaire.

The Likert scale was interpreted as follows: 1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly agree. Results are presented only in aggregated form.

8.2 Quantitative evaluation results

Evaluation item	Mean score (1-5)	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Strongly disagree	% Agree/Strongly agree
Objectives were clear	4.70	38	11	0	1	98%
Project presented clearly	4.66	37	11	1	1	96%
Support systems information useful	4.56	32	16	1	1	96%
Awareness increased	4.54	31	17	1	1	96%
Speakers communicated clearly	4.50	29	19	1	1	96%
Dialogue encouraged	4.54	31	17	1	1	96%

Overall satisfaction	4.60	34	14	1	1	96%



The evaluation results were strongly positive across all items. Average scores ranged from 4.50 to 4.70 out of 5. Six of the seven evaluation items reached 96% positive responses (Agree or Strongly agree), while clarity of event objectives reached 98%. This indicates that the event was perceived as clear, relevant and useful by the large majority of participants.

One isolated negative response was recorded across the Likert items. This does not materially change the overall trend, but it is useful as a reminder that public events should continue to use accessible language, clear examples and multiple engagement formats so that different participant profiles can fully follow the content.

8.3 Interest in future collaboration

Answer	Number	Percentage
Yes	49	98%
No	1	2%

Interest in future cooperation was very high: 49 out of 50 respondents indicated that they would be interested in future collaboration or follow-up activities. This confirms that the public event generated not only awareness but also stakeholder motivation to remain connected to the project themes.

8.4 Interpretation of feedback

Feedback suggests that the strongest aspects of the event were the clarity of objectives, the presentation of the COMBATHATE project, and the relevance of the support-system information.

Participants also indicated that the event contributed to increased awareness of hate speech and hate crimes against people with mental disabilities.

The event was also successful in encouraging dialogue between stakeholders. This is important for WP5 because awareness raising is not limited to one-way communication. The public event created an opportunity for local actors to compare experiences, identify cooperation needs and reflect on how the WP2 tools can support practical local responses.

9. Lessons learned and recommendations

Lesson learned	Recommendation for future activities
Public events are most effective when they connect concepts to lived situations.	Continue using case studies, realistic examples and human-perspective activities.
Stakeholders need practical tools, not only general messages.	Keep presenting the PFA card, icon form, evidence checklist, legal pathways and Help Maps in simple formats.
Dialogue between sectors is valuable and should be structured.	Use moderated panels and mixed stakeholder groups to promote cooperation between NGOs, educators, professionals and local authorities.
Accessibility should remain central.	Use plain language, avoid legal/technical overload, and provide visual summaries of reporting and support pathways.
High interest in follow-up indicates sustainability potential.	Invite interested participants to future project updates, public events and dissemination actions.

For future WP5 activities, MUSIKART should continue to combine awareness messages with practical support information and should keep collecting structured feedback to monitor public understanding, attitudes and willingness to cooperate.

10. Communication, dissemination and EU visibility

The event contributed to the visibility of the COMBATHATE project at local level in Italy. The event materials, agenda and information package included the project identity and EU co-funding visibility. The event also linked the public-awareness objective of WP5 with the technical outcomes of WP2, ensuring that project results are not kept only within the consortium but are shared with local stakeholders.

The event supported dissemination by:

- presenting COMBATHATE objectives and partnership to local stakeholders;
- raising awareness of hate speech and hate crimes against people with mental disabilities;
- making the WP2 support systems and training materials visible to a public audience;
- encouraging discussion on practical cooperation and local referral pathways;
- collecting feedback evidence for project monitoring and future improvement.

Official project information and updates remain available through the project and partner communication channels, including the MUSIKART project webpage and the COMBATHATE social media channels.

11. Data protection and public deliverable note

This deliverable is classified as public. For this reason, personal data are not annexed. The signed attendance list includes names and signatures and is therefore retained by MUSIKART in the project records rather than reproduced in this document. The attendance list is available for audit or verification by authorised bodies if required.

Participant feedback is reported only in aggregated statistical form. No individual names, signatures, personal contact details or identifiable photos are included in this public version. This approach ensures that the deliverable remains compliant with GDPR and with the principle of data minimisation while still documenting the implementation and results of the event.

12. Conclusions

D5.7 - First Public Event in Italy (MUSIKART) was successfully implemented on 12 May 2026 in Corigliano-Rossano, Italy. The event met the core deliverable requirements: it was conducted as a one-day public event, gathered 50 participants, presented the WP2 support systems and training materials, included stakeholder dialogue and collected structured participant feedback.

The evaluation results confirm that participants considered the event clear, useful and relevant. The high level of interest in future collaboration demonstrates that the event contributed to stakeholder engagement and local awareness beyond the single activity day. The event therefore represents a strong contribution to WP5 and to the overall COMBATHATE objective of promoting dignity, inclusion and coordinated responses to hate speech and hate crimes against people with mental disabilities.

Annex A. Feedback questionnaire

The following questionnaire was used to collect participant feedback at the end of the event. Results are reported in Section 8 in aggregated form.

Question	Response format
1. Your country	Open / country field
2. Your role / profile	Citizen/community member; NGO/civil society; Educator/trainer; Health or social services professional; Other
3. The event objectives were clear	Likert scale: Strongly disagree - Strongly agree
4. The COMBATHATE project was presented clearly	Likert scale: Strongly disagree - Strongly agree
5. The information provided about support systems was useful	Likert scale: Strongly disagree - Strongly agree
6. The event increased my awareness of hate speech and hate crimes against people with mental disabilities	Likert scale: Strongly disagree - Strongly agree
7. The speakers communicated clearly and effectively	Likert scale: Strongly disagree - Strongly agree
8. The event encouraged dialogue between stakeholders	Likert scale: Strongly disagree - Strongly agree
9. Overall satisfaction with the event	Likert scale: Strongly disagree - Strongly agree
10. Would you be interested in future collaboration or follow-up activities?	Yes / No

Annex B. Evidence register

Evidence item	Status in public deliverable	Location / custody
Event agenda	Included as written text in Section 4	Original agenda retained in project files
Signed attendance list	Not annexed due to personal data and signatures	Archived by MUSIKART for audit/verification
Feedback questionnaire responses	Analysed in aggregated form	Original Excel file retained in project files
Presentation/materials used	Summarised in Sections 5 and 10	Retained by MUSIKART and consortium project records
Photos	Not annexed in this public version	If collected, retained only according to consent and project data-protection rules