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Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) - Town Twinning

B.R.I.C.I.V.E.

Bridging Cultures and Identities: Gravina in Puglia and Leskovac towards a Shared European Future

Agenda – Town Twinning Event in Gravina in Puglia

26 September 2026 – Arrival and accommodation

27–29 September 2026 – Town Twinning activities



SHARED COMMUNITIES. BRIGHTER TOMORROWS.

26 September 2026 - Arrival and accommodation

Arrival of the Serbian Delegation

Arrival of the delegation from Leskovac in Gravina in Puglia, accommodation and informal welcome.

27 September 2026 - Day 1

09:30 – 11:30 Official Opening and European Twinning Session

1. Official reception of the Serbian delegation.
2. Opening session with representatives of Gravina in Puglia and Leskovac.
3. Presentation of the objectives, expected results and European dimension of the B.R.I.C.I.V.E. project.
4. Introduction to the town-twinning process and future cooperation between the two municipalities.
5. Intercultural welcome activities and networking among Italian and Serbian participants.
6. Exchange of views on the role of local authorities and citizens in strengthening mutual understanding, solidarity and European belonging.

Institutional representatives and speakers:

Fedele Lagreca – Mayor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Antonia Lorusso – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Gaetano Paolillo – EPLI Ambassador for Serbia
Biljana Miljkovic – Municipality of Leskovac



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B.R.I.C.I.V.E. | ACTIVITIES: 27–29 SEPTEMBER 2026 - ARRIVAL: 26 SEPTEMBER

28 September 2026 - Day 2

09:00 – 11:00 Art, Music and Shared Cultural Heritage Workshops

7. Joint artistic workshops involving Italian and Serbian participants.
8. Music workshops and rehearsals combining Apulian and Serbian musical traditions.
9. Collaborative activities involving artists, musicians and young participants.
10. Preparation of joint artistic and musical contributions for the public evening event.
11. Exchange on the role of cultural heritage as a tool for dialogue and mutual understanding.

Participants and facilitators:

Pro Loco Gravina in Puglia

Prof. Radmila Mitic – Municipal Secondary School, Serbia

Prof. Marija Arsic – Municipal Secondary School, Serbia

Andjelka Petrovic – Secondary School of Music, Leskovac

Sandra Petrone – Engineer, Municipal Secondary School, Gravina in Puglia

Antonia Lorusso – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia

11:30 – 12:30 Historical and Cultural Connections between Apulia and Serbia

Public conference dedicated to the historical and cultural relations between Apulia and Serbia, with contributions from institutional representatives, educators, experts and cultural actors.

The discussion will highlight how shared heritage can support intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and long-term cooperation between local European communities.

Speakers:

Fedele Lagreca – Mayor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia

Milan Pesic – Municipal Secondary School, Leskovac

Biljana Miljkovic – Municipality of Leskovac

12:30 – 13:30 Taste, Identity and Dialogue – Apulian and Serbian Gastronomy Workshop

12. Gastronomy workshop focused on Apulian and Serbian culinary heritage.
13. Presentation and exchange of traditional recipes and local products.
14. Reflection on food traditions as expressions of local identity and as accessible tools for intercultural dialogue.
15. Informal interaction between Italian and Serbian participants.

14:30 – 16:00 Youth Music Lab – Building a Shared Performance

Workshop at the Auditorium of the Tarantino Secondary School, involving Italian and Serbian students, supported by teachers and cultural facilitators.

Italian and Serbian students will jointly prepare a concert based on traditional music from the two communities, experimenting with shared arrangements and collaborative performance.

Institutional representatives, teachers and facilitators:

Fedele Lagreca – Mayor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia

Leonardo Vicino – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia

Vito Spano – Municipality of Gravina in Puglia

Valentina Petrovic – Secondary School of Music, Leskovac

Andjelka Petrovic – Secondary School of Music, Leskovac



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28 September 2026 - Day 2 — continued

From 19:30 Public Concert, Traditional Dance and Community Celebration

The concert, cultural performances and ethno-gastronomic workshop form a single public evening programme.

Piazza Plebiscito – Gravina in Puglia

16. Joint public concert involving Italian and Serbian participants.
17. Performances inspired by the musical traditions of both communities.
18. Traditional dances involving students and citizens.
19. Special participation of the NAO robot, programmed by the students to perform traditional dance movements, creating a symbolic connection between heritage, education, creativity and technological innovation.
20. Open participation of the local community.

Ethno-Gastronomic Workshop – Piazza Plebiscito

As part of the same public evening programme, the ethno-gastronomic workshop will present elements of Apulian and Serbian gastronomic traditions as expressions of cultural identity and instruments for dialogue between citizens.

29 September 2026 - Day 3

10:40 – 12:30 Culture, European Values and Active Citizenship: the Role of Italy–Serbia Exchanges in Strengthening Mutual Understanding and European Belonging

The conference will explore how cultural cooperation between Italy and Serbia can:

21. strengthen mutual understanding and trust between citizens;
22. increase awareness of shared European values;
23. encourage active citizenship and democratic participation;
24. promote cultural diversity and dialogue;
25. strengthen the role of municipalities in European cooperation;
26. involve younger generations in the construction of lasting cross-border relations.

Speakers:

Dr. Gaetano Paolillo – EPLI Ambassador for Serbia
Milan Pesic – Municipal Secondary School, Leskovac
Prof. Lorenzo Paternoster – Sociologist and Historian
Prof. Daniela Tota – Municipal Secondary School, Gravina in Puglia
Prof. Marilena D'Araia – Municipal Secondary School, Gravina in Puglia
Leonardo Vicino – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Antonia Lorusso – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia

12:40 – 13:40 Lunch Break



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29 September 2026 - Day 3 — continued

15:00 – 16:00 European Citizenship, Intercultural Learning and Future Cooperation

Participatory session dedicated to:

27. intercultural learning and European identity;
28. citizens' participation and the role of local communities;
29. the contribution of culture to solidarity across borders;
30. experiences and impressions of Italian and Serbian participants;
31. ideas for future cooperation between Gravina in Puglia and Leskovac.

Institutional representatives:

Fedele Lagreca – Mayor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Leonardo Vicino – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Antonia Lorusso – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Biljana Miljkovic – Municipality of Leskovac

16:10 – 16:40 Participant Feedback, Evaluation and Communication

32. Collection of participant feedback.
33. Short participatory evaluation of the Gravina event.
34. Testimonials from Italian and Serbian participants.
35. Identification of lessons learned.
36. Media and social media visibility actions.
37. Collection of contributions to be used in the project's communication and dissemination activities.

20:00 – 21:00 Closing Session – From Cultural Exchange to Long-Term Cooperation

Official closing of the first B.R.I.C.I.V.E. Town Twinning Event and presentation of the Gravina–Leskovac Follow-up Commitments.

The municipalities and participants will identify concrete priorities for the continuation of the cooperation:

38. continuation of exchanges between young people, students, musicians and cultural actors;
39. promotion of reciprocal participation in cultural initiatives organised in Gravina in Puglia and Leskovac;
40. continued involvement of young citizens in European and intercultural activities;
41. exchange of experiences and good practices between educational and cultural organisations;
42. joint preparation of the second B.R.I.C.I.V.E. Town Twinning Event in Leskovac, building on the results and feedback collected in Gravina.

Institutional representatives:

Fedele Lagreca – Mayor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Leonardo Vicino – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Antonia Lorusso – Councillor, Municipality of Gravina in Puglia
Gaetano Paolillo – EPLI Ambassador for Serbia
Valentina Petrovic – Secondary School of Music, Leskovac
Andjelka Petrovic – Secondary School of Music, Leskovac

Institutional dinner and informal networking.

Discussion and joint drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two municipalities on future cooperation and the development and implementation of joint projects, to be finalised and signed during the second B.R.I.C.I.V.E. Town Twinning Event in Leskovac.

