

civis

Europe's Civic University Alliance

CIVIS Open Labs

Contemporary Childhoods/Youths (CON-CHY)

Version 2025-11-0

1. Context & Short Description

The OL builds on the expertise of several CIVIS research groups and centers on participatory and collaborative work with children and youth focused on critically examining the current socialization and educational experiences of young people across a variety of formal and informal contexts. Our socio-educational proposals stemming from the OL aim to contribute to sustainable development goals through work with young people. The disciplinary and thematic outreach of the OL is broad and is/will be capable of collaborating with informal groups of children and youth, schools, non-formal educational organizations, families and communities. The transversal feature of our work is the use of participatory/collaborative, qualitative, multimodal and arts-based methodologies with young people. We also draw on expertise in the use of interactive, digital and geomeia research devices with young people.

The first OL project began its planning in the Summer of 2025 and is particularly interested in the experiences and mobilities of children and youth in urban contexts and in addressing the needs of diverse childhoods, young people at social risk and adopting a critical and intersectional perspective (that problematizes the role of gender, social class and cultural-geographical background, as well as other forms of diversity) to research and social intervention.

2. Partners

Partner Name	Type	Bio	Website/Link
David Poveda	Academic	Professor of Educational and Developmental Psychology	www.uam.es_/david.poveda
Marta Morgade	Academic	Professor of Developmental and Educational Psychology	
Henar Rodríguez-Navarro	Academic	Professor of Educational Studies	https://hennyartblog.tumblr.com/
Quitéria Mabasso	Academic	Special Education, MsC and lecturer of educational Psychology course	
Isaías Benzana	Academic	School psychologist, BSc & Clinical Psychologist, MSc; psychologist and researcher	
Philia Issari	Academic	Professor - Counseling Psychology	https://www.psych.uoa.gr/philia_issari issariph@psych.uoa.gr
Sabine Hennig	Academic	Head iDEAS:lab	
Tim Schötz	Academic	Student assistant	
Simona Cotorobai	Academic	PhD candidate in Educational Sciences	

3. Main Beneficiaries & Social Impact

A. Main Beneficiaries

Our OL projects are open to the community of large, each individual initiative may be of interest to other researchers and professionals (across a variety of sectors) working with young people. Working with participatory methodologies involves the active engagement of children and adolescents who come into contact with OL projects through schools, their involvement in after-school organizations or other community events. So far, CON-CHY OL projects co-involve young people in data collection processes and arts-based creative dynamics.

B. Social Impact

The current project (2025-26) focuses on young people's participation, inclusion and exclusion from urban settings. We aim to raise awareness of the place of children and youth in city contexts and public space, paying particular attention to mechanisms of exclusion in local community settings and neighborhoods. We use arts-based and digitally mediated interventions in public space led by young people as a consciousness-raising strategy.

4. Core Methodology

- Arts-based projects: visual art-work, performative art, soundscaping methodologies, walking methodologies.
- Qualitative research techniques: Participant observation, semi-structured interviews, photovoice interviews, focus groups, document analysis.
- Digital geovisualization techniques: digital cartographic and geovisualization tools.

5. Events in the Project

Event Name	Date(s)	Location	Description (purpose, audience)
Con-Chy Public Event	5-7 February 2026	Madrid - MAYTP La Corrala	Team meeting, exhibition in progress and open workshop. The event is open to students, academics and youth workers.
GISday 2025	19.11.2025	PLUS	Workshop with the target group
Roundtable	09.01.2026	Polana Caniço, Maputo	Team meeting with the local community; a hearing session;
Workshop UEM	09.2026	UEM Campus	Exhibition of photographic and audio-visual material; the event is open to the public.

6. Contact Point

Name: David Poveda

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Institution / Role: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, CON-CHY OL coordinator