



Interconnecting Histories and Archives for Migrant Agency

## D6.10 ITHACA E-Book

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## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>WP</b>	<b>Work-Package</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>Task</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Month</b>
<b>CDI-WG</b>	<b>Communication, Dissemination and Impact Working Group</b>
<b>DoA</b>	<b>Description of Action (Technical Annex of the Grant Agreement)</b>

## Document review history

<b>Date</b>	<b>Author/s</b>	<b>Feedback/Review</b>	<b>Version</b>
15/01/2025	Paule Roberta Yao (AMM), Maria Chiara Rioli and Matteo Al Kalak (UNIMORE)	Federica Manzoli (UNIMORE) and Paraskevi Michailidou (Sorbonne)	D6.10_V1
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## 1. Introduction

This deliverable reports on the production of the ITHACA E-Book “Migrant Diaries”, a communication activity aimed at making available to a broad public the wealth of migrant narratives collected and archived along the project.

This activity is a deviation from the original plan of building up a “MigrApp” in the ITHACA DoA (T6.4):

*The project website will host a section where migrants will be in a position to upload and share some of their stories through an application (MigrAPP) accessible from smartphones and other devices. MigrAPP will be an environment where migrants can upload their narrative stories and share their experiences. The MigrAPP will be a powerful tool for the project’s sustainability, since it will remain available for at least 2 years after the validation of the ITHACA Platform to collect spontaneous narratives of migrants. The collected narratives will be analysed, processed, and tagged to possibly include them in the ITHACA Platform. Videos and other memories collected will be open only to registered users and in the full respect of the policy previewed in WPs 1 and 7. UNIMORE will be responsible for reviewing and accepting the uploading of the videos and other documents.*

During summer 2024, while discussing the APP’s implementation with the CDI-WG (4 July meeting), major privacy issues emerged, according to the opinion of ITHACA Ethics Mentor (Monica Massari, UMIL).

The Consortium agreed on substituting the MigrAPP with the ITHACA Diaries E-Book, transforming this obstacle in the opportunity to give value to one of the most successful communication tasks in WP6, namely the ITHACA Diary Contest (T6.6) that also originated D6.14 ITHACA Podcasts.

## 2. The ITHACA Diaries E-Book

The idea of an E-Book collecting migrant self-narration comes from ITHACA's participation in the event organised by DIMMI (Diari Multimediali Migranti) in Pieve Santo Stefano. Here, once a year at the end of summer, migrants are called to publicly narrate their experiences in the first person. In the previous months, migrants from all over the world who arrived or transited in Italy are asked to send a written narrative to the organisers and the selected stories are published in a book. This activity is called DIMMI Award, and a special multilingual edition has been included in ITHACA as a communication and dissemination activity.

From this experience, the ITHACA communication team discussed the opportunity to transform the original MigrAPP into a more sustainable and still consistent with the project collection of migrant self-narratives.

UNIMORE, as responsible for this task, conducted and shared with the CDI-WG a SWOT analysis:

	<b>MigrAPP</b>	<b>ITHACA Migrant Diaries E-Book</b>
<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possibility of multimedia stories (written, audio, video, pictures/paintings/drawings)</li> <li>● Possibility to send stories in different languages</li> <li>● Wide distribution</li> <li>● Contents filtered by researchers following strict ethical protocols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Self-narratives foster the migrants' agency</li> <li>● Possibility of multimedia stories (written, audio, video, pictures/paintings/drawings)</li> <li>● Possibility to host stories in different languages</li> <li>● Wide distribution</li> <li>● Once the format is created, it can be easily and economically replicated after the end of the project (sustainability)</li> <li>● Contents selected by international reading committees, following rigorous selection criteria and respecting the participants' privacy</li> </ul>
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● High competition with "big" social media</li> <li>● Highly time-consuming for the researchers in the project</li> </ul>	Limited capacity (one E-Book with 18 contributions vs many contributions to the MigrAPP by migrants from everywhere)
<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Self-narratives foster the migrants' agency, consistently with the ITHACA aims and values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exploitation of the link with T6.6 ITHACA Diary Contest (Leader: AMM) [M33-51]</li> <li>● Texts preserved in the ITHACA repository Sharedocs (technical reliability)</li> </ul>
<b>Threats</b>	Maintenance of the APP	Links to multimedia text to be periodically checked

## 2.1 The ITHACA Diary Contest

In 2012, the life story contest DIMMI Multimedia Migrant Diaries ([www.dimmidistoriemigranti.it](http://www.dimmidistoriemigranti.it)) was launched for the first time to collect and disseminate self-narration stories by individuals with migratory experience or background.

Ten years later, after meeting the ITHACA project, DIMMI enlarged its borders thanks to its members and their networks, and it became the ITHACA Diary Contest.

After launching a call for stories in Autumn 2023, 47 authors sent their stories in 7 different countries: Greece, France, Italy, Tunisia, Morocco, England, Albania, Jordan, and Syria. Five local reading committees selected 18 among the audio, video, visual texts (drawing, paintings, Photographs). The finalist works were presented during a successful event that took place on September 13th in Pieve Santo Stefano, Italy.

Consistently with the ITHACA project aims and values, the diary contest collects and preserves an endangered and multilingual cultural heritage, and tries to contrast anti-migration stereotypes and hate speech through the direct narration of women and men with their personal or family experiences.



## 2.2 Narratives selection

After the promotion of a *call for stories* in 5 languages, published on the ITHACA website and promoted on Facebook, facilitated by ITHACA partners AMM, UNIMORE, UNHCR, AUI, NKUA and their broad stakeholder networks, AMM organised and supervised the process, started in March 2024.

The call for stories included a participation form and an [informed consent](https://sharedocs.huma-num.fr/wl/?id=Hbcjqv49qXeTdQz3TRMmARiLssLxGhjk) form (<https://sharedocs.huma-num.fr/wl/?id=Hbcjqv49qXeTdQz3TRMmARiLssLxGhjk>), which were mandatory when submitting the work.

Local reading committees were formed by ITHACA partners and started their evaluation processes (June), following the [instructions](https://sharedocs.huma-num.fr/wl/?id=FRSA7H3YrxH9JBWleyT38PW7hWGzVyPN) (<https://sharedocs.huma-num.fr/wl/?id=FRSA7H3YrxH9JBWleyT38PW7hWGzVyPN>) shared by AMM and including a [Confidentiality Agreement](https://sharedocs.huma-num.fr/wl/?id=3DY1F0USnFgAEKirDR0YsANtwzQuWRsd) (<https://sharedocs.huma-num.fr/wl/?id=3DY1F0USnFgAEKirDR0YsANtwzQuWRsd>).

The consensus conference held by the International reading committee (one representative for each local committee, with the participation of external members among the project collaborations) in July ended with selecting 18 visual, audio, painted, photographed and drawn stories, out of the 47 stories submitted.

A dedicated event during the 40<sup>th</sup> Saverio Tutino Award was organised to disseminate the Contest (here a multilingual short video of the event: <https://youtu.be/9f9SoPkPq6c?si=OhoyJAqeNZNiLsh>), hosting some of the members of the reading committees and one short video sent by each of the 18 contributors to explain the public the meaning of self-narrating and the participation to the ITHACA Diary Contest.

Teatro Comunale Giovanni Papini

**venerdì 13 settembre ore  
10.30**

## **ITHACA Diary Contest**



DiMMi e ITHACA incontrano i finalisti della I edizione  
intervengono Elona Aliko, Federica Manzoli, Maria Chiara  
Rioli e Paule Roberta Yao

### **PREMIAZIONI**

ITHACA (Interconnecting Histories and Archives for Migrant Agency) è un progetto nato nel 2021 e finanziato dalla Commissione europea all'interno del programma Horizon2020. Il suo obiettivo è di studiare storie di migrazioni nel passato e nel presente e costruire un archivio per renderle disponibili su una piattaforma aperta a tutti. In collaborazione con il progetto Diari Multimediali Migranti (DiMMi), ITHACA ha promosso un Diary Contest internazionale che ha portato alla raccolta di ben 47 storie di migrazione all'interno del Mediterraneo.

*Continua a leggere...*

To present the stories during the event, they were grouped into four main sections: *exile*, *violence*, *frontiers* and *identity*, which later became the four chapters of the E-Book. Its launch was announced as the closure of the roundup.

## **2.2 Production**

After asking the authors for permission to publish their work in an E-Book, a professional graphic designer was commissioned to produce it.

The idea for the layout was based on the painting of one of the contest finalists, which became ITHACA's manifesto: We Are the Migrants:





Before its publication on the ITHACA website, an ISBN code was provided.  
This is the [link](#) to read and download the ITHACA Stories:

[https://ithacahorizon.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/libro-ITHACADiaryContest\\_V12.pdf](https://ithacahorizon.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/libro-ITHACADiaryContest_V12.pdf)

The CDI-WG is in charge of promoting the E-Book.

A special event was organised by Kingston University, an associate of the ITHACA Diary Contest, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2025. The visual works were exhibited and a workshop organised to discuss with researchers and practitioners the value of self-narration:





