

Annual activities report 2025

Participation that changes something.

7

EU-funded projects launched in
2025

18

countries

35

partner organisations

2

consortia coordinated

PREPARED FOR

Funders, consortium partners and prospective partners
carrying out due diligence on Asociación Pilcrow. Covers the
period 1 January to 31 December 2025.

PILCROW at a glance

PILCROW is a non-profit association based in Valencia, Spain, working across Europe since 2020. We empower young people, children and communities to participate actively in democratic life and to contribute to more inclusive, fair, sustainable and resilient societies, through non-formal education, European cooperation, rights-based advocacy, innovation and community action.

7	2	18	35
EU-funded projects launched in 2025	consortia coordinated by PILCROW	countries in 2025 consortia	partner organisations

Organisational identity

LEGAL NAME	Asociación Pilcrow
LEGAL FORM	Non-profit association under Spanish law
FOUNDED	2020, Valencia, Spain
BASED IN	Valencia, Spain
GOVERNANCE	Board of six elected members
TEAM	2 paid staff, around 20 active volunteers, around 12 external specialists per project
NETWORK MEMBERSHIPS	I-STEP, CONNECT International, QUEST Network, NatureFriends Network
CONTACT	office@pilcrow.es · projects@pilcrow.es · www.pilcrow.es

Mission and vision

- Mission.** To empower young people, children and communities to participate actively in democratic life and to contribute to building more inclusive, fair, sustainable and resilient societies.
- Vision.** Participation that moves from symbolic to decisive, so that young people and communities meaningfully influence the decisions that affect their lives.
- ### What we hold ourselves to
- A rights-based approach.** Participation is a right, not something granted at the discretion of adults or institutions.
 - Non-formal education.** People learn by doing, deciding and reflecting, not by being addressed.
 - Meaningful inclusion.** We measure influence, not attendance.
 - Safeguarding as a foundation.** Clear conduct standards, named responsibilities and working accountability mechanisms.
 - Cross-border cooperation.** Transnational problems are not solved inside one country's youth sector.

WHERE WE WORKED IN 2025

Belgium · Bulgaria · Croatia · Cyprus · Denmark · Estonia · Germany · Italy · Latvia · Lithuania · Netherlands · North Macedonia · Poland · Romania · Serbia · Slovakia · Spain · Turkiye

A year of scale, and of learning to carry it

PILCROW began in 2020 as a small local association in Valencia working on intercultural learning and volunteering. 2025 is the year that description stopped being accurate.

Seven EU-funded projects started during the year, five under Erasmus+ and two under Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values. Two of them are coordinated from Valencia, which means this organisation now carries consortium-level responsibility for budgets, reporting and partner performance rather than only for its own work packages. The two CERV grants are the first of their kind for us, and they take us into a different register: working directly with municipal administrations on children's participation in ChildACT+, and into European policy dialogue on competitiveness in COMPASS. GreenSkills Connect adds vocational education and training to our scope for the first time.

Growing this quickly is a risk as much as an achievement, and we would rather name it than present the year as uncomplicated. Three things demanded attention. First, coordination capacity: moving from partner to coordinator changed what our two staff members and our board have to be able to do, and we met that by contracting external specialists per project rather than by claiming expertise we do not

hold in house. Second, partner selection: we became more deliberate about who we join, and turned down opportunities that would have added countries to a list without adding substance. Third, safeguarding: a comprehensive update of our policy to align fully with Spanish legal requirements was under way through the year and remains a board-level priority.

What we are watching is visible across the portfolio. Tokenism keeps reappearing, which is why Beyond Tokenism builds a measurement instrument rather than another declaration. Mental health remains the area where youth organisations are most willing to raise awareness and least equipped to change practice, which is what Youth Work 4 Mental Health is designed to shift. And the gap between what vocational training teaches and what the green economy hires for is wide enough that a small association can make a difference by simply mapping it honestly.

In 2026 the priority is consolidation rather than more grants. Two new Erasmus+ projects start in January, one of them coordinated by us, and RomaRights begins in July. Eight projects will be running at once. Our commitment for the year is that each of them ends with structures, tools or policy that outlive the funding period.

Valentina Rangel Parra

Director of Asociación Pilcrow · on behalf of the Governing Board



Six priority areas of work

Our work is organised into six areas. They are not departments: most projects sit across two or three of them, and the cross-cutting methods below apply to all six.

01

Youth and child participation, democracy and active citizenship

Participation only counts when it changes something. We build the structures, skills and relationships that let young people influence real decisions at school, municipal and European level.

02

Equality, inclusion, social rights and non-discrimination

We treat inclusion as influence rather than representation, using rights-based frameworks and practices that turn diversity into a say in decisions, and addressing discrimination where it persists.

03

Well-being, mental health, resilience and safeguarding

Around nine million adolescents in Europe live with mental health difficulties. We help youth organisations move from awareness to structured practice, and we embed safeguarding across everything we run.

04

Sustainability, climate action and green skills

Beyond environmental awareness: we combine ecological education with practical resilience and connect vocational training to the skills the green economy is actually recruiting for.

05

Skills, innovation and digital citizenship

Technology is neither neutral nor automatically inclusive. We build digital tools that advance rights and participation, and critical thinking about the systems young people are handed.

06

Mobility, volunteering and intercultural learning

Exchanges and training designed around preparation, accessibility and follow-up, deliberately reaching participants who would not otherwise get on the plane.

Cross-cutting methods. Non-formal education · participation · accessibility · gender equality · safeguarding · capacity building · transnational exchange · community action · policy dialogue · monitoring and evaluation

Seven projects, all launched in 2025

Every project below received its grant agreement and started during 2025. Grant references are given so that each can be verified independently in the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform or the EU Funding and Tenders Portal.

Beyond Tokenism: Youth Leading Inclusion

PARTNER

Moving youth organisations from symbolic diversity to genuine influence.

PROGRAMME	GRANT REFERENCE	DURATION	CONSORTIUM
Erasmus+ KA220-YOU	2024-2-HR01-KA220-YOU-000288789	1 Jan 2025 - 30 Jun 2026	4 countries

Beyond Tokenism supports youth organisations that already have diverse participants but not diverse decision-making. The consortium builds practical instruments rather than statements: an Inclusion Index Calculator that lets an organisation measure its own practice, an educational toolkit, an eLearning platform and an Authentic Inclusion Declaration with an international signatory network. PILCROW contributes non-formal education methodology, pilot workshops with local groups in Valencia and the Spanish-language adaptation of the materials.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Udruga Zazeli (HR, coordinator) · Caribbean Education and Culture Foundation (NL) · Youth Power Germany e.V. (DE) · Asociación Pilcrow (ES)

STATUS

In implementation at 31 Dec 2025

Storytelling: Embracing Diversity, Encouraging Unity

COORDINATOR

A youth exchange that uses narrative to take stereotypes apart.

PROGRAMME	GRANT REFERENCE	DURATION	CONSORTIUM
Erasmus+ KA152-YOU	2025-1-ES02-KA152-YOU-000298579	1 Jun 2025 - 31 May 2026	5 countries

The first mobility project designed and coordinated in house from Valencia. Thirty-six young people aged 18 to 25 work with narrative techniques, self-reflection and digital production to build intercultural competence and to confront prejudice with something more durable than a workshop slogan. The design places creative output and community outreach at the end of the process, so that what participants produce leaves the exchange with them.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Asociación Pilcrow (ES, coordinator) · FOREGROUND Foundation (BG) · DASEIN e.V. (DE) · Asociatia ENASAUD (RO) · Youth Spectrum (DK)

STATUS

In implementation at 31 Dec 2025

Youth Work 4 Mental Health

COORDINATOR

Turning mental well-being from an awareness topic into organisational practice.

PROGRAMME	GRANT REFERENCE	DURATION	CONSORTIUM
Erasmus+ KA153-YOU	2025-1-ES02-KA153-YOU-000298149	1 Jun 2025 - 31 May 2026	8 countries

PILCROW's largest consortium to date as coordinator, and the clearest example of the organisation's approach to well-being: not clinical, not campaign-led, but embedded. An international training course for 27 youth workers is followed by national Mental Health Elaborated discussion events in each country and by a Good Practices handbook designed to be adopted by youth organisations as everyday operating practice rather than filed as a publication.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Asociación Pilcrow (ES, coordinator) · Take Action for the SDGs (BG) · DASEIN e.V. (DE) · VIA AD ASTRA Radovish (MK) · Genclik Mevsimi Dernegi (TR) · Key Life (IT) · European Youth Alliance (DK) · Sibiu Youth Alliance (RO)

STATUS

In implementation at 31 Dec 2025

GreenSkills Connect: Bridging VET and the Green Sector

PARTNER

Closing the distance between vocational training and what the green economy actually hires for.

PROGRAMME	GRANT REFERENCE	DURATION	CONSORTIUM
Erasmus+ KA210-VET	2025-1-PL01-KA210-VET-000352863	1 Oct 2025 - 31 Jan 2027	5 countries

PILCROW's entry into vocational education and training. The project starts from a needs analysis combining statistics with focus groups among employers and training centres, then builds a curriculum with full lesson plans and digital micro-learning resources, and trains VET educators to deliver it. Planned reach includes an online campaign of more than 30,000 people and advocacy work with over 50 stakeholders.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Stowarzyszenie HELIOS (PL, coordinator) · OGU Kocho Racin Skopje (MK) · Udruženje Gradana LIBERO (RS) · CONNECT INTERNATIONAL (BE) · Asociación Pilcrow (ES)

STATUS

Inception phase at 31 Dec 2025

Youth Rescue Squad

PARTNER

Young people as first responders to climate extremes, not spectators of them.

PROGRAMME	GRANT REFERENCE	DURATION	CONSORTIUM
Erasmus+ KA220-YOU	2025-1-DE04-KA220-YOU-000353648	24 Oct 2025 - 23 Oct 2027	5 countries

A climate resilience project with an unusually operational design: an interactive e-course, mentor training, resilience boot camps, youth consultations with crisis management authorities, youth-led resilience rallies and a networking platform. For PILCROW, working in a region that has lived through the consequences of extreme rainfall, the relevance of preparedness work is not theoretical.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Jugendfoerderungverein Parchim/Luebz e.V. (DE, coordinator) · Asociación Pilcrow (ES) · cirka cph ApS (DK) · Family and Childcare Center Skopje (MK) · Headway Consulting Group (BE)

STATUS

Inception phase at 31 Dec 2025

ChildACT+: Child Action for Effective and Inclusive Local Policies

PARTNER

Children's participation built into how municipalities decide, not staged around it.

PROGRAMME	GRANT REFERENCE	DURATION	CONSORTIUM
CERV-2025-CHILD	SEP-211160876	1 Dec 2025 - 30 Nov 2027	5 countries

PILCROW's first project under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme, and the first working directly with municipal administrations. The consortium establishes recurring participatory structures with children, children's councils and participatory budgeting among them, builds the capacity of local officials to consult children properly, and converts what works into five national plans so the structures outlive the grant.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Romanian Center for European Policies (RO, coordinator) · Asociatia GEYC (RO) · Amapola srl (IT) · Spazio Aperto Servizi (IT) · Transparency International Latvia - Delna (LV) · Transparency International Estonia (EE) · PILCROW (ES)

STATUS

Inception phase at 31 Dec 2025

COMPASS

PARTNER

Putting young people who are usually absent into the European competitiveness debate.

PROGRAMME	GRANT REFERENCE	DURATION	CONSORTIUM
CERV lump sum grants	SEP-211160760	1 Dec 2025 - 30 Nov 2027	9 countries

The largest consortium PILCROW joined in 2025. COMPASS connects young people from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds with EU policymakers, academics and industry, through Local Civic Incubator Labs, structured Competitiveness Dialogues, a high-level forum in Brussels with youth delegates and a collaboratively drafted Youth Strategy Paper responding to the Draghi Report. PILCROW runs the Spanish Lab and contributes its participation methodology to the consortium.

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Stand Up For Europe (BE, coordinator) · A Seat At The Table · FELCOS Umbria (IT) · Europaeische Akademie Berlin (DE) · Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana (PL) · EDYN · GEYC (RO) · Mano Europa (LT) · KOKEN Ltd (CY) · PILCROW (ES)

STATUS

Inception phase at 31 Dec 2025

THE 2025 PORTFOLIO AT A GLANCE

PROJECT	PROGRAMME AND ACTION	ROLE	DURATION
Beyond Tokenism	Erasmus+ KA220-YOU	Partner	1 Jan 2025 - 30 Jun 2026
Storytelling	Erasmus+ KA152-YOU	Coordinator	1 Jun 2025 - 31 May 2026
Youth Work 4 Mental Health	Erasmus+ KA153-YOU	Coordinator	1 Jun 2025 - 31 May 2026
GreenSkills Connect	Erasmus+ KA210-VET	Partner	1 Oct 2025 - 31 Jan 2027
Youth Rescue Squad	Erasmus+ KA220-YOU	Partner	24 Oct 2025 - 23 Oct 2027
ChildACT+	CERV-2025-CHILD	Partner	1 Dec 2025 - 30 Nov 2027
COMPASS	CERV lump sum grants	Partner	1 Dec 2025 - 30 Nov 2027

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS IN 2025 CONSORTIA

COUNTRY	ORGANISATIONS
Belgium	CONNECT INTERNATIONAL · Headway Consulting Group · Stand Up For Europe
Bulgaria	FOREGROUND Foundation · Take Action for the SDGs
Croatia	Udruga Zazeli
Cyprus	KOKEN Ltd
Denmark	Youth Spectrum · European Youth Alliance · cirka cph ApS
Estonia	Transparency International Estonia
Germany	DASEIN e.V. · Youth Power Germany e.V. · Jugendfoerderverein Parchim/Luebz e.V. · Europaeische Akademie Berlin
Italy	Key Life · Amapola srl · Spazio Aperto Servizi · FELCOS Umbria
Latvia	Transparency International Latvia (Delna)
Lithuania	Mano Europa
Netherlands	Caribbean Education and Culture Foundation
North Macedonia	VIA AD ASTRA Radovish · OGU Kocho Racin Skopje · Family and Childcare Center Skopje
Poland	Stowarzyszenie HELIOS · Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana
Romania	Asociatia ENSAUD · Sibiu Youth Alliance · Romanian Center for European Policies · Asociatia GEYC
Serbia	Udruzenje Gradana LIBERO
Slovakia	Consortium partner via COMPASS
Spain	Asociación Pilcrow
Turkiye	Genclik Mevsimi Dernegi

2025 in figures

The first block is drawn directly from the 2025 grant agreements and consortium compositions and can be verified against the grant references on the preceding pages. The second block reports activity delivered across those projects during the year. The third is PILCROW's cumulative record since 2020 as published.

Verified against the 2025 grant agreements

7	5 + 2	2	18	35	63
EU-funded projects launched	Erasmus+ and CERV grants	consortia coordinated	countries in consortia	partner organisations	participants in coordinated mobilities

Activity delivered during 2025

380	110	9
participants in activities across the 2025 portfolio	hours of training and participatory activity	educational materials and resources published
70,000	11	120
people reached through communication and dissemination	structured exchanges with decision-makers	participants in activities delivered in Spain

Activity figures are internal estimates covering the seven projects listed in this report, rounded to the nearest whole unit. Cumulative figures are as published on pilcrow.es.

Cumulative record since 2020			
As published on pilcrow.es, covering the organisation's full history to date.			
13	1,200+	350+	59
EU-funded projects	direct participants	hours of activity and training	partner organisations
20	45+	40+	250,000+
countries	educational materials	exchanges with decision-makers	cumulative reach

2025 MILESTONES

1 Jan	1 Jun	1 Oct	24 Oct	1 Dec
Beyond Tokenism begins	Storytelling and Youth Work 4 Mental Health begin, coordinated by PILCROW	GreenSkills Connect begins, first VET project	Youth Rescue Squad begins	ChildACT+ and COMPASS begin, first CERV grants

How the organisation is run

This section exists because funders and partners reasonably want to know whether a small association can carry seven concurrent grants. The answer is in how the work is structured rather than in headcount.

6

elected board members:
strategy, financial oversight,
organisational risk

2

paid staff: coordination,
reporting, communications

~20

active volunteers delivering
activities

~12

external specialists contracted
per project

Governance

PILCROW is governed by a board of six elected members responsible for strategy, financial oversight and organisational risk. The board decides collectively and meets regularly. We deliberately do not publish individual profiles of board members, staff or volunteers, for safeguarding and data protection reasons. Names and roles are provided directly to funders and partners on request.

Capacity model

We contract external specialists rather than holding all expertise internally: trainers, facilitators, researchers, developers and evaluators, typically around twelve per project. This lets a small association work credibly on complex topics without inflating claims about its own capacity, and it keeps fixed costs proportionate to the grant portfolio.

Safeguarding and child protection

A written safeguarding policy applies to all staff, board members, volunteers, trainers and partner representatives. It covers conduct standards, registration and parental consent, attendance registers, continuous supervision of groups under 16, specific consent for trips, background checks and references before unsupervised contact with children, and consent before photography or recording. A board-level safeguarding lead receives concerns at office@pilcrow.es. The policy is reviewed annually by the board. A comprehensive update aligning it fully with Spanish legal requirements was approved during 2025.

Youth participation in our own decisions

Young people shape activity design, take part in selecting participants and review outcomes. Youth advisory structures have a defined say in decisions rather than an advisory voice, which is the standard we ask of the organisations we train.

Accessibility

We ask participants about access and support needs before every activity and budget for them, rather than treating accommodations as exceptions to be absorbed. Materials are produced in plain language and in more than one language.

Compliance and transparency

Published policies cover privacy and data protection, cookies, legal notice, accessibility and child protection. Project results are disseminated through EU platforms as required by the grant agreements, and board names and roles, project reports and financial statements are provided to funders and partners on request.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is one of the ten methods applied across all our areas of work rather than a step taken at the end. Activities are designed together with the indicators used to assess them, participants review outcomes, and findings feed the next design cycle. Indicators, data collection instruments and reporting formats are documented per project and held centrally with the rest of the consortium documentation.

Risk and continuity

With seven concurrent grants and two paid staff, the principal organisational risk is concentration of knowledge in few people. The mitigations are structural: collective financial oversight by the board, specialists contracted per project against defined deliverables, and consortium documentation held centrally rather than personally. The board maintains a formal risk register and reviews it as part of its regular meetings.

2026 and beyond

Three grants begin in 2026, taking the active portfolio to eight concurrent projects. One is coordinated by PILCROW.

Empowering Body Positivity for Healthier Lives

ERASMUS+ · COORDINATOR · 5 COUNTRIES · JAN TO DEC 2026

A youth participation initiative on media influence, body image and mental health, engaging 35 young people. PILCROW's second project as coordinator.

STAY: Skills for Thriving, Agency and Youth Engagement

ERASMUS+ · PARTNER · 3 COUNTRIES · JAN TO DEC 2026

Addresses disengagement from work and volunteering among people aged 18 to 28, producing a handbook and practical toolkit.

RomaRights

CERV · PARTNER · 6 COUNTRIES · JUL 2026 TO JUN 2028

Counters antigypsyism through community empowerment and advocacy, including a multilingual AI assistant helping Roma individuals and organisations report incidents.

Our commitment for 2026 is consolidation: each project closing with structures, tools or policy that outlive its funding period, and reporting that a funder can verify without taking our word for it.

EUROPEAN NETWORKS AND PLATFORMS

PILCROW is a member of I-STEP (Inclusive Skills, Training, Employability and Participation), CONNECT International, the QUEST Network and the NatureFriends Network. These memberships are used for partner search, peer learning and joint advocacy rather than held as credentials.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

office@pilcrow.es

PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

projects@pilcrow.es

WEB AND SOCIAL

www.pilcrow.es
instagram.com/pilcrow.es



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