

The project «Citizens of macro-regions for a Stronger Europe» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"
Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"
Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"**

Seven events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 15 citizens, including 3 participants from HU, 1 from AT, 1 from DE, 1 from DK, 1 from FR, 1 from IT, 1 from PL, 1 from RO, 1 from RS, 1 from SK, 1 from NL, 1 from UK and 1 from BE.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Brussels, Belgium, from 25/10/2018 to 26/10/2018

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss various project activities and finalise the project timetable. All project partners were present at the preparatory event where they have fixed the project timetable and discussed the concept and methodology to be used at the events. Project partners also met Alan Hick (European Economic and Social Committee).

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 81 citizens, including 3 persons from HU, 1 from AT, 3 from DE, 1 from DK, 2 from IT, 3 from PL, 2 from RO, 1 from RS, 1 from SK, 2 from NL, 2 from BE and 60 from FR.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Paris, France, from 13/12/2018 to 14/12/2018

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss questions related to the European democracy and values. The main project event was a public discussion with the participation of 60 citizens. It was hosted by the French project partner, la Maison de l'Europe de Paris. The guest speaker was Luuk van Middelaar, former adviser of Herman von Rompuy who also presented his latest book titled „When Europe improvises”. His position was that it is an urgent task to revise the EU but it cannot be done in an improvisatory manner, a longterm strategic vision is needed. A rich discussion followed with divergent, sometimes opposing views. In addition a visit was paid to the Paris City Hall and met Hermanno Sanches Ruivo, Counsellor for European Affairs and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where Counsellor Carole Ulmer presented President Macron's initiative on the future of Europe.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 86 citizens, including 5 persons from AT, 1 from DE, 1 from DK, 2 from FR, 1 from IT, 2 from PL, 2 from RO, 6 from RS, 2 from SK, 1 from HR, 1 from SI and 1 from LT and 61 from HU.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Budapest, Hungary, from 13/02/2019 to 14/02/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to focus on issues of human connectivity. Human connectivity for a stronger and more united Europe: dialogue on macro-regional level was the title of the second project event hosted by Danubiana Network. The first part of the programme was a workshop moderated by Mr Csaba Tóth, Director of the think tank Republicon Institute. Participants agreed that human connectivity is indispensable in making macro-regional strategies a success, especially in the field of communication using social media, practicing the notion of togetherness and demonstrating the force of solidarity. The latter took the form of a Great European Sandwich Jamboree in a local kultcafé where project participants together with a group of local volunteers prepared a huge pile of sandwiches what were handed over to „Oltalom” social shelter accommodating homeless people.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 82 citizens, including 4 persons from HU, 5 from AT, 57 from DE, 2 from DK, 3 from FR, 2 from IT, 1 from PL, 2 from RO, 2 from RS, 2 from SK, 1 from HR, 1 from BE.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ulm, Germany, from 06/05/2019 to 07/05/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to increase the participation of citizens at the 2019 EP elections. Our event in Ulm took place in the middle of the EP election campaign and our aim was to raise awareness among local citizens and encourage them to participate in it. The main project attraction was a huge Europe flower arrangement on Münsterplatz with more than 8,000 pots of flower. We have been assisted by a significant number of young volunteers. Our presence was part of the local Europe Day event; we also run an info stand and it is not an exaggeration to say that our public presence in Ulm really made a difference!

Event 5

Participation: The event involved 95 citizens, including 4 persons from HU, 2 from AT, 3 from DE, 1 from DK, 1 from FR, 2 from IT, 1 from PL, 75 from RO, 2 from RS, 1 from SK, 2 from BG, 1 from HR.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Bucharest, Romania, from 26/06/2019 to 28/06/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to increase the visibility of the project at the 8th Annual EUSDR Forum, a major conference-type gathering. We were successful in our endeavour to demonstrate the value-added nature of citizens' involvement in the implementation of macro-regional strategies and put forward concrete proposals eg. preparation of a citizens' „Shadow report” for further actions. As project participants came from all the four macro-regions our active presence gave a special „touch” to the EUSDR framed event. To raise the profile of our presence in the Romanian capital project participants assisted by young volunteers of our local partner organisation, the APD went out to downtown for a street action: set up a mobile stand with info materials and talked to surprised but friendly passer-byers on macro-regional issues in a broader European context. It was a pleasant and rewarding experience!

Event 6

Participation: The event involved 88 citizens, including 3 persons from HU, 2 from AT, 2 from DE, 1 from DK, 1 from FR, 70 from IT, 1 from PL, 3 from RO, 1 from RS, 1 from SK, 2 from SI, 1 from EL.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Milan, Italy, from 26/09/2019 to 27/09/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss and challenge the notion of Euroscepticism. The Università degli studi de Milano was the venue of our discussion. Prof. Piero Graglia and Prof Ruggero Cafan Panico made initial presentations. Our aim was to discover how populist and Eurosceptic views can be successfully challenged by using smart communication techniques under the new political conditions after the EP elections. The impressive number of proposals raised also by the participating university students included (a) establishing efficient channels of direct EU communication with citizens addressing their pressing daily concerns; (b) forget standardised EU-level info materials; they should be tailor-made and concrete; (c) massive and innovative use of social media is a must. The result of our discussions were immediately confronted with the daily reality of Milan: participants joined a group of demonstrating local citizens for a stronger Europe. It was rewarding to see their open and supportive attitude. An important element of our programme was a visit to the Representative Office of the European Commission in Milan.

Event 7

Participation: The event involved 99 citizens, including 3 persons from HU, 3 from AT, 1 from DE, 1 from DK, 1 from FR, 1 from IT, 3 from PL, 1 from RO, 1 from RS, 80 from SK, 3 from CZ, 1 from HR.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 28/11/2019 to 29/11/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss how EU institutions can be closer to citizens. Two main programmes were organised in the Slovak capital: (a) a well-attended seminar on the topic with keynote speakers from the Comenius University (Dr Zsolt Gal) and from the Slovak Government Office (Mr Frantisek Kolocany); (b) a public debate with the participation of about 80 students of the Comenius University. The questions raised provoked a vivid, sometimes contradictory but basically pro-European reactions from the participants: What are the „lessons learned” aspects of the failed „Spitzenkandidat” system?, How could the current non-transparent nature of the work of the European Council be changed?, How can the potential of the four macro-regions with active citizens' involvement be used for the betterment of the European project after the 2019 EP elections? As this was the concluding project event participants evaluated the overall project performance and stated that it was a useful learning exercise.