



2WILL

2 WORK IN INTEGRATION OF LOCAL LIFE

Final Publication of project's results



Europe
for Citizens

MUNICIPALITY OF WIELISZEW (PL)

The Municipality of Wieliszew is a rural gmina in the Legionowo County, Masovian Voivodeship, in east-central Poland. It lies 7 kms north-east of Legionowo and 26 kms north of Warsaw and covers an area of 102.23 square kms, with a total population of 8,483 units.

Its key activities are:

- Promote EU policies at local and national level;
- Distribute information and provide assistance to citizens;
- Boost local interests to the national government;
- Carry out actions with other towns;
- Plan seminars and workshops on topics related to local administration tasks;
- Participate with own representatives in institutional debates where decisions on local autonomies interests are discussed;
- Promote activities and services for democratic engagement and civic education to increase knowledge on EU policies;
- Plan cultural and tourist events (e.g. Zespol na Luzie in March).

Wieliszew is twinned with the Municipalities of Graffignano (Italy) and Dionysos (Greece).

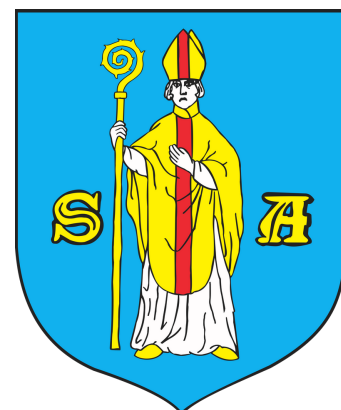
MUNICIPALITY OF SEROCK (PL)

Serock is a urban-rural administrative district in the Legionowo County, Masovian Voivodeship, in east-central Poland. Its seat is the town of Serock, which lies approximately 17 kms north-east of Legionowo and 34 kms north of Warsaw. Serock covers an area of 108.96 square kms and its total population is 11,236 inhabitants (out of which the population of Serock amounts to 3,721 and the population of the rural part is 7,515). It is twinned with the Municipality of Celleno (Italy) since 1998 and took part in several European projects.

Serock is a recreational and relaxation site and also a center of culture and sport. There are a lot of cultural events, including the "International Folklore Review Kupalnocka" and the "Serock Summer Music".

Its main aims are:

- Stimulate new forms of local civic participation;
- Promote local interests to the national government;
- Give information and assistance to citizens about local and European policies;
- Encourage initiatives for the civic education of citizens to increase their knowledge on EU policies.



MUNICIPALITY OF GRAFFIGNANO (IT)

The Municipality of Graffignano is in the Province of Viterbo, Lazio region (Italy), about 80 kms northwest of Rome and about 20 kms northeast of Viterbo. It has a population of 2,273 inhabitants and an area of 29.1 square kms.

Its aims are:

- Promotion of local interests to the national and European government, as ANCI Lazio member (National Association of Italian Municipalities-Lazio branch);
- Distribution of information, consultancies and assistance to the citizenship;
- Planning of workshops on matters related to local administration activities;
- Promotion and encouragement of civic education initiatives to increase knowledge on European policies;
- Encouragement of measures and services to stimulate the participation to local non-profit activities and civil life;
- Planning of activities with other towns;
- Participate with own members in institutional debates where decisions on local autonomies interests are discussed.

Graffignano is twinned with Wieliszew (Poland) Applicant of this Project.

MUNICIPALITY OF CASTIGLIONE IN TEVERINA (IT)

The Municipality of Castiglione in Teverina is in the Province of Viterbo, Lazio region, at about 90 kms northwest of Rome and 25 kms northeast of Viterbo.

Its key activities are:

- Promote local interests to the national government, as ANCI Lazio member;
- Distribute information, consultancies and assistance to its citizens;
- Plan workshops on matters related to local administration activities;
- Promote and encourage initiatives for civic education to increase knowledge on EU policies;
- Encourage measures and services to stimulate participation to local non-profit activities and civil life;
- Carry out activities with other towns;
- Participate with own members in institutional debates where decisions on local autonomies interests are discussed;
- Plan cultural events (e.g. the "Wine Festival") and sports events.

Castiglione in Teverina is twinned with the Municipality of Herrera del Duque (Spain).



MUNICIPALITY OF CELLENO (IT)

Celleno is a town in the Province of Viterbo (Lazio region). It is ANCI Lazio member and thanks to important experiences it had in the past as leader (e.g. in 2008 for the Town Twinning Citizen's Meeting with Serock) and partner (ProYoungPeople, ANCI Lazio project), it is committed in promoting European policies and debates at local level and local interests at regional and national level.

Its principal activities are the following ones:

- Promote local interests to the national government;
- Distribute information, consultancies and assistance to the citizenship;
- Plan workshops on matters related to local administration activities;
- Promote and encourage initiatives for civic education to increase knowledge about EU policies;
- Encourage measures and services to stimulate participation to local non-profit activities and civil life;
- Carry out activities with other Italian and European towns;
- Participate with own members in institutional debates where decisions on local autonomies interests are discussed;
- Plan Cultural events (e.g. the "Cherry Feast") and sports events.

MUNICIPALITY OF LUBRIANO (IT)

Lubriano is a municipality of around 1200 inhabitants in the Province of Viterbo (Lazio region), located about 90 kms northwest of Rome and about 25 kms north of Viterbo. The territory has geological relevance and is seat of the Naturalistic Museum. The economy of the town has been focused on farming and wine production, which are actively promoted with several initiatives during the year (e.g. "Chianina Cow Festival" and "Wine Festival").

Its main activities are:

- Promotion of folkloristic, cultural and educational activities;
- Promote activities for democratic engagement and civic participation;
- Plan cultural and educational events;
- Boost local interests to the national government;
- Participate with own representatives in institutional debates at local, national and European level.



MUNICIPALITY OF CIVITELLA D'AGLIANO (IT)

Civitella d'Agliano is a municipality in the Province of Viterbo (Lazio region), located about 80 kms northwest of Rome and about 20 kms northeast of Viterbo.

Civitella d'Agliano borders with the following municipalities: Alviano, Bagnoregio, Castiglione in Teverina, Graffignano, Guardea, Montecchio, Orvieto and Viterbo.

The Municipality is involved in cultural and artistic activities thanks to the "La Serpara Open Air Museum of Contemporary Arts" that calls artists from all around the world. It is seat of many volunteering associations active in social and solidal fields, sport teams and social enterprises.

The land surrounding the town is mostly rural and it is part of the Teverina area, famous for the wine production.

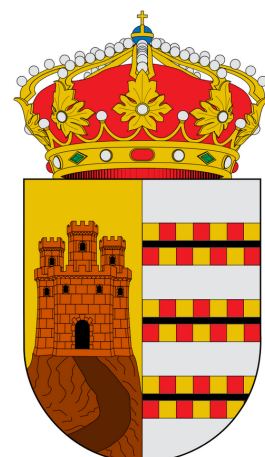
MUNICIPALITY OF HERRERA DEL DUQUE (ES)

The Municipality of Herrera del Duque is located in the province of Badajoz, Extremadura. As of 2010, the municipality has a population of 3681 inhabitants and is active to boost policies aimed at fostering debates on cultural tourism and on the participation of disadvantaged groups in civil society.

Its key activities are to:

- Promote European policies at local and national level;
- Distribute info and provide assistance to citizens;
- Boost local interests to the national government;
- Carry out actions with other towns;
- Plan seminars and workshops on topics related to local administration tasks;
- Participate, with own representatives, in institutional debates where decisions on local autonomies interests are discussed;
- Promote activities and services for democratic engagement and civic education to increase knowledge on EU policies;
- Plan cultural and tourist events.

The Municipality of Herrera del Duque is twinned with the Municipality of Castiglione in Teverina (Italy).



MUNICIPALITY OF LANŠKROUN (CZ)

Lanškroun is a town in the Ústí nad Orlicí District (Pardubice Region), on the border between Bohemia and Moravia. In 2002 the town became an accredited municipality with extended competence for 21 villages. With its 10,000 inhabitants it is a dynamic industrial town (electronics, engineering and paper industry) and a town of secondary schools and key cultural institutions. Many successful local entrepreneurs and managers have supported the town economic development and the current secondary schools continue in the tradition of the Grammar School of Lanškroun and the local Trade School. The Cultural Centre, the Municipal Museum and the Municipal Library support cultural and social life. In 1995 cooperation started between Lanškroun and Castiglione in Teverina and in 1996 a twinning agreement was signed.

Its main aims are:

- Stimulate local civic participation;
- Promote local interests to the national government;
- Give information and assistance to citizens;
- Boost civic education initiatives to increase know-how on European policies.

MUNICIPALITY OF AGIA (EL)

Municipality of Agia is located in the region of Thessaly in Central Greece. The total area of the municipality is 668.26 km² and has a population of 14,121 inhabitants. The current form of the municipality arose with the "Kallikratis" Program from the extension of the original municipality of Agia by the merger of the pre-existing municipalities of Lakereia, Evrimenon and Melivoia. The main activities in this territory are agriculture and tourism and the organization consists of several departments and local councils which are responsible for the local administration of the area and its citizens.

Main administration areas:

- Environment;
- Tourism;
- Financial development;
- Sports;
- Education;
- Urbanization;
- Civil protection.



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
PREFECTURE OF LARISSA
MUNICIPALITY OF AGIA**

MUNICIPALITY OF DIONYSOS (EL)

The Municipality of Dionysos is a suburb with 40.193 inhabitants in the North-East Attica Region just about 23 kms away from Athens. Dionysos displays a culture of openness to experimentation and acknowledges the importance of creating space for institutional and socio-technological innovations to emerge. It has taken part in many international networks promoting local sustainable development (Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI) and other development projects encouraging the creation of social enterprises (Local Employment Plans, Local Action for Socially Vulnerable Groups and EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND) and also hosts a Time Bank which is a new form of community currency.

Dionysos participates in international programs and global voluntary campaigns and enhances citizens' participatory skills, active citizenship, intercultural exchange, solidarity, social economy and volunteering.

MUNICIPALITY OF ALIMOS (EL)

The Municipality of Alimos is a suburb in the southwestern part of the Attica region, situated along the coastline of the Saronic Gulf. It is 15 kms away from the centre of Athens and 8 kms from the Piraeus port. On the west it is run by the Poseidonos Avenue, one of the main road axes in Attica, whilst on the east it borders with the mountain of Hymittos. The municipality of Alimos has 41.000 inhabitants and covers an area of 7,4 km².

With a coastline of 240.000 m², Alimos is an ideal resort. Today it includes excellently equipped public and private beaches, refreshment and green areas, as well as the largest marina in Greece, which offers important services in marine tourism, providing 1,000 docking posts (out of the total 2,850 in Attica).



MUNICIPALITY OF AMT TRITTAU (DE)

Trittau is an Amt (collective municipality) in the district of Stormarn, in Schleswig-Holstein. The seat of the Amt is in Trittau. The Amt Trittau consists of the following municipalities: Grande, Grönwohld, Großensee, Hamfelde, Hohenfelde, Köthel, Lütjensee, Rausdorf, Trittau and Witzhave. The Amt is active in the equality, education, culture and integration fields and takes part in several EU activities, youth camps (Eurofuture Camp), European Voluntary Service and Erasmus+ projects.

Its main activities are:

- Distribute information and provide assistance to citizens;
- Boost local interests to the national government;
- Participate with own representatives in institutional debates;
- Promote activities for democratic engagement to increase knowledge on EU policies;
- Support services to stimulate new forms of local civic participation, while reinforcing those existing;
- Plan cultural and educational events.

MUNICIPALITY OF SIRET (RO)

The Town of Siret is a local public administration which carries out the decisions of the Local Council and Mayor's provisions of resolving the current problems of the local community and with the mission of providing quality services to citizens. Siret local public administration represents its citizens in dealing with national and international institutions and implementing the development of projects, according to city strategic planning and European and national priorities. Siret is actively involved in solving local community by filing continuous efforts in accessing funds available for the actions necessary to establish and maintain relations of cooperation and partnership with other cities in Europe, part of the Douzelage Association of Towns and being twinned with several cities, such as Wodzislaw Slaski, Wieliszew, Debica, Serock (Poland), the districts of Hliboca, Zastavna and Kamianets Podilsky (Ukraine), Celleno, Graffignano and Castiglione in Teverina (Italy), Herrera del Duque (Spain), Dionysos (Greece), Dali (Cyprus).



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION BALKANU ZIEDS (LV)

Organization "Balkanu zieds" is a non profit organization registered in the Latvian town Jūrmala, but its activities are connected with the whole Latvia. It is particularly connected with three cities: Jūrmala, Aizkraukle and Riga. The aims of the organization are more of a social nature, such as people integration in society and social rehabilitation, but at the beginning it was about connecting two countries, cities and cultures - Latvian and Croatian. That has been accomplished by connecting cultural events and activities in both countries. The last event was in August, when the Latvian side visited the Croatian partners with singers and dancers. The cross cultural event was illustrated by some Croatian and Latvian TVs, radios and media.

MUNICIPALITY OF SALASPILS (LV)

Salaspils is situated on the northern bank of the Daugava River 18 kms south-east of the city of Riga. The town has a long history and many events during the year are planned in educational, historical, folkloristic and cultural fields. Its main activities are:

- Distribute information, consultancies and assistance to citizens;
- Promote and encourage initiatives for civic education to increase knowledge on EU policies;
- Encourage measures and services to stimulate participation to local non-profit activities and civil life;
- Carry out activities with other towns;
- Participate with own members in institutional debates where decisions on local autonomies interests are discussed.



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION NERETVA BASTINE (HR)

Udruga Za Ocuvanje Neretvanske Bastine-Opuzen is a not profit organization with the aim to preserve traditional and cross cultural activities, protect and preserve natural environment, cultural heritage, sports activities and tourism promotion. In August 2014 the Croatian side hosted the Latvian singers and the opposite came to Latvia in November.

The organisation participates in rural, cultural, traditional and tourist events and also organizes them; in these events people are encouraged to protect and preserve the natural beauty of the Neretva valley, as well as other natural values of the Neretva. The biggest events organized by our association in 2015 were: Presentation in Mostar Economic Fair, organization of the Neretva ship Klek-Neum, organization of "Small School Naval Neretva ship", organization of "Cup Opuzena", organization of joint meetings: "Opuzen - Ilok - Žrnovo - Neum".

MUNICIPALITY OF KELMĖ (LT)

Kelmė is a city in central Lithuania with a population of 9,150 inhabitants and is the administrative center of the Kelmė district municipality. It is famous for its cultural heritage and also well-known artists. During the year, many initiatives in cultural and intellectual fields are organised (e.g. Folk Art Festival, Tytuvėnai festival Literary Awards).

The strong intellectual nature of the City makes it devoted to the promotion of active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and debates at European level.

Its main activities are:

- Promote local interests to the national government;
- Distribute information to its citizens;
- Organize workshops on matters related to local administration and European topics;
- Promote and encourage initiatives for the civic education to increase knowledge on European policies;
- Encourage measures and services to stimulate citizens' participation to local non-profit activities and civil life;
- Participate, with own representatives, in institutional debates where decisions about local autonomies interests are discussed.



MUNICIPALITY OF STRUMYANI (BG)

The Municipality of Strumyani is situated in Southwest Bulgaria in the District of Blagoevgrad and includes 21 settlements, with a population of about 5700 inhabitants. It is a member of the Association of South-Western Municipalities and is currently coordinating the Authentic Europe Network of towns (funded by the “Europe for Citizens” Programme – Networks of Towns), aiming at the preservation, promotion and tourist exploitation of the tangible and intangible heritage of rural areas. Even if small, the Municipality of Strumyani organizes various public events and has a rich cultural programme. It has sufficient experience with EU funded projects both as partner and as coordinator and has well-established functioning channels for communication and engaging the local community. Strumyani is experienced in the organization of international public events, such as conferences, seminars, round tables, festivals, etc...

MUNICIPALITY OF ONGA (HU)

Onga is a town in the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, at about 10 kms to Miskolc. The town has always had a rural economy and its development started with the significant constructions that began in the 60s. Among others, a new school, kindergartens, medical centers, cultural houses, boardrooms and libraries were built. Today, cable-free drinking water, sewage, gas, telephone, cable television network have been upgraded, modernizing the public lighting, the sports ground and the institutions of the settlement. The town is always committed to favour sustainable development and social and civic growth. In recent years many citizens moved from Miskolc to Onga, 10 kms away, but immigrants came from many settlements in the county. Due to its favorable geographical location, good transport facilities, peaceful and balanced life of the settlement and, of course, the vicinity of Miskolc, Onga is one of the settlements that turned the agglomeration area of Miskolc into its favor.



MUNICIPALITY OF FILIPSTAD (SE)

Filipstad is the second oldest town in the region of Värmland. It was established in 1611 and founded by King Karl IX whose son Karl Filip gave name to the town.

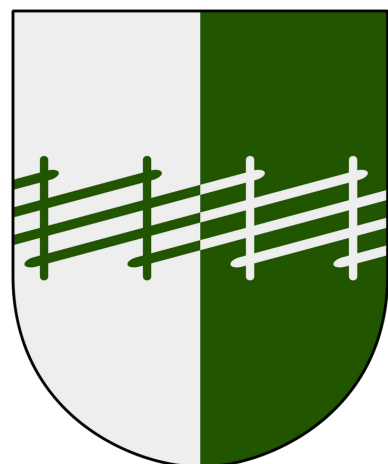
Filipstad would like to welcome you to come and experience a rich manufacturing heritage, breathtaking scenery set in Bergslagen and a unique local cultural history. The area has been strongly influenced by the wealth of different mineral resources available locally and today you can visit a number of industrial monuments and museums. The Eu-office in Filipstad consists of economists, administrator and project manager with long experience.

MUNICIPALITY OF HABO (SE)

Habo is a small, expanding Municipality close to Jönköping. It has a diverse business community. The Municipality has a scenic location on Vättern and the surrounding area has several nice walks.

The City Council is the Municipality's highest decision-making body and decides on overall objectives, budgets and more. The City Council consists of 35 members and 19 alternates from the various parties. Members and deputies of the municipal government and the boards are appointed by the City Council. The Committees are responsible for their respective areas of expertise.

The administration consists of 7 departments: Children and Education, Recreational and culture management, Municipal administration, Environment, Emergency Services, Social Services and Technical Management. The different departments enforce the decisions that politicians in the City Council, Municipal Board and Committees make.



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION AEKS (FI)

The aim of our non-profit association (AEKS - Active European Citizen Finland www.aeks.fi) is to promote active European cooperation between civil society organisations related to well-being, education and culture and other fields of civil society.

To fulfil its aim, AEKS:

- Works actively in European and international projects;
- Organises training, discussion and awareness raising events;
- Carries out research, information and publication activities;
- Cooperates in networks with other civil society organisations.

AEKS operates as a network organization for civil society organizations in Finland, promoting European networks among the actors of civil society members.



MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA LUCIJA (MT)

Santa Lucija Local Council is a Local Government body operating under the Malta Local Council Act and has been established since 1993. The Council administers the area within the registered boundaries.

The Councils' main aim is to improve and create new physical and social regeneration projects, as well as spur development through local heritage, tourism and cultural industries. The municipality works closely with non-governmental organizations and private enterprises to develop activities for the local community.

Santa Lucija Local Council is already affiliated with a town in China, that has similarities in their garden infrastructures. Together they work on improving the business sector in both countries, assisting each other with the contacts and logistics. The Council has signed a friendship agreement with Lubriano (Italy), as both towns have been working together for a number of years and have similarities between their communities.



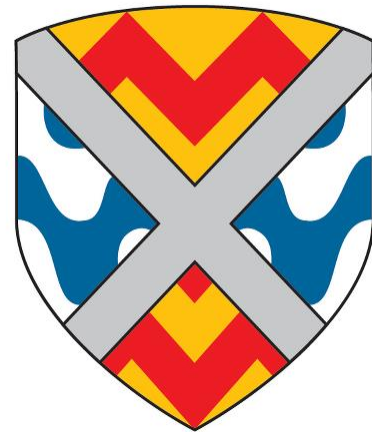
MUNICIPALITY OF SWIEQI (MT)

Swieqi originated from the Maltese word “saqa” which means water flow channel. This locality falls under Swieqi, Ibrag and Madliena. Its populations are approximately 10,000 inhabitants which includes a wide number of youths.

The emblem of Swieqi is divided with a cross of St. Andrew which is of silver. The zig zag red motif and the golden colour indicates the valleys and fields of Ibrag. The blue waves indicate the water flow of Swieqi “saqa”. Madliena is indicated with the red letter “M” and in the year 2000 Ibrag and Madliena became hamlets.

Swieqi day is celebrated on the 30th of November annually.

Swieqi takes care of all aspects of the life in the Community from public cleanliness, to the organization of events for all including young people.



MUNICIPALITY OF DERYNEIA (CY)

Deryneia is located at the east side of Cyprus, 2 kms south of the city of Famagusta. The population is 7500 inhabitants, including 1.000 immigrants living there, and it is a municipality since 1994. Since the 1974 Turkish invasion the 75% of the village is in Northern Cyprus. Deryneia has agricultural land around it and is one of the red villages so called from the red soil. Potatoes are widely grown but the Deryneia is famous for its strawberries and holds a biennial Cypriot Strawberry Festival, held in May at the football ground of Anagennisi Deryneia on the Dherynia to Sotira road.

Its key activities are:

- Carry out actions with European towns;
- Plan seminars on topics related to solidarity, migration and euroscepticism;
- Participate in institutional debates where decisions on local autonomies interests are discussed;
- Promote activities for democratic and civic engagement to increase knowledge on EU social policies;
- Support services to stimulate new forms of local civic participation;
- Plan cultural and tourist events.



MUNICIPALITY OF SORIANO NEL CIMINO (IT) - PROJECT'S GUEST

Soriano nel Cimino, a municipality in the province of Viterbo (Lazio region), is overlooked by Monte Cimino, the highest peak in the area. With its local artisan tradition and its amazing historical monuments and buildings the town is an authentic cultural and artistic patrimony.

The main aims of the Municipality are:

- Stimulate new forms of local civic participation while reinforcing those existing;
- Mobilize citizens at local and at Union level;
- Debate on concrete issues from the local, national and European political agendas;
- Promote local interests to the national government;
- Promote cultural, artistic and social opportunities for the citizens;
- Give information and assistance to citizens;
- Encourage initiatives for the civic education of citizens to increase their knowledge on EU policies;
- Promote a future town twinning.



GOALS AND FEATURES OF THE 2WILL PROJECT

2WILL has respected the objective, specific aim and the three annual priorities jointly chosen and selected by all the Partners during an informal meeting. This intercultural dialogue pilot bottom-up initiative offered an occasion for volunteers of different Member States to meet and share practices, needs and opinions about EU related themes so “To foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level”. European Citizenship has been encouraged by “developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level” through theoretical and practical activities aimed to enhance the skills of volunteers to start initiatives with the support of EU policies, to make the societal engagement effective and positive at European level and to offer to volunteers new tools to overcome national barriers and to avoid feelings of Euroscepticism, that are opposing to a tighter-knit solidarity tissue of Europe.

As volunteering is a great expression of solidarity, the Partners discussed, as main priority, the theme of Solidarity in times of crisis, investigating the ways through which EU policies support and enhance the solidarity tissue of its Member States. Directly connected with this main theme is the priority “Euroscepticism” because it is known how such kind of feelings are a treat to the creation of a tighter-knit solidarity network at EU level, eroding the positive role of volunteers. The opposition of Solidarity and Euroscepticism has been the stimulus for a debate on the Future of Europe and the positive perspectives created by a tighter solidarity tissue at international level.

Features:

- Active involvement of citizens in the planning and implementation of the activities, to encourage civic participation and concrete actions at EU level;
- Enhancement of a long-lasting cooperation network for a tighter-knit, democratic and world oriented Europe;
- Brainstorming sessions, workshops and seminars to get the participants into the core of the Union's processes;
- Sharing of best practices and opinions on the themes selected;
- Practical activities to avoid passive listening;
- Equal Access: attention was given to balanced integration and participation of citizens, without discrimination, to promote equal opportunities for all and non-discrimination, mainly for hard-to-reach groups (those who haven't been involved so far or reject the EU outright);
- Local dimension: reached bridging the gap between EU and citizens, planning actions reaching people in their daily lives;
- Transnational dimension: expressed by the Project theme, cooperation and target group from different countries and dissemination of results across borders;
- Signature of a “Friendship and Cooperation Agreement” and creation of a permanent committee for the planning of future actions.

ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

1 Local Meeting in each Country (1 day long) that involved 50 citizens per Partner. This extra activity was planned to implement innovative solidarity strategies, identify local problems, goals, actions, solutions to criticalities, stimulate civic participation, set up knowledge and skills to participate in public policy processes, select local case studies and best practices and, last but not least, gather proposals and social impact strategies.

5 International Events (each one lasting 6 days):

- Launch Event in Graffignano-Italy (24-28/04/2017);
- International Workshop in Agia-Greece (26-30/10/2017);
- International Workshop in Swieqi-Malta (23-27/02/2018);
- International Workshop in Habo-Sweden (14-18/05/2018);
- International Workshop in Wieliszew-Poland (07-11/09/2018).

2WILL PROJECT'S RESULTS

The 2WILL Project aim was the creation of a network promoting democratic engagement, to stimulate debate and reflection on EU related themes, avoiding passiveness and actively involving the citizens.

The main themes on which the Project was focused have been EU solidarity, the risks of euro scepticism and the future of Europe. All these themes were linked by the volunteering factor considered as a vehicle for social cohesion and active citizenship. Through a non-formal learning approach promoting civic and democratic participation at Union level, the main achieved results have been the:

- Promotion of volunteering and solidarity actions at European level, for the Europe of the future;
- Improvement of the volunteers working conditions;
- High recognition of the voluntary activities;
- Enhancement of the knowledge over the EU policy-making process thanks to EU funds and the Europe 2020 strategy;
- Fostering of cross-border volunteering to avoid border closure and stereotypes, especially in this time of crisis;
- Enhancement of the importance of the concept of European citizenship and citizens active and democratic participation;
- Gathering of suggestions towards solidarity to make the social engagement effective and positive at European level;
- Enhancement of the skills of the volunteers to start future initiatives with the support of EU policies;
- Signature of the “Friendship and Cooperation Agreement” and creation of a permanent committee for future action planning.



KEY MESSAGES

Three key messages, coming from the participants involved in 2WILL, have been collected as follows:

1. “Volunteering for the future solidarity”

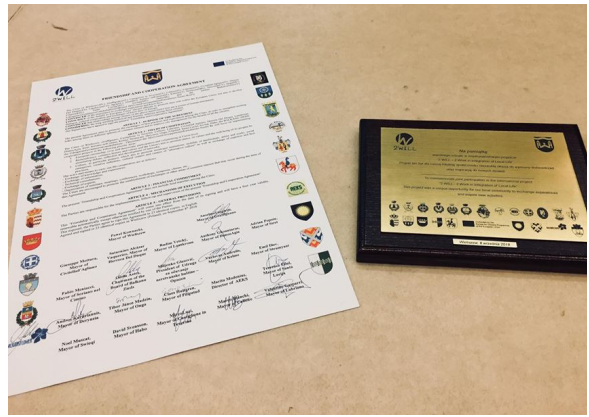
The volunteering actions are fundamental in our society. They must be carried out and fostered in every possible way, especially among young people. The youth generations, in fact, represent the future of the European Union and they must grow following solidarity ideals that should be reflected also on the European Union perceptions. Volunteering grants cohesion among people and it can be seen as a way of enhancing ourselves. For this reason, something must be done to improve the working conditions for the volunteers and to allow more people to join these activities. It would not only assure a future, but, most of all, would assure a better one.

2. “Collaboration is the first step towards a strong future”

It is extremely important to set up a collaborative environment among the participants. The aim of 2WILL has been exactly this one: to create a fertile ground to share thoughts and ideas that can bring to concrete solutions to face the problems that affect the European Union. In particular, the Union is affected by a lack of solidarity and collaboration and this problem leads to many others. So, the key message is clear: to start a collaboration among the Partners is the first step to trigger the solution to all the problems.

3. “The Youth is the future”

Lately, the criticism towards the European Union has increased. One of the causes can be seen in the rise of nationalistic politics. This obviously represents a barrier in the integration issue. The only thing that is clear is that young people represent the future of Europe. Our century is a particular one and this is due to a spread of communication tools (Internet, social media and mobile phones); this leads to a higher possibility to share opinions on the one hand, but to a spread of negative propagandas on the other. The latter is the biggest problem as nowadays it is much easier for a young to be conditioned from someone else. It is essential that young people learn more about politics and that they take an aware position. It is necessary to understand that the teenage generation will be the leader of tomorrow.



THE EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

Encouraging and facilitating citizens' wider involvement in the European Union and what it stands for is of great importance. This ranges from the need to increase their participation in current affairs, to the need of ensuring a broader understanding of the history of the European Union and its origins in the aftermath of two World Wars.

The Lisbon Treaty at the end of 2009 led to a number of changes towards bringing the Union closer to its citizens and fostering greater cross-border debate about Union policy issues. The new Article 11 of the "Treaty on the European Union" introduces a whole new dimension of participatory democracy.

Europe has a challenging agenda for the next seven years, with serious issues at stake. With decisions and policies needed on issues ranging from economic growth, security and Europe's role in the world, it is now more important than ever for citizens to take part in discussions and help shape policies. Considering the European citizenship as an important element in strengthening and safeguarding the process of European integration, the European Commission continues encouraging the engagement of European citizens in all aspects of the life of their community, thus enabling them to participate in the construction of an ever closer Europe.

In this context, the "Europe for Citizens" Programme, adopted for the period 2014-2020, is an important instrument aimed at getting the Union's 500 million inhabitants to play a greater part in the development of the Union. By funding schemes and activities, in which citizens can participate, the Programme is promoting Europe's shared history and values and fostering a sense of ownership for how the Union develops.

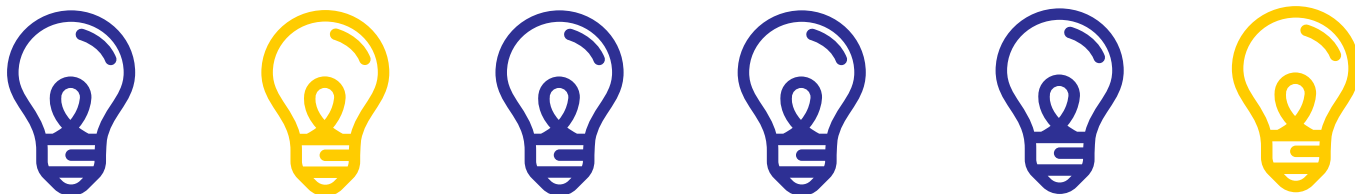
A budget of EUR 185.468,000 for the period 2014-2020 is allocated for the "Europe for Citizens" Programme.

Source: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

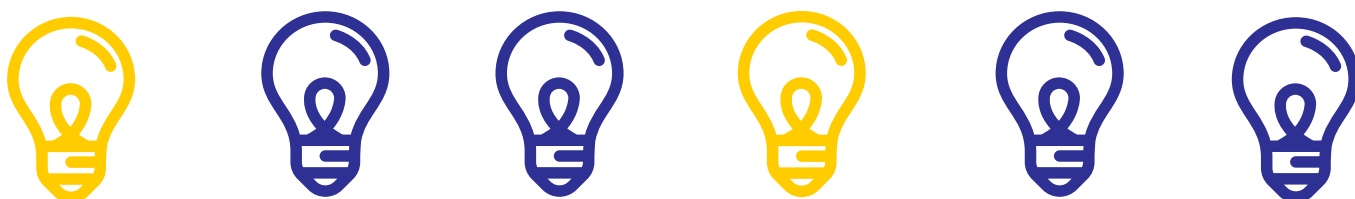


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