

## Partner Search Form

<b>Identification of the applicant</b>	
Name of the organisation	Freguesia da Guarda
Registered address (street, city, country)	Rua General Póvoas, nº 3, 6300-714 Guarda, Portugal
Telephone / Fax	+351 271 213 150
Website of the organisation	<a href="http://www.freguesiadaguarda.pt">www.freguesiadaguarda.pt</a>
Name of the contact person	Ana Filipa Martins
Email/Telephone of the contact person	<a href="mailto:firmartins.ana@gmail.com">firmartins.ana@gmail.com</a> / +351 933 393 653
Short overview of your organisation (key activities, experience)	<p>Freguesia da Guarda is a local administration entity in the city of Guarda located in the interior of Portugal, being, therefore, a totally public entity. Besides being in charge of providing various administrative services, it also provides social support to the most needy and excluded in the city, including the many international students that came to study in town and that have little social support. In addition, Freguesia da Guarda promotes the participation and social inclusion of the elderly through the promotion of various activities such as senior gymnastics and cognitive stimulation. Additionally, Freguesia da Guarda is involved in a program, called Eco-Freguesias, which reveals a commitment to sustainability that tries to transmit to its community.</p> <p>Freguesia da Guarda has already participated, as an organizer, in a project under Erasmus + program that was developed to promote civic participation of the youngest who live in uncertainty in the face of changes in society and difficulties in entering adult life.</p>
<b>Description of the project</b>	
Strand, Measure in the framework of “Europe for Citizens” Programme (e.g. European Remembrance; Civil Society Project; Town Twinning)?	Strand: Democratic engagement and civic participation Measure: Town Twinning
Timetable of the project	2021
Short description of the project, including its aims	<p>The preservation of the fundamental European values such as human rights, freedom, democracy, equality or respect for human dignity, is largely in the hands of the young people of Europe who have the power and the potential to mobilise in an unprecedented way. It is important to fight the political apathy and to stimulate the interest of this generation for this subject, especially in the current context of a pandemic. We are witnessing the increasing emergence of extremist parties and movements which are arguing for a break with the European Union, trying to promote ideals linked to Euroscepticism. And in addition, with the emergence of Covid-19, strong threats to democracy and freedoms are also emerging. We are witnessing the advance of new ways of restricting freedoms, and nationalisms</p>

	<p>exacerbated by the rhetoric of the need to distance ourselves from the 'other' and promoting the discourse of disunity. It is undeniable the need to mitigate the risk of devastating consequences for public health and the well-being of all. But, in our opinion, the keyword in dealing with the pandemic will be "balance" - a balance between the protection of individual and collective health, and the protection and maintenance of fundamental European values. We must rethink the new reality that the European Union is experiencing today through the valuable sharing of information on experiences and strategies that will enable us to face the future in the best way and, above all, that will promote solidarity and not stigma and discrimination, that will promote union rather than division and distance.</p> <p>The main purpose of this project is the fight against the Euro-scepticism and the promotion of the interest of European youth in the preservation of European essential values in times of crisis, more specifically, in times of pandemic. In order to achieve this general objective, this project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stimulate citizenship and interest in the European Union and to fight political apathy among young people;</li> <li>• promote the reflection on the achievement of fundamental European values, taking into account the history and diversity of Europe;</li> <li>• strengthen social cohesion and solidarity among the countries of the European Union in times of pandemic;</li> <li>• build a network of partnerships at a transnational level aimed at a continuous sharing on the issues addressed by the project;</li> <li>• reflect upon the negative impacts of the pandemic on some key European values;</li> <li>• stimulate activism and an ongoing debate on risks and measures to protect citizens' rights in this time of crisis;</li> <li>• contribute to a spirit of initiative among young people on building the future of the European Union.</li> </ul>
<p>Role of the partner organisation in the project</p>	<p>Partners interested in: to debate about the threats that may emerge in the current context of pandemic to the European fundamental values; discuss about good practices and measures that may be good examples for the construction of a European future based on a good balance between the preservation of the essential values and the individual and collective safety; Participate in the creation of a network that will enable an valuable and continuous exchange of ideas, visions and experiences, and that will keep a sense of union and solidarity at a transnational and intercultural level.</p>
<p>Comments from the applicant</p>	