ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ, 2014-2020 – Η Ελληνική Συμμετοχή

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΕΠΑΦΗΣ
«ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ, 2014-2020»

ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ, 2014-2020

Η Ελληνική Συμμετοχή

Αντώνης Καρβούνης

Αθήνα 2022

Στη μνήμη του φίλου και συναδέλφου
Δημήτρη Τζανάκη (1965-2017)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

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Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020

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Σύνταξη-Επιμέλεια Κειμένων:
Δρ. Αντώνιος Καρβούνης, Προϊστάμενος του Αυτοτελούς Τμήματος Διεθνών και Ευρωπαϊκών Σχέσεων του Υπουργείου Εσωτερικών, Πρόεδρος της Διυπουργικής Επιτροπής του άρθ.4 παρ.2β του ν.3345/2005, Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής του Ευρωπαϊκού Προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020» και διδάσκων στο Ελληνικό Ανοικτό Πανεπιστήμιο στη Θεματική Ενότητα «Ελληνικό Διοικητικό Σύστημα».

Μεθοδολογικό υπόμνημα
Τα στοιχεία της παρούσας μελέτης έχουν αντληθεί από τη βάση δεδομένων του Υπουργείου Εσωτερικών-Εθνικού Σημείου Επαφής του προγράμματος 'Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020' και την ιστοσελίδα του Εκτελεστικού Οργανισμού για την Εκπαίδευση και τα Οπτικοακουστικά Μέσα (EACEA) της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής

Απαγορεύεται η μερική ή ολική αναδημοσίευση του έργου αυτού, καθώς και η αναπαραγωγή του με οποιοδήποτε μέσο χωρίς την άδεια του εκδότη.

ΠΡΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΩΜΑ

Σύμφωνα με τα άρθρα 10 και 11 της Συνθήκης για την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, κάθε πολίτης έχει το δικαίωμα να μετέχει στον δημοκρατικό βίο της Ένωσης και τα θεσμικά όργανα της Ένωσης θα πρέπει να παρέχουν στους πολίτες και στις αντιπροσωπευτικές ενώσεις την ευκαιρία να δημοσιοποιούν και να ανταλλάσσουν δημοσίως απόψεις για όλους τους τομείς δράσης της Ένωσης, καθώς και να διατηρούν ανοικτό, διαφανή και τακτικό διάλογο με τις αντιπροσωπευτικές ενώσεις και την κοινωνία των πολιτών. Παρά το γεγονός ότι αντικειμενικά η ιδιότητα του πολίτη της Ένωσης με κατοχυρωμένα δικαιώματα ενέχει προστιθέμενη αξία, η Ένωση δεν τονίζει πάντοτε αποτελεσματικά τη σύνδεση ανάμεσα στην επίλυση ενός μεγάλου εύρους οικονομικών και κοινωνικών προβλημάτων και τις ενωσιακές πολιτικές. Προκειμένου η Ευρώπη να έρθει πιο κοντά στους πολίτες της και να τους δώσει τη δυνατότητα να συμμετέχουν πλήρως στην οικοδόμηση μιας ακόμη στενότερα δεμένης Ένωσης, απαιτείται ποικιλία δράσεων και συντονισμένων προσπαθειών μέσω δραστηριοτήτων σε διακρατικό και ενωσιακό επίπεδο. Με την υπ'αριθ. απόφαση 1904/2006/ΕΚ του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου καθορίστηκε ένα πρόγραμμα δράσης («Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2007-2013») με το οποίο επιβεβαιώθηκε η ανάγκη για προώθηση διαρκούς διαλόγου με τις οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών και τους δήμους και για υποστήριξη της ενεργού συμμετοχής των πολιτών. Η ενδιάμεση έκθεση αξιολόγησης του προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» (2007-2013) μαζί με μια δημόσια διαβούλευση μέσω διαδικτύου και δύο διαδοχικές συναντήσεις διαβούλευσης μεταξύ ενδιαφερομένων επιβεβαίωσαν ότι ένα νέο πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» θεωρήθηκε σημαντικό τόσο από οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών όσο και από μεμονωμένους συμμετέχοντες. Επιβεβαιώθηκε επίσης ότι θα έπρεπε να θεσπιστεί προκειμένου να υπάρξουν αποτελέσματα σε οργανωτικό επίπεδο, όσον αφορά την ενίσχυση της ικανότητας και, σε ατομικό επίπεδο, όσον αφορά την ενίσχυση του ενδιαφέροντος για ζητήματα της Ένωσης.

Πράγματι, με τον Κανονισμό (ΕΕ) αριθ. 390/2014 του Συμβουλίου της 14ης Απριλίου 2014 θεσπίστηκε το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» για την περίοδο 2014-2020. Το πρόγραμμα αποτέλεσε ένα σημαντικό μέσο για να ενθαρρύνει τα 500 εκατομμύρια κατοίκους της Ένωσης να διαδραματίσουν μεγαλύτερο ρόλο στην ανάπτυξη της Ένωσης. Μέσω της χρηματοδότησης

προγραμμάτων και δραστηριοτήτων, στις οποίες μπορούσαν να συμμετάσχουν οι πολίτες, το πρόγραμμα είχε σκοπό να προωθήσει την κοινή ιστορία και τις αξίες της Ευρώπης και να δημιουργήσει μια αίσθηση κοινής ευθύνης για τον τρόπο με τον οποίον αναπτύσσεται η Ένωση. Αυτό θα γινόταν εφικτό μέσα από τα δύο σκέλη του προγράμματος: Το σκέλος της ευρωπαϊκής μνήμης και το σκέλος της συμμετοχής στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στα κοινά. Με προϋπολογισμό της τάξεως των 187.718.000 ευρώ για την περίοδο 2014-2020, χρηματοδοτήθηκαν συνολικά σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο 2.423 έργα από τις 13.776 αιτήσεις (ποσοστό επιτυχίας 17.5%) που υποβλήθηκαν, εκ των οποίων 274 έργα για την ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη, 1.724 έργα αδελφοποίησης πόλεων, 239 έργα δικτύων πόλεων και 186 έργα της κοινωνίας πολιτών (βλ. Πίνακα 1 & Παράρτημα ΙΙ).

Η ελληνική συμμετοχή στο πρόγραμμα δεν παρουσίασε μεγάλες διακυμάνσεις ως προς τον αριθμό των υποβληθεισών αιτήσεων σε σχέση με την προγραμματική περίοδο 2007-2013. Ενώ αθροιστικά ο αριθμός των αιτήσεων κυμάνθηκε στα ίδια επίπεδα με το πρόγραμμα της προγραμματικής περιόδου 2007-2013 (2014-2020: 281, 2007-2013: 271), στο πρόγραμμα 2014-2020, λόγω της προηγούμενης εμπειρίας, το ενδιαφέρον ήταν άμεσο, φθάνοντας στο υψηλότερο σημείο του από το δεύτερο κιόλας έτος. Συνολικά, υποβλήθηκαν 281 αιτήσεις εκ των οποίων οι 34 ήταν επιτυχημένες, με ένα ποσοστό επιτυχίας που κυμάνθηκε στο 12% για το σύνολο των μέτρων του προγράμματος (βλ. Πίνακα 2).

Μια πρώτη διαπίστωση που μπορεί να κάνει κάποιος από τη μελέτη των στατιστικών στοιχείων που περιλαμβάνονται στο Μέρος ΙΙ αυτού του πονήματος είναι ότι η στρατηγική κίνηση των ελληνικών δήμων μετά το 2010 να επιλέξουν – στο προηγούμενο πρόγραμμα - να υποβάλλουν αιτήσεις για τα δίκτυα πόλεων και να εγκαταλείψουν το μέτρο των αδελφοποιήσεων πόλεων ήταν πλέον μια σταθερά καθόλη τη διάρκεια της προγραμματικής περιόδου 2014-2020. Ενώ την περίοδο 2007-2013, η τάση ήταν αντίστροφη (όσο μεγάλωνε ο αριθμός των αιτήσεων για τα δίκτυα, μειωνόταν για τις αδελφοποιήσεις και το αντίστροφο), στην πρόσφατη προγραμματική περίοδο, οι «υψηλές πτήσεις» των δικτύων ήταν εκ διαμέτρου αντίθετες με τις σταθερά «χαμηλές πτήσεις» (με κάποιες αυξομειώσεις) για τις αδελφοποιήσεις πόλεων.

Επιπλέον, θα πρέπει να ληφθεί υπόψη και ένα άλλο στοιχείο σε σχέση με την επιλογή των δήμων να αδιαφορήσουν τελείως για το μέτρο των αδελφοποιήσεων πόλεων: Σύμφωνα με τα στοιχεία που διατηρεί το ΥΠΕΣ (διυπουργική επιτροπή άρθ.4 παρ.2β

Πίνακας 1: Η συμμετοχή και τα ποσοστά επιτυχίας
στο Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες 2014-2020 σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο

ΣΚΕΛΗ/ ΜΕΤΡΑ	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	ΣΥΝΟΛΟ
ΣΚΕΛΟΣ 1 ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΜΝΗΜΗ	33/472 (7%)	33/538 (6%)	38/468 (8%)	39/286 (13,5%)	37/357 (10,5%)	45/262 (17%)	49/255 (19%)	274/2638 (10,5%)
ΣΚΕΛΟΣ 2 ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ ΣΤΙΣ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΚΕΣ ΔΙΑΔΙΚΑΣΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΣΤΑ ΚΟΙΝΑ	400/2006 (20%)	315/1790 (17,5%)	331/1467 (22,5%)	246/1171 (21%)	262/1826 (14,5%)	292/1447 (20%)	303/1431 (21%)	2149/11138 (19%)
-Αδελφοποίηση Πόλεων	332/1220 (27%)	258/1056 (24,5%)	271/683 (39,5%)	187/523 (36%)	211/1121 (19%)	232/739 (31%)	233/559 (41,5%)	1724/5901 (29%)
-Δίκτυα Πόλεων	41/248 (16,5%)	34/294 (11.5%)	37/243 (15%)	34/287 (12%)	25/352 (7%)	31/297 (10,5%)	37/301 (12%)	239/2022 (12%)
-Έργα της Κοινωνίας Πολιτών	27/538 (5%)	23/440 (5%)	23/541 (4%)	25/361 (7%)	26/353 (7%)	29/411 (7%)	33/571 (5,5%)	186/3215 (6%)
ΣΚΕΛΗ 1 & 2	433/2478 (17,5%)	348/2328 (15%)	369/1935 (19%)	285/1457 (19,5%)	299/2183 (13,5%)	337/1709 (19,5%)	352/1686 (21%)	2423/13776 (17,5%)

Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Πίνακας 2: Η συμμετοχή στο Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες 2014-2020 σε εθνικό επίπεδο

ΣΚΕΛΗ/ΜΕΤΡΑ	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	ΣΥΝΟΛΟ
ΣΚΕΛΟΣ 1 ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΜΝΗΜΗ	**1/16**	**1/10**	**1/14**	**2/8**	**1/10**	**1/6**	**1/9**	**8/73**
ΣΚΕΛΟΣ 2 ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ ΣΤΙΣ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΚΕΣ ΔΙΑΔΙΚΑΣΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΣΤΑ ΚΟΙΝΑ	**1/17**	**3/39**	**2/34**	**6/36**	**6/27**	**2/22**	**6/33**	**26/208**
-Αδελφοποίηση Πόλεων	**0/0**	**0/8**	**0/5**	**3/5**	**3/3**	**0/0**	**4/4**	**10/25**
-Δίκτυα Πόλεων	**0/4**	**2/20**	**1/19**	**2/24**	**2/13**	**1/6**	**2/13**	**10/99**
-Έργα της Κοινωνίας Πολιτών	**1/13**	**1/11**	**1/10**	**1/7**	**1/11**	**1/16**	**0/16**	**6/84**
ΣΚΕΛΗ 1 & 2	**2/33**	**4/49**	**3/48**	**8/44**	**7/37**	**3/28**	**7/42**	**34/281**

Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

ν.3345/2005), από το 2006 μέχρι το Δεκέμβριο του 2020 (λήξη του προγράμματος) είχε χορηγηθεί σύμφωνη γνώμη σε 274 προτάσεις αδελφοποίησης ελληνικών πόλεων με ΟΤΑ από συνολικά 45 χώρες. Από τις 274 εγκεκριμένες προτάσεις, οι 184 αφορούν αδελφοποιήσεις με πόλεις από 23 επιλέξιμες χώρες του προγράμματος. Με άλλα λόγια, οι ελληνικοί δήμοι, ενώ είχαν την πολυτέλεια, χωρίς να χάσουν χρόνο για να αναζητήσουν νέους εταίρους, να αξιοποιήσουν τους υφιστάμενους 184 εταίρους με τους οποίους είχαν υπογράψει πρωτόκολλα αδελφοποίησης και να συμμετάσχουν στο μέτρο των αδελφοποιήσεων ως επικεφαλής σχετικού έργου, τελικά, λόγω αυτής της στρατηγικής επιλογής που είχαν ήδη κάνει από τις αρχές της δεκαετίας του 2010, δεν αξιοποίησαν αυτό το πλεονέκτημα. Έτσι, συνολικά 10, από τους μόλις 25 ελληνικούς δήμους που υπέβαλαν αίτηση στο πρόγραμμα, σχεδίασαν επιτυχώς, ως επικεφαλής, ένα έργο αδελφοποίησης πόλεων με 21 εταίρους από 10 επιλέξιμες χώρες κατά την περίοδο 2014-2020 (βλ. Μέρος ΙΙ), και από τους 10 δήμους μόνον οι δημοτικές αρχές της Ελασσόνας, του Ασπροπύργου και του Κιλελέρ αξιοποίησαν αδελφοποιημένους δήμους τους κατά την υποβολή των αιτήσεών τους.

Οι λόγοι που η πρωτοβάθμια αυτοδιοίκηση δεν προχώρησε στην αξιοποίηση του θεσμού των αδελφοποιήσεων, στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος, είναι πολλοί. Ορισμένοι αφορούν το εξωτερικό περιβάλλον στο οποίο λειτουργούσαν οι δημοτικές αρχές στο ξεκίνημα της προγραμματικής περιόδου 2014-2020, ενώ άλλοι είχαν να κάνουν με εσωτερικές προτεραιότητες και επιλογές.

Πράγματι, καταρχάς, σοβαρές θεσμικές και οικονομικές αλλαγές στο εξωτερικό περιβάλλον της τοπικής αυτοδιοίκησης κατά το προηγούμενο διάστημα αποδυνάμωσαν την επιχειρησιακή ετοιμότητα των δήμων για να συμμετέχουν ισότιμα με τους άλλους ευρωπαίους εταίρους τους σε τέτοιου είδους συνεργασίες[1] . Για παράδειγμα, με το υπ' αριθ.14801/15-3-2010 έγγραφο του (τότε) Υπουργείου Εσωτερικών, Αποκέντρωσης και Ηλεκτρονικής Διακυβέρνησης, ζητήθηκε από τους ΟΤΑ της χώρας να περιορίσουν στον ελάχιστο αριθμό τις μετακινήσεις τους στο εξωτερικό, «εξαιτίας της δυσμενούς οικονομικής κατάστασης της χώρας και στο πλαίσιο που καταβάλλεται από την Κυβέρνηση για την περιστολή των δημοσίων δαπανών». Παράλληλα με τη μείωση των οικονομικών

[1] Βλ. Α. Καρβούνης, *Διπλωματία Πόλεων και Εξευρωπαϊσμός της Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης-Ο Διοικητικός Εκσυγχρονισμός και οι Προοπτικές της Ευρωπαϊκής Δικτύωσης των Ελληνικών Δήμων*, εκδ. ΔΙΟΝΙΚΟΣ, Αθήνα 2021, σ.179.

πόρων τους, οι δήμοι δεν κατάφεραν να υποστηρίξουν τις διεθνείς συνεργασίες τους με το αντίστοιχο προσωπικό, καίτοι δεδηλωμένος στόχος του Προγράμματος Καλλικράτης ήταν η «προσπάθεια στελέχωσης των νέων δήμων με έμπειρο και εξειδικευμένο προσωπικό» για την άσκηση των πρόσθετων αρμοδιοτήτων που απονεμήθηκαν στους δήμους (βλ. άρθρο 95 του Προγράμματος Καλλικράτη). Περαιτέρω, αν και στο άρθρο 283 παρ.1 του Προγράμματος Καλλικράτης προβλέφθηκε ότι «οι δήμοι που συνιστώνται με το άρθρο 1 υπεισέρχονται αυτοδικαίως από την έναρξη λειτουργίας τους και χωρίς άλλη διατύπωση σε όλα τα ενοχικά και εμπράγματα δικαιώματα και τις υποχρεώσεις των δήμων και κοινοτήτων που συνενώνονται, στα οποία περιλαμβάνονται και τα δικαιώματα και οι υποχρεώσεις που απορρέουν από διεθνείς συνεργασίες», το Πρόγραμμα Καλλικράτης δεν κατάφερε να διασφαλίσει το ζήτημα της θεσμικής μνήμης στους νέους αυτοδιοικητικούς οργανισμούς, κάτι που, επίσης, αποδυνάμωσε τη δυνατότητα των δήμων να προχωρήσουν άμεσα σε νέες συνεργασίες με αλλοδαπούς εταίρους. Η έλλειψη στοιχείων για τις παρελθούσες διεθνείς συνεργασίες τους λειτούργησε ανασταλτικά προς αυτήν την κατεύθυνση.

Εκτός από το ανωτέρω αρνητικό εξωτερικό περιβάλλον, οι δήμοι είχαν να αντιμετωπίσουν και τις δικές τους επιλογές. Η εσφαλμένη, όπως αποδείχθηκε, στρατηγική κίνηση των δήμων από το 2010 να κατευθύνουν τις αιτήσεις τους στα δίκτυα πόλεων, όπου ο ανταγωνισμός είναι σαφώς μεγαλύτερος σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο ήταν μία από αυτές. Όπως διαπιστώνει κανείς, είναι παράδοξο ένας δήμος, κρίνοντας από τα ποσοστά επιτυχίας στο μέτρο των αδελφοποιήσεων πόλεων, τόσο σε ευρωπαϊκό (29%), όσο και σε εθνικό επίπεδο (40%), αντί αυτού να επιλέγει ένα μέτρο (δίκτυα πόλεων) όπου τα ποσοστά επιτυχίας είναι ιδιαιτέρως χαμηλά (12% σε ευρωπαϊκό και 10% σε εθνικό επίπεδο) και να εγκαταλείπει παράλληλα ένα θεσμό, όπως οι αδελφοποιήσεις πόλεων, στον οποίο διαθέτει τεράστια εμπειρία και δικτύωση[2]. Δεύτερον, η πενιχρή επιδότηση των 25.000 ευρώ που προέβλεπε το πρόγραμμα για τις αδελφοποιήσεις πόλεων δεν κρίθηκε επαρκής για να πειστούν οι δημοτικές αρχές να υποβάλουν αίτηση στο εν λόγω μέτρο. Τρίτον, η παραδοσιακή «προσωποποίηση» του θεσμού των αδελφοποιήσεων πόλεων και η ταύτισή του με συγκεκριμένες προσωπικότητες σε τοπικό επίπεδο τον κατέστησε θνησιγενή και ελάχιστα αξιοποιήσιμο σε επίπεδο

[2] Βλ. Α. Καρβούνης, *ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ Ι: Οι Αδελφοποιήσεις των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2006-2016*, Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών, Αθήνα 2016.

ευρωπαϊκού προγράμματος. Τέταρτον, η έλλειψη επικοινωνίας με το εθνικό σημείο επαφής του προγράμματος (Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών) κατά το σχεδιασμό των προτάσεων και η συνακόλουθη έλλειψη ενημέρωσης των στελεχών της πρωτοβάθμιας αυτοδιοίκησης, αφενός, για τις επιμέρους τάσεις και τον ανταγωνισμό για τα μέτρα του προγράμματος, και αφετέρου, για τις δυνατότητες αξιοποίησης των παρελθουσών διμερών συνεργασιών τους. Ως εθνικό σημείο επαφής του προγράμματος από το 2006 και από το 2005 ως μέλος της διυπουργικής επιτροπής του άρθ.4 παρ.2β του ν.3345/2005, η οποία χορηγεί σύμφωνη γνώμη σε προτάσεις αδελφοποίησης, ο συντάκτης του παρόντος μπορεί να καταθέσει ότι για την περίοδο 2014-2020 ήταν πενιχρός ο αριθμός των τηλεφωνημάτων και των ηλεκτρονικών μηνυμάτων που δέχθηκε από δικαιούχους του προγράμματος. Αν αυτό μπορούσε να δικαιολογηθεί για το πρόγραμμα της περιόδου 2007-2013 που δεν ήταν ευρέως γνωστό τότε, στην απελθούσα περίοδο, όπου το Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες είχε ήδη διαγράψει μια πορεία, δεν μπορεί να σταθεί ως επιχείρημα, για την έλλειψη ενδιαφέροντος από την πλευρά των δημοτικών αρχών για το συγκεκριμένο μέτρο, το ζήτημα της μικρής αναγνωρισιμότητάς του. Αυτή η έλλειψη ενδιαφέροντος από την πλευρά της πρωτοβάθμιας αυτοδιοίκησης δυστυχώς αποτυπώθηκε με εκκωφαντικό τρόπο κατά την πλήρη απουσία της στο στάδιο της υποβολής προτάσεων ως επικεφαλής ενός έργου σε 4 από τις συνολικά 14 προσκλήσεις υποβολής προτάσεων που δημοσιεύθηκαν για το μέτρο των αδελφοποιήσεων πόλεων κατά την περίοδο 2014-2020 (βλ. Πίνακα 2).

Απέναντι, όμως, στη φτωχή συμμετοχή της πρωτοβάθμιας αυτοδιοίκησης ως επικεφαλής σε έργα αδελφοποίησης πόλεων κατά την περίοδο 2014-2020, υπάρχει και μια άλλη πτυχή της ελληνικής παρουσίας στο πρόγραμμα που συνιστά ενθαρρυντικό στοιχείο για το μέλλον. Συνολικά 24 ελληνικοί δήμοι συμμετείχαν στο μέτρο των αδελφοποιήσεων πόλεων ως εταίροι σε 35 έργα, μαζί με 160 αλλοδαπές αρχές και φορείς από 24 χώρες (βλ. Μέρος ΙΙ).

Βέβαια, και σε αυτήν την περίπτωση, η αξιοποίηση των υφιστάμενων εγκεκριμένων αδελφοποιήσεων πόλεων ήταν ελάχιστη. Πιο συγκεκριμένα, μόνον οι δήμοι Ωραιοκάστρου, Ηγουμενίτσας, Φλώρινας, Ευρώτα και Σαλαμίνας συμμετείχαν σε έργα με αλλοδαπές αρχές με τις οποίες είχε προηγηθεί στο παρελθόν αδελφοποίηση. Όσα ειπώθηκαν ανωτέρω για την αδυναμία των ελληνικών δήμων να έχουν μια αξιοπρεπή παρουσία σε ένα μέτρο του προγράμματος στο οποίο διαθέτουν εμπειρία και δικτύωση ισχύουν σε μεγάλο βαθμό και γι' αυτήν την κατηγορία των δήμων.

Ωστόσο, εδώ, οφείλουμε να αναγνωρίσουμε ότι έγινε μια στρατηγική επιλογή να συμμετάσχουν οι συγκεκριμένες δημοτικές αρχές ως εταίροι, πιθανόν, έχοντας επίγνωση των αδυναμιών τους να ανταποκριθούν ως επικεφαλής σε ένα ευρωπαϊκό έργο. Επίσης, θετικά κρίνεται ο μεγάλος αριθμός των εταίρων με τους οποίους συμμετείχαν στα 35 έργα, αφήνοντας, έτσι μια παρακαταθήκη, και μια κρυφή ελπίδα ότι οι συγκεκριμένες συνεργασίες θα έχουν συνέχεια και προοπτική στη νέα προγραμματική περίοδο 2021-2027.

Από την άλλη μεριά, σε ότι αφορά στο μέτρο της δικτύωσης πόλεων για την προγραμματική περίοδο 2014-2020 παρουσιάστηκε, πράγματι, μια αυξητική τάση ως προς τις υποβληθείσες προτάσεις (σχεδόν διπλάσιες από εκείνες της προγραμματικής περιόδου 2007-2013), πράγμα που υποδηλώνει, όπως επισημάνθηκε προηγουμένως, μια στρατηγική επιλογή. Η δυναμική που είχε δημιουργηθεί από την προηγούμενη προγραμματική περίοδο έδωσε μια σημαντική ώθηση στις αιτήσεις των δήμων ήδη από το δεύτερο έτος (2015) υλοποίησης του προγράμματος με 20 αιτήσεις για να κορυφωθεί στο 4^{ο} έτος (2017) με 24 αιτήσεις (ο μεγαλύτερος αριθμός αιτήσεων που έχει υποβληθεί σε ένα έτος και στις δύο προγραμματικές περιόδους). Αυτή η δυναμική όμως του αριθμού των αιτήσεων δεν μεταφράστηκε, όπως τονίστηκε ανωτέρω, σε αντίστοιχα μεγάλα ποσοστά επιτυχίας στο συγκεκριμένο μέτρο. Θα ανέμενε κανείς ότι τα ποσοστά επιτυχίας με τα οποία έκλεισε η προηγούμενη προγραμματική περίοδος θα συνεχίζονταν με την έναρξη του νέου προγράμματος το 2014. Η εικόνα όμως ήταν απογοητευτική στην επταετία που ακολούθησε με αποτέλεσμα να κλείσει η ελληνική συμμετοχή στο νέο πρόγραμμα με λιγότερες επιτυχημένες προτάσεις σε σχέση με την προγραμματική περίοδο 2007-2013. Οι μόλις 8 ελληνικοί δήμοι, ως επικεφαλής-εταίροι, σε έργα δικτύωσης πόλεων, αποτελούν μια έμμεση ομολογία αποτυχίας της ελληνικής πρωτοβάθμιας αυτοδιοίκησης να σταθεί αξιοπρεπώς σε ένα μέτρο όπου στο παρελθόν είχε να επιδείξει καλές πρακτικές και ευρωπαϊκές βραβεύσεις[3]. Φαίνεται ότι τα μαθήματα του παρελθόντος δεν αποτέλεσαν τον οδηγό για την προγραμματική περίοδο 2014-2020. Αντιθέτως, η ανετοιμότητα των ελληνικών δήμων για τον έντονο ανταγωνισμό σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο στο συγκεκριμένο μέτρο αποτέλεσε ίσως τη βασικότερη αιτία για την απογοητευτική εικόνα στα ποσοστά επιτυχίας. Επίσης, με εξαίρεση την Ιταλία, η επιλογή των εταίρων από τη Μεσόγειο και τα Βαλκάνια ενδεχομένως να μην

[3] Βλ. Α. Καρβούνης, *ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ ΙΙ Τα Διεθνή Δίκτυα Πόλεων των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2006-2016.* Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών, Αθήνα 2017, σ.78.

συνηγόρησε σε επιτυχημένες προτάσεις. Η Ιταλία μαζί με Ουγγαρία και εν γένει τις χώρες της Κεντρικής Ευρώπης αποτέλεσαν το βαρόμετρο για την επιτυχή υλοποίηση του προγράμματος (βλ. Παράρτημα ΙΙ).

Φυσικά δεν μπορούμε να σταθούμε μόνον στους 7 ελληνικούς δήμους που υλοποίησαν ως επικεφαλής-εταίροι έργα δικτύωσης πόλεων. Θα πρέπει να δούμε, όπως και στην περίπτωση του μέτρου της αδελφοποίησης πόλεων, και τους 24 ελληνικούς δήμους που συμμετείχαν ως εταίροι σε έργα δικτύωσης στη συγκεκριμένη προγραμματική περίοδο. Ο αριθμός αυτός είναι ενθαρρυντικός και ίσως αντικατοπτρίζει τις πραγματικές δυνατότητες της ελληνικής πρωτοβάθμιας αυτοδιοίκησης για το συγκεκριμένο μέτρο. Ενδεχομένως, η διαμορφωθείσα κατάσταση σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο, σε επίπεδο συμμαχιών και ανταγωνισμού, να οδηγεί τους ελληνικούς δήμους στην επιλογή να συμμετέχουν εφεξής στη δικτύωση πόλεων ως εταίροι παρά ως επικεφαλής, αποκομίζοντας εμπειρίες, εταίρους, τεχνογνωσία με σκοπό την αξιοποίησή τους σε μελλοντικά εγχειρήματα. Αναμφίβολα, ο δήμος Αγιάς αποτέλεσε τον απόλυτο πρωταγωνιστή στο μέτρο της δικτύωσης πόλεων για την προγραμματική περίοδο 2014-2020. Δεν είναι μόνον τα 2 έργα στα οποία ήταν επικεφαλής-εταίρος, αλλά και τα 8 έργα στα οποία ήταν εταίρος με ένα σταθερό εταιρικό σχήμα που αν μη τι άλλο δημιουργεί προσδοκίες για τη συμμετοχή του στο πρόγραμμα CERV, 2021-2027. Την πορεία του θεσσαλικού δήμου ακολούθησαν και οι δήμοι Κολινδρού (5 έργα), Αλίμου (4), Λαρισαίων (4), Διονύσου (3), Θεσσαλονίκης (2), Λοκρών (2), Ηρακλείου (2) και Κατερίνης (2). Κοινή συνιστώσα στις ανωτέρω πρωτοβουλίες ήταν αναμφίβολα ένα σταθερό εταιρικό σχήμα, προερχόμενο κυρίως από τη Μεσόγειο και την Κεντρική και Ανατολική Ευρώπη.

Φυσικά, θα φανεί στην προγραμματική περίοδο 2021-2027 ο βαθμός βιωσιμότητας αυτών των εταιρικών σχημάτων, διότι η εμπειρία από το παρελθόν μας διδάσκει ότι η συγκυρία, το βραχυπρόθεσμο, τα πρόσωπα, η εμπλοκή εξωτερικών συνεργατών/γραφείων, η μη εμπλοκή του διοικητικού προσωπικού των δήμων, και οι ad hoc συνεργασίες αποτελούν τον κανόνα, και όχι την εξαίρεση για την πρωτοβάθμια αυτοδιοίκηση στις διεθνείς συνεργασίες της.

Από τη μεριά του, το Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών, για δεύτερη φορά εθνικό σημείο επαφής σε ανταγωνιστικό πρόγραμμα της ΕΕ (βλ. Μέρος ΙΙΙ), υλοποίησε μια σειρά ενημερωτικές δράσεις και σεμινάρια κατάρτισης (53), παρείχε διαρκείς συμβουλευτικές υπηρεσίες στους δυνητικούς αιτούντες, ενώ προχώρησε σε

πρωτότυπες εκδόσεις-εργαλεία (14) για τους δικαιούχους του προγράμματος, με πιο σημαντικές εκείνες της σειράς ‘Διπλωματία Πόλεων’ (βλ. Παράρτημα 8).

Περαίνοντας αυτό το προλογικό σημείωμα θα πρέπει να υπογραμμιστεί ότι η παρούσα έκδοση φιλοδοξεί πρωτίστως να διαφυλάξει τη θεσμική μνήμη της συμμετοχής της χώρας μας στο συγκεκριμένο πρόγραμμα, καταγράφοντας την ελληνική συμμετοχή σε αυτό με αριθμούς και έργα των ελληνικών φορέων, καθώς και τις δράσεις του εθνικού σημείου επαφής.

Αθήνα, Νοέμβριος 2022

ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΑ

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ΜΕΡΟΣ Ι

Η ΔΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ

1. Η Δομή του Προγράμματος

1.1 Το Ιστορικό

Η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση δημιουργήθηκε από τους πολίτες της και για τους πολίτες! Η ενθάρρυνση και η διευκόλυνση της ευρύτερης συμμετοχής των πολιτών στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και σε ό,τι αυτή αντιπροσωπεύει είναι μεγάλης σπουδαιότητας. Αυτό εκτείνεται από την ανάγκη μεγαλύτερης συμμετοχής στα τρέχοντα ζητήματα έως την ανάγκη για καλύτερη κατανόηση της ιστορίας της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης (Ε.Ε.) και των ριζών της, στον απόηχο δύο παγκόσμιων πολέμων.

Η συνθήκη της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης του 2009 (συνθήκη της Λισαβόνας), η οποία τέθηκε εν ισχύ την 1η Δεκεμβρίου του 2009, οδήγησε σε μια σειρά αλλαγών με σκοπό να φέρει την Ένωση πιο κοντά στους πολίτες της και να ενθαρρύνει το διασυνοριακό διάλογο σχετικά με ζητήματα πολιτικής της Ένωσης. Το άρθρο 11 της εν λόγω Συνθήκης εισήγαγε μια εντελώς νέα διάσταση της συμμετοχικής δημοκρατίας.

Η Ευρώπη έχει μια απαιτητική ατζέντα για τα επόμενα χρόνια, με σοβαρά ζητήματα που διακυβεύονται. Με αποφάσεις και πολιτικές που απαιτούνται για ένα φάσμα θεμάτων, τα οποία κυμαίνονται από την οικονομική ανάπτυξη και την ασφάλεια έως το ρόλο της Ευρώπης στον κόσμο, είναι τώρα πιο σημαντικό από ποτέ για τους πολίτες να συμμετάσχουν σε συζητήσεις και να συμβάλουν στη διαμόρφωση πολιτικών. Θεωρώντας την ευρωπαϊκή ιδιότητα του πολίτη σημαντικό στοιχείο για την ενίσχυση και

τη διασφάλιση της διαδικασίας της ευρωπαϊκής ολοκλήρωσης, η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή εξακολουθεί να ενθαρρύνει τη συμμετοχή των ευρωπαίων πολιτών σε όλες τις πτυχές του βίου της κοινότητάς τους, παρέχοντάς τους έτσι τη δυνατότητα να συμμετάσχουν στη δόμηση μιας ακόμα πιο προσιτής Ευρώπης.

Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» (εφεξής «το πρόγραμμα»), που εγκρίθηκε για την περίοδο 2014-2020, ήταν ένα σημαντικό μέσο που αποσκοπούσε να ενθαρρύνει τα 500 εκατομμύρια κατοίκους της Ένωσης να διαδραματίσουν μεγαλύτερο ρόλο στην ανάπτυξή της. Μέσω της χρηματοδότησης έργων και δραστηριοτήτων, στις οποίες μπορούν να συμμετάσχουν οι πολίτες, το πρόγραμμα προώθησε την κοινή ιστορία και τις αξίες της Ευρώπης και δημιούργησε μια αίσθηση κοινής ευθύνης για τον τρόπο με τον οποίον αναπτύσσεται η Ένωση. Για το πρόγραμμα διατέθηκε προϋπολογισμός της τάξεως των 187.718.000 EUR για την περίοδο 2014-2020

1.2 Οι Στόχοι

Στο πλαίσιο του συνολικού στόχου της μεγαλύτερης προσέγγισης της Ένωσης προς τους πολίτες, οι γενικές επιδιώξεις του προγράμματος ήταν οι ακόλουθες:

- να συμβάλλει στην κατανόηση των πολιτών όσον αφορά την Ένωση, την ιστορία και την πολυμορφία της,
- να προαγάγει την ευρωπαϊκή ιθαγένεια και να βελτιώσει τις συνθήκες συμμετοχής των πολιτών στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στα κοινά σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

Οι ειδικοί στόχοι του προγράμματος ήταν οι εξής:

- η ενίσχυση της ευαισθητοποίησης σχετικά με τη μνήμη, την κοινή ιστορία, τις κοινές αξίες και το σκοπό της Ένωσης, ήτοι να προάγει την ειρήνη, τις αξίες της και την ευημερία των λαών της, μέσα από την ανάπτυξη δημόσιου διαλόγου, προβληματισμού και δικτύων·
- η ενθάρρυνση της συμμετοχής των πολιτών στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και τα κοινά σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, μέσα από την ενίσχυση της κατανόησης των πολιτών, όσον αφορά τις διαδικασίες χάραξης πολιτικής της Ένωσης και την προώθηση ευκαιριών για κοινωνική και διαπολιτισμική δέσμευση και εθελοντισμό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

1.3 Τα Σκέλη

Το πρόγραμμα υλοποιήθηκε σε δύο σκέλη και μια οριζόντια ενέργεια:

- **Σκέλος 1: Ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη:** Ευαισθητοποίηση της μνήμης, της κοινής ιστορίας και των αξιών και του στόχου της Ένωσης.

-Σκέλος 2: Συμμετοχή στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στα κοινά: Ενθάρρυνση της συμμετοχής στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και τα κοινά σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

Μέτρα αυτού του σκέλους ήταν τα εξής:

• Αδελφοποίηση πόλεων.

• Δίκτυα πόλεων.

• Έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών.

Τα δύο σκέλη συμπληρώθηκαν από μια οριζόντια ενέργεια δηλ. την ανάλυση, διάδοση και χρήση των αποτελεσμάτων του έργου.

Σκέλος 1 – Ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη

Η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση έχει οικοδομηθεί σε θεμελιώδεις αξίες, όπως η ελευθερία, η δημοκρατία και ο σεβασμός των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων. Προκειμένου να εκτιμούμε πλήρως τη σημασία τους, είναι απαραίτητο να διατηρούμε τις μνήμες του παρελθόντος ζωντανές, ιδίως μεταξύ των νεότερων γενιών, ως μέσο για να ξεπεράσουμε το παρελθόν και να οικοδομήσουμε το μέλλον. Το σκέλος αυτό στήριξε δραστηριότητες με τις οποίες θα ενθαρρύνονταν ο προβληματισμός σχετικά με την ευρωπαϊκή πολιτιστική πολυμορφία και τις κοινές αξίες υπό την ευρύτερη δυνατή έννοια, λαμβανομένης υπόψη της ισότητας των φύλων. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, σκόπευε στη χρηματοδότηση έργων που απηχούν τα αίτια των απολυταρχικών και ολοκληρωτικών καθεστώτων στη σύγχρονη ιστορία της Ευρώπης (ιδιαίτερα του ναζισμού που οδήγησε στο Ολοκαύτωμα, του φασισμού, του σταλινισμού και των ολοκληρωτικών κομμουνιστικών καθεστώτων, χωρίς να εξαντλούνται σε αυτά) υπέρ της μνήμης των θυμάτων των εγκληματικών τους πράξεων. Το σκέλος, επιπλέον, περιελάμβανε δραστηριότητες που συνδέονταν με άλλα καθοριστικά ορόσημα και σημεία αναφοράς της πρόσφατης ευρωπαϊκής ιστορίας.

Συγκεκριμένα, θα δινόταν προτεραιότητα σε ενέργειες που ενθάρρυναν την ανεκτικότητα, την αμοιβαία κατανόηση, το διαπολιτισμικό διάλογο και τη συμφιλίωση ως μέσα υπέρβασης του παρελθόντος και οικοδόμησης του μέλλοντος, ιδίως με σκοπό την προσέγγιση στη νεότερη γενιά. Επιπλέον, τα έργα θα έπρεπε να υλοποιούνταν σε διακρατικό επίπεδο (δημιουργία και λειτουργία διακρατικών σχέσεων συνεργασίας και δικτύων) ή με σαφή ευρωπαϊκή διάσταση. Το ανώτατο ποσό επιχορήγησης για έργα μνήμης ανέρχονταν στις 100.000 EUR.

Σκέλος 2 - Συμμετοχή στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στα κοινά

Το εν λόγω σκέλος υποστήριξε δραστηριότητες που αφορούσαν τη συμμετοχή στα κοινά με την ευρύτερη έννοια, με ιδιαίτερη έμφαση σε δραστηριότητες που συνδέονταν άμεσα με τις πολιτικές της Ένωσης, με σκοπό την έμπρακτη συμμετοχή στη διαδικασία χάραξης πολιτικών της Ένωσης σε τομείς που σχετίζονται με τους στόχους του προγράμματος. Αυτό μπορούσε να επιτευχθεί σε όλα τα στάδια, καθώς και με όλους τους θεσμικούς συνομιλητές, και περιελάμβανε ιδίως: δραστηριότητες ανάπτυξης θεμάτων ημερήσιας διάταξης, υποστήριξη κατά τη φάση προετοιμασίας και διαπραγμάτευση των προτάσεων πολιτικής, παροχή ανατροφοδότησης σχετικά με τις σχετικές υλοποιούμενες πρωτοβουλίες. Το σκέλος αυτό κάλυψε, επίσης, έργα και πρωτοβουλίες που αναπτύσσουν ευκαιρίες για αμοιβαία κατανόηση, αλληλεγγύη διαπολιτισμικής μάθησης, κοινωνική δέσμευση και εθελοντισμό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

Μέτρο αδελφοποίησης πόλεων

Το μέτρο αυτό αποσκοπούσε στην υποστήριξη έργων που συγκέντρωναν ευρύ φάσμα συνεργαζόμενων πόλεων σε μια εκδήλωση αδελφοποίησης πόλεων με θέματα σύμφωνα με τους στόχους του προγράμματος και λαμβάνοντας υπόψη τις πολυετείς προτεραιότητες. Τα έργα αδελφοποίησης πόλεων έπρεπε να οργανώνουν τις δραστηριότητες του έργου εντός 21 ημερών (μέγιστη διάρκεια του έργου).

Μέσω της κινητοποίησης των πολιτών, τόσο σε τοπικό επίπεδο όσο και σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, προκειμένου για τη συζήτηση επί συγκεκριμένων θεμάτων της ευρωπαϊκής πολιτικής ατζέντας, το μέτρο αυτό επιδίωξε την προώθηση της συμμετοχής των πολιτών στη διαδικασία χάραξης πολιτικών της Ένωσης και τη δημιουργία ευκαιριών για την κοινωνική συμμετοχή και τον εθελοντισμό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

Ο όρος αδελφοποίηση έπρεπε να νοείται υπό την ευρεία του έννοια, καθώς αναφερόταν στους δήμους που υπέγραψαν ή είχαν δεσμευτεί για την υπογραφή συμφωνιών αδελφοποίησης, καθώς και στους δήμους που διέθεταν άλλες μορφές συνεργασίας, μέσω της προώθησης της συνεργασίας και των πολιτιστικών τους δεσμών. Το ανώτατο ποσό επιχορήγησης για έργα αδελφοποίησης πόλεων ανέρχονταν στις 25.000 EUR.

Μέτρο: Δίκτυα πόλεων

Δήμοι και ενώσεις οι οποίες συνεργάζονται σε κοινή θεματική ενότητα με μακροπρόθεσμη προοπτική μπορεί να επιθυμούν να αναπτύξουν δίκτυα πόλεων ώστε να καταστήσουν τη συνεργασία τους περισσότερο βιώσιμη. Η δικτύωση μεταξύ των οργανισμών τοπικής αυτοδιοίκησης, όσον αφορά σε θέματα κοινού ενδιαφέροντος, φαίνεται ότι αποτελεί σημαντικό εργαλείο για την ανταλλαγή ορθών πρακτικών. Η αδελφοποίηση είναι ένας ισχυρός δεσμός που ενώνει τους δήμους. Ως εκ τούτου, η δυναμική των δικτύων που δημιουργούνται μέσω των διάφορων δεσμών αδελφοποίησης θα πρέπει να χρησιμοποιείται για την ανάπτυξη θεματικής και μακροχρόνιας συνεργασίας μεταξύ των πόλεων.

Η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή στηρίζει την ανάπτυξη τέτοιων δικτύων, τα οποία είναι σημαντικά για τη διασφάλιση δομημένης, διαρκούς και πολύπλευρης συνεργασίας, συμβάλλοντας, κατά συνέπεια, στη μεγιστοποίηση του αντίκτυπου του προγράμματος. Τα δίκτυα πόλεων αναμένονταν:

- Να ενσωματώσουν διάφορες δραστηριότητες εντός τουλάχιστον 4 εκδηλώσεων σχετικών με έργα. Τέτοιες εκδηλώσεις, στο πλαίσιο των δικτύων πόλεων, αναμένονταν να έχουν καθορισμένο χρονοδιάγραμμα και να περιλαμβάνουν διαφορετικούς τύπους δραστηριοτήτων σχετικά με τα θέματα κοινού ενδιαφέροντος που θα εξετάζονταν, στο πλαίσιο των στόχων ή των πολυετών προτεραιοτήτων του προγράμματος.

- Να έχουν καθορισμένες ομάδες-στόχους για τις οποίες τα επιλεγμένα θέματα είναι ιδιαίτερα σημαντικά και να συμμετέχουν δραστήρια σε αυτά μέλη της κοινότητας στο θεματικό τομέα (δηλ. ειδικοί, τοπικές ενώσεις, πολίτες και ομάδες πολιτών που ενδιαφέρονται άμεσα για το θέμα κ.λπ.).

- Να κινητοποιήσουν τους πολίτες σε ολόκληρη την Ευρώπη: στο έργο έπρεπε να συμμετέχει τουλάχιστον ποσοστό 30% των προσκεκλημένων συμμετεχόντων. Οι «προσκεκλημένοι συμμετέχοντες» είναι περιοδεύουσες αντιπροσωπείες επιλέξιμων χωρών-εταίρων εκτός από τη χώρα στην οποία διοργανώνεται η εκδήλωση.

- Να χρησιμεύσει ως βάση για μελλοντικές πρωτοβουλίες και ενέργειες μεταξύ των πόλεων που συμμετέχουν, σχετικά με τα θέματα που θίγονταν ή, ενδεχομένως, σχετικά με περαιτέρω θέματα κοινού ενδιαφέροντος.

Το ανώτατο ποσό επιχορήγησης για έργα δικτύου πόλεων ανέρχονταν στις 150.000 EUR.

Μέτρο: Έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών

Το μέτρο αυτό αποσκοπούσε στην υποστήριξη έργων που προωθούνταν από διακρατικές συνεργασίες και δίκτυα και στα οποία συμμετείχαν άμεσα πολίτες. Τα εν λόγω έργα συγκέντρωναν πολίτες από διάφορους ορίζοντες, σε δραστηριότητες άμεσα συνδεδεμένες με τις πολιτικές της Ένωσης, με στόχο να τους δώσουν μια ευκαιρία να συμμετάσχουν ενεργά στη διαδικασία χάραξης πολιτικής της Ένωσης σε τομείς που σχετίζονταν με τους στόχους του προγράμματος. Υπενθυμίζεται ότι αυτό μπορούσε να επιτευχθεί σε όλα τα στάδια, καθώς και με όλους τους θεσμικούς συνομιλητές, και περιελάμβανε ιδίως: δραστηριότητες ανάπτυξης θεμάτων ημερήσιας διάταξης, υποστήριξη κατά τη φάση προετοιμασίας και διαπραγμάτευση των προτάσεων πολιτικής, παροχή ανατροφοδότησης σχετικά με τις σχετικές υλοποιούμενες πρωτοβουλίες. Προς τούτο, τα εν λόγω έργα καλούσαν τους πολίτες σε από κοινού δράση ή συζήτηση σχετικά με τα πολυετή θέματα προτεραιότητας του προγράμματος σε τοπικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο.

Το έργο θα έπρεπε να συνίσταται στην τόνωση και την οργάνωση προβληματισμού, συζητήσεων ή άλλων δραστηριοτήτων που σχετίζονταν με τα πολυετή θέματα προτεραιότητας του προγράμματος και να προτείνει πρακτικές λύσεις που μπορούσαν να βρεθούν μέσω της συνεργασίας ή του συντονισμού σε πανευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο, και να διασφαλίζει ισχυρό δεσμό με τη διαδικασία χάραξης πολιτικών που αναφέρεται ανωτέρω. Στην υλοποίηση των έργων θα έπρεπε να συμμετάσχει ενεργά μεγάλος αριθμός πολιτών και θα έπρεπε να αποσκοπούν στη θεμελίωση ή την ενθάρρυνση της ανάπτυξης της μακροχρόνιας δικτύωσης των πολλών οργανώσεων που δραστηριοποιούνταν στον τομέα.

Το μέτρο αυτό υποστήριζε έργα που υλοποιούνταν από διακρατικές συνεργασίες για την προώθηση ευκαιριών για την επίδειξη αλληλεγγύης, την κοινωνική αλληλεπίδραση και τον εθελοντισμό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

Τα έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών έπρεπε να περιλαμβάνουν τουλάχιστον δύο από τις ακόλουθες κατηγορίες δραστηριοτήτων:

- Προώθηση της κοινωνικής συμμετοχής και της αλληλεγγύης: δραστηριότητες για την προώθηση συζητήσεων/ εκστρατείες/ ενέρ-γειες σχετικά με θεματικές ενότητες κοινού ενδιαφέροντος, στο πλαίσιο των δικαιωμάτων και των υποχρεώσεων των πολιτών της Ένωσης και τη σύνδεση με την ευρωπαϊκή πολιτική ατζέντα και τη διαδικασία χάραξης πολιτικών.

- Συλλογή απόψεων: δραστηριότητες με στόχο τη συλλογή διάφορων απόψεων των πολιτών που ευνοούν μια προσέγγιση από τη βάση (μεταξύ άλλων μέσω της χρήσης κοινωνικών δικτύων, webinars, κ.λπ.) και την εξοικείωση με τα μέσα επικοινωνίας.

- Εθελοντισμός: δραστηριότητες για την προώθηση της αλληλεγγύης μεταξύ των πολιτών της Ένωσης και πέραν αυτής.

Το ανώτατο επιλέξιμο ποσό επιχορήγησης για έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών ανέρχονταν σε 150.000 EUR.

1.4 Οι Επιλέξιμοι Αιτούντες

Οι αιτούντες έπρεπε να είναι είτε δημόσιοι οργανισμοί είτε μη κερδοσκοπικοί οργανισμοί με νομική προσωπικότητα. Φυσικά πρόσωπα ΔΕΝ ήταν επιλέξιμα στο πλαίσιο αυτού του προγράμματος.

Ο αιτών οργανισμός έπρεπε να αναγνωρίζεται ως «νομικό πρόσωπο» βάσει του οικείου εθνικού δικαίου και ως εκ τούτου να διαθέτει ανεξάρτητη νομική προσωπικότητα, με ικανότητα υπογραφής συμβάσεων και ανάληψης ιδίας ευθύνης. Επιπλέον, η εν λόγω οντότητα θα έπρεπε να έχει το δικαίωμα να υπερασπίζεται τον εαυτό της, εξ ιδίου ονόματος, σε δικαστικές διαδικασίες και χωρίς την παρέμβαση οποιασδήποτε μητρικής οντότητας.

Κατ’ εξαίρεση, οντότητες χωρίς νομική προσωπικότητα μπορούσαν να είναι επιλέξιμες για επιχορηγήσεις υπό τον όρο ότι πληρούνταν οι ακόλουθες προϋποθέσεις που προβλέπονται στο δημοσιονομικό κανονισμό 2018/1046 [ειδικότερα στο άρθρο 196 και στο άρθρο 197 παράγραφος 2 στοιχείο γ)]:

• οι εκπρόσωποί τους έχουν την ικανότητα να αναλαμβάνουν νομικές υποχρεώσεις για λογαριασμό των οντοτήτων,

• η οντότητα διαθέτει χρηματοδοτική και επιχειρησιακή ικανότητα ισοδύναμη με εκείνη ενός νομικού προσώπου.

Οι αιτούντες έπρεπε να είναι εγκατεστημένοι στις ακόλουθες επιλέξιμες χώρες:

- στα κράτη-μέλη της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης: Αυστρία, Βέλγιο, Βουλγαρία, Γαλλία, Γερμανία, Δανία, Ελλάδα, Εσθονία, Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο, Ιρλανδία, Ισπανία, Ιταλία, Κάτω Χώρες, Κροατία, Κύπρος, Λετονία, Λιθουανία, Λουξεμβούργο, Μάλτα, Ουγγαρία, Πολωνία, Πορτογαλία, Ρουμανία, Σλοβακία, Σλοβενία, Σουηδία, Τσεχική Δημοκρατία και Φινλανδία.

- στην Αλβανία, στη Βοσνία-Ερζεγοβίνη, στο Κοσσυφοπέδιο, στο Μαυροβούνιο, στη Δημοκρατία της Βόρειας Μακεδονίας και στη Σερβία.

Τουλάχιστον ένα κράτος-μέλος της ΕΕ έπρεπε να συμμετέχει στα έργα μνήμης και στα έργα αδελφοποίησης πόλεων και τουλάχιστον δύο κράτη-μέλη έπρεπε να συμμετέχουν στα έργα δικτύων πόλεων και τα έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών.

1.5 Ο Προϋπολογισμός

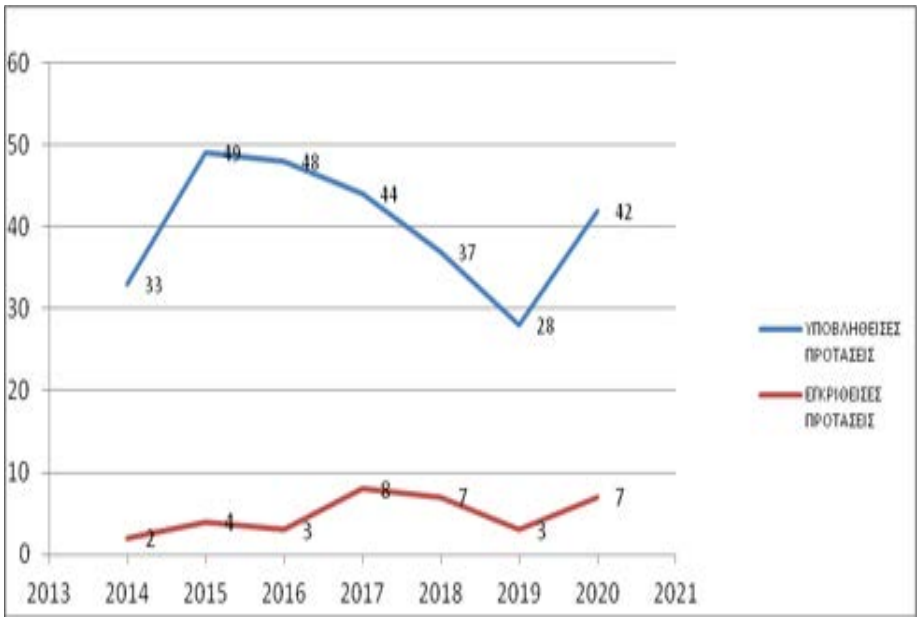
Για το πρόγραμμα διατέθηκε προϋπολογισμός συνολικού ύψους 187.718.000 EUR για την επταετία 2014-2020 και χρηματοδοτήθηκε από τη γραμμή 18 04 01 01 του προϋπολογισμού της Ένωσης.

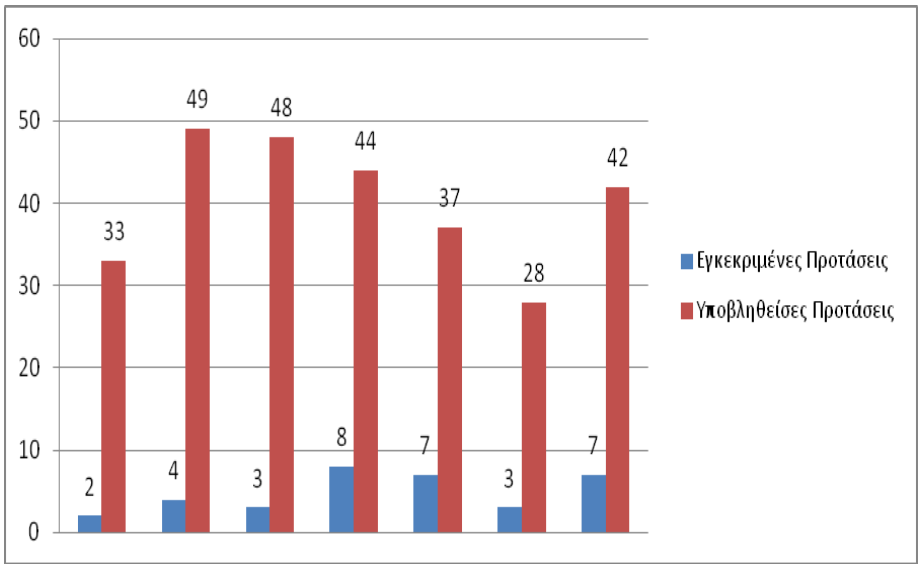
ΜΕΡΟΣ ΙΙ

Η ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ

2. Η Ελληνική Συμμετοχή σε Αριθμούς και Δεδομένα

Διαγράμματα 1-2: Υποβληθείσες και Εγκριθείσες Ελληνικές Προτάσεις (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)





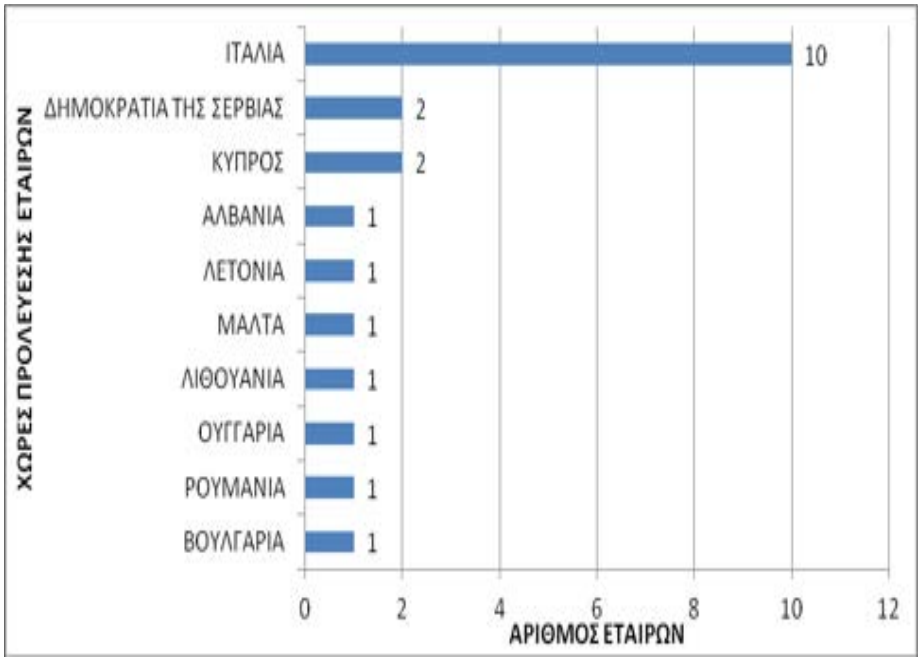
Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Πίνακας 3: Η Συμμετοχή των Ελληνικών Δήμων ως Επικεφαλής σε έργα Αδελφοποίησης Πόλεων (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)

Α/Α	ΔΗΜΟΣ	ΤΙΤΛΟΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΟΣΟ ΕΠΙΔΟΤΗΣΗΣ (€)
1.	**ΚΟΖΑΝΗΣ**	Developing INNovative SOLidarity mechanisms among municipalities in times of crisis in South East Europe	14.500
2.	**ΣΑΜΟΘΡΑΚΗΣ**	Friendship agreement between Samothraki and Rome - Municipio I	5.000
3.	**ΕΛΑΣΣΟΝΑΣ**	In search of a better Europe	5.000
4.	**ΣΑΜΟΥ**	ΠΥΘΑΓΟΡΕΙΕΣ ΔΙΑΔΡΟΜΕΣ (PYTHAGOREAN ROUTES)	5.040
5.	**ΑΣΠΡΟΠΥΡΓΟΥ**	Active Citizens Towards Viable Energy	5.040
6.	**ΛΑΥΡΕΩΤΙΚΗΣ**	CUlture as a Bridge of communication and cooperation in a UNited Europe	10.080
7.	**ΚΙΛΕΛΕΡ**	Common Values Equals Common Future	5.040
8.	**ΜΕΣΣΗΝΗΣ**	Youth For Europe	25.000
9.	**ΚΙΛΚΙΣ**	YOUnion - Unity in Diversity	10.080
10.	**ΤΡΙΠΟΛΗΣ**	The 'Albanian front' in front of the EU perspective	25.000

Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Διάγραμμα 3: Χώρες προέλευσης εταίρων σε έργα αδελφοποίησης πόλεων με επικεφαλής ελληνικό δήμο (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)



Πηγή: EACEA- ιδία επεξεργασία

Πίνακας 4: Η Συμμετοχή των Ελληνικών Δήμων ως Εταίροι σε έργα Αδελφοποίησης Πόλεων (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)

Α/Α	ΔΗΜΟΣ	ΤΙΤΛΟΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΟΣΟ ΕΠΙΔΟΤΗΣΗΣ (€)
1.	**ΑΓΙΑΣ**	SOLIDEuropa - Solidarietà tra Donne in Europa	5.000
		Solidarity The Only Way	25.000
		ALL European Youths for solidarity	25.000
		Multicultural Youth Educate the European	25.000

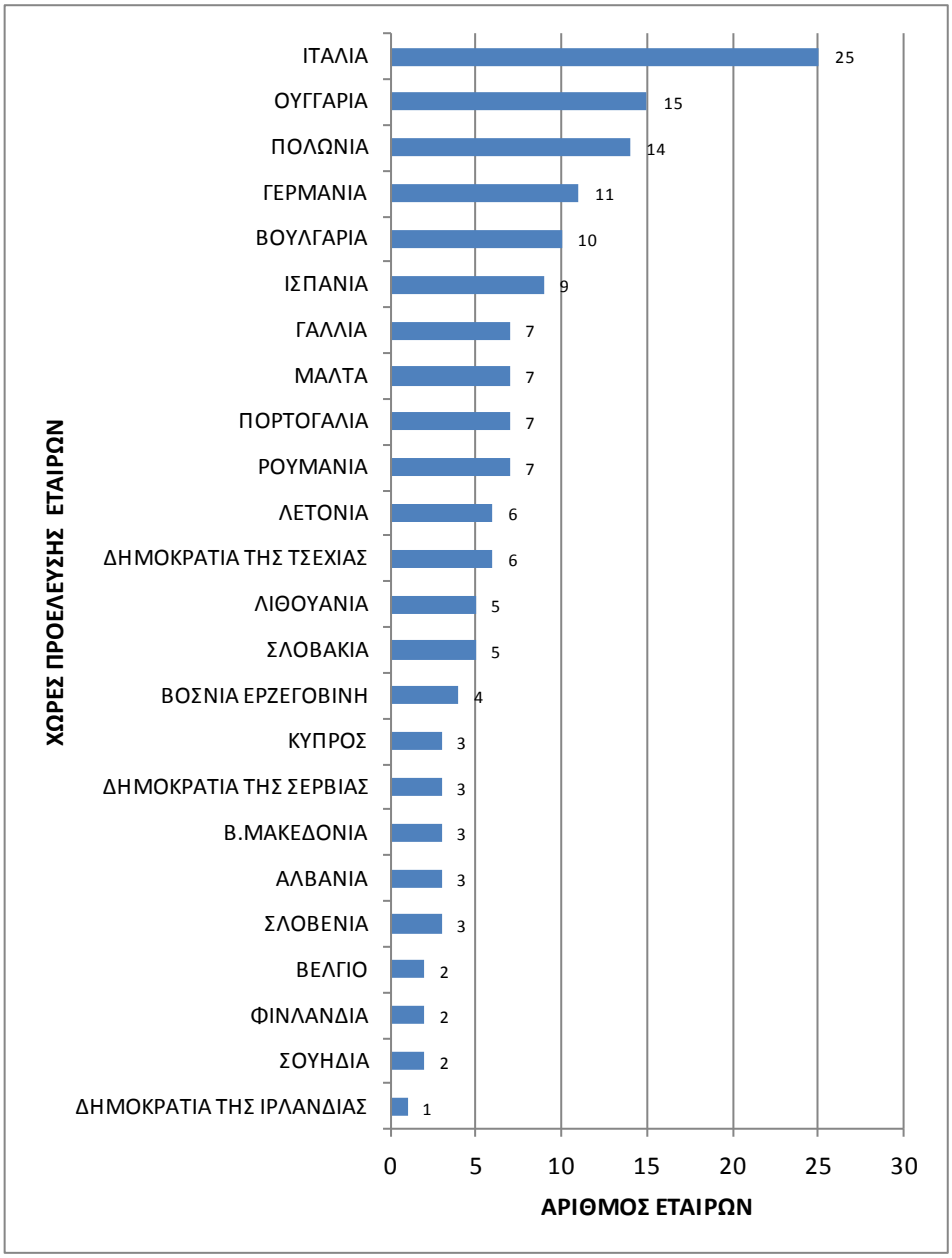
		Union	
		Cooperation Raises Each Activities Through Europe	25.000
		Active Citizenship for a Tighter-knit International Solidarity	25.000
2.	**ΑΛΙΜΟΥ**	Foster Local Outcasts Without Stigmatisation	25.000
		Youth Employment Initiative for Europe 2	7.500
3.	**ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΥ**	Youth Promoting Solidarity	25.000
		Young Europeans Promoting social enterprises	25.000
4.	**ΕΥΡΩΤΑ**	UNITED	5.000
		#Поколение Европа	16.630
		Debating Xenìa	20.160
5.	**ΗΓΟΥΜΕΝΙΤΣΑΣ**	Jedność w różnorodności - międzynarodowa debata młodych o solidarności Europejczyków	12.000
6.	**ΘΕΡΜΗΣ**	MigrART	18.000
		ReBel'ART	12.095
7.	**ΚΑΡΔΙΤΣΑΣ**	EUROPA ED ESSERE EUROPEI	18.000
		Solidarity Youth in	10.080

		Times of Crises 2.0	
8.	**ΚΑΣΣΑΝΔΡΑΣ**	Let's unite & debate about euroscepticism and make it a driving force for a more cohesive and inclusive European Union	10.080
9.	**ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗΣ**	E-CULTS - European citizens for CULTure and Solidarity	25.000
10.	**ΚΟΜΟΤΗΝΗΣ**	Independence and Tolerance in Europe	25.000
		Europe - Heritage and Future	25.000
		Faith in community and european dignity 2020	25.000
11.	**ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ**	CIT-EU- The future perspective of the European Community	7.500
12.	**ΜΑΡΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ ΜΕΣΟΓΑΙΑΣ**	Meet in Person	25.000
13.	**ΜΕΣΣΗΝΗΣ**	SAVE-Solidarity Actions and Volunteering in Europe	25.000
14.	**ΜΟΥΖΑΚΙΟΥ**	divErsité Unité frateRnité dialOgue Paix demAin	14.615
15.	**ΜΥΚΟΝΟΥ**	Solidarity The Only Way	25.000

16.	**ΝΑΞΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΜΙΚΡΩΝ ΚΥΚΛΑΔΩΝ**	Euroscepticism: testing the feelings of the European Citizens	14.500
17.	**ΝΑΥΠΛΙΟΥ**	Solidarity Towers Respect in Global Societies	25.000
18.	**ΝΕΑΣ ΠΡΟΠΟΝΤΙΔΑΣ**	Building partnership of municipalities across Europe, discussion on the future of Europe, support of European citizenship idea and increasing of civic engagement at Union level in Nitra	25.000
19.	**ΞΑΝΘΗΣ**	Citizens for Europe	16.630
20.	**ΡΟΔΟΥ (ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟΣ ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΆΘΛΗΣΗΣ)**	Wir in Europa - Für Frieden und Menschlichkeit in der Welt	12.000
21.	**ΣΑΛΑΜΙΝΑΣ**	Impreuna pentru UE	12.095
22.	**ΦΑΡΚΑΔΩΝΑΣ**	UNITED	5.000
23.	**ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑΣ**	Euroscepticism: the need for rethinking our being European and the politics of immigration.	20.000
24.	**ΩΡΑΙΟΚΑΣΤΡΟΥ**	In Fremden Schuhen	14.500

Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Διάγραμμα 4: Χώρες προέλευσης εταίρων σε έργα αδελφοποίησης πόλεων με εταίρο ελληνικό δήμο (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)



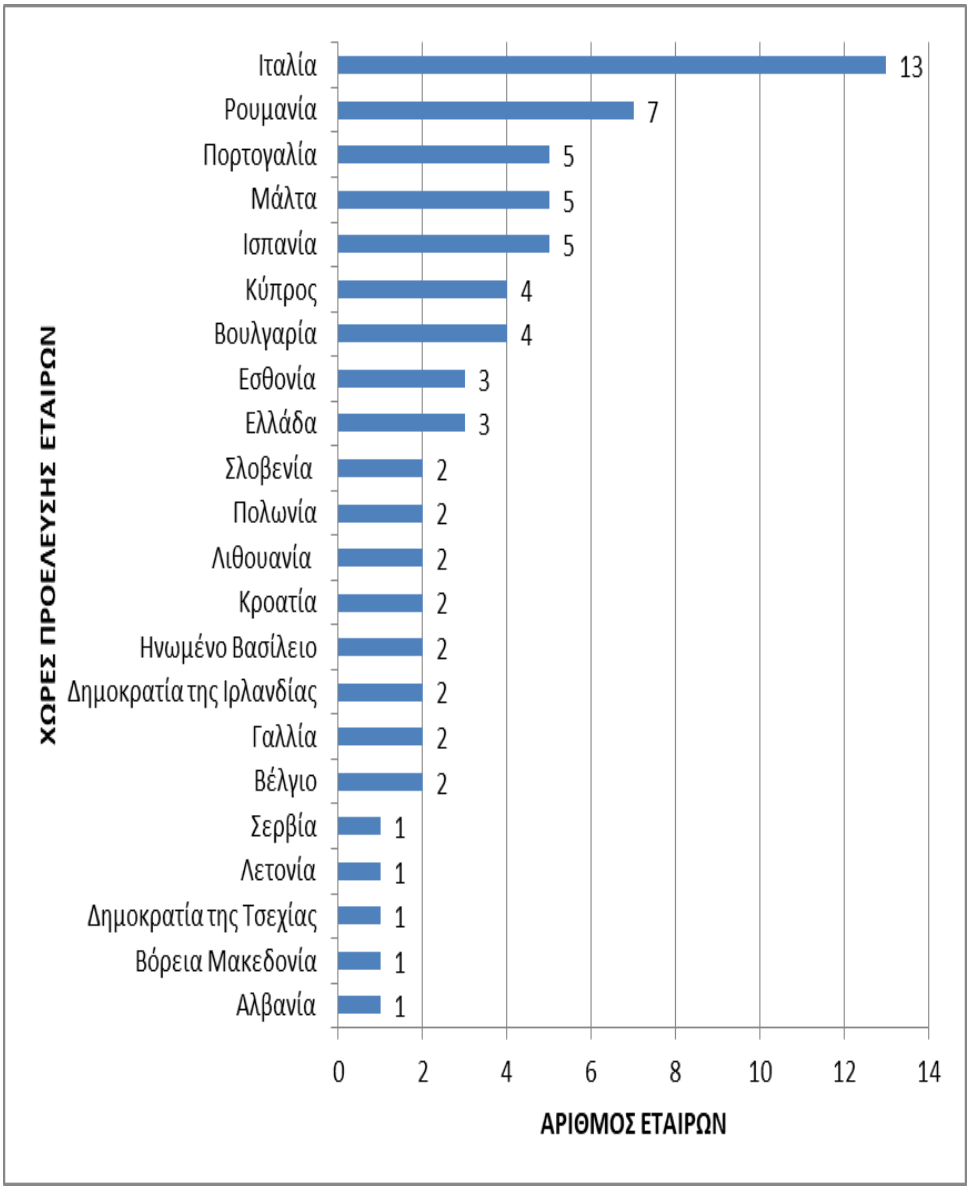
Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Πίνακας 5: Η Συμμετοχή των Ελληνικών Δήμων ως Επικεφαλής σε έργα Δικτύων Πόλεων (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)

Α/Α	ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΔΗΜΟΣ	ΤΙΤΛΟΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΟΣΟ ΕΠΙΔΟΤΗΣΗΣ (€)
1.	**ΑΓΙΑΣ**	FOCUS- Stimulating new forms of active civic participation through focus on Social and Solidarity Economy	135.000
		DEVICE – Developing European Volunteers International Civic Engagement	148.680
2.	**ΑΛΙΜΟΥ**	Road to European Parliament 2019 – Empowering a new generation of EU citizens	148.680
		Encouraging young people to build a better Europe	148.680
3.	**ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ**	BASE- Be Active – Shape Europe	146.160
4.	**ΚΗΦΙΣΙΑΣ**	EUROPE UNITY	148.680
5.	**ΚΟΡΥΔΑΛΛΟΥ**	EUCIDIN EU- EU city digital strategies for immigrants integration	132.500
6.	**Ν.ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ**	SPUR- Towards a New Spur for EU Democracy Building learn and engagement	122.500
7.	**ΠΑΙΟΝΙΑΣ**	EUBorCo- EU Border Commu-nities:sharing experien-ces and practices on refugees' reception and social solidarity	145.000
8.	**ΤΑΝΑΓΡΑΣ**	E.I.Q.- Europe In Question	150.000

Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Διάγραμμα 5: Χώρες προέλευσης εταίρων σε έργα δικτύων πόλεων με επικεφαλής-εταίρο ελληνικό δήμο (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)



Πηγή: EACEA- ιδία επεξεργασία

Πίνακας 6: Η Συμμετοχή των Ελληνικών Δήμων ως Εταίροι σε έργα Δικτύων Πόλεων (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)

Α/Α	ΔΗΜΟΣ	ΤΙΤΛΟΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΟΣΟ ΕΠΙΔΟΤΗΣΗΣ (€)
1.	**ΑΓΙΑΣ**	Authentic Europe Network	140.000
		Solidarity 4 Heritage	150.000
		Working for Innovative Volunteering And Solidarity	148.680
		European Volunteering Engagement Network	148.680
		Together in Order to Promote Solidarity	150.000
		Knowledge NOT Skepticism 2!	150.000
		Create A Synergy in Europe	148.680
		2WILL: 2 Work in Integration of Local Life	150.000
2	**ΑΛΙΜΟΥ**	Local Solidarity - Global Solidarity Network	147.500
		Old towns, New Results	148.680
		EUrope Is a State of Mind	148.680
		2WILL: 2 Work in Integration of Local Life	150.000
3	**ΑΡΧΑΙΑΣ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΣ**	IN.TO.EU., INclusive Towns in action for a shared EUropean strategy of inclusion	105.000
4	**ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΥ**	2WILL: 2 Work in Integration of Local Life	150.000
		3 WILL: Working in Integration of Local Life	150.000
		KNOTS-Knowledge, NOT Skepticism!	150.000
5	**ΕΛΑΣΣΟΝΑΣ**	YOUROPE: joining paths to build a better	148.680

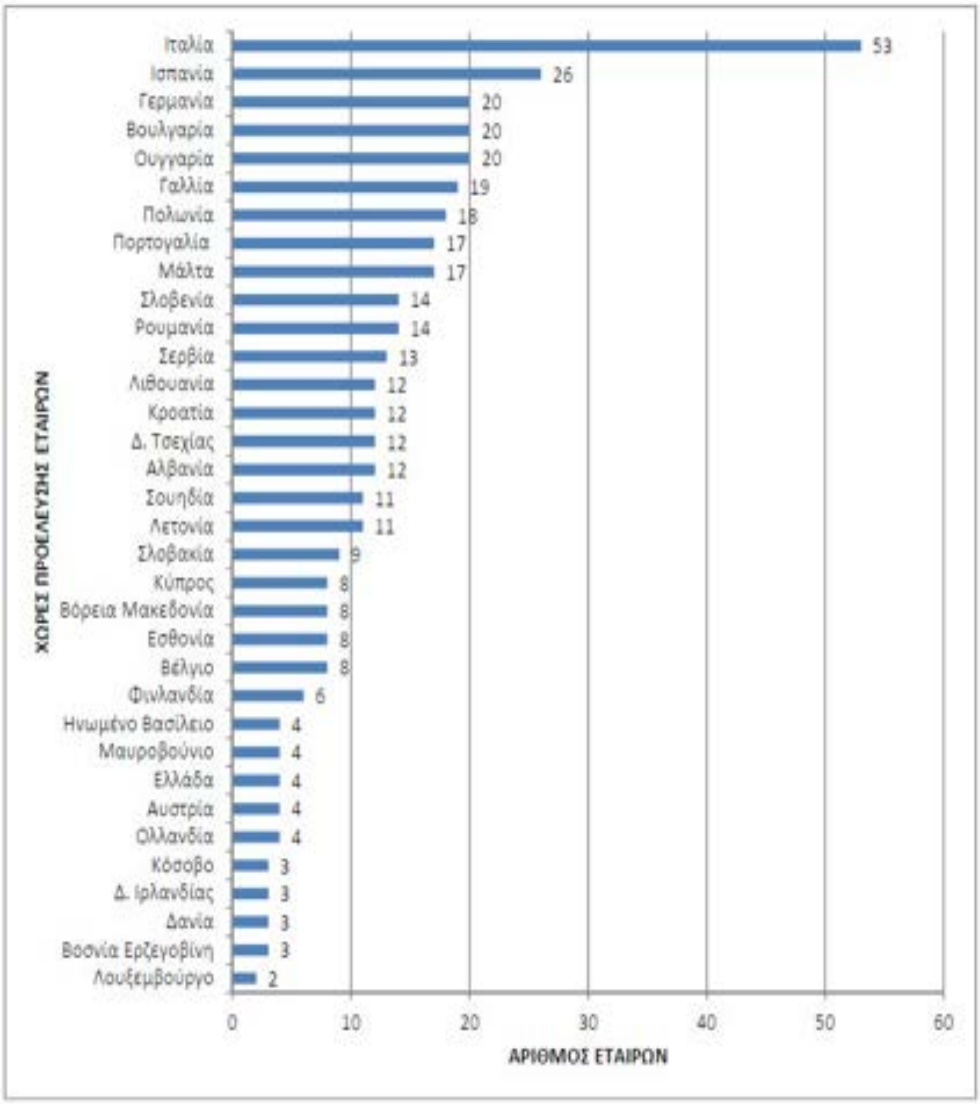
		perception of Europe	
6	**ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΥ**	City to city for building our Europe	147.500
		Eight Cities together for Building Our Europe	148.680
7	**ΘΕΡΜΗΣ**	SAYouth -Reaffirming the civic participation of young people for a sustainable democracy	148.680
8	**ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ**	Urban Citizen Y	146.160
		Strengthening a Europe of solidarity in times of migration	150.000
9	**ΙΩΑΝΝΙΤΩΝ**	Solidarity - key to solving social problems and supporting the evolution of Europe in future	148.680
10	**ΚΑΒΑΛΑΣ (ΚΟΙΝΩΦΕΛΗ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΗ)**	War Places/Peace Citizens	150.000
11	**ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗΣ**	REACT-Reactivating European citizenship: a network of inclusive towns	150.000
12	**ΚΟΛΙΝΔΡΟΥ**	Goodbye to waste of food and Hello to the sustainable consumption of food	
		How has the enlargement of the European Union in 2004 influenced citizens in small rural communities in Europe?	150.000
		Tolerancja i solidarność jako kluczowe wartości dla przyszłości Europy	150.000
		LYCEUM 2019-2020 Local Youngsters Creating European	150.000

		Unique Movement	
		Retelling the European Future – Opportunity for Rural Municipalities to decrease the impact of Euroscepticism at local level	150.000
13	**ΛΑΡΙΣΑΙΩΝ**	P.Un.C.H.-Participation of Underrepresented Citizens in the valorization of the Cultural Heritage	150.000
		VALID- European Towns - Enacting Common Values of Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue	143.640
		SOLIDART: Network for the youth debate about the solidarity in crisis times, through creativity and art	148.680
		HE-ART- network of towns promoting heart culture, solidarity and integration	150.000
14	**ΛΟΚΡΩΝ**	Migration and Immigration: Social impacts and citizen responses as concerns the sustainable and peaceful development of an integrated Europe	150.000
		Solidarity - key to solving social problems and supporting the evolution of Europe in future	148.680
15	**ΜΑΡΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ**	European voices	

	ΜΕΣΟΓΑΙΑΣ	challenging euroescepticism	150.000
16	**ΜΥΚΟΝΟΥ**	Resilient Europe – Islands Territories Citizens Resiliency	141.120
17	**ΝΑΞΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΜΙΚΡΩΝ ΚΥΚΛΑΔΩΝ**	Active debate of Citizens: they are the Heritage for the European Future	138.600
18	**ΝΕΑΠΟΛΗΣ-ΣΥΚΕΩΝ**	SOLIDA-Network of municipalities for promotion of immigrants' democratic participation	147.500
19	**ΝΕΑΣ ΠΡΟΠΟΝΤΙΔΑΣ**	VoicEU-Value the Voice of Citizens for Understanding Euroscepticism	125.000
20	**ΣΕΡΡΩΝ**	YOU ARE WELCOME: European Network for Integration of Refugees at Local Level and Combating Hate Speech	150.000
		DOCPIE-Democratic Ownership and Civic Participation in Europe	150.000
21	**ΣΚΟΠΕΛΟΥ**	LOCAL WOMEN: European network for the integration of the immigrant women at local level	142.500
22	**ΦΥΛΗΣ**	Youth for European Solidarity!	148.680
23	**ΧΙΟΥ**	SPACE-Street Participation for Active Citizenship in Europe	150.000
24	**ΩΡΑΙΟΚΑΣΤΡΟΥ**	On tour for Europe; bringing youth step by step to active citizenship and job-creation	100.000

Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Διάγραμμα 6: Χώρες προέλευσης εταίρων σε έργα δικτύων πόλεων με εταίρο ελληνικό δήμο (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)



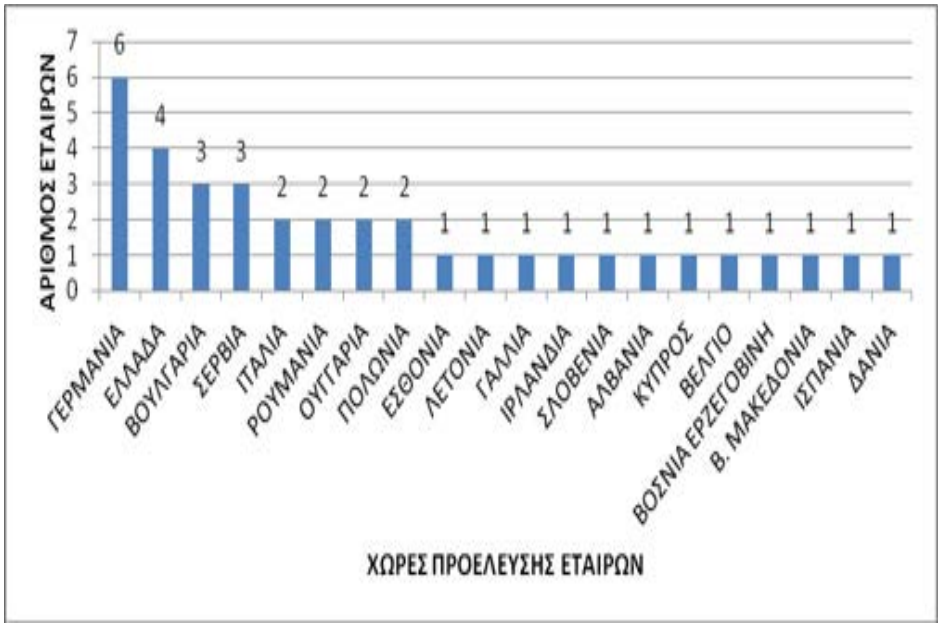
Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Πίνακας 7: Η Συμμετοχή των Ελληνικών Φορέων ως Επικεφαλής σε έργα Ευρωπαϊκής Μνήμης (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)

Α/Α	ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΦΟΡΕΑΣ	ΤΙΤΛΟΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΟΣΟ ΕΠΙΔΟΤΗΣΗΣ (€)
1.	**ΜΕΝΤΟΡΕΣ**	The Rise and Fall of Trenches	60.000
2.	**Δ. ΜΑΚΡΑΚΩΜΗΣ**	70 STEPS TOWARDS EUROPEAN PEACE	97.500
3.	**INTER ALIA**	In RETROSPECT	100.000
4.	**ΟΚΤΑΝΟΥΣ ΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΜΗ ΚΕΡΔΟΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ**	The Day After	60.000
5.	**ΚΙΝΗΣΗ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΩΝ SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL ΕΛΛΑΣ**	Volunteering vs Violence	65.250
6.	**EDUCOM-MART Σημείο Συνάντησης, Εκπαίδευσης και Δημιουργίας Αστική Μη Κερδοσκοπική Εταιρία (ΜΚΟ)**	Πρόσωπα και ιστορίες της Ευρώπης – Διαμορφώνοντας το μέλλον της Ευρώπης με σύγχρονους μάρτυρες	98.280
7.	**IRTEA – Institute of Research & Training on European Affairs**	Remember Holocaust - Building Bridges for a common future	98.280
8.	**ΚΟΙΝ.Σ.ΕΠ. ΠΡΑΜΑΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΘΑΜΑΤΑ**	Carta20	50.400

Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Διάγραμμα 7: Χώρες προέλευσης εταίρων σε έργα Ευρωπαϊκής Μνήμης με επικεφαλής ελληνικό φορέα (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)



Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

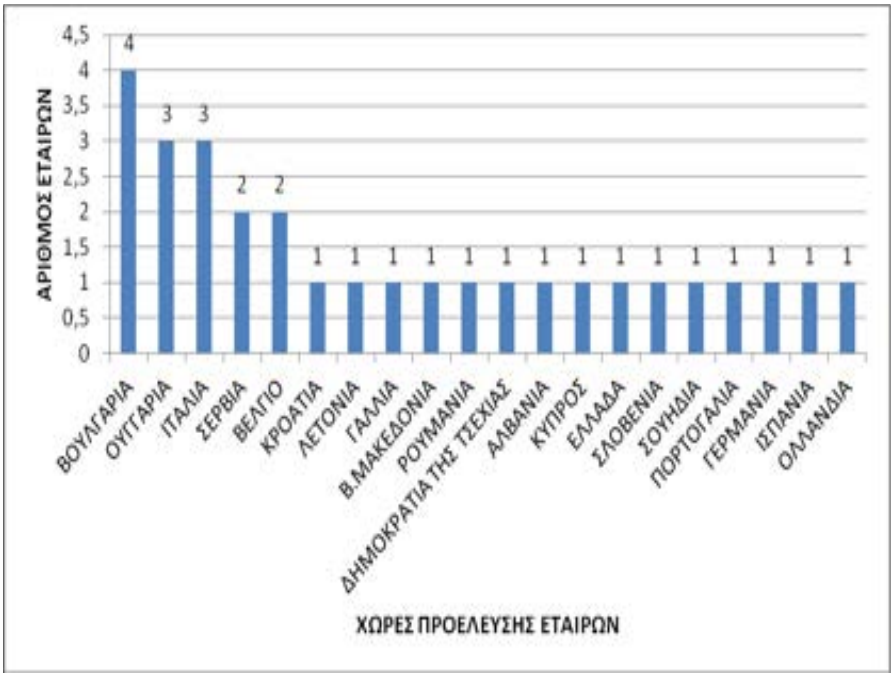
Πίνακας 8: Η Συμμετοχή των Ελληνικών Φορέων ως Επικεφαλής σε Έργα της Κοινωνίας Πολιτών (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)

Α/Α	ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΦΟΡΕΑΣ	ΤΙΤΛΟΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΟΣΟ ΕΠΙΔΟΤΗΣΗΣ (€)
1.	**ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΝΕΩΝ SOCIAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**	Act Locally, Think Internationally. Union (S)Elections	147.500
2.	**INTER ALIA**	ASK THE LOCALS! - Promoting resource accessibility through local empowerment	150.000
		Outcast Europe	149.750
3.	**Institute of Research**	Reinventing European	149.750

	and Training on European Affairs	Solidarity And Raising Tolerance	
4.	**ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΝΟΧΗΣ**	Civil Society Solidarity Movement	148.680
5.	**ATHENS NETWORK OF COLLABORATING EXPERTS ΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ**	Youth Debating the Future of Europe	148.930

Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

Διάγραμμα 8: Χώρες προέλευσης εταίρων σε Έργα της Κοινωνίας Πολιτών με επικεφαλής ελληνικό φορέα (Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020)



Πηγή: EACEA-ιδία επεξεργασία

3. Η Ελληνική Συμμετοχή σε Έργα

Σκέλος 1 – Ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη

ΜΕΝΤΟΡΕΣ: The Rise and Fall of Trenches

Το έτος 2014 ήταν η 100ή επέτειος από την έναρξη του Α' Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου. Η κοινωνική επιχείρηση «Mentores» συνέβαλε σε αυτόν τον εορτασμό μέσω του συγκεκριμένου έργου. Πράγματι, στόχος του έργου ήταν να φωτίσει την παγκόσμια σύγκρουση που έδωσε μια εντελώς νέα μορφή στο γεωγραφικό, ιδεολογικό και πολιτιστικό χάρτη της Ευρώπης, πόσο μάλλον τα πολυάριθμα θύματα σε όλα τα κράτη-μέλη της. Κάθε εταίρος του έργου δημιούργησε μια Τοπική Ομάδα Εργασίας (LWG) 25 ατόμων η καθεμία. Τα άτομα ήταν νέοι ή μεγαλύτεροι πολίτες, ανάλογα με τις απαιτήσεις, τις ανάγκες και τις προτιμήσεις της τοπικής κοινωνίας. Κάθε LWG κλήθηκε να παράγει κάποιο φυσικό καλλιτεχνικό ή/και εκπαιδευτικό υλικό (π.χ. μια παρουσίαση PowerPoint, σχέδια άλμπουμ φωτογραφιών, κολάζ, ένα ψηφιακό αρχείο πολυμέσων αφήγησης ιστοριών, μια συλλογή μαρτυριών, κ.λπ.), εστιασμένο στο θέμα του Πρώτου Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου. Τα προϊόντα και τα αποτελέσματα του έργου που παράχθηκαν σε μια δεδομένη περίοδο (Φεβρουάριος-Οκτώβριος 2015) παρουσιάστηκαν σε συνάντηση εταίρων στην πόλη της Ελασσόνας, στη Θεσσαλία, το Νοέμβριο του 2015. Εκεί συμμετείχαν δύο εκπρόσωποι ανά LWG. Κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της συνάντησης πραγματοποιήθηκε μια ανοιχτή στο κοινό εκδήλωση στο δημοτικό θέατρο Ελασσόνας, όπου εκτέθηκαν τα έργα των LWG. Τέλος, μια θεατρική παράσταση με τη συμμετοχή όλων των καλεσμένων σηματοδότησε το τέλος της εκδήλωσης.

The Rise and Fall of Trenches

A Contribution to the Commemoration of the
100th Anniversary of the Beginning of World War I

Δήμος Μακρακώμης: 70 βήματα προς την Ευρωπαϊκή Ειρήνη

70 STEPS
70 STEPS TOWARDS EUROPEAN PEACE
70 ΒΗΜΑΤΑ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΉ ΕΙΡΗΝΗ

Ο δήμος Μακρακώμης συμμετείχε στο πρόγραμμα ως επικεφαλής στο έργο «70 βήματα προς την ευρωπαϊκή ειρήνη» που στόχο είχε τη διατήρηση της υφιστάμενης γνώσης, αλλά και την ανάδειξη της ελληνικής και ευρωπαϊκής ιστορικής και πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς. Με τις υπηρεσίες του, ο δήμος υλοποίησε το εν λόγω έργο, πραγματοποιώντας εκδηλώσεις τιμής στους ήρωες αγωνιστές και μνήμης των μαρτυρικών γεγονότων που συνέβησαν στην περιοχή του και στην υπόλοιπη Ευρώπη. Ευρύτερος στόχος του έργου ήταν η ανάδειξη και της αρνητικής πλευράς των γεγονότων, δηλαδή του κόστους που υπήρξε για την Ευρώπη ως αποτέλεσμα του πολέμου, ώστε να γίνει καταγραφή της ανάγκης για παντοτινή ειρήνη στην Ευρώπη και τον κόσμο γενικότερα.

Ο δήμος Μακρακώμης είναι ένας ιστορικός δήμος αφού στα εδάφη του έγινε πραγματικότητα η ελληνική εθνική συμφιλίωση όταν οι αντιστασιακές, ιδεολογικά αντίπαλες, ελληνικές δυνάμεις υπέγραψαν σύμφωνο συνεργασίας εναντίον των ναζιστών. Αποτέλεσμα αυτής της συμφωνίας και με τη συνεργασία Άγγλων σαμποτέρ συμμάχων ήταν η ιστορική ανατίναξη της γέφυρας του Γοργοποτάμου, γεγονός που σημάδεψε την ευρωπαϊκή αντίσταση διότι καθυστέρησε την τροφοδοσία του γερμανικού στρατού. Στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος 70 STEPS πραγματοποιήθηκαν τέσσερεις (4) τριήμερες συναντήσεις, για την ενίσχυση της υφιστάμενης γνώσης και την ενθάρρυνση ουσιαστικότερου διαλόγου και προβληματισμού μεταξύ των γενεών, και την ανάδειξη των

παραβιάσεων που υπέστησαν οι αρχές της δημοκρατίας, της ελευθερίας, της ειρήνης, της αλληλεγγύης, της δικαιοσύνης και των ανθρώπινων δικαιωμάτων την εποχή της γερμανικής κατοχής στην Ευρώπη.

Στο έργο 70 STEPS ακούστηκαν:

• Περιγραφές μαχών, ολοκαυτωμάτων, σφαγών και λοιπών καταστροφών από τους Ναζί, που έλαβαν χώρα τόσο στο δήμο Μακρακώμης όσο και σε άλλες περιοχές της Ελλάδας αλλά και της Ευρώπης. Επίσης, αναφέρθηκαν σημαντικά αντιστασιακά γεγονότα ενάντια στους Ναζί.

• Προσωπικές εμπειρίες αγωνιστών τόσο της Εθνικής όσο και της Ευρωπαϊκής Αντίστασης, που επιβίωσαν και εμπειρίες απογόνων τους.

• Δράσεις πολιτών και φορέων σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο, για τη συντήρηση της ιστορικής μνήμης.
• Πρωτοβουλίες για την ισχυροποίηση του αισθήματος της ενιαίας ταυτότητας και ιθαγένειας μεταξύ των πολιτών, των κοινών μεταξύ τους αρχών, συμπεριφορών και κοινών ιδανικών, των ίδιων που ενέπνευσαν τους ιδρυτές της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.
• Κινήσεις που προάγουν τη σύγχρονη εικόνα της Ευρώπης και την πορεία της προς την ευρωπαϊκή ενοποίηση με θεμέλιους λίθους και πάλι τη δημοκρατία, τις ανθρώπινες ελευθερίες, το κράτος δικαίου, την ευημερία και την αλληλεγγύη, την ειρηνική συνύπαρξη των λαών και την ασφάλεια στον κόσμο.

Στις εκδηλώσεις, που πραγματοποιήθηκαν στο Πνευματικό Κέντρο «Αθανάσιος και Μαίρη Ακρίδα», στη Σπερχειάδα, έλαβαν μέρος εισηγητές από το διευρυμένο δήμο Μακρακώμης, αλλά και τις

όμορες περιοχές. Παράλληλα, φιλοξενήθηκαν μέλη από 10 διαφορετικούς φορείς της Ευρώπης και της Ελλάδας.

Επίσημοι προσκεκλημένοι παρευρέθηκαν από την Ιρλανδία, τη Βουλγαρία, τη Σλοβενία, την Αλβανία, την Κύπρο, τη Γαλλία, τη Γερμανία, την Ουγγαρία, την Πανελλήνια Ομοσπονδία Κρητικών Σωματείων ¨ΠΑΓΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ", που μετείχε ως εταίρος στο πρόγραμμα, καθώς και από άλλους ελληνικούς φορείς.

Inter Alia: In RETROSPECT

Η Inter Alia είναι μια μη κερδοσκοπική εταιρεία που ιδρύθηκε το 2013 και ως κύριους σκοπούς έχει: να προωθήσει την επικοινωνία μεταξύ των Ευρωπαίων πολιτών, να ενδυναμώσει την κοινωνία των πολιτών και την κοινωνική δράση σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο και να ενισχύσει την αίσθηση του ανήκειν των Ευρωπαίων ως αντίδοτο της συνεχούς και τρέχουσας κρίσης.

Ο πρώην πρόεδρος της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής Ρομάνο Πρόντι είπε κάποτε: «Το μόνο πραγματικό ανταγωνιστικό πλεονέκτημα της Ευρώπης είναι τα λάθη του παρελθόντος». Το έργο «In Retrospect» ξεκινά από αυτήν την ιδέα, ότι η ΕΕ αποτελεί μια συνεχή διαδικασία και όχι ένα ολοκληρωμένο οικοδόμημα και στοχεύει να αξιοποιήσει τις γνώσεις που προέρχονται από λάθη και εμπειρίες του παρελθόντος, προκειμένου να προωθήσει την ενότητα και την ολοκληρωμένη πρόοδο. Μέσω συλλογικής μνήμης και διαλόγου για τη συμμετοχή της ΕΕ στους πολέμους της Γιουγκοσλαβίας, το έργο διερεύνησε: α. Τον αντίκτυπο της ασυνέπειας μεταξύ του συστήματος αξιών της ΕΕ και των εθνικών προτεραιοτήτων των κρατών-μελών και β. Το ρόλο των εθνικών μέσων μαζικής ενημέρωσης στον καθορισμό της ατζέντας και στην καθοδήγηση της κοινής γνώμης σε σημαντικές αποφάσεις εξωτερικής πολιτικής της ΕΕ. Στο έργο "In Retrospect" συμμετείχαν οργανώσεις από 4 χώρες της ΕΕ και 3 πρώην Γιουγκοσλαβικές χώρες: Inter Alia (Αθήνα), Vojvodina Civic Center (Novi Sad, Σερβία), Udruzenje Omladinski Centar Kosmoskljuc (Kljuc, Βοσνία Ερζεγοβίνη), Bildungsstätte Anne Frank (Φρανκφούρτη, Γερμανία), Institut za raziskovanje in usposabljanje vzgoji in izobraze (Trbovlje, Σλοβενία), European Peer Training Organization (Βρυξέλλες, Βέλγιο), Jugend-Und Kulturprojekt EV (Δρέσδη, Γερμανία), Youth Alliance Krusevo (Κρούσεβο, Βόρεια Μακεδονία). Στο έργο συμμετείχαν συνολικά 1200 άτομα σε μια σειρά δραστηριοτήτων, συμπεριλαμβανομένων της ανάπτυξης ικανοτήτων, της δημιουργίας αρχείου εφημερίδων, της επιτόπιας έρευνας, της παραγωγής ντοκιμαντέρ, τοπικών και διεθνών εκδηλώσεων διάδοσης.

ΟΚΤΑΝΟΥΣ: The Day After

Η ΟΚΤΑΝΟΥΣ Αστική Μη Κερδοσκοπική Εταιρία και η Κοινωνική Συνεταιριστική Επιχείρηση «πράματα & θάματα» Κοιν.Σ.Επ., μαζί με άλλους αλλοδαπούς εταίρους από Ιταλία, Ρουμανία, Εσθονία και Κύπρο, ανέλαβαν τη διεξαγωγή και την ολοκλήρωση του έργου με τίτλο «THE DAY AFTER» (Η επόμενη μέρα – του Α' Παγκοσμίου πολέμου) που διήρκεσε από την 01/01/2018 έως 31/12/2018. Μία από τις προτεραιότητες του δικτύου των ανωτέρω φορέων ήταν να πραγματοποιηθεί μια τελετή μνήμης μέσα στο 2018 με θέμα την Επόμενη Ημέρα του Α' Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου. Στόχος της πρωτοβουλίας αυτής ήταν να φωτιστούν οι συνέπειες της παγκόσμιας ρήξης που έδωσε καινούριο σχήμα στο γεωγραφικό, ιδεολογικό, πολιτιστικό χάρτη, καθώς και νέα ταυτότητα στην Ευρώπη και που οδήγησαν στον Β' Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο. Στο έργο "Day After" ενεπλάκησαν περισσότεροι από 100 πολίτες από τις συμμετέχουσες χώρες και δημιούργησαν τοπικές ομάδες εργασίας σε όλες τις χώρες εταίρους. Μέσα από τακτικές συναντήσεις τους διερεύνησαν πτυχές της περιόδου του Μεσοπολέμου εντός και εκτός των εθνικών προοπτικών.

Οι συμμετέχοντες δημιούργησαν έναν αριθμό φυσικών υλικών, δοκίμια, σχέδια μαθημάτων, παρουσιάσεις, συλλογές φωτογραφιών, καλλιτεχνικά άλμπουμ και ανέλυσαν διάφορα υπάρχοντα έργα από την ευρωπαϊκή κληρονομιά, όλα επικεντρωμένα ή σχετιζόμενα με το θέμα της περιόδου του Μεσοπολέμου, απαντώντας στο γενικό τίτλο «Λαϊκισμός της μεσοπολεμικής περιόδου και λαϊκισμός του σήμερα: αντλώντας διδάγματα για την καταπολέμηση του και την επιστροφή στον πραγματικά δημοκρατικό χώρο της Ευρώπης». Επιπλέον, το έργο δημιούργησε ευκαιρίες για συζητήσεις σχετικά με τις πολιτικές και οικονομικές πιέσεις που αντιμετωπίζει σήμερα η ΕΕ, συσχετίζοντάς τις με αυτές της περιόδου του Μεσοπολέμου, προβλέποντας μια σειρά διαδραστικών εκδηλώσεων σε όλες τις χώρες-εταίρους, καθώς και μια διακρατική συνάντηση.

ΣΥΜΜΕΤΕΧΟΝΤΕΣ ΕΤΑΙΡΟΙ:

Δήμος Λακατάμιας - Λακατάμια, Κύπρος

Asociatia de Turism Ecologic Malovat, Ρουμανία

Räämu Noorte Ühing Noorus - Pärnu, Εσθονία

ComeUnaMarca onlus - Palermo, Ιταλία

ΣΥΝΔΙΟΡΓΑΝΩΤΗΣ:

Πράματα και Θάματα Κοινωνική Συνεταιριστική Επιχείρηση - Καλαμάτα, Ελλάδα

ΣΥΝΤΟΝΙΣΤΗΣ:

Octanous ΑΜΚΕ - Αθήνα, Ελλάδα

Κίνηση Εθελοντών SCI Ελλάς: Volunteering Vs Violence (VVV)

Η SCI Hellas, ως συντονιστικός οργανισμός, μαζί με την SCI Catalunya, τη SCI Ιταλία και την OWA Πολωνία, υλοποίησαν τρεις κύκλους μελετών για τον αντίκτυπο που είχε ο διεθνής εθελοντισμός όλα αυτά τα χρόνια. Το έργο «Εθελοντισμός εναντίον Βίας» στοχεύει να δώσει στους συμμετέχοντες όλα τα απαραίτητα εργαλεία για να κατανοήσουν τη σημασία του διεθνούς εθελοντισμού, ειδικά σε περιόδους σύγκρουσης ή αλλαγής. Λαμβάνοντας υπόψη τις διάφορες τοποθεσίες, κάθε κύκλος μελέτης είχε διαφορετικές δραστηριότητες και εστίασε σε διαφορετικό χρονικό πλαίσιο: από το 1920 έως το 1945 για την Καταλονία, το 1945-1989 για την Ιταλία και το 1989-σήμερα για την Πολωνία. Ο πρώτος κύκλος μελέτης του έργου VVV πραγματοποιήθηκε στη Ρώμη (Ιταλία) από τις 26 Αυγούστου 2018 έως τις 3 Σεπτεμβρίου 2018. Οι εθελοντές IVS, ως αγγελιοφόροι ειρήνης (1945-1990) στη Ρώμη, επικεντρώθηκαν στην ιστορία της οικοδόμησης και της προώθησης της ειρήνης μέσω του αντιφασιστικού κινήματος, σε αντίθεση με τη σημαντικότερη ιδεολογία και πολιτική πρακτική της βίας στη μεταπολεμική Ευρώπη. Ο δεύτερος κύκλος μελέτης πραγματοποιήθηκε στη Βαρκελώνη από τις 6 έως τις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου 2018. Ο κύκλος μελέτης επικεντρώθηκε στον τρόπο ανταπόκρισης της SCI στις διεθνείς συγκρούσεις στις

αρχές του εικοστού αιώνα και ιδιαίτερα στη συμμετοχή της SCI ως εθελοντικής οργάνωσης στον Ισπανικό Εμφύλιο Πόλεμο. Ο τρίτος κύκλος μελέτης του VVV πραγματοποιήθηκε στο Πόζναν της Πολωνίας από τις 27 Δεκεμβρίου 2018 έως τις 4 Ιανουαρίου 2019, οργανωμένο από την OWA Πολωνία. Οι συμμετέχοντες επικεντρώθηκαν στις αλλαγές στο κίνημα της διεθνούς υπηρεσίας εθελοντισμού (IVS) μετά την πτώση του τείχους και τη δημιουργία νέων συνόρων. Μελέτησαν τον αντίκτυπο των εθελοντικών δράσεων στη δημιουργία διαλόγου/νέων δεσμών/ειρηνευτικής συνεργασίας/μεταξύ Δυτικής και Ανατολικής Ευρώπης. Το τελικό συνέδριο πραγματοποιήθηκε στην Αθήνα το Μάρτιο του 2019 για να παρουσιάσει, να μοιραστεί και να συζητήσει τα αποτελέσματα του έργου. Επιπλέον, το παρόν της έννοιας και της πρακτικής του εθελοντισμού συζητήθηκε όσον αφορά τη χρηματοδότηση και τις διαδικασίες της ΕΕ. Οι συμμετέχοντες είχαν, επίσης, την ευκαιρία να παρακολουθήσουν τη θεατρική παράσταση της εθελοντικής θεατρικής ομάδας *Coexistence is Possible*, όπου νέοι με μεταναστευτικό/προσφυγικό υπόβαθρο ανέβασαν τις ιστορίες (μη) ένταξης στην ελληνική κοινωνία με διαδραστικό και συναρπαστικό τρόπο. Στη δεύτερη ημέρα του συνεδρίου τέθηκε το ερώτημα αν το IVS αποτελεί κίνηση και συζητήθηκε η έννοια του εθελοντισμού στο μέλλον, καθώς και στις αλλαγές της αντίληψης του IVS στο περιβάλλον της ΕΕ. Οι σύνεδροι μοιράστηκαν, επίσης, τις προσωπικές τους εμπειρίες και την έκταση της επιρροής που είχε ο εθελοντισμός στη ζωή τους ως πολίτες.

EDUCOMMART: Πρόσωπα και ιστορίες της Ευρώπης – Διαμορφώνοντας το μέλλον της Ευρώπης με σύγχρονους μάρτυρες

Με το έργο «Μάρτυρες» (01\11\2018 – 30\03\2020), η ΜΚΟ Educommart φιλοδόξησε να τιμήσει την επέτειο των 50 χρόνων από το κίνημα των πολιτικών δικαιωμάτων, των 30 χρόνων από την Πτώση του Τείχους του Βερολίνου, αλλά και των 40 χρόνων από τη διεξαγωγή των πρώτων Ευρωεκλογών. Η συλλογική μνήμη από τα πρόσφατα αυτά ιστορικά γεγονότα μπορεί να λειτουργήσει ως «φάρος» για τις επόμενες γενιές, αρκεί εκείνες να έχουν πρόσβαση σε αυτήν. Μέσα από προσωπικές ιστορίες ελπίδας και απογοήτευσης, καταπίεσης από απολυταρχικά καθεστώτα και αγώνων για την ελευθερία και την ειρήνη, σκιαγραφήθηκε η σύγχρονη ιστορία της Ευρώπης. Αυτόπτες μάρτυρες, που έζησαν ως νέοι από κοντά αυτά τα γεγονότα- σταθμούς, διηγήθηκαν τις εμπειρίες τους, έτσι ώστε αυτές να καταγραφούν και να αποτελέσουν πολύτιμη πηγή γνώσης για τους νεώτερους. Το έργο «Μάρτυρες» απέβλεπε στην αφύπνιση των Ευρωπαίων πολιτών, προκειμένου αυτοί να συμμετέχουν πιο ενεργά στα κοινά, αλλά και τη σύσφιξη των σχέσεων όλων των Ευρωπαίων μέσα από τη μελέτη των σημαντικότερων γεγονότων των τελευταίων 50 ετών στη Γηραιά Ήπειρο. Οι μαρτυρίες ήταν πολύ προσωπικές, συναισθηματικά φορτισμένες, ενώ συνοδεύτηκαν από ντοκουμέντα, φωτογραφίες των συνεντευξιαζόμενων και άρθρα από τον Τύπο της εποχής εκείνης. Αντικείμενο των συνεντεύξεων ήταν ο Μάης του ’68, η Επανένωση της Γερμανίας, η διεύ-

ρυνση της ΕΕ προς τα κράτη της Ανατολικής Ευρώπης, το Νόμπελ Ειρήνης αλλά και οι ουκ ολίγες προκλήσεις που αντιμετωπίζει σήμερα η ΕΕ και το ευρωπαϊκό ιδεώδες. Στη διεθνή συνάντηση αλλά και στις πολλαπλασιαστικές εκδηλώσεις, που πραγματοποιήθηκαν στο πλαίσιο του έργου, κατάτέθηκαν ερωτήσεις, αποτέλεσμα των ζυμώσεων σε κάθε συμμετέχουσα χώρα, που αφορούν το μέλλον της Ευρώπης. Οι νέοι σε ηλικία Ευρωπαίοι ενθαρρύνθηκαν να αναλάβουν δράσεις σχετικές με το κοινό ευρωπαϊκό μέλλον και μάλιστα να δεσμευτούν στο σκοπό αυτό. Οι συζητήσεις συμπεριέλαβαν και το ευαίσθητο κεφάλαιο της ιστορίας του αποκλεισμού και της απώλειας της ιθαγένειας, που αναδείχθηκε μέσα από τις διηγήσεις ηλικιωμένων από την Ελλάδα και τη Βουλγαρία, που, λόγω πολιτικών φρονημάτων, βρέθηκαν «απάτριδες». Πιο συγκεκριμένα, πραγματοποιήθηκαν οι κάτωθι δράσεις:

- Εντοπισμός «μαρτύρων», που μοιράστηκαν τις προσωπικές τους ιστορίες.
- Διάλογος των ηλικιωμένων μαρτύρων με νεαρούς μαθητές: συζητήσεις, ερωτήσεις, υπόδειξη αποδεικτικών στοιχείων, όπως φωτογραφίες και άρθρα.
- Επεξεργασία του συλλεχθέντος υλικού.
- Ραδιοφωνική καμπάνια.
- Διεθνές πολλαπλασιαστικό δρώμενο «Πρόσωπα και ιστορίες της Ευρώπης – Διαμορφώνοντας το μέλλον της Ευρώπης».
- Διεθνή συζήτηση πάνελ.
- Αξιολόγηση των αποτελεσμάτων.
- Σύνταξη κειμένου προβληματισμού.

Ο εκπαιδευτικός οργανισμός Educommart ενθάρρυνε τους μαθητές του 9ου Γυμνασίου Αχαρνών (10/5/2019) να αναζητήσουν ανάμεσα στα μέλη του

στενού οικογενειακού τους περιβάλλοντος άτομα, που θα μπορούσαν να καταθέσουν την προσωπική τους μαρτυρία για τα χρόνια της Χούντας στην Ελλάδα. Πολλά παιδιά, άλλωστε, ζουν μαζί ή κοντά με τους παππούδες και τις γιαγιάδες τους οπότε ήταν μια ευκαιρία να συνομιλήσουν μαζί τους για την πρόσφατη ιστορία της χώρας μας. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό έγιναν συζητήσεις, επίσης, και με τα μέλη του Κ.Α.Π.Η. Κηφισιάς και τους προτάθηκε να δώσουν συνεντεύξεις με τη βοήθεια των νεώτερων συγγενών τους. Επίσης, η Educommart διοργάνωσε μαζί με την διευθύντρια του 9ου Γυμνασίου Αχαρνών, στο Μενίδι, κα Μαρία Μακρίδου, στις 22 Μαΐου 2019 μια ενημερωτική εκδήλωση στο πλαίσιο του έργου. Το αντικείμενο της συζήτησης ήταν το πραξικόπημα στην Ελλάδα το 1967 και η 7ετής Χούντα σε συνάρτηση με τις Ευρωεκλογές του 2019. Οι μαθητές της Α', Β' και Γ' Γυμνασίου ενημερώθηκαν για τα ιστορικά γεγονότα και την καθημερινότητα της εν λόγω περιόδου που επηρέασε καταλυτικά τη διαμόρφωση του εκπαιδευτικού και κοινωνικού συστήματος της χώρας. Η Educommart παρουσίασε φωτογραφίες, βίντεο και ντοκουμέντα από την εποχή της Δικτατορίας και συζήτησε με τους μαθητές για τους κινδύνους της σύγχρονης Δημοκρατίας στην Ελλάδα και στην Ευρώπη και τη σπουδαιότητα της συμμετοχής των πολιτών στα κοινά. Στην εκδήλωση συμμετείχαν επίσης και καθηγητές του σχολείου. Περαιτέρω, νέοι / μαθητές από την Ελλάδα, τη Βουλγαρία και τη Γερμανία εμβάθυναν σε ορισμένα σημαντικά ιστορικά κεφάλαια της ΕΕ. Έτσι, κατόρθωσαν να ταυτίσουν την εθνική τους ταυτότητα με την ευρωπαϊκή, της οποίας αποτελεί αναπόσπαστο μέρος. Παράλληλα, καθόρισαν τις ερωτήσεις, που θα απηύθυναν στους ηλικιωμένους «μάρτυρες» και οργάνωσαν τη διαδικασία της μαγνητοσκόπησης. Στην Ελλάδα πραγματοποιήθηκαν οι συνεντεύξεις με τους σύγχρονους «μάρτυρες» σε διαφορετικούς χρόνους κατά τη διάρκεια του έργου. Οι περισσότεροι ήθελαν να δώσουν συνέντευξη στον προσωπικό τους χώρο καθώς δεν ήταν ευέλικτοι να μετακινηθούν λόγω ηλικίας. Το προσωπικό της Educommart τους προετοίμασε τηλεφωνικά για τους στόχους της συνέντευξης. Ορισμένες συνεντεύξεις πραγματοποιήθηκαν στην καφετερία "Ότι πρέπει", στην Πετρούπολη. Οι τελευταίες συνεντεύξεις διοργανώθηκαν από την Educommart στις 04/01/2020 στον Χώρο Τέχνης «Ισόγειο» της Κηφισιάς σε συνεργασία με επαγγελματία εικονολήπτη.

ΚΟΙΝ.Σ.ΕΠ. Πράματα και Θάματα: Carta20

Το έργο Carta20 υλοποιήθηκε με αφορμή τον εορτασμό των 20 χρόνων από τη Διακήρυξη του Χάρτη των Θεμελιωδών Δικαιωμάτων της ΕΕ και επιδίωξε να αυξήσει την προβολή του και την ενημέρωση των πολιτών σε σχέση με τα Θεμελιώδη Δικαιώματα. Το έργο στόχευσε στην ευαισθητοποίηση των πολιτών –ιδίως των νέων– σχετικά με το περιεχόμενο, τη σημασία και την εξέλιξη του Χάρτη Θεμελιωδών Δικαιωμάτων της ΕΕ. Οι συμμετέχοντες ενεπλάκησαν σε προπαρασκευαστικές δραστηριότητες σε τοπικό επίπεδο, σε προωθητικές δράσεις στα μέσα μαζικής ενημέρωσης και σε μια σειρά από δημόσιες εκδηλώσεις. Δημιουργήθηκαν τοπικές ομάδες εργασίας σε όλες τις χώρες-εταίρους (Δανία, Εσθονία, Ιταλία, Ρουμανία και Ελλάδα). Σε αυτές, οι συμμετέχοντες επεξεργάστηκαν τους έξι τίτλους του Χάρτη, δηλαδή Αξιοπρέπεια, Ελευθερίες, Ισότητα, Αλληλεγγύη, Δικαιώματα των Πολιτών και Δικαιοσύνη, προκειμένου να παραχθεί εκπαιδευτικό υλικό, όπως δοκίμια, μαρτυρίες, παρουσιάσεις, αρχεία πολυμέσων, καθώς και μια παράσταση για την ιστορική πορεία των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων και το Χάρτη της ΕΕ, βασισμένη στην τεχνική του θέατρο-ντοκουμέντο. Το υλικό δημοσιεύτηκε σε ένα ηλεκτρονικό βιβλίο, ενώ η παράσταση καταγράφηκε και υποτιτλίστηκε σε όλες τις γλώσσες των εταίρων. Όλα τα εκπαιδευτικά υλικά και η μαγνητοσκοπημένη παράσταση ήταν το υλικό διάδοσης, το οποίο παρουσιάστηκε

στις τοπικές κοινότητες όλων των εταίρων του έργου μέσα από δημόσιες διαδραστικές εκδηλώσεις. Τα αποτελέσματα είναι επίσης διαθέσιμα στο διαδίκτυο. Πάνω από 300 άτομα συμμετείχαν ενεργά στις προβλεπόμενες δραστηριότητες, ώστε να αποκτήσουν τη σημαντική γνώση των Θεμελιωδών Δικαιωμάτων τους, όπως καταγράφονται στον Χάρτη της ΕΕ. Επιπλέον, το έργο Carta20 αποσκοπούσε να συμβάλλει στην ανάπτυξη μιας υψηλής αίσθησης ιθαγένειας για τους συμμετέχοντες, να καλλιεργήσει τα συναισθήματα κατανόησης, ανοχής και αποδοχής της διαφορετικότητας και να αυξήσει την κοινωνική συνείδηση, ώστε οι πολίτες να αισθάνονται πιο ασφαλείς και έτοιμοι να διεκδικήσουν τα δικαιώματά τους, όπως αυτά αναφέρονται στον Ευρωπαϊκό Χάρτη.

IRTEA: Remember Holocaust – Building Bridges for a common future

Το έργο «Θυμηθείτε το Ολοκαύτωμα - Χτίζοντας γέφυρες για ένα κοινό μέλλον», που επικεντρώνεται στη μνήμη του Εβραϊκού Ολοκαυτώματος, στοχεύει στην ενίσχυση της κατανόησης του παρελθόντος, ενισχύοντας παράλληλα το διάλογο για το μέλλον της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης. Μέσω των δραστηριοτήτων του, το έργο επιδίωξε να ευαισθητοποιήσει σχετικά με τη μνήμη, να αναδείξει τις ενωσιακές αξίες της αλληλεγγύης, της ανεκτικότητας και της ειρήνης, και επίσης, να προωθήσει την ευαισθητοποίηση σχετικά με τη διαπολιτισμική συμμετοχή των πολιτών. Λαμβάνοντας ως αφετηρία την εξόντωση των Εβραίων, το έργο στόχευε, επίσης, στη μνήμη των θυμάτων τους και στην ενίσχυση της ανοχής απέναντι στη διαφορετικότητα. Όλοι οι εταίροι του έργου προέρχονταν από τόπους με κοινό ιστορικό σημείο όπου ο τοπικός πληθυσμός είχε πέσει θύμα του αντισημιτισμού και είχε υποστεί μεγάλες απώλειες κατά το Β' Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο. Η κοινοπραξία του έργου αποτελείτο από 4 οργανώσεις νεολαίας που βρίσκονται στην Ελλάδα, την Πολωνία, τη Γερμανία και τη Σλοβακία και δύο ελληνικούς δήμους (Θεσσαλονίκης και Μακρακώμης), που όλοι τους μοιράζονται ένα κοινό ιστορικό σημείο όπου ο τοπικός πληθυσμός έχει πέσει θύμα του αντισημιτισμού και υπέστη μεγάλες απώλειες κατά τον Β' Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο. Από τις 3 Μαΐου έως τις 16 Μαΐου 2021 το Ινστιτούτο Έρευνας & Κατάρτισης Ευρωπαϊκών Θεμάτων υλοποίησε τη δράση «Διαδικτυακή Εθελοντική Δραστηριότητα», συγκεντρώνοντας πάνω από 210 συμμετέχοντες από 4 χώρες. Στη δράση συμμετείχαν 8 ελληνικές σχολικές μονάδες,

εθελοντές από 4 χώρες και περισσότεροι από 200 μαθητές των τάξεων της Α΄, Β΄ και Γ΄ Λυκείου, καθώς και καθηγητές. Σκοπός της δράσης ήταν η ενημέρωση και ευαισθητοποίηση με θέμα το Ολοκαύτωμα και τα ιστορικά γεγονότα του Β΄ Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου, ως ορόσημο για την ανάδειξη της σημασίας της ανοχής, της αποδοχής, της διαφορετικότητας και της ενότητας για μια ειρηνική συνύπαρξη στην ΕΕ και πέραν αυτής. Η υλοποίηση της δράσης αφορούσε σε διοργάνωση μιας σειράς δραστηριοτήτων, βασισμένες στη μη τυπική μάθηση, σε καινοτόμα τεχνολογικά εργαλεία, καθώς και σε διαδραστικές εκπαιδεύσεις/εργαστήρια που σχεδίασαν οι ίδιοι οι εθελοντές, με την καθοδήγηση των εκπαιδευτών, και πραγματοποίησαν στις συναντήσεις με τις σχολικές μονάδες και τους ίδιους τους μαθητές. Οι εθελοντές είχαν την ευκαιρία να αλληλεπιδράσουν με τους μαθητές και μέσω μη τυπικής προσέγγισης να συζητήσουν θέματα, όπως το Ολοκαύτωμα, τη δικαιοσύνη, τη διαφορετικότητα, και την ανοχή στην κοινωνία. Επιπλέον, οι μαθητές είχαν την ευκαιρία να εκφραστούν και να συνεργαστούν, μέσω της χρήσης ψηφιακών εργαλείων. Με το πέρας της εκδήλωσης, μαθητές και καθηγητές, στο πλαίσιο ανώνυμης αξιολόγησης, εξέφρασαν σειρά συναισθημάτων, όπως αποτροπιασμό για το Ολοκαύτωμα, θαυμασμό για εκείνους που βοήθησαν στη

διαφυγή ατόμων κ.α. Το σημαντικότερο αποτέλεσμα της δράσης αυτή ήταν η ανάπτυξη του αισθήματος συλλογικότητας όπου η ανθρωπότητα πρέπει να συνεργαστεί ώστε να μην βιώσει άλλο ένα «Ολοκαύτωμα» μέσω της μνημόνευσής του και του σεβασμού στη διαφορετικότητα για μια ειρηνική συνύπαρξη στην ΕΕ και πέραν

αυτής, αναδεικνύοντας στο μέγιστο βαθμό την επιτυχία της δράσης. Οι σχολικές μονάδες που συμμετείχαν στη «Διαδικτυακή Εθελοντική Δραστηριότητα» ήταν οι εξής:

• Πειραματικό Λύκειο του Πανεπιστημίου Κρήτης (Ρέθυμνο).
• 1ο Λύκειο Θεσσαλονίκης.
• 12ο Λύκειο Θεσσαλονίκης.
• Λύκειο Καλλιμασίας Χίου.
• 1ο Πρότυπο Λύκειο Αθηνών «Γεννάδιος».
• Ελληνογαλλική Σχολή Καλαμαρί.
• Αρσάκειο Θεσσαλονίκης-Αρσάκειο Θεσσαλονίκης.

Τη δραστηριότητα υποστήριξαν ως εταίροι του έργου η Κοινωφελής Επιχείρηση του δήμου Θεσσαλονίκης (ΚΕΔΗΘ), η σλοβάκικη οργάνωση Youth for Equality, η γερμανική οργάνωση Jugend Bildung und Kultur EV και ο πολωνικός οργανισμός European Foundation for Human Development.

Στις 12 Φεβρουαρίου 2021, πραγματοποιήθηκε από το Ινστιτούτο Έρευνας & Κατάρτισης Ευρωπαϊκών Θεμάτων, η διαδικτυακή εκδήλωση «Ζωντανή Βιβλιοθήκη για τη Μνημόνευση του Ολοκαυτώματος». Στόχος της Ζωντανής Βιβλιοθήκης ήταν να ακουστούν μαρτυρίες και εμπειρίες από τα γεγονότα του Ολοκαυτώματος, να μοιραστούν τα «Ζωντανά Βιβλία» την εμπειρία τους ως μέλη των Εβραϊκών κοινοτήτων από διάφορες χώρες της Ευρώπης και να γίνει ένας εποικοδομητικός διάλογος πάνω σε θέματα ρατσισμού, στερεοτύπων και κοινωνικού αποκλεισμού. Το ρόλο του Ζωντανού Βιβλίου έλαβε ο κ. Jozef Cipin, ο οποίος ως επιζών του Ολοκαυτώματος, μοιράστηκε με τους συμμετέχοντες

στιγμές από τη ζωή του πριν, κατά τη διάρκεια αλλά και μετά τη μεταφορά του στο στρατόπεδο συγκέντρωσης και την απελευθέρωσή του από τους Ναζί. Ο κ. Γεώργιος Αντωνίου, Επίκουρος Καθηγητής του Αριστοτελείου Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης, ως Ζωντανό Βιβλίο, ταξίδεψε τους συμμετέχοντες στη Θεσσαλονίκη και μοιράστηκε μαζί τους στιγμές από τη ζωή της κοινότητας στην πόλη πριν το Ολοκαύτωμα και το ρόλο που έπαιξαν το μορφωτικό επίπεδο και οι γνώσεις των κρατούμενων πάνω στη μουσική κατά την παραμονή τους στα στρατόπεδα συγκέντρωσης. Ο κ. Jerome (Dan) VItenberg, έχοντας τον ρόλο του Ζωντανού Βιβλίου, εξιστόρησε εμπειρίες από την ζωή του σε διάφορες χώρες της Ευρώπης και την αντιμετώπιση που είχε ως μέλος της Εβραϊκής Κοινότητας σε αυτές. Τέλος, η κα. Αναστασία Πολίτη, ηθοποιός και θεατρική παραγωγός, μοιράστηκε με τους συμμετέχοντες τη δικιά της ιστορία ως Ζωντανό Βιβλίο η οποία αφορούσε στους Ρομά και στα όσα έζησε αυτή η κοινωνική ομάδα κατά τη διάρκεια του Ολοκαυτώματος. Την εκδήλωση χαιρέτησε ο δήμαρχος Ιωαννίνων, κ. Μωυσής Ελισάφ, ο οποίος μοιράστηκε με το κοινό την ιστορία των προγόνων του κατά τα επεισόδια του Ολοκαυτώματος. Τη Ζωντανή Βιβλιοθήκη παρακολούθησαν πάνω από 160 νέοι, μαθητές, εκπρόσωποι δήμων, οργανώσεων και μέλη της Εβραϊκής κοινότητας που προέρχονται από 10 διαφορετικές χώρες. Κατά τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης, οι συμμετέχοντες άκουσαν ξεχωριστές ιστορίες, ενώ τους δόθηκε η δυνατότητα να συνομιλήσουν με τους προσκεκλημένους, θέτοντας τα δικά τους ερωτήματα.

Σκέλος 2: Συμμετοχή στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στα κοινά

Αδελφοποίηση πόλεων

Δήμος Κοζάνης: Developing Innovative Solidarity Mechanisms among Municipalities in times of Crisis in South East Europe

Με πλήρη επιτυχία πραγματοποιήθηκαν οι δράσεις για την *Ανάπτυξη Καινοτόμων Μηχανισμών Αλληλεγγύης* ανάμεσα σε δήμους στα χρόνια της κρίσης, τις οποίες διοργάνωσε ο δήμος Κοζάνης και η δημοτική κοινότητα Αιανής και συμμετείχαν αντιπροσωπείες των δήμων Χισάρ Βουλγαρίας και Αλέξινατς Σερβίας, το τριήμερο 8-10/2/2018. Να υπογραμμίσουμε εδώ πως η Αιανή, το Χισάρ και το Αλέξινατς είναι αδελφοποιημένες πόλεις. Μια σχέση, που χτίστηκε σε δύσκολες συνθήκες και απέδειξε στο χρόνο τη σημασία της αλληλεγγύης και της φιλίας των λαών. Η Αιανή φιλοξένησε με τον καλύτερο τρόπο τις δύο πολυπληθείς αποστολές, ενώ ιδιαίτερα εποικοδομητικά ήταν τα συμπεράσματα των συναντήσεων σχετικά με τις κοινωνικές δομές των τριών δήμων. Η υποδοχή των αποστολών Χισάρ και Αλέξινατς, πραγματοποιήθηκε την Πέμπτη (8/2) στην πλατεία της Αιανής. Στο Γυμνάσιο της Αιανής πραγματοποιήθηκε συνάντηση εκπαιδευτικών και μαθητών, ενώ ταυτόχρονα αντιπροσωπεία των δύο αποστολών επισκέφθηκε κοινωνικές δομές της Κοζάνης και συγκεκριμένα το ΚΗΦΗ, το 1ο ΚΑΠΗ Κοζάνη, το Κέντρο Κοινότητας του δήμου Κοζάνης, καθώς και το Κέντρο Δημιουργικής Απασχόλησης Ατόμων με αυτισμό. Οι υπεύθυνοι των δομών παρουσίασαν το έργο που επιτελείται σε κάθε μία και αντάλλαξαν απόψεις για την καλύτερη λειτουργία τους. Στην κεντρική πλατεία Αιανής, εμφανίστηκαν οι χορευτικές

ομάδες των αδελφοποιημένων πόλεων, που πραγματικά κατέπληξαν με τις ικανότητές τους. Το Σάββατο το πρωί, στην Αίθουσα Τέχνης της Αιανής, πραγματοποιήθηκε στρογγυλό τραπέζι εργασίας, παρουσία του δημάρχου Κοζάνης, κ. Λευτέρη Ιωαννίδη, της δημάρχου του Χισάρ, κας Penka Doykova, του προέδρου του δημοτικού συμβουλίου του Αλέξινατς, κ. Grujica Veljkovic, του προέδρου του δημοτικού συμβουλίου Κοζάνης, κ. Αντώνη Κύρινα, καθώς και στελεχών των κοινωνικών δομών. Υπήρξε ανταλλαγή καλών πρακτικών και συζήτηση, προς όφελος των τριών δήμων. Ο δήμος Κοζάνης με αυτές τις δράσεις θέλει να ενδυναμώσει κι άλλο τη σχέση, που έχει δημιουργηθεί και να μεγιστοποιήσει τα οφέλη προς όφελος των τριών δήμων.

Δήμος Σαμοθράκης: Friendship Agreement between Samothraki and Rome Municipio I

Σε συνέχεια του Συμφώνου Φιλίας που έχει υπογράψει ο δήμος Σαμοθράκης με το δήμο της Ρώμης-Ιστορικό Κέντρο, 25μελής

αποστολή του ιταλικού ΟΤΑ επισκέφθηκε το νησί της Σαμοθράκης από τις 21 έως τις 27 Σεπτεμβρίου 2017.
Η ιταλική αποστολή αποτελείτο από τον αντιπρόεδρο του ιταλικού δήμου, την περιφερειακή σύμβουλο πολιτισμού, τον περιφερειακό σύμβουλο εκπαίδευσης, 20 μαθητές της Γ΄ Λυκείου της Ρώμης, συνοδευόμενοι από τους καθηγητές τους. Η αποστολή φιλοξενήθηκε στη Σαμοθράκη, στο πλαίσιο του έργου που υλοποιεί ελληνικός δήμος με τίτλο «Friendship Agreement between Samothraki and Rome Municipio I». Το έργο περιελάμβανε τη γνωριμία με τον τόπο, την επαφή, τη συνεργασία και τη σύναψη σχέσεων με τους κατοίκους του, κυρίως σε επίπεδο μαθητών, την παρουσίαση της πολυμορφίας της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, την καλύτερη κατανόηση των πολιτιστικών διαφορών. Την Παρασκευή 22 Σεπτεμβρίου 2017 στις 10.00 π.μ. στο πνευματικό κέντρο «Νικ. Φαρδύς» στη Χώρα, ο δήμαρχος Σαμοθράκης και το δημοτικό συμβούλιο υποδέχτηκαν επίσημα τους εκπροσώπους του ιταλικού δήμου σε μια λιτή τελετή διάρκειας μιάμισης ώρας. Στο πλαίσιο του ευρύτερου στόχου της μεγαλύτερης προσέγγισης της Ένωσης προς τους πολίτες της, οι γενικές επιδιώξεις του προγράμματος Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες είναι να συμβάλει στην κατανόηση των πολιτών όσον αφορά την Ένωση, την ιστορία και την πολυμορφία της. Η εν λόγω δράση αποτέλεσε την πρώτη, στο πλαίσιο του Συμφώνου Φιλίας που υπογράφηκε στη Ρώμη το Μάιο του 2016, στη βάση του ότι οι δήμοι Σαμοθράκης και

Ρώμης συνδέονται με αρχαίους δεσμούς: οι μυθικές μορφές του Δαρδάνου και του Αινεία μετέφεραν τα ιερά αντικείμενα των Μεγάλων Θεών που σχετίζονται με τους θεούς Penates από τη Σαμοθράκη στην Ιταλία και τη Ρώμη· το Ιερό των Μεγάλων Θεών της Σαμοθράκης και το νησί της Σαμοθράκης συνολικά αποτέλεσαν σημεία αναφοράς της Ρωμαϊκής Ιστορίας και ιστορικών γεγονότων που σημάδεψαν την ιστορία της Μεσογείου από την εποχή του Φιλίππου Ε΄. Οι πρώτες αναφορές για το νησί της Σαμοθράκης γίνονται στην Ιστορία της Ρώμης από τον Cassius Hemina από τον 2ο π.χ. αιώνα, ο οποίος υποστηρίζει ότι η λατρεία των Μεγάλων Θεών από τους Ρωμαίους (Penates) προέρχεται από το νησί της Σαμοθράκης. Από τότε το νησί καταλαμβάνει σημαντική θέση στο μύθο της τρωικής προέλευσης της Ρώμης και στον οποίο σημαντικό ρόλο διαδραματίζει ο Αινείας, εξόριστος από την Τροία ευγενής πρόγονος του Ρωμύλου.

Δήμος Ελασσόνας: In Search of a better Europe

Ο κύριος σκοπός του έργου "In Search of a Better Europe" (Ελασσόνα, 14-18/9/2018)ήταν να συνδέσει την Ελασσόνα και την σερβική πόλη Trstenik και να δώσει στους συμμετέχοντες την ευκαιρία να μάθουν περισσότερα για τις διαδικασίες και τα προγράμματα της ΕΕ. Ιδιαίτερη ευαισθητοποίηση υπήρξε για την αγροτική οικονομία (επιχειρηματικότητα, γεωργία), τον αγροτικό τουρισμό, όσον αφορά τη νεολαία και την ανεργία, και την πιθανή συνεργασία στον τομέα αυτό μεταξύ πόλεων και δήμων. Η Σερβία βρίσκεται σε διαδικασία ένταξης στην ΕΕ και η πρόθεση όλων ήταν να προβληθούν καλά παραδείγματα αστικής συμμετοχής και συνεργασίας σε επίπεδο ΕΕ και Σερβίας. Ο στόχος του έργου ήταν να «φέρει» την Ευρώπη πιο κοντά στους πολίτες, να ευαισθητοποιήσει τις τοπικές κοινωνίες για την ΕΕ μέσω της ενημέρωσης των πολιτών για τις διαδικασίες και τα προγράμματα της ΕΕ. Δεύτερον, η πρόκληση ήταν να ξεκινήσει η συνεργασία της Ελασσόνας με την Τρστενίκ, η οποία είναι μια σερβική πόλη με πολλά κοινά στοιχεία με τον ελληνικό δήμο. Τρίτος στόχος ήταν η έναρξη αμοιβαίας κοινωνικοοικονομικής συνεργασίας μεταξύ των πόλεων, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των ΜΚΟ και των δήμων, η οποία

επισημοποιήθηκε με την υπογραφή συμφωνίας από τους δύο δημάρχους. Η πρώτη ημέρα των εκδηλώσεων ήταν αφιερωμένη στην υποδοχή των Σέρβων συμμετεχόντων και συνεχίστηκε με παρουσιάσεις και από τους δύο δήμους, σχετικά με τα χαρακτηριστικά και τις δυνατότητες της κάθε πόλης και τη διερεύνηση τομέων πιθανής συνεργασίας (πολιτισμός, τουρισμός, επιχειρηματικότητα κ.λπ.). Η δεύτερη ημέρα ήταν αφιερωμένη στο ταξίδι στα πολιτιστικά-ιστορικά ορόσημα της Ελασσόνας και στην παρουσίαση της πολιτιστικής-τουριστικής ικανότητας της περιοχής, όπως η Ιερά Μονή της «Ολυμπιώτισσας», τα Οθωμανικά Έθιμα της Ελασσόνας και το Πλανητάριο όπου προβλήθηκε το ειδικό τρισδιάστατο ντοκιμαντέρ για τον Όλυμπο και τη γύρω περιοχή. Κατά την τρίτη ημέρα πραγματοποιήθηκαν B2B συναντήσεις με τοπικές επιχειρήσεις, οργανισμούς και άλλους ενδιαφερόμενους φορείς (εκπρόσωποι του δήμου, του εμπορικού επιμελητηρίου, του εμπορικού συλλόγου και της AENOL Development Agency S.A.). Το αντικείμενο των συναντήσεων αφορούσε κυρίως τις τουριστικές δραστηριότητες και τα τοπικά αγροτικά προϊόντα (κυρίως γαλακτοκομικά προϊόντα), καθώς και τη βιομηχανική δραστηριότητα στο Trstenik και τις δυνατότητες εισαγωγών/εξαγωγών. Την τέταρτη ημέρα οι συμμετέχοντες παρακολούθησαν το τοπικό φεστιβάλ. Ο δήμος Ελασσόνας φιλοξενούσε εκείνη την περίοδο το Πανελλήνιο Φεστιβάλ Τυριού Φέτας 2018, όπου διοργανώθηκαν διάφορες δραστηριότητες. λαογραφικές συναυλίες, διαγωνισμοί γευσιγνωσίας

και επιστημονικά εργαστήρια, και στα οποία συμμετείχαν Σέρβοι σύνεδροι. Την τελευταία ημέρα της συνάντησης πραγματοποιήθηκε η υπογραφή του πρωτοκόλλου αδελφοποίησης μεταξύ του δημάρχου Ελασσόνας κ. Ευαγγέλου και του δημάρχου Τρστενίκ κ. Τσίριτς. Αυτό το πρωτόκολλο συνεργασίας αδελφοποίησης έχει σφραγίσει τη συνεργασία των δύο ΟΤΑ και θεωρείται ότι είναι το θεμέλιο στο οποίο θα οργανωθούν οι δραστηριότητες ανταλλαγής μεταξύ των δύο δήμων. Με την υπογραφή του πρωτοκόλλου αδελφοποίησης ανάμεσα στο δήμο Ελασσόνας και το δήμο Τρστένικ επισφραγίστηκε η πενθήμερη παρουσία της διαδημοτικής αποστολής. Η εκδήλωση αδελφοποίησης πραγματοποιήθηκε στην αίθουσα δημοτικού συμβουλίου Ελασσόνας, παρουσία του δημάρχου κ. Νίκου Ευαγγέλου και εκπροσώπων των δύο δήμων και αφότου οι δύο δήμαρχοι εξήραν τη σημασία της συνεργασίας των δύο πόλεων, προσδίδοντας έμφαση σε τομείς, όπως η επιχειρηματικότητα, ο τουρισμός και ο πρωτογενής τομέας. Το Τρστένικ είναι πόλη της Επαρχίας Ράσινα στη Κεντρική Σερβία και έχει πληθυσμό περίπου 43.000 κατοίκους. Η πόλη και η ευρύτερη περιοχή είναι συνδεδεμένη με την πρωτογενή δραστηριότητα (πάνω από το 50% του πληθυσμού ασχολείται με την παραγωγή αγροτικών προϊόντων) ενώ, όπως και ο δήμος Ελασσόνας, στοχεύει στην ανάπτυξη τριών βασικών αξόνων: Στη βελτίωση του επιχειρηματικού κλίματος, στην ανάπτυξη του πρωτογενούς τομέα, και στην προσέλκυση επενδύσεων στον τουρισμό. Μάλιστα, ο δήμος έχει πρόσφατα βραβευθεί ως φιλικός προς τις επενδύσεις και την επιχειρηματικότητα της χώρας μιας και πάνω από 1500 επιχειρήσεις εδρεύουν στα όρια του. Τέλος, ο δήμος Τρστένικ έχει αναπτύξει ποικίλη πολιτιστική δραστηριότητα με τη διοργάνωση εκδηλώσεων και φεστιβάλ καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια του έτους και τα οποία προσελκύουν πολλούς επισκέπτες. Η αδελφοποίηση αυτή θα υλοποιηθεί μέσα από ένα πρόγραμμα δραστηριοτήτων και ανταλλαγών στους τομείς του πολιτισμού και των παραδόσεων, της επιχειρηματικότητας, του τουρισμού, της τοπικής αγροτικής παραγωγής, του περιβάλλοντος και του αθλητισμού με αμοιβαία οφέλη για την τοπική οικονομία. Πιο συγκεκριμένα, με τη συνεργασία της επιτροπής αδελφοποίησης που θα συσταθεί με τη συμμετοχή δομών του δήμου, κοινωνικών,

πολιτιστικών, καλλιτεχνικών και παραγωγικών φορέων, θα εκπονηθεί για κάθε τομέα ένα πρόγραμμα δράσεων και θα επιδιωχθούν οι συνεργασίες και ανταλλαγές στους παραπάνω τομείς, που θα ενεργοποιήσουν τις τοπικές κοινωνίες, τις συλλογικότητες, τους φορείς και τους πολίτες. Την πόλη της Ελασσόνας εκπροσώπησαν στις κατ' ιδίαν συζητήσεις με τους εκπροσώπους του δήμου Τρστένικ, αιρετοί και υπηρεσιακοί παράγοντες της τοπικής αρχής, εκπρόσωποι του εμπορικού συλλόγου Ελασσόνας, του επιμελητηρίου Λάρισας και της ΑΕΝΟΛ.

Δήμος Λαυρεωτικής: Ο Πολιτισμός ως γέφυρα επικοινωνίας και συνεργασίας σε μια Ενωμένη Ευρώπη

Το έργο με τίτλο «Ο Πολιτισμός ως γέφυρα επικοινωνίας και συνεργασίας σε μια Ενωμένη Ευρώπη» είχε στόχο μια 360° προσέγγιση στην πολιτιστική συνεργασία μεταξύ των αδελφοποιημένων πόλεων της Λαυρεωτικής και του Αλέξινατς (Σερβία) ώστε να προωθήσει περαιτέρω τη συνεργασία τους σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο. Οι δραστηριότητες στο έργο είχαν τους εξής στόχους: α. να αναδείξουν υφιστάμενες πρακτικές (με παράδειγμα εφαρμογής τη μουσική και το χορό), β. να προτείνουν νέες μορφές-ιδέες σχετικής συνεργασίας (μέσω των παρουσιάσεων και τον 'ανοικτό διάλογο'), και γ. να σχεδιάσουν ένα διαπολιτισμικό-διευρωπαϊκό προϊόν - υπηρεσία μέσα από τη λειτουργία μια Κοινής Ομάδας Εργασίας. Πιο συγκεκριμένα, οι δράσεις του έργου περιελάμβαναν τα εξής: Παρουσιάσεις αναφορικά με τον "πολιτισμό ως γέφυρα επικοινωνίας και συνεργασίας της Ενωμένης Ευρώπης" από στελέχη των δήμων και/ή πολιτιστικών φορέων τους˙ ανοικτή συζήτηση με προτάσεις - ιδέες για περαιτέρω ανάπτυξη της πολιτιστικής συνεργασίας, αλλά και τρόπους-ενέργειες προβολής - επικοινωνίας τους˙ συναυλία και μουσικοχορευτική εκδήλωση όπου στην πράξη εφαρμόζεται γίνεται η πολιτιστική συνεργασία˙ κοινή Ομάδα Εργασίας για σχεδιασμό διαπολιτιστικού ευρωπαϊκού προϊόντος – υπηρεσίας (έντυπο - ιστοσελίδα) όπου στελέχη των δήμων ανταλλάσουν - εφαρμόζουν απόψεις, ιδέες και πρακτικές σε επίπεδο κοινής πολιτιστικής δημιουργίας. Οι άμεσοι (διεθνείς) συμμετέχοντες ήταν 58 από την Ελλάδα, ενώ στις εκδηλώσεις συμμετείχαν 90 δημότες του Αλέξινατς αλλά και ευρύτερα ευρωπαίοι πολίτες μέσα από την διαδικτυακή εκπομπή των μουσικοχορευτικών εκδηλώσεων. Οι εκδηλώσεις έλαβαν χώρα στην πόλη του Αλέξινατς από 27 έως 29/9/2019.

Την Κυριακή 29 Σεπτεμβρίου 2019 πραγματοποιήθηκε στο χώρο της δημοτικής βιβλιοθήκης του Αλέξινατς συνάντηση εργασίας μεταξύ υπαλλήλων και στελεχών των δύο δήμων, καθώς και των μελών του «Συνδέσμου Φιλίας και Αλληλεγγύης των λαών Λαύριο – Αλέξινατς». Στόχος της συνάντησης ήταν η ανταλλαγή προτάσεων και ιδεών για το σχεδιασμό των περιεχομένων ενός ιστορικού – πολιτιστικού οδηγού αδελφοποίησης των δύο πόλεων στην ελληνική – σέρβικη και αγγλική γλώσσα. Επίσης, συζητήθηκε ο βασικός σχεδιασμός ανάπτυξης σχετικής ιστοσελίδας. Τόσο ο πολιτιστικός οδηγός όσο και η ανάπτυξη της ιστοσελίδας θα συνδράμουν ουσιαστικά στην αποτύπωση και την περαιτέρω διάδοση των στοιχείων που συνδέουν ιστορικά και πολιτιστικά τις δύο πόλεις στο πλαίσιο της Ενωμένης Ευρώπης. Η συνάντηση ξεκίνησε με την προβολή ενός βίντεο όπου απεικονίζονταν πλάνα της πόλης του Αλέξινατς και στη συνέχεια ο διευθυντής της δημοτικής βιβλιοθήκης αναφέρθηκε στην προσφορά της συγκεκριμένης δομής στην πόλη του Αλέξινατς. Επιπλέον, ανακοίνωσε πως από το επόμενο έτος στο χώρο της βιβλιοθήκης θα ξεκινήσουν δωρεάν μαθήματα ελληνικής γλώσσας για τα παιδιά. Τόνισε ότι είναι πολύ σημαντικό να ενισχυθεί η

πολιτιστική συνεργασία των φορέων των δύο δήμων τόσο σε ότι αφορά τον πολιτισμό όσο και τον αθλητισμό. Επισήμανε πως η ιστοσελίδα θα πρέπει να περιλαμβάνει στοιχεία και πληροφορίες για την αδελφοποίηση των δύο λαών. Στη συνέχεια το λόγο πήρε ο κος Αδάμης, πρόεδρος του δημοτικού συμβουλίου Λαυρεωτικής, ο οποίος επεσήμανε το πόσο σημαντικό είναι να προχωρήσει η υλοποίηση του έργου σύμφωνα με το πλάνο που προβλέπεται. Ήταν της άποψης ότι χρειάζεται να δοθεί ιδιαίτερη βαρύτητα στη σωστή ανάπτυξη της ιστοσελίδας με τη συνδρομή εξειδικευμένου τεχνικού προσωπικού, το περιεχόμενο της οποίας θα αποφασιστεί από όλους τους φορείς των δύο πόλεων. Στη συνέχεια, ο πρόεδρος του «Συνδέσμου Φιλίας και Αλληλεγγύης των λαών Λαύριο – Αλέξινατς», κος Μώρογλου, πληροφόρησε το κοινό ότι έχει καταγραφεί όλη η ιστορία της αδελφοποίησης των δύο πόλεων και ότι υπάρχει σχετικό βίντεο αναρτημένο στο Youtube κανάλι του δήμου Λαυρεωτικής. Πρότεινε να προστεθούν αναρτήσεις παρόμοιου περιεχομένου και από την τελευταία επίσκεψη που πραγματοποιήθηκε στο Αλέξινατς για την υλοποίηση του προαναφερόμενου έργου. Κοινό σημείο αναφοράς και για τις δύο πλευρές αποτέλεσε η ανάγκη προσέλκυσης της νεολαίας η οποία αποτελεί το μέλλον των δύο δήμων. Και για τους δύο δήμους αποτελεί κύριο στόχο η ένωση των νέων ανθρώπων των δυο πόλεων μέσα από ανταλλαγές ιδεών, σκέψεων, απόψεων και πληροφοριών μέσα από σύντομα και στοχευμένα κείμενα που θα προσελκύουν το ενδιαφέρον. Ο κος Παπασταυρόπουλος, πρώην δήμαρχος Λαυρεωτικής, έκανε μια σύντομη αναδρομή στα γεγονότα του παρελθόντος που οδήγησαν στη συνεργασία των δύο δήμων και τόνισε ότι είναι απαραίτητο να υπάρχουν ιδέες με προοπτική, καθώς και ανταλλαγές προσώπων και θεσμών. Παρουσίασε συγκεκριμένα παραδείγματα που αφορούσαν τον τομέα της υγείας και τον

πρωτογενή τομέα (π.χ. αμπελουργία) με την πιθανή ανταλλαγή προσωπικού ανάμεσα στις δύο πόλεις ώστε να έρθουν σε άμεση επαφή και να ανταλλάξουν γνώσεις. Ακόμα επεσήμανε ότι είναι ουσιώδες να μπορούν οι κάτοικοι των δύο αδελφοποιημένων πόλεων να επικοινωνούν χωρίς να κρίνεται απαραίτητη η παρουσία κάποιου διερμηνέα. Προτάθηκε η δημιουργία ενός φροντιστηρίου όπου θα διδάσκονται τα Σέρβικα και τα Ελληνικά με στόχο να υπάρξει μια πρώτη ομάδα ανθρώπων που θα μπορούν να μιλάνε μια κοινή γλώσσα και θα κατορθώσουν να συνεχίσουν τη συνεργασία. Τέλος, αναφέρθηκε ότι το Αλέξινατς χρειάζεται τουριστική προβολή και μπορεί να γίνει μια "γέφυρα" επίσκεψης για τη Σερβία. Σε αυτό το σημείο της συζήτησης ο κος Αδάμης δήλωσε ότι προέχει η ενασχόληση με το τεχνικό κομμάτι του έργου και συγκεκριμένα με το στήσιμο της ιστοσελίδας. Ο κος Γκρούγιτσε, πρόεδρος δημοτικού συμβουλίου Αλέξινατς, έκανε λόγο για το οικονομικό κομμάτι το οποίο μπορεί να σταθεί εμπόδιο για την πραγματοποίηση των ιδεών που αναφέρθηκαν στη συνάντηση, καθώς η Σερβία δεν αποτελεί μέλος της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης. Παρ' όλα αυτά τόνισε ότι υπάρχει η διάθεση για προσπάθεια και προσφορά. Τη συζήτηση ολοκλήρωσε η πρόεδρος του ΝΠΔΔ «Θορικός», κα Βελετάκου Ευαγγελία, η οποία, μετά από μια σύντομη ενημέρωση για τις δραστηριότητες του νομικού προσώπου, εξέφρασε την επιθυμία της να συμβάλλει στην ενίσχυση της επικοινωνίας μεταξύ των δύο λαών μέσα από διάφορες εκδηλώσεις, τόσο πολιτιστικές όσο και αθλητικές. Επίσης, αναφέρθηκε στη βραδιά που διοργανώθηκε από τους νέους του Αλέξινατς, οι οποίοι συμμετείχαν στο έργο, όπου τα μέλη των πολιτιστικών ομάδων απέδειξαν έμπρακτα ότι ο πολιτισμός μπορεί να λειτουργήσει ως μια γέφυρα επικοινωνίας και συνεργασίας για δύο λαούς.

Δήμος Κιλελέρ: Common Values Equals Common Future

Οι εταίροι του έργου με τίτλο *Common Values Equals Common Future* (δήμος Κιλελέρ και κοινότητα Πισσουρίου Κύπρου), έχουν υπογράψει από τις 14 Ιουλίου 2018 πρωτόκολλο αδελφοποίησης, βασισμένο στην κοινή τους ιστορία και με βασικό σκοπό την ενδυνάμωση των προαιώνιων αδελφικών δεσμών και της πολιτιστικής ταυτότητας μεταξύ του ελληνισμού της Μητροπολιτικής Ελλάδας και του ελληνισμού της Μαρτυρικής Κύπρου. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, συμμετέχουν στο ανωτέρω έργο που σημαίνει «οι κοινές αξίες ισοδυναμούν με κοινό μέλλον», και αποβλέπει στην περαιτέρω σύσφιξη των σχέσεων μεταξύ των δύο αδελφοποιημένων εταίρων, αλλά και στη συμμετοχή πολιτών σε διακρατικά φόρουμ και σε συζητήσεις σχετικά με την οικονομική ανάπτυξη των χωριών, του αγροτικού και εναλλακτικού τουρισμού, καθώς και στην υποβολή προτάσεων για υλοποίηση ευρωπαϊκών πολιτικών σε αγροτικές περιοχές.

ΔΗΜΟΣ ΚΙΛΚΙΣ

Δήμος Κιλκίς: YOUnion-Unity in Diversity

Έξι δήμαρχοι από την περιοχή Biella της Βόρειας Ιταλίας ταξίδεψαν στο Κιλκίς ώστε από κοινού με τον ελληνικό δήμο που πέτυχε την ένταξή του στο ευρωπαϊκό έργο ‘’YOUnion – Unity in Diversity’’, ως επικεφαλής εταίρος, να εργαστούν μαζί για μια αλληλέγγυα Ευρώπη. Η αλληλεγγύη είναι το κλειδί με το οποίο ο δήμος Κιλκίς ανοίγεται στην Ευρώπη και δημιουργεί δίαυλο επικοινωνίας με αυτοδιοικητικούς φορείς. Ο δήμος Κιλκίς πέτυχε την ένταξή του στο ευρωπαϊκό έργο ‘’YOUnion – Unity in Diversity’’, ως επικεφαλής εταίρος και μαζί με έξι δήμους από την περιοχή Biella της Βόρειας Ιταλίας ενεργοποιούν με Σύμφωνο Αδελφοποίησης τους στόχους του ευρωπαϊκού προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες» αναφορικά με την κοινωνική δέσμευση, το δημοκρατικό διάλογο και την ενεργό συμμετοχή των πολιτών.

Ο δήμος Κιλκίς και οι συμμετέχοντες δήμοι Cerrione, Borriana, Verrone, Benna, Sandiglaimo και Massazza της Βόρειας Ιταλίας έχοντας την κοινή πεποίθηση ότι η αλληλεγγύη αποτελεί μια αξία που δημιουργεί συνοχή σε τοπικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο και συμβάλλει στην αντιμετώπιση των κοινών προκλήσεων, όπως η ξαφνική εμφάνιση της πανδημίας, η παγκόσμια κρίση στην υγεία, υπέβαλαν την πρόταση ένταξής τους το 2020 με την ελπίδα να τους δοθεί η δυνατότητα της προώθησης του σκοπούμενου. Στην υποβολή της πρότασης συμμετείχε το Κέντρο Διά Βίου Μάθησης 2 «Επιμορφωτική Κιλκίς» με μεγάλη εμπειρία σε ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα και ένα ευρύ δίκτυο συνεργατών στο εξωτερικό. Μέσα από την επαφή και επικοινωνία των αυτοδιοικητικών φορέων εξετάστηκε η δυνατότητα ενεργοποίησης των μηχανισμών αλληλεγγύης που υπάρχουν στην Ε.Ε στους επτά δήμους καθώς και πιθανοί κρίκοι ευρωπαϊκής αλληλεγγύης όπως ο εθελοντισμός, οι δωρεές, η υποστήριξη της κοινωνίας των πολιτών.

Δήμος Μεσσήνης: Youth for Europe

Με τη συμμετοχή επτά φορέων από κράτη-μέλη της ΕΕ, ο δήμος Μεσσήνης πραγματοποίησε το διάστημα 12-16 Μαΐου 2022 τις δράσεις του έργου Youth for Europe (Y4EU). Το έργο υποστηρίχτηκε στην υλοποίηση των δράσεών του από την ΚΟΙΝ.Σ.ΕΠ. «ΡΕΚΤΗΣ». Το εν λόγω έργο, ακολουθώντας τη φιλοσοφία όλων των ευρωπαϊκών προγραμμάτων, απέβλεπε στην ευαισθητοποίηση και συμμετοχή των πολιτών σε τοπικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο και στη διαπολιτισμική και κοινωνική συμμετοχή τους για την ανταλλαγή καλών πρακτικών στις τοπικές κοινωνίες. Μέσω του συγκεκριμένου ευρωπαϊκού έργου, πραγματοποιήθηκε στην αίθουσα συνεδριάσεων του Δ.Σ. στο δημαρχείο Μεσσήνης, επίσημη υπογραφή της συμφωνίας φιλίας και συνεργασίας μεταξύ των συμμετεχόντων ευρωπαϊκών δημοτικών αρχών. Ο δήμαρχος κ. Γιώργος Αθανασόπουλος, υποδέχθηκε στο γραφείο του τους δημάρχους των συμμετεχόντων δήμων, σε μία συνάντηση γνωριμίας. Οι χώρες που συμμετείχαν στο έργο ήταν η Ελλάδα, η Κύπρος, η Ιταλία, η Μάλτα, η Ουγγαρία, η Λετονία και η Λιθουανία. Οι συμμετέχοντες του Youth for Europe, ξεναγήθηκαν στον αρχαιολογικό χώρο της Αρχαίας Μεσσήνης και στο Ανδρομονάστηρο. Στη συνέχεια, στο Κέντρο Ανάδειξης Φυσικής και Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς στο Καρτερόλι Μεσσηνίας, έγιναν παρουσιάσεις των δημοτικών αρχών από τους εκπροσώπους τους. Παράλληλα, υλοποιήθηκε από την ΡΕΚΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝ.Σ.ΕΠ, καλλιτεχνικό εργαστήρι κεραμικής στον προαύλιο χώρο του Καρτερολίου, όπου οι συμμετέχοντες συνέβαλαν στη δημιουργία ενός καλλιτεχνικού έργου, που παραπέμπει στους σκοπούς του προγράμματος. Ακολούθησε εργαστήρι γευσιγνωσίας, στην ειδικά διαμορφωμένη αίθουσα του κέντρου ανάδειξης φυσικής και πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς στο Καρτερόλι όπου οι εκπρόσωποι των δημοτικών αρχών παρουσίασαν σε σύντομο ένα αντιπροσωπευτικό γεύμα του τόπου τους, με σκοπό την ανάδειξη της διαπολιτισμικής γαστρονομικής ταυτότητας μεταξύ των ευρωπαϊκών χωρών

συμμετοχής. Η παραμονή στο Καρτερόλι ολοκληρώθηκε με την ξενάγηση στον μουσειακό χώρο του κέντρου ανάδειξης φυσικής και πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς. Την τελευταία ημέρα των εκδηλώσεων πραγματοποιήθηκε η επίσημη εκδήλωση της υπογραφής της συμφωνίας φιλίας για την αδελφοποίηση των πόλεων των συμμετεχόντων ευρωπαϊκών οργανισμών.

Δήμος Λαρισαίων: Cit-EU-The Future Perspective of the European Community

Στο πλαίσιο της συμμετοχής του δήμου Λαρισαίων στο ευρωπαϊκό πρόγραμμα Europe for Citizens (The future perspective of the European Community CIT-EU), αντιπροσωπεία του δήμου παραβρέθηκε στο Pomarico της Ιταλίας το Μάιο του 2018. Στο έργο επικεφαλής εταίρος είναι ο δήμος Pomarico (Ιταλία) και οι υπόλοιποι εταίροι είναι ο δήμος Petrijna (Κροατία) και η Πρώτη Περιφερειακή Αναπτυξιακή Εταιρία της Σκόνδρα (Αλβανία). Στη συνάντηση που διοργάνωσε ο δήμος Pomarico στις 18-21 Μαΐου 2018 ο δήμος Λαρισαίων εκπροσωπήθηκε από τον αντιδήμαρχο τεχνικών έργων και αναπληρωτή δήμαρχο κ. Γεώργιο Σούλτη, τον Αντιδήμαρχο Πρασίνου και Αμαξοστασίου κ. Γεώργιο Ζαούτσο καθώς και τον αντιπρόεδρο της σχολικής επιτροπής καθηγητή κ. Δημήτρη Ιωαννίδη.

Στην τριήμερη αυτή συνάντηση, συμμετείχαν περίπου 45 πολίτες – εκπρόσωποι τοπικών αρχών, ενώσεων αθλητισμού και εθελοντισμού, νέοι (μαθητές και φοιτητές), επιχειρηματίες και εκπρόσωποι

εμπορικών ενώσεων, για να συζητήσουν για την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, τις προκλήσεις και ευκαιρίες των ενεργών ευρωπαίων πολιτών. ο πρόγραμμα αποσκοπεί στην ενθάρρυνση της συμμετοχής των πολιτών σε δημοκρατικό και πολιτικό επίπεδο στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, στην ανάπτυξη της κατανόησης από τους πολίτες στη διαδικασία λήψης αποφάσεων της Ένωσης και στην προώθηση ευκαιριών κοινωνικής και διαπολιτισμικής συμμετοχής και εθελοντισμού σε επίπεδο Ένωσης. Το θέμα ήταν ακριβώς η αντιμετώπιση του ευρωσκεπτικισμού που αναπτύσσεται λόγω των αυξημένων ροών μεταναστών και των μεγάλων μεταναστευτικών κοινοτήτων που υπάρχουν στις διάφορες χώρες. Στην περιοχή του Pomarico υπάρχουν μεγάλες μεταναστευτικές κοινότητες και τα ευρωσκεπτιστικά κινήματα είχαν εκεί και εκλογική επιτυχία. Στη συνάντηση περιλαμβάνονταν παρουσιάσεις των πόλεων καθώς και τρία θεματικά στρογγυλά τραπέζια με τις ακόλουθες θεματικές: 1) "Η ΕΕ ως καρτέλ που ελέγχεται από μια ελίτ και είναι μακριά από τις πραγματικές ανάγκες των πολιτών", 2) "Οι πολιτικές μετανάστευσης της ΕΕ, ελεύθερη μετακίνηση ανθρώπων μέσα στην ΕΕ και η απαίτηση για εσωτερική ασφάλεια", και 3) "Οικονομικά ενδιαφέροντα της ΕΕ και η στάση απέναντι στην παγκοσμιοποίηση, την κοινωνική ασφάλιση και την αλληλεγγύη από την άποψη των πολιτών". Οι συμμετέχοντες επίσης είχαν την ευκαιρία να συναντηθούν με τοπικούς φορείς, να επισκεφτούν χώρους πολιτισμού καθώς και την πόλη Ματέρα που είναι η Πολιτιστική Πρωτεύουσα της Ευρώπης 2019. Στην συζήτηση στην οποία ήταν παρών και ο περιφερειάρχης της περιοχής Basilicata της οποίας πρωτεύουσα είναι η Matera, υπήρξε ενδιαφέρον και συζητήθηκε η εμπειρία της Λάρισας σαν υποψήφια πόλη για τον τίτλο της Πολιτιστική Πρωτεύουσας 2021 και συζητήθηκε το ενδεχόμενο πολιτιστικών συνεργασιών με τη Matera για το 2019.

Δίκτυα πόλεων

Δήμος Αγιάς: FOCUS

Ο δήμος Αγιάς, ως επικεφαλής εταίρος του έργου FOCUS, συντόνισε τις δράσεις ενός δικτύου 10 ευρωπαϊκών φορέων (βλ. Πίνακα 5), διερευνώντας νέες μορφές ενεργού πολιτικής συμμετοχής και συλλογικής δράσης με έμφαση στην κοινωνική και αλληλέγγυα οικονομία. Το έργο «FOCUS» εξυπηρετεί την ιδιαίτερα επιτακτική στις μέρες μας ανάγκη για μεγαλύτερη συμμετοχή των πολιτών στην ανάπτυξη της ενωμένης Ευρώπης. Ειδικότερα, το δίκτυο των δέκα (10) ευρωπαϊκών πόλεων που δημιουργείται στο πλαίσιο του έργου, πρώτον, προωθεί περαιτέρω τη συζήτηση και το διαπολιτισμικό διάλογο για το μέλλον της Ευρώπης και για το είδος της Ευρώπης που επιθυμούν οι πολίτες, όχι μόνο αυτοί που υποστηρίζουν την ιδέα της ευρωπαϊκής ολοκλήρωσης, αλλά ιδίως εκείνοι που την απορρίπτουν, την αμφισβητούν ή θέτουν σκληρά ερωτήματα για το έργο και τα επιτεύγματα της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, ενώ, δεύτερον, διερευνά νέους τρόπους υποκίνησης των πολιτών για συμμετοχή σε δράσεις που συμβάλλουν στη διαμόρφωση της δημοκρατικής ζωής στο εσωτερικό της.

Με βασικούς στόχους την ενίσχυση της ιδέας της ευρωπαϊκής ολοκλήρωσης και την προώθηση της συμμετοχής των πολιτών στην ανάπτυξη της Ε.Ε., πραγματοποιήθηκαν το τριήμερο 16-18 Οκτωβρίου 2015 στην Αγιά, ημερίδα και ενημερωτικές εκδηλώσεις, στο πλαίσιο του έργου. Στο πλαίσιο της ημερίδας με τίτλο *Ευρώπη και πολίτες: συνεργασίες, συνέργειες και καλές πρακτικές*, που διεξήχθη στο πολιτιστικό συνεδριακό κέντρο «Χρυσαλλίδα», την Παρασκευή 16 Οκτωβρίου, πραγματοποιήθηκε παρουσίαση του έργου FOCUS, από την υπεύθυνη του Γραφείου Ευρωπαϊκών Προγραμμάτων του δήμου, κα Θ. Πατσιαβούδη, η οποία προχώρησε σε μια συνοπτική θεώρηση των βασικών χαρακτηριστικών του δήμου της Αγιάς, ενώ ιδιαίτερη βαρύτητα έδωσε στον ευρωπαϊκό προσανατολισμό, που η στρατηγική του δήμου έχει χαράξει τα τελευταία χρόνια. Ακολούθησε η παρουσίαση του εκπροσώπου των Εσθονών εταίρων, κ. R. Milerman, ο οποίος αναφέρθηκε αναλυτικά στο παράδειγμα της ΜΚΟ, «Χωριό της Ελπίδας», που μέσω ιδιωτικής χρηματοδότησης, προσφέρει σε άτομα που ανήκουν σε ευπαθείς ομάδες (εθισμένους σε αλκοόλ και ναρκωτικά), την ευκαιρία για πλήρη αποκατάσταση και επιστροφή στην κοινωνία. Στο ίδιο πνεύμα, παρουσιάστηκε από τους διοργανωτές το παράδειγμα του κοινωνικού συνεταιρισμού «IL GRANDE CARRO» της μητροπολιτικής περιοχής της Ρώμης, που επικεντρώνεται στην εργασιακή ένταξη των ατόμων με ψυχικές διαταραχές, που περιθάλπονται από τις δημόσιες υπηρεσίες ψυχικής υγείας. Στην εισήγησή του ο ειδικός συνεργάτης του δήμου, κ. Δ. Γκαλιάκης, αναφέρθηκε στα σημαντικά αγροτικά «όπλα» της περιοχής, καθώς και στους παράγοντες, αρνητικούς και θετικούς, που καθορίζουν την

ανάπτυξη της κοινωνικής οικονομίας σε αυτήν. Στην ομιλία του με θέμα «Κοινωνική Οικονομία και Συνεταιρισμοί στην ελληνική πραγματικότητα», ο υπ. διδάκτορας του πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλίας, κ. Απ. Γούλας έκανε μια συνοπτική ανάλυση του όρου «Κοινωνική Οικονομία» και με άξονα τρία ηχηρά παραδείγματά της το Σύλλογο Ανέργων «Ηλιακτίδα», το Συνεταιρισμό ΘΕΣγάλα και το Κρατικό Θεραπευτήριο Λέρου.

Η ημερίδα ολοκληρώθηκε με μια σύντομη παρουσίαση των δράσεων της κοινωνικής συνεταιριστικής επιχείρησης ΑΓΙΕΥΣ, από τον πρόεδρο της, κ. Π. Αδαμόπουλο, και ακολούθησε συζήτηση και συμπεράσματα μεταξύ των συμμετεχόντων. Το Σάββατο 17 Οκτωβρίου η συνάντηση των οργανωτών με τους ευρωπαίους εταίρους τους, εκπροσώπους τοπικών φορέων και πολίτες της περιοχής, ξεκίνησε με σύντομο χαιρετισμό του αντιδημάρχου, κ. Β. Λέτσιου, ο οποίος επεσήμανε τη σωστή χρονική στιγμή εφαρμογής του έργου, λόγω των συνθηκών της οικονομικής κρίσης, αλλά και του φλέγοντος ευρωπαϊκού ζητήματος, της υποδοχής και απορρόφησης των προσφύγων. Οι εργασίες ξεκίνησαν με σύντομη παρέμβαση της υπεύθυνης του γραφείου ευρωπαϊκών προγραμμάτων του δήμου, κα Θ. Πατσιαβούδη, η οποία παρουσίασε συνοπτικά τις κοινωνικές δομές της δημοτικής αρχής. Εισήγηση με θέμα «Καλές πρακτικές Κοινωνικής Επιχειρηματικότητας στην Ελλάδα» πραγματοποίησε ο εκπρόσωπος του Ινστιτούτου Ανάπτυξης Επιχειρηματικότητας (ΙΝΑΝΕΠ), κ. Θ. Αλεξάνδρου, στο πλαίσιο της οποίας αναφέρθηκε στην εικόνα του τομέα της κοινωνικής οικονομίας στη χώρα μας τα τελευταία χρόνια, με ιδιαίτερη έμφαση

στην προώθηση της κοινωνικής επιχειρηματικότητας των γυναικών. Η εκπρόσωπος των Εσθονών εταίρων, κα Ede Teinbas, παρουσίασε τη συλλογική δράση με τίτλο « Ας το κάνουμε! – Καθαρίζοντας τη Γη σε μια μέρα», που «γεννήθηκε» το 2008 στην Εσθονία με στόχο την αλλαγή της νοοτροπίας των κατοίκων σε σχέση με το καθαρό και απαλλαγμένο από σκουπίδια περιβάλλον, για να μετατραπεί σύντομα σε ένα παγκόσμιο κίνημα με τη συμμετοχή χιλιάδων φορέων, ιδιωτικών και δημοσίων, εκατομμυρίων εθελοντών και εκατοντάδων δράσεων, ενώ οι εκπρόσωποι του δήμου Naxxar της Μάλτας, κκ. P. Gatt και P. Skiberras, πραγματοποίησαν μια σύντομη παρουσίαση των φορέων και των αναπτυξιακών δράσεων της περιοχής τους. Στη σημασία της δικτύωσης των νέων επιχειρηματιών στην Ευρώπη και στο έργο που συντελεί προς την κατεύθυνση αυτή ο ελληνικός σύνδεσμος νέων επιχειρηματιών Θεσσαλίας αναφέρθηκε ο πρόεδρος του ΕΣΥΝΕ, κ. Χρ. Γενιτσεφτσής. Τέλος, ο καθηγητής του Τμήματος Διοίκησης Επιχειρήσεων ΤΕΙ Λάρισας, κ. Κλ. Συρακούλης παρουσίασε μια ερευνητική προσπάθεια του Εργαστηρίου Συστημάτων Διαχείρισης Έργων και Προγραμμάτων του ΤΕΙ Θεσσαλίας με στόχο να εντοπίσει και να μελετήσει τους παράγοντες που οδηγούν στην επιτυχία ή την αποτυχία σωστής εφαρμογής των χρηματοδοτούμενων έργων.

Στο κοινωνικό μέρος των δράσεων του FOCUS, οι διοργανωτές, με βασικό οικοδεσπότη το δήμαρχο Αγιάς, κ. Αντ. Γκουντάρα, πρόσφεραν στους συμμετέχοντες την ευκαιρία να απολαύσουν τις εκδηλώσεις για τη «Γιορτή Κάστανου», που πραγματοποιήθηκε το Σάββατο 17 Οκτωβρίου στην Καρίτσα, ενώ την Κυριακή 18 Οκτωβρίου οι εργασίες μεταφέρθηκαν στην αίθουσα εκδηλώσεων της Ανατολής Αγιάς, όπου οι συμμετέχοντες ενημερώθηκαν από τον

εκπρόσωπο του Δικτύου Τουριστικών Επιχειρήσεων Ολύμπου – Κισσάβου (ΟΛΚΙΣ), κ. Νικόλαο Ντάγκα, για τις δράσεις του φορέα, αντάλλαξαν εμπειρίες και προβληματισμούς, ενώ στη συνέχεια ξεναγήθηκαν στη 10η Συνάντηση Μανιταρόφιλων Θεσσαλίας, που πραγματοποιήθηκε την ίδια ημέρα στην Ανατολή. Στις 3 Ιουνίου 2016 πραγματοποιήθηκε ενημερωτική εκδήλωση με τίτλο «Εργαστήριο εμπειρογνωμοσύνης και τεχνογνωσίας στους τομείς της Κοινωνικής Επιχειρηματικότητας», ενώ τρεις ημέρες αργότερα πραγματοποιήθηκε ενημερωτική εκδήλωση με τίτλο «Εργαστήριο Διαδραστικής απεικόνισης καλών πρακτικών κοινωνικής οικονομίας». Τη συνάντηση άνοιξε η παρουσίαση των δράσεων των Βουλγάρων εταίρων (δήμος Strumyani) και των εκπροσώπων της Μάλτας (Naxaar Local Council), ενώ ακολούθησε αυτή της Κοινωνικής Συνεταιριστικής Επιχείρησης «Μέντορες», από τον πρόεδρό της, κ. Γιώργο Αρσένη. Τη δραστηριοποίηση του Δικτύου ΟΛΚΙΣ πραγματοποίησε η εκπρόσωπός του, κα Παναγιώτα Σάρρου, ενώ ακολούθησε εισήγηση με θέμα «Ομάδες παραγωγών: Χαράσσοντας το μέλλον της ελληνικής γεωργίας», από τον εκπρόσωπο της Γεωργικής Ανάπτυξης Α.Ε., κ. Ντίνο Μπλιάτσιο.

Οι εργασίες ολοκληρώθηκαν με συνοπτική παρουσίαση των κλασικών και βυζαντινών αρχαιοτήτων, του τεράστιου πολιτιστικού θησαυρού που υπάρχει σε όλη την έκταση του δήμου Αγιάς, από την διευθύντρια της Εφορίας Αρχαιοτήτων Λάρισας, κα Σταυρούλα Σδρόλια. Ο επίλογος της τετραήμερης διοργάνωσης, της οποίας ως επικεφαλής-εταίρος του έργου FOCUS ηγήθηκε ο ελληνικός δήμος, δόθηκε στον αρχαιολογικό χώρο του Κάστρου της Βελίκας, όπου οι εκπρόσωποι των δέκα συμμετεχόντων χωρών ξεναγήθηκαν από την κα Σδρόλια.

Δήμος Αλίμου: Road to European Parliament 2019

Ο δήμος Αλίμου συμμετείχε στο έργο «Road to European Parliament 2019 – Empowering a new generation of EU citizens» (REP2019) και διοργάνωσε τη δεύτερη εκδήλωση στον Άλιμο στις 21 Ιανουαρίου 2020, στο 2ο Γενικό Λύκειο Αλίμου με τη συνάντηση μαθητών από πέντε (5) χώρες (Ελλάδα, Ισπανία, Ιταλία, Λιθουανία και Ρουμανία). Στη συνάντηση οι Έλληνες μαθητές έπαιζαν το ρόλο των μελών της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής, και παρουσίασαν το σχέδιο «Πρόταση Οδηγίας του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου για το Περιβάλλον και την Κλιματική Αλλαγή» στους μαθητές των σχολείων από την αλλοδαπή, οι οποίοι έπαιζαν το ρόλο των μελών του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου. Οι Έλληνες μαθητές με μεγάλο ενθουσιασμό συμμετείχαν στη συστηματική προετοιμασία τους για τη συνάντηση, μελετώντας επίκαιρα και σημαντικά κείμενα για το περιβάλλον και την κλιματική αλλαγή, συζητώντας και καταθέτοντας απόψεις και προτάσεις για ένα τόσο σημαντικό ζήτημα που αφορά όλο τον πλανήτη. Ο κύριος σκοπός του έργου ήταν η ανάπτυξη μιας νέας γενιάς, ικανής να αξιολογήσει τα πλεονεκτήματα και τις αδυναμίες της Ένωσης και να προτείνει λύσεις για την ανάπτυξή της. Επιπλέον, στόχοι του έργου ήταν η ενίσχυση της ευαισθητοποίησης αναφορικά με τους ρόλους των θεσμικών οργάνων της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης και τη διαδικασία λήψης αποφάσεων σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο. Το έργο προέβλεπε τη συμμετοχή μαθητών από κάθε χώρα σε ένα καινοτόμο εκπαιδευτικό πρόγραμμα, με παιχνίδια ρόλων, προσομοιώσεις διεθνών συζητήσεων κ.α, με απώτερο στόχο την ενίσχυση της συμμετοχής των νέων στην πολιτική και στη διαδικασία λήψης αποφάσεων στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση.

Δήμος Θεσσαλονίκης: Be Active – Shape Europe

Η κοινωφελής επιχείρηση του δήμου Θεσσαλονίκης (ΚΕΔΗΘ), ως επικεφαλής εταίρος, διοργάνωσε 4ήμερο (12-15/3/2021) διεθνές συνέδριο διαδικτυακά, στο πλαίσιο της υλοποίησης του έργου "Be Active – Shape Europe" με τη συμμετοχή εταίρων από τη Βουλγαρία, την Ιταλία, το Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο, την Πορτογαλία, τη Σλοβενία και φυσικά την Ελλάδα, καθώς και συμμετεχόντων ηλικίας 15-30 ετών. Η πρώτη εκδήλωση πραγματοποιήθηκε την Παρασκευή 12 και τη Δευτέρα 15 Μαρτίου 2021, και περιελάμβανε διαδικτυακά εργαστήρια κατά τη διάρκεια των οποίων ομάδες νέων ασχολήθηκαν με τα εξής θέματα: Η άνοδος του ευρωσκεπτικισμού στην Ευρώπη σε σχέση με τις ευρωπαϊκές εκλογές˙ το νέο Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο: προτεραιότητες και προκλήσεις της νέας περιόδου˙ χτίζοντας το μέλλον της Ευρώπης με επίκεντρο την πράσινη ανάπτυξη και τη νέα πράσινη συμφωνία˙ η ευρωπαϊκή ιθαγένεια και τί πρέπει να κάνει η ΕΕ για να προσεγγίσει καλύτερα τους πολίτες της˙ προκλήσεις της συνοχής και της αλληλεγγύης της ΕΕ: τα ζητήματα της μετανάστευσης και της οικονομικής κρίσης˙ η φωνή της νεολαίας στην Ευρώπη, μια πραγματικότητα ή μια ουτοπία;˙ συμμετοχική δημοκρατία στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση. Η δεύτερη εκδήλωση πραγματοποιήθηκε το Σάββατο 13 και την Κυριακή 14 Μαρτίου 2021 και αφορούσε μια προσομοίωση του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου, με τους συμμετέχοντες να αναπαριστούν πλήρως μια επίσημη συνεδρίαση. Οι συμμετέχοντες συζήτησαν την επίδραση των ευρωπαϊκών εκλογών 2019, τα αποτελέσματα των εκλογών και το έργο που έχουν επιτύχει μέχρι σήμερα οι ευρωβουλευτές (θέματα, προτεραιότητες, παραγωγικότητα, BREXIT, covid-19, κ.λπ.). Η εκδήλωση έκλεισε με ψήφισμα και καταγραφή των συμπερασμάτων.

Δήμος Παιονίας: EuBorCo-EU Border Communities: Sharing experiences and practices on refugees' reception and social solidarity

Σκοπός της 3ης εκδήλωσης του έργου EuBorCo που έλαβε χώρα στο δήμο Παιονίας (Πολύκαστρο και Γουμένισσα) από τις 11 έως τις 14/11/2019 με τη συμμετοχή εταίρων από Βουλγαρία, Ιταλία, Ισπανία, Μάλτα, και Β. Μακεδονία (βλ. Πίνακα 5), ήταν η ανταλλαγή εμπειριών και πρακτικών για την ανάπτυξη ενός κοινού σχεδίου δράσης με έμφαση στο ρόλο των τοπικών αρχών (δήμων), συλλόγων, ΜΚΟ και πολιτών όσον αφορά την υποδοχή και υποστήριξη των μεταναστών και των προσφύγων. Οι τοπικές πρωτοβουλίες, η προώθηση της ιδιότητας του ενεργού πολίτη, η κοινωνική αλληλεγγύη και ο εθελοντισμός ήταν στην κορυφή της ατζέντας της διακρατικής εκδήλωσης. Το πρόγραμμα της τριήμερης διακρατικής εκδήλωσης περιλάμβανε δραστηριότητες δικτύωσης με τη συμμετοχή τοπικών εκπροσώπων φορέων, συλλόγων και ΜΚΟ, επισκέψεις μελέτης σε εμβληματικά σημεία του ελληνικού δήμου που συνδέονται στενά με την προσφυγική κρίση, και ειδικά στο Κέντρο Φιλοξενίας της Ν. Καβάλας και στην περιοχή του αυτοσχέδιου καταυλισμού στην Ειδομένη.

Παρουσιάστηκε επίσης το χρονικό και η παρούσα κατάσταση σχετικά με το προσφυγικό όπως το βίωσαν οι ντόπιοι. Στο επίκεντρο της τριήμερης διακρατικής εκδήλωσης ήταν η διοργάνωση ημερίδας στο Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο Πολύκαστρου με τίτλο «Παρουσίαση δράσεων και καλών πρακτικών στο πλαίσιο του έργου EUBorCo» και στη συνέχεια η πραγματοποίηση εργαστηρίου με αντικείμενο την αναζήτηση μίας κοινής στρατηγικής παρέμβασης για την προώθηση της ένταξης των προσφύγων και των μεταναστών. Τέλος, πραγματοποιήθηκαν δύο σημαντικές συναντήσεις στη Θεσσαλονίκη, η πρώτη με τον Υφυπουργό Εσωτερικών (Τομέας Μακεδονίας-Θράκης) κ. Θεόδωρο Καράογλου, όπου η αντιπροσωπεία του EuBorCo παρουσίασε το έργο και η δεύτερη με τον Προϊστάμενο του Τμήματος της Γενικής Γραμματείας Νεολαίας στην Ελλάδα κ. Χαράλαμπο Παπαϊωάννου, όπου το κύριο θέμα της συζήτησης ήταν οι πολιτικές και οι πρωτοβουλίες των νέων σε σχέση με την υποστήριξη των προσφύγων και των μεταναστών.

MEET OUR
VOLUNTEERS

Δήμος Νέας Σμύρνης: SPUR-Towards a New Spur for EU Democracy Building learn and engagement

Ο δήμος Νέας Σμύρνης, στο πλαίσιο των πρωτοβουλιών του για την ανάδειξη της αξίας της Αλληλεγγύης στη σημερινή συγκυρία οικονομικής και ανθρωπιστικής κρίσης υλοποίησε το έργο *"SPUR – Towards a New Spur for EU Democracy Building learn and engagement"*, εμμένοντας στην πεποίθησή του για τον εθελοντισμό, ως δείκτη πολιτισμού μιας κοινωνίας, βασική προϋπόθεση για ένα αδιάρρηκτο κοινωνικό ιστό, μέσο για τη βελτίωση της ποιότητας ζωής, αλλά και μέθοδο ενίσχυσης της δημοκρατίας καθώς, αφενός ευνοεί τη βελτίωση των συνθηκών εμπλοκής των πολιτών στη διαμόρφωσή της, αφετέρου τους εκπαιδεύει και τους ενθαρρύνει για περαιτέρω συμμετοχή στα κοινά, στα όργανα αλλά και στις διαδικασίες λήψης των αποφάσεων που τους αφορούν σε εθνικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο. Οι τέσσερις (4) εκδηλώσεις υλοποιήθηκαν κατά το χρονικό διάστημα Απρίλιος – Ιούλιος 2016 ενέπλεξαν κρατικές δομές, αλλά και φορείς της τοπικής αυτοδιοίκησης στην προσπάθειά τους για συμπαράσταση ιδίως των ευαίσθητων πληθυσμιακών ομάδων, αλλά και φορείς της κοινωνίας των πολιτών και ενεργούς πολίτες από έντεκα (11) ακόμα ευρωπαϊκές πόλεις, μαθητές, εμπειρογνώμονες, ακαδημαϊκούς αλλά και άτομα από τις ομάδες των ευρωσκεπτικιστών που για διάφορους λόγους (κοινωνικούς, οικονομικούς, πολιτικούς, κλπ) έχουν απορρίψει την ιδέα της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, ή/και έχουν αμφιβολίες για το μέχρι σήμερα έργο της αλλά και την ανάγκη για ευρωπαϊκή ολοκλήρωση. Στόχος του προγράμματος "SPUR" ήταν η περαιτέρω προώθηση και προβολή των υφιστάμενων μηχανισμών αλληλεγγύης στα κράτη-μέλη αλλά και στην Ευρώπη ως σύνολο, σε τομείς, όπως η μετανάστευση και το προσφυγικό ζήτημα, η καταπολέμηση της φτώχειας και του κοινωνικού αποκλεισμού, ο περιορισμός της ανεργίας, ιδίως των νέων και η δημιουργία καινοτόμων θέσεων

απασχόλησης, αλλά και η προστασία του περιβάλλοντος. Ωστόσο, ο δήμος Νέας Σμύρνης απέβλεπε οι εκδηλώσεις του προγράμματος να οδηγήσουν και σε προτάσεις για νέα κανάλια αλληλεγγύης, στο πλαίσιο των οποίων θα μπορούν να ξεπεραστούν στερεότυπα και προκαταλήψεις και να λειτουργήσουν fora συζήτησης για εποικοδομητικές προσεγγίσεις σε όλα τα ανωτέρω ζητήματα που να προάγουν τη συμμετοχή των πολιτών στη διαμόρφωση της δημοκρατικής ζωής στο εσωτερικό της ενωμένης Ευρώπης.

Δήμος Κηφισιάς: EUROPE UNITY

Ο δήμος Κηφισιάς και ο Εκπαιδευτικός Οργανισμός Educommart, στο πλαίσιο του ευρωπαϊκού προγράμματος ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ με τίτλο «Ευρώπη | ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ, ανθρώπινη αξιοπρέπεια και αλληλεγγύη - απλά ένα όνειρο;» φιλοξένησαν τις εργασίες του προγράμματος και Ευρωπαίους εταίρους από τις 31/05 – 01/06/22, στο δημαρχείο Κηφισιάς. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό την Τρίτη 31/5 πραγματοποιήθηκε ανοιχτή συζήτηση με θέμα την Ευρωπαϊκή Ενότητα στην οποία συμμετείχαν εκλεκτοί ομιλητές, εκπρόσωποι του δήμου Κηφισιάς και της Educommart και πολίτες.

Στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος και για τις ανάγκες του έγινε αίτηση και εγκρίθηκε το εκπαιδευτικό πρόγραμμα από το Υ.ΠΑΙ.Θ. β/θμιας για το σχολικό έτος 2021/2022, όπου πραγματοποιήθηκαν στις 08/06/2021 και 12/04/2022 ενημερώσεις και συζητήσεις με τους μαθητές τις Α’ τάξης του 3ου Λυκείου Κηφισιάς σχετικά με την ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ, την αλληλεγγύη και τις σύγχρονες προκλήσεις που αντιμετωπίζει η Ευρώπη: λαϊκισμό, εθνικισμό και ρατσισμό.

Δόθηκε η ευκαιρία σε μαθητές και πολίτες να διατυπώσουν γραπτά τις σκέψεις και τα προσωπικά οράματά τους για το μέλλον της Ευρώπης.

Δήμος Κορυδαλλού: EUCIDIN-EU city digital strategies for Immigrants integration

Στο έργο με τίτλο «Ψηφιακές Στρατηγικές των Ευρωπαϊκών Πόλεων για την Ένταξη Μεταναστών (EU city digital strategies for Immigrants integration -EUCIDIN)», συμμετείχε ως επικεφαλής-εταίρος ο δήμος Κορυδαλλού σε συνεργασία με 15 ευρωπαϊκές πόλεις και περιφέρειες καθώς και 8 οργανισμούς της κοινωνίας των πολιτών από τον Ευρωπαϊκό χώρο. Το αντικείμενο του έργου αφορούσε το μείζον θέμα που καλούνται να αντιμετωπίσουν οι πόλεις, οι περιφέρειες αλλά και ευρύτερα οι κοινωνίες της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης με την άφιξη εκατομμυρίων ατόμων που αναζητούν άσυλο στον Ευρωπαϊκό χώρο, φαινόμενο το οποίο παρατηρείται με ιδιαίτερη ένταση την τελευταία διετία και το οποίο αναμένεται να εξακολουθήσει να εκδηλώνεται και τα επόμενα χρόνια. Το έργο επικεντρώθηκε σε πεδία πολιτικών όπου μέχρι σήμερα παρατηρείται μία αδυναμία και κυρίως σε αυτό της χρήσης των ψηφιακών μέσων για την ένταξη των μεταναστών. Οι πόλεις καλούνται να αναλάβουν ένα διττό ρόλο τόσο ως επίκεντρο της διαβίωσης των μεταναστών όσο και ως κόμβοι καινοτομίας ηλεκτρονικής διακυβέρνησης. Μέσω του έργου, οι συμμετέχουσες πόλεις υποστηρίχθηκαν προκειμένου να αναπτύξουν στρατηγικές ψηφιακής ενσωμάτωσης, ενισχύοντας με τον τρόπο αυτό τις προσπάθειες ένταξης των μεταναστών. Το θεματικό δίκτυο το οποίο αναπτύχθηκε στο πλαίσιο του έργου αποτελείται από εκπρόσωπους ευρωπαϊκών πόλεων, περιφερειών και οργανισμών της κοινωνίας των πολιτών.

Δήμος Νεάπολης-Συκεών: SOLIDA-Δίκτυο δήμων για την προώθηση της δημοκρατικής συμμετοχής των μεταναστών

Στο πλαίσιο του έργου SOLIDA, ο δήμος Νεάπολης-Συκεών φιλοξένησε στις 27 Ιουνίου 2018 εκδήλωση στην οποία συμμετείχαν 46 πολίτες, από τις τοπικές αρχές των πόλεων Gioiosa Ionica (Ιταλία), Santa Pola (Ισπανία),Erdut (Κροατία), Novo Mesto (Σλοβενία), Lousada (Πορτογαλία), και Birgu. Στόχος της εκδήλωσης ήταν η παρουσίαση των τοπικών και εθνικών πολιτικών που σχετίζονται με την ένταξη των μεταναστών με ιδιαίτερη έμφαση στην αντίληψη των τοπικών πολιτών όσον αφορά την προώθηση της δημοκρατικής συμμετοχής των μεταναστών. Ο δήμος που φιλοξένησε την εκδήλωση διοργάνωσε αρκετές συναντήσεις, σεμινάρια και ανοιχτές συζητήσεις με εμπειρογνώμονες και ενώσεις: το Υπουργείο Μεταναστευτικών Πολιτικών, την UNCHR, παρουσίαση τοπικών σχεδίων σχετικά με την ένταξη των μεταναστών στα σχολεία. Διοργανώθηκε μια ενότητα εργασίας για να συζητηθούν οι σχέσεις με τους μετανάστες και τις τοπικές κυβερνήσεις, το Συμβούλιο Ένταξης για τη Μετανάστευση. Οι εταίροι συζήτησαν επίσης την κατάσταση σχετικά με την έγκριση του καταστατικού από τα τοπικά συμβούλια.

Δήμος Σερρών: DOCPIE- Δημοκρατική Ιδιότητα και Συμμετοχή στις Δημοκρατικές Διαδικασίες και τα Κοινά

Ο Όμιλος UNESCO Σερρών είχε τη χαρά να συμμετέχει μαζί με το δήμο Σερρών και ακόμα 13 εταίρους από 13 συνολικά ευρωπαϊκές χώρες στο έργο: "DOCPIE- Δημοκρατική Ιδιότητα και Συμμετοχή στις Δημοκρατικές Διαδικασίες και τα Κοινά" στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ. Στο πλαίσιο του έργου συνεργάστηκαν από τον Ιανουάριο έως τον Οκτώβριο 2015 15 οργανισμοί από 13 ευρωπαϊκές χώρες, με στόχο: Α) να ερευνήσουν τις τρέχουσες τάσεις και απόψεις σχετικά με την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και το μέλλον της σε διάφορες ομάδες – στόχους, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των φοιτητών αλλά και μεγαλύτερων ηλικιών. Β) να ενημερώσουν τους πολίτες σχετικά με την Ευρωπαϊκή ιθαγένεια. Γ) να ευαισθητοποιήσουν τους συμμετέχοντες σχετικά με την ιδιότητα του ενεργού πολίτη και του εθελοντισμού. Δ) να δημιουργήσουν γέφυρες συνεργασίας μεταξύ των πόλεων που συμμετέχουν στο πρόγραμμα.

Ο Όμιλος UNESCO Σερρών υλοποίησε τις παρακάτω δράσεις: Συμμετοχή σε πέντε συναντήσεις του έργου στη Βουδαπέστη, τη Δρέσδη, τις Σέρρες, τη Λιουμπλιάνα και τη Μπρέσια˙ διοργάνωση εκπαιδευτικών εργαστηρίων για μαθητές και νέους με θέμα την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, τις αξίες της και την ενεργό συμμετοχή το Μάιο, Ιούνιο και Οκτώβριο 2015˙ συνδιοργάνωση με το δήμο Σερρών της διημερίδας "Περιφερειακή ανάπτυξη και συμμετοχικότητα πολιτών στο πλαίσιο της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης" στις 30/6 και 1/7/2015˙ και συγκέντρωση ερωτηματολογίων για την αποτύπωση των απόψεων των πολιτών στην περιοχή μας σχετικά με την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και το ρόλο τους σε αυτή. Τις εργασίες του DOCPIE παρακολούθησαν περισσότεροι από 800 πολίτες από Ευρωπαϊκά κράτη, ενώ περισσότεροι από 1000 πολίτες συμμετείχαν στη διαδικτυακή έρευνα συλλογής απόψεων για την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση. Μετά την ολοκλήρωση του έργου, ο Όμιλος UNESCO Σερρών σε συνεργασία με τους λοιπούς εταίρους του έργου θα συνεχίσουν τη μεταξύ τους συνεργασία προκειμένου να εξακολουθήσουν τις δράσεις εκπαίδευσης πάνω στις αξίες της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης και την ενεργό συμμετοχή των πολιτών.

Δήμος Τανάγρας: Europe In Question

Με ιδιαίτερη επιτυχία πραγματοποιήθηκε από το δήμο Τανάγρας η τελική εκδήλωση του έργου «Europe In Question», στις 22 και 23 Νοεμβρίου 2018, στο οποίο συμμετείχαν, εκτός του ελληνικού δήμου-επικεφαλής εταίρου, και φορείς από 6 χώρες (βλ. Πίνακα 5). Στόχος του έργου ήταν να δοθεί το βήμα στους πολίτες ώστε να εκφραστούν για το είδος της Ευρώπης που ονειρεύονται και θέλουν, εμπλέκοντάς τους ουσιαστικά πιο έντονα στις διαδικασίες, ώστε να αντιμετωπιστούν με κοινή στρατηγική τα κοινά προβλήματα, ενώ η θεματική του έργου ήταν ευρεία και επίκαιρη: Brexit, προσφυγικό, οικονομική κρίση, τρομοκρατία. Στο πλαίσιο του έργου, διοργανώθηκαν διήμερα συνέδρια/forums σε επτά ευρωπαϊκές χώρες, όπου συζητήθηκαν οι ωφέλειες, αλλά και οι δυσκολίες που ενέχει το εγχείρημα της Ενωμένης Ευρώπης. Ειδικότερα οι διήμερες

συναντήσεις που διοργανώθηκαν, στόχευσαν στην ανάδειξη της παρούσας κατάστασης στην Ε.Ε., την αντιμετώπιση της οικονομικής κρίσης, την προώθηση της τοπικής ανάπτυξης σε μικρές παραδοσιακές και παραγωγικές τοπικές κοινωνίες, την ενίσχυση της Ευρωπαϊκής ταυτότητας, τη μείωση του δημοκρατικού ελλείμματος, εθνικά και ευρωπαϊκά. Το πρωί της Πέμπτης 22 Νοεμβρίου 2018, πραγματοποιήθηκε, αρχικά, στο Λύκειο Σχηματαρίου, εκδήλωση με

τίτλο «Νέοι και Ε.Ε.: Προβλήματα και ευκαιρίες» και στην οποία συμμετείχαν αντιπροσωπίες μαθητών των Λυκείων του δήμου Τανάγρας. Κατά τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης οι εταίροι του έργου είχαν την ευκαιρία να παρουσιάσουν τα αποτελέσματά του, εστιάζοντας στις απόψεις των νέων των χωρών που εκπροσωπούν, ενώ στη συνέχεια ακολούθησε διάλογος με τους μαθητές για θέματα που τους απασχολούν σε σχέση με την Ε.Ε. (εργασία, σπουδές, παροχές, δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες). Το απόγευμα της ίδιας ημέρας πραγματοποιήθηκε ανοικτή εκδήλωση στην αίθουσα πολλαπλών χρήσεων του 2ου δημοτικού σχολείου Σχηματαρίου κατά την οποία οι εταίροι του έργου παρουσίασαν τα αποτελέσματα των αντίστοιχων εκδηλώσεων που πραγματοποιήθηκαν στις χώρες τους. Στη συνέχεια, διακεκριμένοι ομιλητές μίλησαν για θέματα που απασχολούν την Ευρώπη σήμερα όπως για τον ρόλο της τοπικής αυτοδιοίκησης στην Ε.Ε, το ευρώ και την ΟΝΕ, καθώς και για τον ευρωσκεπτικισμό. Ακολούθησε ανοικτή συζήτηση με τους συμμετέχοντες για το παρόν και το μέλλον της Ε.Ε. και τη στάση των πολιτών απέναντι στην ιδέα της Ενωμένης Ευρώπης. Τη λήξη της εκδήλωσης τίμησαν χορευτικοί σύλλογοι του δήμου Τανάγρας (Κέντρο Εκκλησιαστικής Διακονίας Οινοφύτων, Πετριλιώτες, Τερψιχόρη και Ειλέσιον). Η διήμερη συνάντηση ολοκληρώθηκε με συνάντηση του εταιρικού σχήματος την Παρασκευή 23 Νοεμβρίου στην αίθουσα του δημοτικού συμβουλίου Τανάγρας, όπου πραγματοποιήθηκε ο απολογισμός δικτύου Europe In Question, ενώ οι εταίροι δεσμεύτηκαν για μελλοντική συνεργασία σε κοινές δράσεις. Στο περιθώριο της διήμερης εκδήλωσης οι εκπρόσωποι των εταίρων είχαν την ευκαιρία να επισκεφθούν σημεία ιστορικού και λαογραφικού ενδιαφέροντος του ελληνικού δήμου.

Έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών

INTER ALIA: OUTCAST EUROPE

Η ψηφιακή συλλογή Outcast Europe έχει ως κεντρικό θέμα τη μεταναστευτική και την προσφυγική εμπειρία, και περιλαμβάνει τα ψηφιακά αντίγραφα των αντικειμένων που συλλέχθηκαν κατά τη διάρκεια της ομώνυμης δράσης, η οποία συγχρηματοδοτήθηκε από το πρόγραμμα. Η δράση Outcast Europe πραγματοποιήθηκε από το Σεπτέμβριο του 2017 έως το Φεβρουάριο του 2019 από τις ακόλουθες μη-κερδοσκοπικές οργανώσεις:

- Inter Alia (Αθήνα, Ελλάδα)-επικεφαλής εταίρος.
- Uspelite (Σόφια, Βουλγαρία).
- International Organisation for Migration Hungary (Βουδαπέστη, Ουγγαρία).
- Youth Alliance Krusevo (Σκόπια, Βόρεια Μακεδονία).
- Organisation for Aid to Refugees (Πράγα, Τσεχία).
- Vojvodina Civic Center (Νόβι Σαντ, Σερβία).

Κατά τη διάρκεια αυτών των 18 μηνών, μια ομάδα περίπου 30 ατόμων (εργαζομένων και εθελοντών), σε συνεργασία με συλλογικότητες και πολίτες από διαφορετικά μέρη της Ευρώπης, συνέλεξε αντικείμενα και ιστορίες μεταναστών και προσφύγων σε σχέση με τα ακόλουθα ιστορικά γεγονότα:

- Ελλάδα: Μικρασιατική καταστροφή (1922).
- Βουλγαρία: Πτώση σοσιαλιστικού καθεστώτος (1989-1990).
- Ουγγαρία: Ουγγρική Επανάσταση (1956).
- Βόρεια Μακεδονία: Καθεστώς Γκρούεφσκι (2006-2016).
- Τσεχία: Άνοιξη της Πράγας (1968).
- Σερβία: Γιουγκοσλαβικοί Πόλεμοι (1991-2001).

Στο πλαίσιο αυτού του συμμετοχικού/πληθοποριστικού εγχειρήματος, συγκεντρώθηκαν περισσότερα από 100 αντικείμενα, τα οποία παρουσιάστηκαν σε "φυσικές" εκθέσεις και στις 6 χώρες, με αποκορύφωμα την τελική έκθεση, η οποία διοργανώθηκε από την Inter Alia στην Αθήνα, τον Οκτώβριο του 2018. Η τελική έκθεση με τίτλο "Η Ευρώπη των Απόκληρων" πραγματοποιήθηκε το χρονικό διάστημα 4 έως 27 Οκτωβρίου 2018 στο Μπάγκειον Ξενοδοχείον (πλατεία Ομονοίας), υπό την αιγίδα του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού και την υποστήριξη 8 χορηγών επικοινωνίας. Η έκθεση πλαισιώθηκε από παράλληλες δράσεις (βραδιές μουσικής και ποίησης, παρουσιάσεις βιβλίων και προβολές ταινιών μικρού μήκους), και ολοκληρώθηκε με το συνέδριο "Προοπτικές και Προκλήσεις από τη Μεταναστευτική Κρίση", προσελκύοντας περισσότερους από 1200 επισκέπτες από πολλές πόλεις και χώρες, και προωθώντας το διεπιστημονικό και διατομεακό διάλογο πάνω στο θέμα. Πριν από τη διοργάνωση της τελικής έκθεσης, η Inter Alia ψηφιοποίησε τα αντικείμενα που συλλέχθηκαν για τη δημιουργία του έντυπου καταλόγου της έκθεσης, καθώς και για την ιστοσελίδα της δράσης. Επιπλέον, στο πνεύμα της ανοικτής πρόσβασης στον πολιτισμό και τη γνώση, και με σεβασμό προς τους ευρωπαίους πολίτες που δάνεισαν τα σχετικά αντικείμενα και αφηγήθηκαν τις ιστορίες τους, η Inter Alia δημοσίευσε τα ψηφιακά αντίγραφα των αντικειμένων και τις τεκμηριωτικές τους πληροφορίες με άδεια Creative Commons Αναφορά Δημιουργού – Μη Εμπορική Χρήση – Παρόμοια Διανομή 4.0 (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0), ώστε να μπορούν να επαναχρησιμοποιηθούν ελεύθερα, δωρεάν και νόμιμα

για μη-εμπορικούς ερευνητικούς και εκπαιδευτικούς σκοπούς. Με σημείο εκκίνησης το τρέχον μεταναστευτικό ζήτημα, και με αναφορά σε παραδείγματα από τις προσωπικές και οικογενειακές ιστορίες ευρωπαίων πολιτών που αναγκάστηκαν να εγκαταλείψουν τις εστίες τους κατά τη διάρκεια του πρόσφατου παρελθόντος, το έργο Outcast Europe εστίασε στη μικροϊστορία ως ένα συμπληρωματικό τρόπο κατανόησης των μεταναστευτικών και προσφυγικών εμπειριών, αναδεικνύοντας, τόσο τις ομοιότητες, όσο και τις διαφορές τους, και προσφέροντας κίνητρα και ερεθίσματα για αναστοχασμό. Επιπλέον, το έργο ανέδειξε ότι η μετανάστευση συνιστά ένα σημαντικό στοιχείο της ευρωπαϊκής ιστορίας, μνήμης και κληρονομιάς — και από αυτήν την οπτική, η ψηφιακή συλλογή Outcast Europe συμβάλλει ώστε τόσο το φαινόμενο, όσο και διαφορετικοί μεταξύ τους πολιτισμοί να ιδωθούν και να συνδιαλλαγούν υπό νέο φως. Με βάση τα συμπεράσματα που προέκυψαν, στο πλαίσιο του έργου Outcast Europe, η Inter Alia αποφάσισε να ενθαρρύνει, αφενός, το συνεχή εμπλουτισμό της ψηφιακής συλλογής με αντικείμενα και ιστορίες μεταναστών και προσφύγων, και αφετέρου, τη συνεχή διεύρυνση των θεματικών περιοχών και των γεωγραφικών διαδρομών που η συλλογή καλύπτει και παρουσιάζει. Γι' αυτό και έκρινε ως χρήσιμο και αναγκαίο το λειτουργικό επανασχεδιασμό της υφιστάμενης ιστοσελίδας, σε συνδυασμό με την (ανα)πλαισίωση της συλλογής με ιστορικές, κοινωνικές και πολιτισμικές πληροφορίες, και τον εμπλουτισμό της με θεματικές εκθέσεις και εκπαιδευτικές δραστηριότητες. Ο επανασχεδιασμός και ο εμπλουτισμός της ιστοσελίδας πραγματοποιήθηκαν από τον Οκτώβριο του 2020 έως τον Ιούνιο του 2021, στο πλαίσιο του έργου ψηφιακού πολιτισμού (Re)Collecting Outcast Europe, με την οικονομική στήριξη και υπό την αιγίδα του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού. Το έργο υλοποιήθηκε σε συνεργασία με την εταιρεία πληροφορικής PostScriptum, η οποία, λόγω της εξειδίκευσής της στον τομέα του ψηφιακού πολιτισμού και της πολιτιστικής διαχείρισης ως συμμετοχικής διαδικασίας, ανέπτυξε και ενσωμάτωσε τα κατάλληλα ψηφιακά και πληθοποριστικά εργαλεία, ώστε η συλλογή να συνεχίσει να εμπλουτίζεται και να αξιοποιείται από ένα ολοένα και ευρύτερο κοινό.

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I.R.T.E.A.: RESTART

Το Ινστιτούτο Έρευνας & Κατάρτισης Ευρωπαϊκών Θεμάτων – I.R.T.E.A., ως συντονιστής-εταίρος, υλοποίησε το έργο "Reinventing European Solidarity and Raising Tolerance" (RESTART) που στόχο είχε την ευαισθητοποίηση της κοινωνίας για την προσφυγική κρίση, τη συμμετοχή των νέων της Ευρώπης στο διάλογο και την προαγωγή του εθελοντισμού.

Η έναρξη του έργου πραγματοποιήθηκε στις 7 Νοεμβρίου 2016 στο Γραφείο του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στην Αθήνα με τη συμμετοχή διακεκριμένων ομιλητών, στελεχών της κυβέρνησης και εκπροσώπων της κοινωνίας των πολιτών. Μετά το πέρας της εκδήλωσης πραγματοποιήθηκε διαδραστικό εργαστήριο στον ίδιο χώρο με συμμετοχή και των εταίρων του έργου από τα Τίρανα, τις Βρυξέλλες και τη Λευκωσία, με σκοπό οι συμμετέχοντες να συζητήσουν για τις κεντρικές πτυχές της προσφυγικής κρίσης και να προτείνουν τις δικές τους λύσεις ή και τρόπους αντιμετώπισης αυτής, καθώς και μεθόδους ενσωμάτωσης των προσφύγων στην ευρωπαϊκή κοινωνία. Ο κύκλος των διαδραστικών εργαστηρίων πραγματοποιήθηκε και στις πόλεις των χωρών-εταίρων. Τα αποτελέσματα που παράχθηκαν από τα εργαστήρια εντάχθηκαν σε policy paper που παράχθηκε στο τέλος των εργασιών του έργου. Το έργο στηρίχτηκε σε τρείς κεντρικούς άξονες: διαδραστικές συζητήσεις και διαβουλεύσεις μεταξύ των συμμετεχόντων˙ επίσκεψη των εθελοντών και συζήτηση με τους πρόσφυγες στα κέντρα φιλοξενίας της Λέσβου˙ και παραγωγή policy paper με τη συμβολή όλων των μετεχόντων φορέων με στόχο την προώθηση πολιτικών προς τους φορείς λήψεως αποφάσεων. Η δεύτερη φάση του έργου προέβλεψε την υλοποίηση ημερίδας δομημένου διαλόγου στην Αθήνα, εκπαιδεύσεις στις πόλεις των χωρών που συμμετείχαν στο έργο, ενώ αποκορύφωμα της

δράσης αποτέλεσε η επίσκεψη των εθελοντών στα Κέντρα Φιλοξενίας προσφύγων στη Λέσβο, με διαδραστικές εκδηλώσεις και συζητήσεις για 15 ημέρες. Η τελευταία φάση περιελάμβανε προσομοίωση των εργασιών του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στην Αθήνα (12 Δεκεμβρίου 2017), όπου οι συμμετέχοντες όλων των χωρών-εταίρων συμμετείχαν ενεργά στη διαδικασία λήψης αποφάσεων για τη διαχείριση των προσφυγικών ροών, παίζοντας το ρόλο των Ευρωβουλευτών, προκειμένου να αντιληφθούν όλες τις διαστάσεις για τη διαδικασία λήψης αποφάσεων σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο.

ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΝΕΩΝ: A.L.T.I.U.S.-Act Locally, Think Internationally, Union(S) elections

Στο πλαίσιο της 4ης εκδήλωσης του έργου ALTIUS που πραγματοποιήθηκε στην Καλαμάτα (18-20/3/2016) έγινε η παρουσίαση των δραστηριοτήτων που έλαβαν χώρα σε τοπικό επίπεδο στις χώρες εταίρους, καθώς και στην εισαγωγή της θεματικής που επιλέχθηκε κατά τις τοπικές συζητήσεις (Ενεργός Συμμετοχή και Εθελοντισμός) και η γνωριμία με το δίκτυο που δημιουργήθηκε στη διάρκεια του έργου, δηλαδή το ευρωπαϊκό δίκτυο για την προώθηση του εθελοντισμού και της Ενεργούς Πολιτειότητας A.L.T.I.U.S.. Κατά τη διάρκεια του συνεδρίου που διοργανώθηκε με τον τίτλο "Active Participation as a means for Community development", αναλύθηκε η έννοια της ενεργούς πολιτειότητας και συμμετοχής από την αρχαία Ελλάδα έως τη σημερινή Ευρώπη, αναζητήθηκαν απαντήσεις σε σχέση με τον τρόπο που η Ενεργός Πολιτειότητα και η προώθηση του Εθελοντισμού μπορούν να ενθαρρυνθούν και παρουσιάστηκαν καλές πρακτικές και παραδείγματα ατόμων και ομάδων που μέσα από ενεργό συμμετοχή ενδυνάμωσαν την κοινωνία τους. Κατά την 3η μέρα της εκδήλωσης, διοργανώθηκαν 3 εργαστήρια (workshops), όπου οι συμμετέχοντες είχαν την ευκαιρία να κατανοήσουν βαθύτερα την έννοια και τη σημασία του εθελοντισμού, να καταλάβουν καλύτερα την Ενεργό Πολιτειότητα και να μάθουν πως να χρησιμοποιούν νέες τεχνολογίες για την προώθηση δραστηριοτήτων της κοινωνίας των πολιτών.

ΜΕΡΟΣ ΙΙΙ

ΟΙ ΔΡΑΣΕΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΗΜΕΙΟΥ ΕΠΑΦΗΣ

4. Ο Ρόλος των Εθνικών Σημείων Επαφής

Σύμφωνα με τον EACEA, τα εθνικά σημεία επαφής του προγράμματος έχουν ως στόχο την ενημέρωση του κοινού, των δυνητικών δικαιούχων του προγράμματος και να λειτουργούν πολλαπλασιαστές για το πρόγραμμα. Θα πρέπει να διαδραματίζουν διαμεσολαβητικό ρόλο μεταξύ των ενδιαφερόμενων φορέων και της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής. Πιο συγκεκριμένα, τα εθνικά σημεία επαφής θα πρέπει να εκτελούν τα ακόλουθα καθήκοντα που θα πρέπει να περιγράφονται στο πρόγραμμα εργασίας τους:

(α) Βασικές υπηρεσίες: γενικές πληροφορίες σχετικά με το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» έναντι του ευρύ κοινού:

- Εξασφάλιση της προώθησης του προγράμματος.
- Διευκόλυνση της συμμετοχής στο πρόγραμμα στο μεγαλύτερο δυνατό αριθμό δυνητικών αιτούντων.
- Παροχή πληροφοριών στους δυνητικούς αιτούντες όσον αφορά τις διάφορες δράσεις του προγράμματος με διαφόρους τρόπους: 1) απαντώντας σε αιτήσεις παροχής πληροφοριών, 2) παρέχοντας ενεργά πληροφορίες με τα ενημερωτικά δελτία ή/ και μέσω ενός δικτυακού τόπου, 3) διοργανώνοντας ενημερωτικές συναντήσεις.
- Διευκόλυνση της αναζήτησης εταίρων.
- Ενίσχυση των δραστηριοτήτων διάδοσης για την προώθηση των αποτελεσμάτων του προγράμματος (προώθηση σε εθνικό/περιφερειακό επίπεδο, της διακρατικής συνεργασίας) και παροχή πληροφοριών στους πολίτες σχετικά με το Πρόγραμμα και τα επιτεύγματά του.
- Εξασφάλιση μιας ισόρροπης γεωγραφικής κατανομής των εκδηλώσεων που διοργανώνονται σε εθνικό επίπεδο.

(β) Ειδικές υπηρεσίες: υποστήριξη σε πολλαπλασιαστές φορείς σε εθνικό επίπεδο:

- Κινητοποίηση των σχετικών οργανώσεων για την προώθηση του προγράμματος, με ιδιαίτερη προσοχή να ποικίλει το φάσμα των πιθανών υποψηφίων με τη συμμετοχή νέων οργανισμών.
- Συνεργασία, συντονισμός και διευκόλυνση του έργου των πολλαπλασιαστών πληροφόρησης με την οργάνωση συναντήσεων, την παραγωγή και τη διάδοση ενημερωτικού υλικού.

- Συμμετοχή σε εκδηλώσεις προώθησης του προγράμματος που οργανώνονται από τους πολλαπλασιαστές.
- Εξασφάλιση σύνδεσης με τα άλλα γραφεία πληροφόρησης της ΕΕ, προκειμένου να είναι σε θέση να ενημερώσουν τους πιθανούς υποψήφιους για τα ενωσιακά προγράμματα πιο προσαρμοσμένα στις ανάγκες τους.
- Εξασφάλιση της συνεργασίας με τις δομές του ίδιου τύπου ανταγωνιστικών ευρωπαϊκών προγραμμάτων (π.χ. Life, Horizon 2020).

(γ) Στρατηγικά καθήκοντα:

- Υποστήριξη της στρατηγική προσέγγισης της Επιτροπής και του Εκτελεστικού Οργανισμού, ευνοώντας την υλοποίηση των έργων με μεγάλη γεωγραφική κάλυψη, ένα ευρύ αντίκτυπο και με ισχυρή θεματική εστίαση στις πολιτικές της ΕΕ.

Κατά την αξιολόγηση των τελικών εκθέσεων που υποβάλλονται από τα εθνικά σημεία επαφής για το εκάστοτε ετήσιο πρόγραμμα εργασίας που υλοποιείται, ο EACEA λαμβάνει, επίσης, υπόψη του τα ακόλουθα στοιχεία προκειμένου να αναλύσει τον αντίκτυπο των δραστηριοτήτων των εθνικών σημείων επαφής:

- Αύξηση του ποσοστού των νέων οργανισμών που υποβάλλουν αίτηση για κάθε χώρα.
- Αύξηση του ποσοστού του κοινού που προσεγγίστηκε από τα εθνικά σημεία επαφής

5. Οι Δράσεις του Σημείου Επαφής της Ελλάδας, 2014-2020

Με την υπ'αριθ.οικ.31962/23-9-2013 απόφαση του Γενικού Γραμματέα του ΥΠΕΣ, η οποία συμπληρώθηκε με την υπ' αριθ.6912/9-3-2018 απόφαση του Υπουργού Εσωτερικών, ορίστηκε το Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών εθνικό σημείο επαφής του ευρωπαϊκού προγράμματος 'Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020' για το συντονισμό της υλοποίησής του σε εθνικό επίπεδο. Σε αυτό το πλαίσιο, κατατέθηκαν από το εθνικό σημείο επαφής ετήσια προγράμματα εργασιών για όλη την προγραμματική περίοδο (με εξαίρεση το 2020) στην Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή για τη χρηματοδότηση ύψους 25.000€ ετησίως και τα οποία έλαβαν τις σχετικές εγκρίσεις (βλ. Παράρτημα VI). Παράλληλα, για τη διαχείριση του έργου δημοσιότητας και συντονισμού της εφαρμογής του προγράμματος σε εθνικό επίπεδο προβλέφθηκε η ένταξη έργου χρηματοδότησης με τίτλο «Δράσεις του Προγράμματος Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες 2014-2020» στο Πρόγραμμα Δημοσίων Επενδύσεων (2014ΣΕ3552001). Κατόπιν τούτου, σχεδιάστηκαν και υλοποιήθηκαν κατά την περίοδο 2014-2020 οι κάτωθι δράσεις[1]:

ΤΥΠΟΣ ΔΡΑΣΤΗΡΙΟΤΗΤΑΣ	**ΔΕΙΚΤΕΣ ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΟΣ (ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΔΡΑΣΕΩΝ)**	**ΔΕΙΚΤΕΣ ΑΠΗΧΗΣΗΣ (ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΕΧΟΝΤΩΝ/ ΠΑΡΑΛΗΠΤΩΝ)**
Σεμινάρια κατάρτισης	53	1229
Ημερίδες	8	414
Συναντήσεις και παρουσιάσεις σε εθνικό επίπεδο	45	2826
Ηλεκτρονικό Ενημερωτικό Δελτίο	26	2838
Έντυπα/βιβλία	14	1075
Ενημερωτικά Σημειώματα (Εγκύκλιοι)	18	360
Αφίσες	2	-
Ιστοσελίδα	1	-

[1] Βλ. Εκθέσεις των ετήσιων δράσεων του εθνικού σημείου επαφής στο Παράρτημα VI.

ΕΠΕΙΓΟΝ- ΠΡΟΜΕΣΜΙΑ 13.09.2013

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΗΣ & ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΙΑΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ ΤΟΠΙΚΗΣ ΑΥΤΟΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΗΣ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΔΙΕΘΝΩΝ & ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΣΧΕΣΕΩΝ

Ταχ. Δ/νση	Σταδίου 27
Ταχ. Κώδικας	101 83
Πληροφ.	Ε. Καλλίνικου
Τηλ.	2103764707, 2131364707
FAX	210 - 3764713
E-mail	: proetoimasia@ypes.gr, e.kallinikou@ypes.gr

Αθήνα, 23 Σεπτεμβρίου 2013

Α.Π. :31962

ΠΡΟΣ :
Μ.Ε.Α στην ΕΕ,
10- 21, Rue Jacques de Lalaing,
1040, Βρυξέλλες,
BELGIUM
Υπ' όψη κου Δημελίδη
και Ράντια
και Δαλιαμάγκου

ΘΕΜΑ: **Ορισμός Οργανισμού σημείου επαφής του προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020» και ορισμός εκπροσώπων στην Επιτροπή του προγράμματος**

Σχετ.:
1. Τα με Α.Π.6701/09.09.2013 και Α.Π. 6352/06.08.2013 έγγραφά σας
2. Τα COMMC2/SB/cl Ares (2013)2989394/04.09.2013 και COMMC2/SB/cl Ares (2013)2799906/31.07.2013 έγγραφα της Γενικής Διεύθυνσης Επικοινωνίας της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής

Ανταποκριθείς με το αντικείμενο του θέματος και το περιεχόμενο των υπόψη σχετικών, σας γνωρίζουμε τα ακόλουθα:

Ως Σημείο Επαφής για το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες» για την περίοδο 2014-2020 ορίζεται το Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών και συγκεκριμένα το **Τμήμα Αναπτυξιακών Προγραμμάτων** της **Διεύθυνσης Οικονομικής και Αναπτυξιακής Πολιτικής ΤΑ** της Γενικής Διεύθυνσης Οικονομικών Υπηρεσιών.

Επιπλέον, στην Επιτροπή που θα επικουρεί την Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή για το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες» για την περίοδο 2014-2020 εκπρόσωποι της χώρας ορίζονται οι εξής υπάλληλοι του Υπουργείου Εσωτερικών :

Γκ. Αντώνης ΚΑΡΒΟΥΝΗΣ, υπάλληλος του Τμήματος Αναπτυξιακών Προγραμμάτων της Διεύθυνσης Οικονομικής και Αναπτυξιακής Πολιτικής ΤΑ, με τα ακόλουθα στοιχεία επικοινωνίας: Τηλ/νο: 2131364710, e-mail: a.karvounis@ypes.gr

Zι και Άννα ΦΑΡΟΥΠΟΥ, υπάλληλος του ίδιου Τμήματος της Διεύθυνσης Οικονομικής και Αναπτυξιακής Πολιτικής ΤΑ, με τα ακόλουθα στοιχεία επικοινωνίας Τηλ/νο: 2131364721, e-mail: a.farroupou@ypes.gr

Κατόπιν των ανωτέρω, παραμένουμε στη διάθεσή σας για περαιτέρω συνεργασία.

ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ
Ο ΠΡΟΣΤΑΜΕΝΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΑΣ

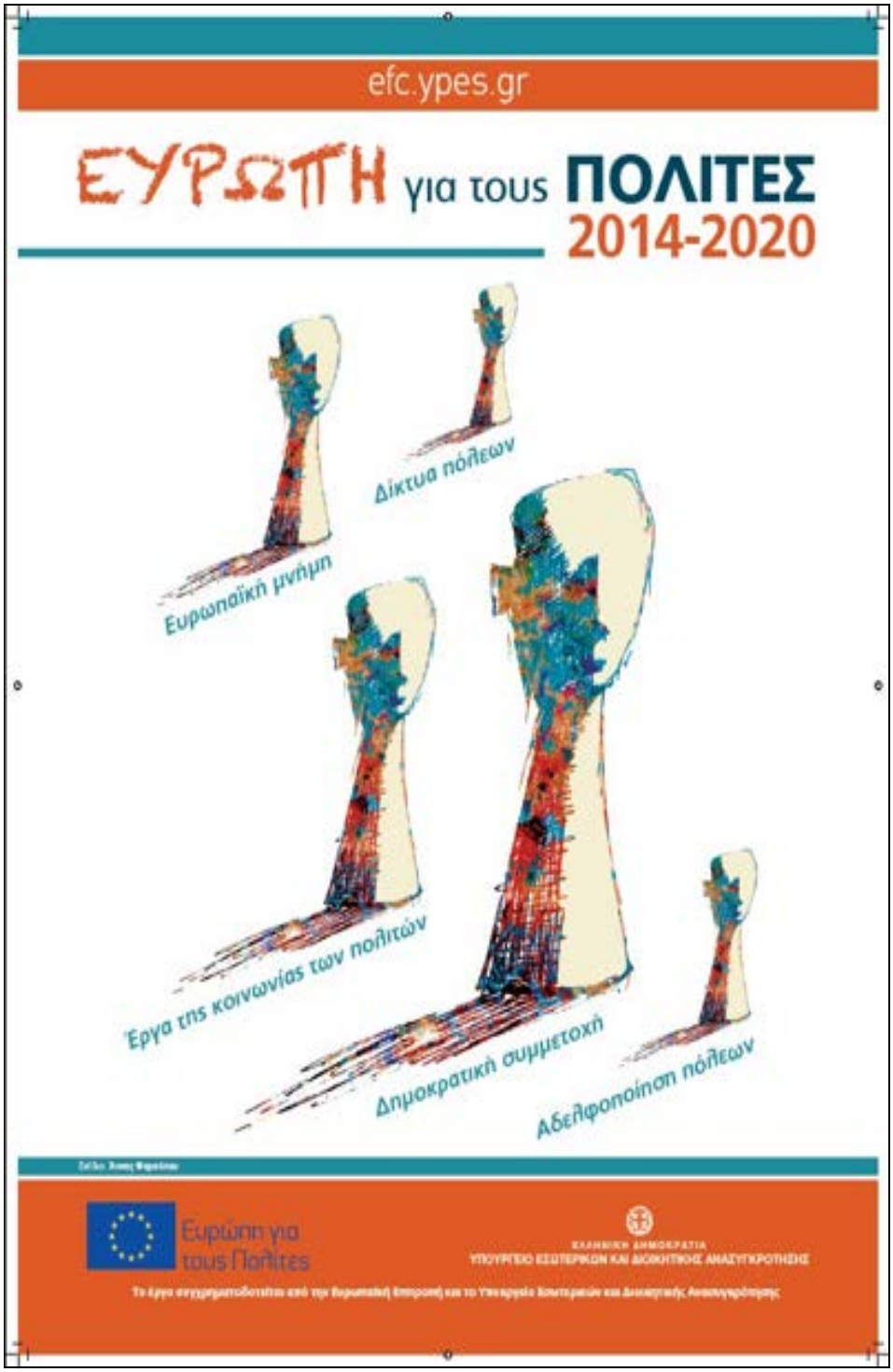
Ο ΓΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΑΣ

ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ Φ. ΙΩΑΝΝΙΔΗΣ

ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΝΟΜΗ
1. Γραφείο Υπουργού
2. Γραφείο Αναπ. Υπουργού κ. Π. Χρηστίδη (σχετικό με Α.Π. 1556/09.09.2013 σχετικού)
3. Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα κ. Γ.Φ. Ιωαννίδη
4. Γραφείο Γενικού Διευθυντή Οικονομικών Υπηρεσιών
5. Διεύθυνση Οικονομικής και Αναπτυξιακής Πολιτικής ΤΑ- Τμήμα Διεθνών και Ευρωπαϊκών Σχέσεων (με 2 αντίγραφα)
6. Αρχείο/Έκτυπο

ΕΜΜΑΝΟΥΗΛ ΚΥΡΙΜΗΣ

ΕΥΡΩΠΗ για τους ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ
2014-2020
Αδελφοποίηση πόλεων
Ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη
Έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών
Δίκτυα πόλεων
Δημοκρατική συμμετοχή
Σχέδιο: Άννα Θεοφάνου
efc.ypes.gr
Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΥΓΚΡΟΤΗΣΗΣ


efc.ypes.gr
ΕΥΡΩΠΗ για τους ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ
2014-2020
Δίκτυα πόλεων
Ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη
Έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών
Δημοκρατική συμμετοχή
Αδελφοποίηση πόλεων
Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΔΙΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗΣ

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΑΥΤΟΤΕΛΕΣ ΤΜΗΜΑ ΔΙΕΘΝΩΝ ΚΑΙ
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΣΧΕΣΕΩΝ

Αθήνα, 9 Μαρτίου 2018
Α.Π. 6912

Ταχ. Δ/νση : Ευαγγελιστρίας 2
Ταχ. Κώδικας: 10563, Αθήνα
Πληροφορίες: Α. Καρβούνης
Τηλέφωνο: 213 13 61114
E-mail international@ypes.gr

ΠΡΟΣ:
Μόνιμη Ελληνική Αντιπροσωπεία στην Ε.Ε.,
19-21, Rue Jacques de Lalaing,
1040, Brussels,
BELGIUM

ΘΕΜΑ: Επιτροπή Προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες 2014-2020» - Αντικατάσταση αναπληρωματικού εκπροσώπου.
ΣΧΕΤ: Τα με Α.Π.40325/14-12-2016, 26274/23.7.2015, 31962/23.09.2013 έγγραφά μας.

Αναφορικά με το αντικείμενο του θέματος και σε συνέχεια των ανωτέρω σχετικών, θέτουμε υπ' όψιν σας τα επικαιροποιημένα στοιχεία επικοινωνίας των υπαλλήλων του Υπουργείου Εσωτερικών και εκπροσώπων της Χώρας (τακτικού και αναπληρωματικού) στην εν θέματι Επιτροπή:

κ. Αντώνης ΚΑΡΒΟΥΝΗΣ (τακτικός εκπρόσωπος):

Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών
Αυτοτελές Τμήμα Διεθνών και Ευρωπαϊκών Σχέσεων
Τηλ: +30 213 136 1114
Ηλεκτρονικό ταχυδρομείο: a.karvounis@ypes.gr

κα. Αθηνά ΣΟΦΙΑΝΙΔΟΥ (αναπληρωματικός εκπρόσωπος):

Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών
Αυτοτελές Τμήμα Διεθνών και Ευρωπαϊκών Σχέσεων
Τηλ: +30 213 136 1115
Ηλεκτρονικό ταχυδρομείο: a.sofianidou@ypes.gr

Ο ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ

Π. ΣΚΟΥΡΛΕΤΗΣ

ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ
Ο ΠΡΟΪΣΤΑΜΕΝΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑΣ
ΤΟΥ ΤΜΗΜΑΤΟΣ

ΕΜΜΑΝΟΥΗΛ ΚΥΡΙΜΗΣ

Ημερίδα παρουσίασης του προγράμματος στην ΚΕΔΕ σε συνεργασία με τον ΕΟΕΣ Αμφικτυονία (Αθήνα, 8 Ιουλίου 2014)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΩΝ
(Ι.Κ.Υ.)
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΕΙΔΙΚΩΝ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ
ΔΙΕΘΝΩΝ ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΩΝ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΕΝΩΣΗΣ

Erasmus+

Αθήνα, 19/4/2018

Ταχ. Δ/νση: Λεωφόρος Εθνικής Αντιστάσεως 41
Τ.Κ. 14234 – Πόλη: Νέα Ιωνία
Ιστοσελίδα: http://www.iky.gr
Πληροφορίες: Άννα Καράμπελα
Τηλέφωνο: 210 3726351
Fax: 210 3221863
e-mail: akarabela@iky.gr

Προς: **Τον Δρ. Αντώνιο Καρβούνη**
Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής "Ευρώπη για όλους τους πολίτες 2014-2020" και Πρόεδρος της Διυπουργικής Επιτροπής για τις Διεθνείς Συνεργασίες των ΟΤΑ, Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών
a.karvounis@ypes.gr

Αξιότιμε κύριε Καρβούνη,

Θα θέλαμε να εκφράσουμε τις ευχαριστίες μας για τη συμμετοχή σας ως ομιλητής στην ημερίδα με τίτλο: «Τα Ευρωπαϊκά Ανταγωνιστικά Προγράμματα και η σύνδεσή τους με την Εκπαίδευση και την Κατάρτιση», η οποία πραγματοποιήθηκε στην Αθήνα, την Πέμπτη 15 Μαρτίου 2018 στο ξενοδοχείο DIVANI CARAVEL HOTEL, από το Ίδρυμα Κρατικών Υποτροφιών-Εθνική Μονάδα για το Πρόγραμμα Erasmus+.

Μέσα από την διαφωτιστική και εμπεριστατωμένη ομιλία σας συμβάλατε στην επιτυχία των εργασιών της Ημερίδας.

Κατά γενική ομολογία, η Ημερίδα πραγματοποιήθηκε με επιτυχία και έδωσε το έναυσμα, ώστε να διεξαχθεί μια γόνιμη και εποικοδομητική συζήτηση και να ανταλλαχθούν χρήσιμες απόψεις γύρω από τα Ευρωπαϊκά Ανταγωνιστικά Προγράμματα στην Ελλάδα και τη σύνδεσή τους με το χώρο της Εκπαίδευσης και της Κατάρτισης.

Ελπίζουμε να μας δοθεί εκ νέου ευκαιρία στο μέλλον.

Ο ΠΡΟΪΣΤΑΜΕΝΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗΣ

ΦΩΤΙΟΣ ΑΘΑΝΑΣΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στο εργαστήρι του ESPON για την γαλάζια ανάπτυξη στην Ελλάδα (Πειραιάς, 10 Νοεμβρίου 2014)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του Δήμου Ηρακλείου Αττικής για την Προγραμματική Περίοδο 2014-2020 (Ηράκλειο, 4 Δεκεμβρίου 2014)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του ΕΟΕΣ Αμφικτυονία και της ΠΕΔ Αττικής (Αθήνα, 16 Μαρτίου 2015)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του ΕΟΕΣ Αμφικτυονία και της ΠΕΔ Κεντρικής Μακεδονίας (Πανόραμα, 18 Μαΐου 2015)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος σε συνάντηση με φορείς στο Δήμο Μεγαρέων (Μέγαρα, 24 Ιουνίου 2015)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος σε συνάντηση με φορείς στο Δήμο Ελευσίνας (Ελευσίνα, 25 Ιουνίου 2015)

ΕΟΕΣ ΕΥΞΕΙΝΗ ΠΟΛΗ
EGTC EFXINI POLI

ΔΙΚΤΥΟ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ ΓΙΑ ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ - SolidarCity NETWORK

Αθήνα 15-06-2015
ΑΠ. 43

Προς
Δρα Αντόνη Καρβούνη,
Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής 'Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες 2014-2020'
Στέλεχος Τμήματος Αναπτυξιακών Προγραμμάτων
και Κρατικών Ενισχύσεων, ΥΠΕΣΔΑ

ΘΕΜΑ: «**ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΑ ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ**»

Το ΔΣ του ΕΟΕΣ ΕΥΞΕΙΝΗ ΠΟΛΗ, σας εκφράζει τις **Ολόθερμες Ευχαριστίες** του για την συμμετοχή σας ως εισηγητή με θέμα «**Τα Ανταγωνιστικά Ευρωπαϊκά Προγράμματα 2014-2020**», στην ημερίδα που οργάνωσε με **ΘΕΜΑ: «ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΙΑΚΕΣ ΠΡΩΤΟΒΟΥΛΙΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΤΟΠΙΚΗΣ ΑΥΤΟΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΗΣ ΣΤΗ ΝΕΑ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟ 2014-20»**, την Τετάρτη **20 Μαΐου 2015**, στο ΕΜΠΟΡΙΚΟ &ΒΙΟΜΗΧΑΝΙΚΟ ΕΠΙΜΕΛΗΤΗΡΙΟ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑ, την οποία παρακολούθησαν η Πολιτική Ηγεσία της Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης και Στελέχη τους, που πρόκειται να ασχοληθούν με την υποβολή και Διαχείριση Αναπτυξιακών Προγραμμάτων.

Η εισήγησή σας θεωρήθηκε πολύ σημαντική και χρήσιμη από τους συμμετέχοντες και πιστεύουμε ότι θα συμβάλει στην καλύτερη αξιοποίηση των συγχρηματοδοτούμενων προγραμμάτων, σε μια περίοδο που η Αυτοδιοίκηση και η Χώρα μας έχει ανάγκη περισσότερο από κάθε άλλη φορά.

Για τον ΕΟΕΣ ΕΥΞΕΙΝΗ ΠΟΛΗ
Ο Πρόεδρος

Dr. Χάρος Χαρράν

ΕΟΕΣ ΕΥΞΕΙΝΗ ΠΟΛΗ
ΔΙΚΤΥΟ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ
ΓΙΑ ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ
Ε.Ο.Ε. EGTC EFXINI POLI-SOLIDARCITY NETWORK
Ν/Π/Δ Α.μ.Κε. ΑΦΜ: 090207875 ΔΟΥ ΑΧΑΡΝΩΝ
Ε.Δ.ΡΑ: ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑΣ 60-136 74-ΑΧΑΡΝΕΣ
ΤΗΛ. 210 2480041-45 FAX: 210 2480046

Κοιν.

- Διεύθυνση Οικονομικής και Αναπτυξιακής Πολιτικής
  Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης
  Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών και Διοικητικής Ανασυγκρότησης
  Σταδίου 27, 10183 Αθήνα

1) ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑΣ 60, 13674, ΑΧΑΡΝΕΣ 1) 60, THESSALIAS St., 13674 ACHARNES - ATTICA- GREECE
2) Σ. ΠΕΤΡΟΥΛΑ 3, 13341 ΑΝΩ ΛΙΟΣΙΑ 2) 3, SOT. PETROULA St, 13341 ANO LIOSSIA - ATTICA- GREECE

TEL ++30 2102480041(1)45, FAX ++30 2102480046, e-mail: epolis@efxini.gr, www.efxini.gr

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στο διακρατικό συνέδριο του έργου ΄Little Big things in Europe’ του Δήμου Καστοριάς (Καστοριά, 21 Ιουλίου 2015)

LITTLE BIG THINGS IN EUROPE

Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες

ΒΕΒΑΙΩΣΗ

Βεβαιώνεται ότι ο κ. **Καρβούνης Ανούνας** συμμετείχε στις 21 Ιουλίου 2015 ως βασικός εισηγητής στο συνέδριο δικτύωσης που έλαβε χώρα την Τρίτη 21 Ιουλίου 2015, στο πλαίσιο της καταληκτικής εκδήλωσης του προγράμματος "Little big things in Europe and in our local communities" που έλαβε χώρα στο Δήμο Καστοριάς, ο οποίος κάλυψε και τη μεταφορά του. Στα πλαίσια της εκδήλωσης πραγματοποιήθηκαν δραστηριότητες που ενθαρρύνουν τη δικτύωση και τη μελλοντική συνεργασία των εταίρων και προωθούν τις αξίες της Ευρώπης. Συγκεκριμένα στις 20, 21 και 22 Ιουλίου 2015 υλοποιήθηκαν παρουσιάσεις, workshops και συζητήσεις στρογγυλής τραπέζης για το περιβάλλον, τον κοινωνικό τουρισμό, την παιδεία, τις διαγενεακές ανταλλαγές, την επιχειρηματικότητα και την προώθηση- ανάδειξη τοπικών παραδοσιακών προϊόντων. Ο κ. Καρβούνης ως υπεύθυνος του Εθνικού Σημείου Επαφής για το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» συμμετείχε ως βασικός εισηγητής.

Ο Δήμαρχος Καστοριάς

Βαγελής Ανέστης

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στο διακρατικό συνέδριο «Δημοκρατική ιδιότητα και συμμετοχή στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στα κοινά» (DOCPIE) του Δήμου Σερρών (Σέρρες, 1 Ιουλίου 2015)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα της ΠΕΔ Κεντρικής Μακεδονίας για τα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα 'Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020' και 'Δημιουργική Ευρώπη, 2014-2020' (Θεσσαλονίκη, 20 Οκτωβρίου 2015)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του ΕΟΕΣ Αμφικτυονία, της ΕΕΤΑΑ και της ΠΕΔ Αττικής για τις αδελφοποιήσεις πόλεων (Αθήνα, 23 Νοεμβρίου 2015)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του Δήμου Λαρισαίων για τα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα (Λάρισα, 18 Δεκεμβρίου 2015)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στη Γενική Συνέλευση του ΕΟΕΣ Εύξεινη Πόλη (Αθήνα, 17 Μαρτίου 2017)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του ΕΟΕΣ Αμφικτυονίας και της ΠΕΔ Αττικής για το Ευρωπαϊκό Έτος Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς 2018 (Αθήνα, 31 Ιανουαρίου 2018)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στους φοιτητές του Παντείου Πανεπιστημίου (Αθήνα, 9 Μαρτίου 2018)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην ημερίδα του Υπουργείου Παιδείας για τα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα (Αθήνα, 15 Μαρτίου 2018)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην ημερίδα του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού για τα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα (Πάτρα, 16 Μαρτίου 2018)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην ημερίδα του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού για τα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα στο Κέντρο Έρευνας Μουσείο Τσιτσάνη (Τρίκαλα, 24 Μαΐου 2018)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού

ΒΕΒΑΙΩΣΗ

Βεβαιώνεται ότι ο κ. Αντώνης Καρβούνης,
συμμετείχε με παρουσίαση στην ημερίδα με θέμα:
«Δημιουργική Ευρώπη και ευρωπαϊκά ανταγωνιστικά προγράμματα»,
του Γραφείου Δημιουργική Ευρώπη Ελλάδας, της Διεύθυνσης Διεθνών Σχέσεων
και Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης,
του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού

στο Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Πατρών,
την Παρασκευή 16 Μαρτίου 2018

Ο Προϊστάμενος
της Διεύθυνσης Διεθνών Σχέσεων και Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης
του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού

Γιώργος Καλαμαντής

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στο συνέδριο του ΕΟΕΣ Αμφικτυονία και του Δήμου Αγίας Βαρβάρας στην Εστία Ποντίων, στο πλαίσιο του έργου URGENT (Αγία Βαρβάρα, 31 Μαΐου 2018)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στο Συνέδριο του Εθνικού Σημείου Επαφής για τα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα στο ΕΚΔΔΑ (Ταύρος, 27 Ιουνίου 2018)

European Decades

Co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union

CERTIFICATE FOR PARTICIPATION

This certificate is issued to Antonios Karvounis

verifying the active participation in the Round Table Open Debate on the topic **"1957 The Treaty of Rome and the beginning of European Economic Community"**, held in Serres, Greece-10-12.09.2018 within the "European Decades – EdUcade" project, co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union. The Round Table Open Debate was organised by the Municipality of Serres in cooperation with the E.M.E.I.S. (Study and Research of Serres History) Association.

September 12th 2018

THE MAYOR OF SERRES

PETROS AGGELIDIS

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF E.M.E.I.S (STUDY AND RESEARCH OF SERRES HISTORY) ASSOCIATION

DIMITRIOS DIMOUDIS

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του ΕΟΕΣ Αμφικτυονίας, της Περιφέρειας Κρήτης και του Δήμου Μυλοποτάμου για το Ευρωπαϊκό Έτος Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς 2018 (Μυλοπόταμος, 12 Οκτωβρίου 2018)

Το αφιερωματικό τεύχος του Δελτίου Διεθνών και Ευρωπαϊκών Θεμάτων & Αναπτυξιακού Σχεδιασμού για το Ευρωπαϊκό Έτος Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς που επιμελήθηκε το εθνικό σημείο επαφής του προγράμματος

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του ΕΟΕΣ ΕΛΙΚΑΣ για το Ευρωπαϊκό Έτος Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς 2018 στο δημαρχείο Νεάπολης-Συκεών (Νεάπολη Θεσσαλονίκης, 30 Νοεμβρίου 2018)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού για τα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα στο συνεδριακό κέντρο *Χρήστος Παλαιολόγος* (Λιβαδειά, 29 Φεβρουαρίου 2019)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στη Γενική Συνέλευση του ΕΟΕΣ Αμφικτυονία (Αθήνα, 29 Μαρτίου 2019)

Ευχαριστήριο μήνυμα του Δήμου Λαυρεωτικής για τη συνδρομή του εθνικού σημείου επαφής στην κατάθεση και επιλογή της πρότασής του

COSMOTE Cloud

Θέμα: **ΕΝΤΑΞΗ ΕΡΓΟΥ Δ.ΛΑΥΡΕΩΤΙΚΗΣ ΣΤΟ Town Twinning 2018 - Round 2**
Αποστολέας: Antonis Paraskevopoulos <aparask@gmail.com>
Παραλήπτης: <a.karkouris@pes.gr>
Ημερομηνία: 2019-02-21 14:25

Αγαπητέ κ.Καρβούνη,
όπως λογικά ήδη θα γνωρίζετε η πρόταση του Δήμου Λαυρεωτικής στο Europe for Citizens Town Twinning 2018 - Round 2 εντάχθηκε προς χρηματοδότηση.

Θα ήθελα λοιπόν να σας ευχαριστήσω πολύ (προσωπικά αλλά και εκ μέρους του Δήμου) για όλες τις πολύτιμες συμβουλές και υποδείξεις σας κατά την υποβολή της πρότασης.

Με εκτίμηση,

Antonis Paraskevopoulos
Business & Technology Consultant

15 Diomedious Kyriakou str., Athens, GREECE, GR-10445

Mobile: +30 6973 699412
Fax: +30 210 8839131
LinkedIn: aparask
aparask@gmail.com
http://www.paraskevopoulos.info/
Facebook: antonios.paraskevopoulos

Εργαστήριο για τη συγγραφή προτάσεων για το Ευρωπαϊκό Πρόγραμμα 'Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020' (Εμπορικό Επιμελητήριο Πειραιά, 12 Ιουλίου 2019)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα του Δήμου Λυκόβρυσης-Πεύκης για τις αδελφοποιήσεις πόλεων (Πεύκη, 7 Οκτωβρίου 2019)

Συμμετοχή στη συνάντηση των Εθνικών Σημείων Επαφής του Ευρωπαϊκού Προγράμματος 'Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020' (Βιέννη, 5-7 Δεκεμβρίου 2019)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην Ημερίδα της Ένωσης Γενικών Γραμματέων «ΚΛΕΙΣΘΕΝΗΣ» και του Πανεπιστημίου Δυτικής Αττικής (Αιγάλεω, 13 Δεκεμβρίου 2019)

Παρουσίαση του προγράμματος στην στο πλαίσιο του Athens Money Show 2020 (Αθήνα, 17 Ιανουαρίου 2020)

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑΤΑ

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ Ι
Ο ΚΑΝΟΝΙΣΜΟΣ (ΕΕ) αριθ. 390/2014 ΓΙΑ ΤΗ ΘΕΣΠΙΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ «ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ, 2014-2020»

ΚΑΝΟΝΙΣΜΟΙ

ΚΑΝΟΝΙΣΜΟΣ (ΕΕ) αριθ. 390/2014 ΤΟΥ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟΥ

της 14ης Απριλίου 2014

για τη θέσπιση του προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» για την περίοδο 2014-2020

ΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΕΝΩΣΗΣ,

Έχοντας υπόψη τη Συνθήκη για τη λειτουργία της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, και ιδίως το άρθρο 352,

Έχοντας υπόψη την πρόταση της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής,

Κατόπιν διαβίβασης του σχεδίου νομοθετικής πράξης στα εθνικά κοινοβούλια,

Έχοντας υπόψη την έγκριση του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου,

Έχοντας υπόψη τη γνώμη της Ευρωπαϊκής Οικονομικής και Κοινωνικής Επιτροπής (1),

Έχοντας υπόψη τη γνώμη της Επιτροπής των Περιφερειών (2),

Αποφασίζοντας σύμφωνα με την ειδική νομοθετική διαδικασία,

Εκτιμώντας τα ακόλουθα:

(1) Σύμφωνα με τα άρθρα 10 και 11 της Συνθήκης για την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, κάθε πολίτης έχει το δικαίωμα να μετέχει στον δημοκρατικό βίο της Ένωσης και τα θεμελιώδη άρθρα της Ένωσης θα πρέπει να παρέχουν στους πολίτες και στις αντιπροσωπευτικές ενώσεις την ευκαιρία να ανταλλάσσουν απόψεις για όλους τους τομείς δράσης της Ένωσης, καθώς και να διατηρούν ανοικτά διαφανή και τακτικά διάλογο με τις αντιπροσωπευτικές ενώσεις και την κοινωνία των πολιτών.

(2) Με την ανακοίνωση της Επιτροπής της 3ης Μαρτίου 2010 με τίτλο «Ευρώπη 2020 — Στρατηγική για έξυπνη, βιώσιμη και χωρίς αποκλεισμούς ανάπτυξη», η Ένωση και τα κράτη μέλη αποφασισαν στην επίτευξη ανάπτυξης, απασχόλησης, παραγωγικότητας και κοινωνικής συνοχής για την εξάμηνη δεκαετία.

(3) Παρά τα γεγονός ότι αντικειμενικά η ιδιότητα του πολίτη της Ένωσης με κατοχυρωμένα δικαιώματα έχει προστιθέμενη αξία, η Ένωση δεν κατέχει πάντοτε αποτελεσματικά τη σύνδεση ανάμεσα στην εξέλιξη ενός μεγάλου εύρους οικονομικών και κοινωνικών προβλημάτων και τις ενωσιακές πολιτικές. Σε αυτό τον τομέα, τα ενωσιακά επιτεύγματα όσον αφορά την ειρήνη και τη σταθερότητα στην Ευρώπη, τη μακρόχρονη βιώσιμη ανάπτυξη, τις σταθερές τιμές, την αποτελεσματική πρακτική των καταναλωτών και του περιβάλλοντος, και την προαγωγή των θεμελιωδών δικαιωμάτων, δεν κατέλαγαν πάντα στην ανάπτυξη ισχυρού αισθήματος των πολιτών ότι μετέχουν στην Ένωση.

(4) Προκειμένου η Ευρώπη να έρθει πιο κοντά στους πολίτες της και να τους δώσει τη δυνατότητα να συμμετέχουν πλήρως στην ανοικοδόμηση μιας ανώτερης ποιότητας δημόσιας Ένωσης, απαιτείται ποικιλία δράσεων και συντονισμένων προσπαθειών μέσω δραστηριοτήτων σε διακρατικό και ενωσιακό επίπεδο. Ο βασικός της προϋπολογισμός των ευρωπαϊκών πολιτών παρέχει μια ρεαλιστική ευκαιρία να δοθεί η δυνατότητα στους πολίτες να συμμετέχουν άμεσα στην εκπόνηση της νομοθεσίας της ΕΕ (3).

(5) Στην απόφαση αριθ. 1904/2006/ΕΚ του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου (4) καθορίζεται ένα πρόγραμμα δράσης, με το οποίο επιβεβαιώνεται η ανάγκη για προαγωγή διαφανούς διαλόγου με τις οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών και τους δήμους και για υποστήριξη της ενεργού συμμετοχής των πολιτών.

(1) ΕΕ C 299 της 4.10.2012, σ. 122.
(2) ΕΕ C 277 της 13.9.2012, σ. 43.
(3) Κανονισμός (ΕΕ) αριθ. 211/2011 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 16ης Φεβρουαρίου 2011, σχετικά με τον πρωτοβουλία πολιτών (ΕΕ L 65 της 11.3.2011, σ. 1).
(4) Απόφαση αριθ. 1904/2006/ΕΚ του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 12ης Δεκεμβρίου 2006, για τη θέσπιση του προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» για την περίοδο 2007-2013 με σκοπό την προώθηση της ενεργού συμμετοχής των ευρωπαίων πολιτών στην κοινή (ΕΕ L 378 της 27.12.2006, σ. 32).

(6) Η ενδιάμεση έκθεση αξιολόγησης του προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» (2007-2013) μαζί με μια δημόσια διαβούλευση χάριν διαβίκτυου και δύο διαδικτυακές συνιστήσεις διαβούλευσης μεταξύ ενδιαφερομένων επιβεβαίωσαν ότι ένα νέο πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» διαμένει σημαντικό τόσο από οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών όσο και από μεμονωμένους συμμετέχοντες. Επιβεβαιώθηκε επίσης ότι θα πρέπει να διατηρεί προκειμένου να υπάρξουν αποτελέσματα σε οργανωτικό επίπεδο, όσον αφορά την ενίσχυση της κοινότητας και, σε ατομικό επίπεδο, όσον αφορά την ενίσχυση του ενδιαφέροντος για ζητήματα της Ένωσης. Ο παρών κανονισμός θα πρέπει επομένως να θεσπίσει ένα πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» για την περίοδο από το 2014 έως το 2020 (το πρόγραμμα).

(7) Σε άτι αφορά τα θέματα των σχεδίων, την ενσωμάτωσή τους στο τοπικό και περιφερειακό πλαίσιο και τη σύνδεση των ενδιαφερομένων θα πρέπει να δημιουργηθεί σημαντικός συνέργειες με άλλα προγράμματα της Ένωσης, ιδιαίτερα στους τομείς της εκπαίδευσης, της επαγγελματικής κατάρτισης και της νεολαίας, του αθλητισμού, του πολιτισμού και του τομέα των οπτικοακουστικών μέσων, των θεμελιωδών δικαιωμάτων και ελευθεριών, της κοινωνικής ένταξης, της ισότητας των φύλων, της καταπολέμησης των διακρίσεων, της έρευνας και καινοτομίας, της κοινωνίας των πληροφοριών, της πολιτικής για τη διοίκηση και τη εξωτερικής δράσης της Ένωσης.

(8) Το πρόγραμμα θα πρέπει να καλύπτει ευρύ φάσμα δικαιούχων δράσεων και να περιλαμβάνει, μεταξύ άλλων, κοινότητες, ενώσεις και ανεξάρτητες πολίτων για ζητήματα που έχουν σχέση με τη συμμετοχή των πολιτών, ειδικώτερα σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, τρικτοβουλίες ευαισθητοποίησης και τα προωθήσει τον προβληματισμό σχετικά με καθεστωτικές σπουδές, ιστορικές ιστορία, τρικτοβουλίες προκειμένου να αποκτήσουν οι ευρωπαίοι πολίτες, ιδίως οι νέοι, γνώση της ιστορίας της Ένωσης, και της λειτουργίας των θεσμικών οργάνων της Ένωσης, καθώς και ανεξάρτητες επί ζητημάτων ευρωπαϊκής πολιτικής, με σκοπό την τόνωση άλων των πτυχών της δημόσιας ζωής.

(9) Το ψήφισμα του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου της 2ας Απριλίου 2009 με θέμα «Ευρωπαϊκή συνείδηση και ολοκληρωτισμός» και τα συμπεράσματα του Συμβουλίου της 9ης/10ης Ιουνίου 2011 σχετικά με τη μνήμη των εγκλημάτων του διατελέσθησαν από τα ολοκληρωτικά καθεστώτα στην Ευρώπη υπογραμμίζουν τη σημασία της διατήρησης στη μνήμη των γεγονότων του παρελθόντος ως μέσο υπέρβασης του παρελθόντος και συμιλίωσης του μέλλοντος, και τονίζουν την αξία του ρόλου της Ένωσης στη διευκόλυνση, την ανταλλαγή και την προώθηση της συλλογικής μνήμης αυτών των εγκλημάτων. Ως εκ τούτου, θα πρέπει επίσης να λαμβάνονται υπόψη η σημασία των ιστορικών, πολιτιστικών και διαπολιτισμικών πτυχών, καθώς και οι υφιστάμενοι δεσμοί μεταξύ της μνήμης και της ευρωπαϊκής ταυτότητας.

(10) Η εφάπαξ διάσταση του προγράμματος θα πρέπει να εξασφαλίζει την αξιοπιστία και τη δυνατότητα για μεταφορά των αποτελεσμάτων, ώστε να επιτυγχάνει αποτελέσματα και μακροχρόνια βιωσιμότητα. Για τον σκοπό αυτόν, οι δραστηριότητες δικτυοποίησης θα πρέπει να έχουν σύνδεση με το πολιτικό θεσμικό πλαίσιο της Ένωσης και με χάριν της δέουσας προβολής.

(11) Ιδιαίτερη έμφαση θα πρέπει να δίδεται στην ισόρροπη ενσωμάτωση και συμμετοχή των πολιτών και των οργανώσεων της κοινωνίας των πολιτών από όλα τα κράτη μέλη στα διακριτικά σχέδια και δραστηριότητες, λαμβανομένου υπόψη του πολυγλωσσικού χαρακτήρα της Ένωσης και της ανάγκης, να μπόρεσαν υποκτρικοπιμένες ομάδες.

(12) Οι προσχωρούσες χώρες, οι υποψήφιες χώρες και οι δυνάμει υποψήφιες χώρες, αφενός, που ωφελούνται από την προενταξιακή στρατηγική, και οι χώρες ΕΖΕΣ, αφετέρου, που είναι μέλη της συμφωνίας ΕΟΧ αναγνωρίζονται ως δυνητικοί συμμετέχοντες σε προγράμματα της Ένωσης, σύμφωνα με τις συμφωνίες που έχουν συναφθεί. Επιπλέον, δυνάμει της απόφασης 2001/822/ΕΚ του Συμβουλίου (1), οι υπερπόντιες χώρες και εδάφη μπορούν να συμμετέχουν στο πρόγραμμα.

(13) Οι στόχοι της δίκαιης συνοικεσίας και βίωσης δημοκρατίας και της ανάπτυξης ενεργούσας κοινωνίας των πολιτών θα πρέπει να είναι κοινοί για το πρόγραμμα και για τον κανονισμό (ΕΕ) αριθ. 232/2014 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου (2). Η Ένωση προσφέρει μια προνομιούχα σχέση, ακολουθώντας στόχο σε αμοιβαία δέσμευση για κοινές αξίες και αρχές στις χώρες που καλύπτονται από το Ευρωπαϊκό Μέσο.

(14) Τα κονδύλια που διαμείνονται για δράσεις προβολής υπό τον παρόντα κανονισμό μπορούν στόχος να συμβάλλουν στην κάλυψη της δημοσίας επικοινωνίας των πολιτικών προτεραιοτήτων της Ένωσης, στον βαθμό που αυτές σχετίζονται με τους γενικούς στόχους του παρόντος κανονισμού.

(15) Το πρόγραμμα θα πρέπει να υπόκειται σε τακτική παρακολούθηση και ανεξάρτητη αξιολόγηση, σε συνεργασία με την Επιτροπή και το κράτη μέλη, ώστε να δίδεται η δυνατότητα για τα αναπροσαρμογές που είναι αναγκαίες για την ορθή εφαρμογή των μέτρων.

(1) Απόφαση 2001/822/ΕΚ του Συμβουλίου, της 27ης Νοεμβρίου 2001, για τη σύνδεση των υπερπόντιων χωρών και εδαφών με την Ευρωπαϊκή Κοινότητα («Overseas association») (ΕΕ L 314 της 30.11.2001, σ. 1).
(2) Κανονισμός (ΕΕ) αριθ. 232/2014 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 11ης Μαρτίου 2014, για τη θέσπιση Ευρωπαϊκού Μέσου Γειτονίας (ΕΕ L 77, της 15ης Μαρτίου 2014, σ. 27).

(16) Τα οικονομικά συμφέροντα της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης πρέπει να προστατεύονται μέσω αναλογικών μέτρων καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια του κύκλου των δαπανών, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της πρόληψης, της ανίχνευσης και της διερεύνησης των παρατυπιών, της ανάκτησης των απολεσθέντων, των εσφαλμένως καταβληθέντων ή των κακώς χρησιμοποιηθέντων κονδυλίων και, εφόσον απαιτείται, με την επιβολή διοικητικών και οικονομικών κυρώσεων, σύμφωνα με τον κανονισμό (ΕΕ, Ευρατόμ) αριθ. 966/2012 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου (1) (κανών «δημοσιονομικός κανονισμός») και τον κατ' εξουσιοδότηση κανονισμό (ΕΕ) αριθ. 1268/2012 της Επιτροπής (2).

(17) Προτεραιότητα θα πρέπει να δίδεται σε επιχορηγήσεις για σχέδια ανεξαρτήτως του μεγέθους τους αλλά με μεγάλο αντίκτυπο, ιδίως σχέδια που σχετίζονται άμεσα με τις πολιτικές της Ένωσης και αποκαταστούν στη συμμετοχή στη διαμόρφωση του πολιτικού θεματολογίου της Ένωσης. Επιπλέον, σύμφωνα με την αρχή της χρηστής δημοσιονομικής διαχείρισης, η υλοποίηση του προγράμματος θα πρέπει να απλοποιηθεί περαιτέρω με κρίσεις χρηματοδότησης, χρηματοδότησης κατ' αποκοπή και με την εφαρμογή πολιτικών κόστους ανά μονάδα.

(18) Προκειμένου να εξασφαλιστεί η συνέχεια της χρηματοδοτικής στήριξης που προβλέπεται να καλυφθεί από το πρόγραμμα, ο παρών κανονισμός δεν να εφαρμοσθεί από 1η Ιανουαρίου 2014. Για λόγους επείγοντος, ο παρών κανονισμός θα πρέπει να αρχίσει να ισχύει αμέσως μετά τη δημοσίευσή του.

(19) Επειδή οι επιδιώξεις της παρούσας οδηγίας, όχι να συμβάλει στην κατανόηση των πολιτών όσον αφορά την Ένωση, την ιστορία και την πολυμορφία της, να προαγάγει την ευρωπαϊκή διάσταση και να βελτιώσει τις συνθήκες δημοκρατικής συμμετοχής στο κοινό, δεν είναι δυνατόν να επιτευχθούν επαρκώς από τα κράτη μέλη και, λόγω του διακρατικού και πολυμορφικού χαρακτήρα του προγράμματος, είναι δυνατόν συνεπώς να επιτευχθούν με καλύτερο τρόπο σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, η Ένωση δύναται να εγκρίνει μέτρα, σύμφωνα με την αρχή της επικουρικότητας που καθορίζεται στο άρθρο 5 της Συνθήκης για την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση. Σύμφωνα με την αρχή της αναλογικότητας, του ίδιου άρθρου, ο παρών κανονισμός δεν υπερβαίνει τα αναγκαία όρια για την επίτευξη των στόχων αυτών.

(20) Δημοσιονομική τυπού αναφορά, για τα πρόγραμμα, κατά την έννοια του σημείου 18 της διοργανικής συμφωνίας της 2ας Δεκεμβρίου 2013 μεταξύ του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου, του Συμβουλίου και της Επιτροπής για τη δημοσιονομική πειθαρχία, τη συνεργασία σε δημοσιονομικά θέματα και τη χρηστή δημοσιονομική διαχείριση (3), περιλαμβάνεται στον παρόντα κανονισμό, για όλη τη διάρκεια του προγράμματος, χωρίς να επηρεάζονται οι αρμοδιότητες για τον προϋπολογισμό του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, όπως καθορίζονται στις Συνθήκη για τη λειτουργία της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.

(21) Ο παρών κανονισμός προβλέπει μεταβατικά μέτρα για την παρακολούθηση δράσεων που ξεκινούν πριν από τις 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2013, δυνάμει της απόφασης αριθ. 1904/2006/ΕΚ.

(22) Για την εξασφάλιση ορισμένων όρων εφαρμογής του παρόντος κανονισμού, θα πρέπει να ανατεθούν εκτελεστικές αρμοδιότητες στην Επιτροπή στο πλαίσιο του τεθέντος εφαρμογής και των στόχων του προγράμματος. Οι αρμοδιότητες αυτές θα πρέπει να ασκούνται σύμφωνα με τον κανονισμό (ΕΕ) αριθ. 182/2011 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου (4).

ΕΞΕΔΟΣΕ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΑ ΚΑΝΟΝΙΣΜΟ:

Άρθρο 1

Αντικείμενο και στόχος

1. Με τον παρόντα κανονισμό θεσπίζεται το πρόγραμμα «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες» για την περίοδο από την 1η Ιανουαρίου 2014 έως τις 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2020 («το πρόγραμμα»).

2. Στα πλαίσια του συνολικού στόχου της μεγαλύτερης προσέγγισης της Ένωσης προς τους πολίτες της, οι γενικές επιδιώξεις του προγράμματος είναι οι ακόλουθες:

α) να συμβάλει στην κατανόηση των πολιτών όσον αφορά την Ένωση, την ιστορία και την πολυμορφία της,

β) να προαγάγει την ευρωπαϊκή διάσταση και να βελτιώσει τις συνθήκες συμμετοχής των πολιτών στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στο κοινό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης,

(1) Κανονισμός (ΕΕ, Ευρατόμ) αριθ. 966/2012 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 25ης Οκτωβρίου 2012, σχετικά με τους δημοσιονομικούς κανόνες που εφαρμόζονται στον γενικό προϋπολογισμό της Ένωσης (ΕΕ L 298 της 26.10.2012, σ. 1).

(2) Κατ' εξουσιοδότηση κανονισμός (ΕΕ) αριθ. 1268/2012 της Επιτροπής, της 29ης Οκτωβρίου 2012, σχετικά με τους κανόνες εφαρμογής του κανονισμού (ΕΕ, Ευρατόμ) αριθ. 966/2012 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου για τους δημοσιονομικούς κανόνες που εφαρμόζονται στον γενικό προϋπολογισμό της Ένωσης (ΕΕ L 362 της 31.12.2012, σ. 1).

(3) ΕΕ C 373 της 20.12.2013, σ. 1.

(4) Κανονισμός (ΕΕ) αριθ. 182/2011 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 16ης Φεβρουαρίου 2011, για τη θέσπιση κανόνων και γενικών αρχών σχετικά με τους τρόπους ελέγχου από τα κράτη μέλη της άσκησης των εκτελεστικών αρμοδιοτήτων από την Επιτροπή (ΕΕ L 55 της 28.2.2011, σ. 13).

Άρθρο 2

Ειδικοί στόχοι του προγράμματος

Το πρόγραμμα έχει τους ακόλουθους ειδικούς στόχους, οι οποίοι υλοποιούνται μέσα από την ανάληψη δράσεων σε διακρατικό επίπεδο ή με ευρωπαϊκή διάσταση:

α) Ενίσχυση της ευαισθητοποίησης, σχετικά με τη μνήμη, την κοινή ιστορία και τις κοινές αξίες και του ακοπό της Ένωσης, ώστε να προάγει την ειρήνη, τις αξίες της και την ευημερία των λαών της, μέσα από τη διάχυση του διαλόγου, του προβληματισμού και της ανάπτυξης δικτύων.

β) Ενθάρρυνση της συμμετοχής των πολιτών στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και το κοινό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, μέσα από την ενίσχυση της κατανόησης των πολιτών όσον αφορά τις διαδικασίες χάραξης πολιτικής της Ένωσης και την προώθηση ευκαιριών για κοινωνική και διπολιτισμική δέσμευση και εθελοντισμό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

Άρθρο 3

Διάρθρωση του προγράμματος και υποστηριζόμενες δράσεις

1. Το πρόγραμμα, κατά την προώθηση της ευρωπαϊκής ιθαγένειας σύμφωνα με τους γενικούς στόχους που ορίζονται στο άρθρο 1 παράγραφος 2, διαρθρώνεται διττώς:

α) «Ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη»

β) «Συμμετοχή στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στο κοινό»

Τα δύο σκέλη θα συμπληρώνονται από οριζόντιες δράσεις για την ανάλυση, τη διάδοση και την αξιοποίηση των αποτελεσμάτων των σχεδίων δράσεις για την «Αξιοποίηση».

2. Προς εκπλήρωση των στόχων του, το πρόγραμμα χρηματοδοτεί, μεταξύ άλλων, τις ακόλουθες μορφές δράσεων, οι οποίες υλοποιούνται σε διακρατική βάση ή έχουν ευρωπαϊκή διάσταση:

α) Δραστηριότητες ευαισθητοποίησης μάθησης και συνεργασίας, όπως:

— συνάντήσεις πολιτών, αδελφοποιήσεις πόλεων, δίκτυα αδελφοποιημένων πόλεων,

— εφαρμογή σχεδίων μέσα διακρατικών υποφορών σχεδίων, συμπεριλαμβανομένων διαφόρων υπαιθρόχρονων μορφών του προαναφερόμενου στο άρθρο 4,

— σχέδια ενδιάμεσων μνήμης με ευρωπαϊκή διάσταση,

— ανάλυση, που βασίζονται, μεταξύ άλλων, στη χρήση τεχνολογιών των πληροφοριών και των επικοινωνιών (ΤΠΕ) ή/και μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης.

β) Διαρθρωτικά στήριξη οργανώσεων όπως:

— οργανισμών που επιδιώκουν σκοπούς γενικού συμφέροντος της Ένωσης όπως ορίζονται στο άρθρο 177 του κανονισμού (ΕΕ) αριθ. 1268/2012,

— σημείο επαφής του προγράμματος «Ευρώπη για τους πολίτες».

γ) Ανιδιοτελείς δραστηριότητες, σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, όπως:

— μελέτες επικεντρωμένες σε θέματα που αφορούν τους στόχους του προγράμματος,

δ) Δραστηριότητες ευαισθητοποίησης και διάδοσης σχεδιασμένες για τη χρηματοδότηση και τεκμηρίωση αξιοποίησης των αποτελεσμάτων των υποστηριζόμενων πρωτοβουλιών και για την προβολή των σχετικών πρακτικών, όπως:

— εκδηλώσεις σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, συμπεριλαμβανομένων διασκέψεων, εφαρμογών στατιστικών και ιστοσελίδων βραβείων,

— αξιολογήσεις από ομοτίμους, συνεδριάσεις και σεμινάρια ανταλλαγών.

3. Στο παράρτημα του παρόντος κανονισμού περιγράφονται πρωτοβουλίες που αφορούν δράσεις οι οποίες αναφέρονται στην παράγραφο 2.

Άρθρο 4

Μέτρα της Ένωσης

1. Τα μέτρα της Ένωσης μπορούν να έχουν τη μορφή επιχορήγησης, ή σύμβασης δημόσιων προμηθειών.

2. Οι επιχορηγήσεις της Ένωσης μπορούν να χορηγούνται μέσω επιχορηγήσεων λειτουργίας ή επιχορηγήσεων δράσεων.

3. Οι δημόσιες συμβάσεις καλύπτουν την αγορά υπηρεσιών, π.χ. τη διοργάνωση σεμιναρίων, μελετών και άσκησης, εργαλείο πληροφόρησης, και διάδοσης, παρακολούθησης και αξιολόγησης.

Άρθρο 5

Συμμετοχή στο πρόγραμμα

Το πρόγραμμα είναι ανοικτό στη συμμετοχή των ακόλουθων χωρών:

α) τα κράτη μέλη,

β) οι προσχωρούσες χώρες, οι υποψήφιες χώρες και οι δυνάμει υποψήφιες χώρες, σύμφωνα με τις γενικές αρχές και τους γενικούς όρους και προϋποθέσεις για τη συμμετοχή των χωρών αυτών στα προγράμματα της Ένωσης που έχουν οριστεί στις αντίστοιχες συμφωνίες-πλαίσια, τις αποφάσεις για το Συμβούλιο Σύνδεσης ή παρόμοιες συμφωνίες,

γ) οι χώρες ΕΖΕΣ που συμμετέχουν στη συμφωνία για τον ΕΟΧ, σύμφωνα με την εν λόγω συμφωνία.

Άρθρο 6

Πρόσβαση στο πρόγραμμα

Το πρόγραμμα είναι ανοικτό σε όλα τα ενδιαφερόμενα μέρη που προωθούν την ευρωπαϊκή ιθαγένεια και ολοκλήρωση, δίως στις τοπικές και περιφερειακές αρχές και οργανισμούς, τις επιτροπές αδελφοποίησης, τους εμπορικούς οργανισμούς στον τομέα των ευρωπαϊκών δημόσιων πολιτικών (κοινός προβληματισμός), τις οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών (μεταξύ άλλων ενώσεις επιζώντων καθώς και οι οργανώσεις πολιτισμού, νεολαίας, εκπαίδευσης και άλλες).

Άρθρο 7

Συνεργασία με διεθνείς οργανισμούς

Το πρόγραμμα μπορεί να ανοίξει κοινές δραστηριότητες στον τομέα που καλύπτει, οι οποίες αναλαμβάνονται από κοινού με συναφείς διεθνείς οργανισμούς, όπως το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης και η Unesco, βάσει κοινών συνεισφορών και σύμφωνα με τα δημοσιονομικά κανονισμά.

Άρθρο 8

Υλοποίηση του προγράμματος

1. Η Επιτροπή υλοποιεί το πρόγραμμα σύμφωνα με τον δημοσιονομικό κανονισμό.

2. Προς εφαρμογή του προγράμματος, η Επιτροπή εγκρίνει τα ετήσια προγράμματα εργασίας μέσω εκτελεστικών πράξεων σύμφωνα με τη συμβουλευτική διαδικασία του άρθρου 9 παράγραφος 2. Τα ετήσια προγράμματα εργασίας καθορίζουν τους επιδιωκόμενους στόχους, τα αναμενόμενα αποτελέσματα, τη μέθοδο εφαρμογής και το συνολικό ύψος του χρηματοδοτικού σχεδίου. Περιέχουν στίγμα περιγραφή των δράσεων που πρόκειται να χρηματοδοτηθούν, ένδειξη του ποσού που διαμείζεται για κάθε δράση καθώς και ενδεικτικό χρονοδιάγραμμα εφαρμογής. Τα ετήσια προγράμματα εργασίας περιλαμβάνουν τις προτεραιότητες, τα βασικά κριτήρια αξιολόγησης, και τα μέγιστα ποσοστά συγχρηματοδότησης.

Άρθρο 9

Επιτροπή

1. Η Επιτροπή επικουρείται από επιτροπή. Πρόκειται για επιτροπή κατά την έννοια του κανονισμού (ΕΕ) αριθ. 182/2011.

2. Όταν γίνεται αναφορά στην παρούσα παράγραφο, εφαρμόζεται το άρθρο 4 του κανονισμού (ΕΕ) αριθ. 182/2011.

Άρθρο 10

Διαβούλευση με ενδιαφερόμενα μέρη

Η Επιτροπή διατηρεί τακτικό διάλογο με τους δικαιούχους του προγράμματος και αρμόδιους εταίρους και ενδιαφερομένους.

Άρθρο 11

Συνοχή με άλλα κοινοτικά μέσα της Ένωσης

Η Επιτροπή εξασφαλίζει τη συνοχή και τη συμπληρωματικότητα του προγράμματος με κοινοτικά μέσα σε άλλους τομείς δράσης της Ένωσης, ιδιαίτερα στους τομείς της απασχόλησης, της επαγγελματικής κατάρτισης, της υγείας, του εθελοντισμού, του πολιτισμού και του τομέα των οπτικοακουστικών μέσων, των δημοσιών διοικήσεων και υπηρεσιών, της κοινωνικής ένταξης, της ισότητας των φύλων, της καταπολέμησης των διακρίσεων, της έρευνας και καινοτομίας, της κοινωνίας των πληροφοριών, της πολιτικής για τη διεύρυνση και της εξωτερικής δράσης της Ένωσης.

Άρθρο 12

Προϋπολογισμός

1. Το δημοσιονομικό ποσό αναφοράς για την εφαρμογή του προγράμματος, για την περίοδο από της Ιανουαρίου 2014 έως τις 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2020, ανέρχεται σε 185 468 000 EUR.

2. Οι πόροι πιστώσεις εγγράφονται από τα Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο και το Συμβούλιο εντός των ορίων του πολυετούς δημοσιονομικού πλαισίου.

3. Τα κονδύλια που διαμείνουν για δράσεις προβολής από τον παρόντα κανονισμό είναι δυνατόν να συμβάλλουν στόχους αναλογικά στην κάλυψη της δημοσίας επικοινωνίας για τις πολιτικές προτεραιότητες της Ένωσης, στο βαθμό που αυτές είναι σχετικές με τους γενικούς στόχους του παρόντος κανονισμού.

Άρθρο 13

Προστασία των οικονομικών συμφερόντων της Ένωσης

1. Κατά την υλοποίηση δράσεων που χρηματοδοτούνται δυνάμει του παρόντος κανονισμού, η Επιτροπή εξασφαλίζει την προστασία των οικονομικών συμφερόντων της Ένωσης, με την εφαρμογή προληπτικών μέτρων κατά της απάτης, της διαφθοράς και κάθε άλλης παράνομης ενέργειας, με τη διενέργεια αποτελεσματικών ελέγχων και με την ανάκτηση σε περίπτωση που διαπιστωθούν παρατυπίες, των αχρεωστήτως καταβληθέντων ποσών κάθε είδους, ανάλογα κρίνεται σκόπιμο, και με την επιβολή αποτελεσματικών, αναλογικών και αποτρεπτικών διοικητικών και οικονομικών κυρώσεων.

2. Η Επιτροπή ή οι εκπρόσωποί της και το Ελεγκτικό Συνέδριο έχουν εξουσία λογιστικού ελέγχου, βάσει δικαιολογητικών και επιτόπιου ελέγχου, η οποία ασκείται σε όλους τους δικαιούχους επιχορηγήσεων, αναδόχους και υπεργολάβους που έλαβαν χρηματοδότηση από την Ένωση στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος.

3. Η ευρωπαϊκή υπηρεσία καταπολέμησης της απάτης (OLAF) μπορεί να διενεργεί έρευνες, μεταξύ άλλων επιτόπιους ελέγχους και επιθεωρήσεις στους οικονομικούς παράγοντες που έχουν άμεσα ή έμμεσα σχέση με τη χρηματοδότηση αυτή, σύμφωνα με τις διατάξεις και τις διαδικασίες του κανονισμού (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1073/1999 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου (1) και του κανονισμού (Ευρατόμ, ΕΚ) αριθ. 2185/96 του Συμβουλίου (2) με στόχο τη διαπίστωση απάτης, διαφθοράς ή άλλης παράνομης ενέργειας σε βάρος των οικονομικών συμφερόντων της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης σε σχέση με συμφωνία ή απόφαση επιχορήγησης ή σύμβαση χρηματοδοτούμενη στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος.

4. Με την επιφύλαξη των παραγράφων 1, 2 και 3, οι συμφωνίες συνεργασίας με τρίτες χώρες και με διεθνείς οργανισμούς, οι συμβάσεις, οι συμφωνίες επιχορήγησης, και οι αποφάσεις επιχορήγησης που προκύπτουν από την εφαρμογή του παρόντος κανονισμού παρέχουν δικαίωμα οι τόποι εξοικονόμησεν χρηματ την Επιτροπή, το Ελεγκτικό Συνέδριο και την OLAF να διενεργούν τους εν λόγω λογιστικούς ελέγχους και έρευνες, σύμφωνα με τις αντίστοιχες αρμοδιότητές τους.

Άρθρο 14

Γνωστοποίηση

Η Επιτροπή παρέχει στα κράτη μέλη πληροφορίες σχετικά με τα σχέδια τα οποία έλαβαν χρηματοδότηση από την Ένωση μέσω της υποβολής των αποφάσεων επιλογής εντός δύο εβδομάδων από την έκδοσή τους.

Άρθρο 15

Παρακολούθηση και αξιολόγηση

1. Η Επιτροπή εξασφαλίζει την τακτική παρακολούθηση του προγράμματος ως προς τους στόχους του με τη χρήση δεικτών που σχετίζονται με την στέγαση. Το αποτελέσματα της διαδικασίας παρακολούθησης, και αξιολόγησης, αξιοποιούνται κατά την υλοποίηση του προγράμματος. Ειδικότερα, η παρακολούθηση περιλαμβάνει τη σύνταξη των εκθέσεων που αναφέρονται στην παράγραφο 4 στοιχεία α) και γ).

Όπου αρμόζει, οι δείκτες διαχωρίζονται ανά φύλο και ηλικία.

2. Όσον αφορά τους ειδικούς στόχους του άρθρου 2, η πρόοδος αποτιμάται με δείκτες που περιέχονται στο παράρτημα του παρόντος κανονισμού.

3. Η Επιτροπή εξασφαλίζει την τακτική, εξωτερική και ανεξάρτητη αξιολόγηση του προγράμματος και υποβάλλει έκθεση στο Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο σε τακτική βάση.

4. Η Επιτροπή υποβάλλει τα εξής στο Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο, στο Συμβούλιο, στην Ευρωπαϊκή Οικονομική και Κοινωνική Επιτροπή και στην Επιτροπή των Περιφερειών:

α) έως τις 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2017 ενδιάμεση έκθεση για την αξιολόγηση των αποτελεσμάτων του επιτευχθέντος και των ποιοτικών και ποσοτικών στόχων της εφαρμογής του παρόντος προγράμματος τα οριζόμενα.

β) 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2018 ανακοίνωση για τη συνέχεια του παρόντος προγράμματος τα οριζόμενα.

γ) έως την 1η Ιουλίου 2023, έκθεση εκ των υστέρων αξιολόγησης.

Άρθρο 16

Μεταβατική διάταξη

Η απόφαση αριθ. 1904/2006/ΕΚ καταργείται από 1ης Ιανουαρίου 2014.

Οι δράσεις που άρχισαν πριν από τις 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2013 δυνάμει της απόφασης αριθ. 1904/2006/ΕΚ συνεχίζουν να διέπονται από την εν λόγω απόφαση ως την ολοκλήρωσή τους.

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(1) Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1073/1999 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου, της 25ης Μαΐου 1999, σχετικά με τις έρευνες που πραγματοποιούνται από την Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Καταπολέμησης της Απάτης (OLAF) (ΕΕ L 136 της 31.5.1999, σ. 1).

(2) Κανονισμός (Ευρατόμ, ΕΚ) αριθ. 2185/96 του Συμβουλίου της 11η Νοεμβρίου 1996 σχετικά με τους ελέγχους και αξιοποιήσεις που διεξάγει επιτόπου η Επιτροπή με σκοπό την προστασία των οικονομικών συμφερόντων των Ευρωπαϊκών Κοινοτήτων από απάτες και άλλες παρατυπίες (ΕΕ L 292 της 15.11.1996, σ. 2).

Όπως προβλέπεται στο άρθρο 21 του δημοσιονομικού κανονισμού, οι πιστώσεις των αντισταθμίσεων σε έσοδα για ειδικά προγράμματα που προέρχονται από επιστροφές εγκαταστάσεων, καταβλήθηκαν τοκοι πέραν με την απόφαση αριθ. 1904/2006/ΕΚ μπορούν να διατίθενται για το πρόγραμμα.

Άρθρο 17

Έναρξη ισχύος

Ο παρών κανονισμός αρχίζει να ισχύει την ημέρα της δημοσίευσής του στην Επίσημη Εφημερίδα της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.

Εφαρμόζεται από την 1η Ιανουαρίου 2014.

Ο παρών κανονισμός είναι δεσμευτικός σε όλα τα μέρη του και ισχύει άμεσα σε κάθε κράτος μέλος.

Λουξεμβούργο, 14 Απριλίου 2014.

Για το Συμβούλιο

Ο Πρόεδρος

A. TSAVTARIS

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ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ

I. ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ ΤΩΝ ΠΡΩΤΟΒΟΥΛΙΩΝ

Συμπληρωματικές πληροφορίες σχετικά με την πρόσβαση στο πρόγραμμα.

ΣΕΛΟΣ 1: Ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη

Το σκέλος αυτό θα στηρίξει δραστηριότητες με τις οποίες θα ενθαρρύνεται ο προβληματισμός σχετικά με την ευρωπαϊκή πολιτιστική πολυμορφία και τις κοινές αξίες επί της ευρύτερης δυνατής έννοιας, λαμβανομένης υπόψη της, ιστορίας των φύλων. Μπορούν να διοργανώνονται ανάλογα για πρωτοβουλίες που στηρίζουν τα είδη των απαλλαγμένων καθετοποιήσεων στη σύγχρονη ιστορία της Ευρώπης, ιδιαίτερα του παζαρισμού που οδήγησε στο Ολοκαύτωμα, του ρασισμού, του σταλινισμού και των αποικιοκρατικών κομμουνιστικών καθεστώτων, χωρίς να εξαντλούνται σε αυτά και πρωτοβουλίες υπέρ της ανάμνησης των θυμάτων των εγκλημάτων τους πράξεων. Το σκέλος μπορεί επίσης να περιλαμβάνει δραστηριότητες που συνδέονται με άλλα καθαρτικά φαινόμενα και σημεία αναφοράς της πρόσφατης ευρωπαϊκής ιστορίας. Συγκεκριμένα, θα δοθεί προτεραιότητα σε δράσεις που ενθαρρύνουν την ανοχή/κατανόηση, την αμοιβαία κατανόηση, τον διαπολιτισμικό διάλογο και τη συμφιλίωση κι, μέσα υπόβαθρο, του παρελθόντος και ακολούθησης του μέλλοντος, όλων με σκοπό την προσέγγιση στη νεότερη γενιά.

Ενδεικτικά, περίπου το 20 % του συνολικού προϋπολογισμού του προγράμματος θα διατεθεί στο σκέλος αυτό.

ΣΕΛΟΣ 2: Συμμετοχή στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και στα κοινά

Το σκέλος αυτό θα περιλαμβάνει δραστηριότητες που καλύπτουν τη συμμετοχή στα κοινά υπό την ευρύτερη δυνατή έννοια, με ιδιαίτερη έμφαση στις μεθόδους διαβίβασης ώστε να εξασφαλιστούν διαρκή αποτελέσματα από τις χρηματοδοτούμενες δραστηριότητες.

Θα δοθεί προτεραιότητα σε πρωτοβουλίες και σχέδια που έχουν σύνδεση με τα πολιτικά δρεπτόλογα της Ένωσης.

Το σκέλος μπορεί επίσης να καλύπτει σχέδια και πρωτοβουλίες που δημιουργούν ευκαιρίες για αμοιβαία κατανόηση, διαπολιτισμικό διάλογο, αλληλεγγύη, κοινωνική δόμηση και εθελοντισμό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

Πολλά μέτρα ανάμεσα σε γίνεται για την προαγωγή περισσότερων νέων για συμμετοχή στο δημοκρατικό βίο και τη συμμετοχή περισσότερων γυναικών στη διαδικασία λήψης πολιτικών και οικονομικών αποφάσεων. Οι φωνές τους θα πρέπει να ακούγονται περισσότερο και να λαμβάνονται υπόψη από τους αρμοδίους για τη λήψη πολιτικών αποφάσεων που επηρεάζουν τη ζωή των ανθρώπων.

Ενδεικτικά, περίπου το 60 % του συνολικού προϋπολογισμού του χορηγείται στο πρόγραμμα θα διατεθεί στο σκέλος αυτό.

ΟΡΙΖΟΝΤΙΑ ΔΡΑΣΗ: Αξιοποίηση

Η εν λόγω δράση θα καλύπτει το πρόγραμμα στο σύνολό του και θα ισχύει εξίσου για το σκέλος 1 και το σκέλος 2.

Θα στηρίξει πρωτοβουλίες που προάγουν τη δυνατότητα μεταφοράς των αποτελεσμάτων, επηρεάζουν καλύτερη αποδοχή της εξόδου και ενισχύουν την ανάληψη δράσεων από την εμπορία. Ο λόγος ύπαρξης της συγκεκριμένης δράσης είναι η πρωτότυπη «αξιοποίηση» και χρηματοδότηση των αποτελεσμάτων των πρωτοβουλιών που έχουν δημιουργηθεί για το σκοπό της εξασφάλισης της διάρκειάς τους.

Θα περιλαμβάνει το σταυρό της «ανάπτυξης ικανοτήτων» — την ανάπτυξη μέτρων υποστήριξης για την ανταλλαγή βέλτιστων πρακτικών, την ανταλλαγή εμπειριών μεταξύ ενδιαφερομένων σε τοπικό και περιφερειακό επίπεδο, ανιχνευόμενων των δημόσιων αρχών, και την ανάπτυξη νέων δεξιοτήτων, λόγου χάρη μέσα από την κατάρτιση. Η τελευταία θα μπορεί να περιλαμβάνει ανταλλαγές μεταξύ εμπείρων, κατάρτιση για εκπαιδευτές, καθώς επίσης την ανάπτυξη εργαλείων βασισμένων στις τεχνολογίες των πληροφοριών και των επικοινωνιών (ΤΠΕ) για την παροχή πληροφοριών σχετικά με ερευνώνες ή σχέδια που χρηματοδοτούνται από το πρόγραμμα.

Ενδεικτικά, περίπου το 10 % του συνολικού προϋπολογισμού του προγράμματος θα διατεθεί στη δράση αυτή.

I. ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ

Μέσω του προγράμματος θα ανατεχθεί η αρχή των πολιτικών εταιρικών σχέσεων βάσει συμφωνημένων στόχων, οι οποίες θα στηρίζονται στην ανάλυση των αποτελεσμάτων ώστε να εξασφαλίζονται ωφέλεια σχέση για την κοινωνία των πολιτών και για την Ένωση.

Σε γενικές γραμμές, θα προτιμηθεί οι επιχορηγήσεις για σχέδια ανεξαρτήτως του μεγέθους τους αλλά με μεγάλο αντίκτυπο, είτε για σχέδια που συνδέονται άμεσα με τις πολιτικές της Ένωσης και αποκαλούν στην ενδιαφέρουσα τη συμμετοχής, για τη διαμόρφωση του πολιτικού διαπολιτισμού της Ένωσης. Κάθεκαν είναι δυνατόν θα λαμβάνει υπόψη η υπόμνησης γεωγραφική κατανομή.

Η διαχείριση του προγράμματος και των περιφέρειων δράσεων μπορεί να πραγματοποιείται κεντρικά από εκτελεστικά οργανισμό.

Όλες οι δράσεις είτε υλοποιούνται σε διακρατική βάση είτε έχουν ευρωπαϊκή διάσταση. Η δράση θα ενδιαφέρει την ενεργό-τητα των πολιτών και την ανταλλαγή ιδεών εντός της Ένωσης.

Η δημιουργία δικτύων και η έμφαση στα πολλαπλασιαστικά αποτελέσματα, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της χρήσης των πλέον πρόσφατων ΤΠΕ και των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης, θέλει με σκοπό την προώθηση της νεότητας γενικά, θα συγκαταλέγονται μεταξύ των σημαντικών στοιχείων και θα αντιμετωπίζονται τόσο στα σέβη των δραστηριοτήτων όσο και στο φόρμα των οργανώσεων που συμμετέχουν. Θα ενδιαφερνθεί η η αλληλεπίδραση και η συνέργεια μεταξύ των διαφόρων κατηγοριών των ενδιαφερόμενων που συμμετέχουν στα πρόγραμμα.

Ο προϋπολογισμός του προγράμματος μπορεί στίφη, να καλύπτει δαπάνες που συνδέονται με δραστηριότητες προετοιμασίας, συνέχειας, παρακολούθησης, λογιστικού ελέγχου και αξιολόγησης που είναι άμεσα αναγκαίες για τη διαχείριση του προγράμματος και την επίτευξη των στόχων του, και ιδιαίτερα μελέτες, συναντήσεις, δραστηριότητες πληροφόρησης, και δημοσίευσης, δαπάνες που συνδέονται με δίκτυα πληροφορικής για την ανταλλαγή πληροφοριών και οποιαδήποτε άλλες δαπάνες διοικητικής ή τεχνικής υποστήριξης, τις οποίες μπορεί να αποφασίσει η Επιτροπή με σκοπό τη διαχείριση του προγράμματος.

Οι συνολικές δαπάνες διοικητικής λειτουργίας του προγράμματος θα είναι ανάλογες προς τα καθήκοντα που προβλέπει το πρόγραμμα.

Η Επιτροπή μπορεί να ανελαμβάνει δραστηριότητες ενημέρωσης, δημοσίευσης, και διάδοσης, κατά περίπτωση, εξασφαλίζοντας κατ' αυτόν τον τρόπο ευρεία γνώση και υψηλό αντίκτυπο των δραστηριοτήτων που υποστηρίζονται μέσω του προγράμματος.

Ο προϋπολογισμός που χορηγείται θα είναι δυνατόν να καλύπτει στίφη, τη δεόντα επικοινωνία για τις πολιτικές προτεραιότητες της Ένωσης.

Για τη διαχείριση του προγράμματος θα διατεθεί περίπου το 10 % του συνολικού προϋπολογισμού του προγράμματος.

II. ΠΑΡΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΗΣΗ

Οι ειδικοί στόχοι του άρθρου 2 παραγράφου 1α αποτελέσματα που επιδιώκει να επιτύχει το πρόγραμμα. Για τη μέτρηση της προόδου θα χρησιμοποιούνται δείκτες που σχετίζονται με τις επιδόσεις, όπως τα εξής:

Ειδικός στόχος 1: Ενίσχυση της ενεμέρωσης σχετικά με τη ρώμη, την κοινή ιστορία και τις κοινές αξίες και τον σκοπό της Ένωσης: ήτοι να προάγει την ειρήνη, τις αξίες της και την ευημερία των λαών της, μέσα από τη διέγερση του διαλόγου, του προβληματισμού και της ανάπτυξης δικτύων.

Δείκτες που σχετίζονται με τις επιδόσεις:

— ο αριθμός άμεσα ωφελούμενων συμμετεχόντων,

— ο αριθμός άμεσα ωφελούμενων σταθμών από το πρόγραμμα,

— ο αριθμός σχεδίων,

— η ποιότητα των σταθμών για σχέδια και κατά τόσον τα αποτελέσματα των επιλεχθέντων σχεδίων μπορούν να χρησιμοποιηθούν/μεταδοθούν περαιτέρω,

— τα ποσοστά των αιτούντων για πρώτη φορά.

Ειδικός στόχος 2: Ενδυνάμωση της συμμετοχής των πολιτών στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες και το κοινό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης, μέσα από την ενίσχυση της κατανόησης των πολιτών όσον αφορά τις διαδικασίες λήψεως πολιτικής της Ένωσης και την προώθηση ευκαιριών για κοινωνική και διαπολιτισμική δέσμευση και εθελοντισμό σε επίπεδο Ένωσης.

Δείκτες που σχετίζονται με τις επιδόσεις:

— ο αριθμός των άμεσα εμπλεκόμενων συμμετεχόντων,

— ο αριθμός άμεσα ωφελούμενων ατόμων από το πρόγραμμα,

— ο αριθμός συμμετεχουσών οργανώσεων,

— η εικόνα που διαφημίζουν οι δικαιούχοι για την Ένωση και τα θεσμικά της όργανα,

— η ποιότητα αυτόματων σχεδίων,

— το ποσοστό των αιτούντων για πρώτη φορά,

— ο αριθμός δικαιοπρακτικών σταυρικών σχέσεων του συμπληρωμένου διάφορες κατηγορίες ενδιαφερομένων,

— ο αριθμός δικτύων αδελφοποιημένων πόλεων,

— ο αριθμός και ποιότητα πρωτοβουλιών πολιτικής, οι συνέχεια δραστηριοτήτων που στηρίζονται από το πρόγραμμα σε τοπικό ή εθνικό επίπεδο,

— η γεωγραφική κάλυψη των δραστηριοτήτων:

i) σύγκριση μεταξύ του ποσοστού των σχεδίων που υπέβαλε ένα κράτος μέλος ως επικεφαλής εταίρος και του ποσοστού του πληθυσμού του στο συνολικό πληθυσμό της Ένωσης,

ii) σύγκριση μεταξύ του ποσοστού των σχεδίων που επιλέχθηκαν από κράτος μέλος ως επικεφαλής εταίρο και του ποσοστού του πληθυσμού του στο συνολικό πληθυσμό της Ένωσης,

iii) σύγκριση μεταξύ του ποσοστού των σχεδίων που υπέβαλε ένα κράτος μέλος ως επικεφαλής εταίρος ή συνέταιρος και του ποσοστού του πληθυσμού του στο συνολικό πληθυσμό της Ένωσης,

iv) σύγκριση μεταξύ του ποσοστού των σχεδίων που επιλέχθηκαν από κράτος μέλος ως επικεφαλής εταίρο ή συνέταιρο και του ποσοστού του πληθυσμού του στο συνολικό πληθυσμό της Ένωσης.

IV. ΛΟΓΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΛΛΟΣ ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ

Για τα σχέδια που επιλέγονται σύμφωνα με τον παρόντα κανονισμό, θα καθιερωθεί σύστημα δογματολογικού λογιστικού ελέγχου.

Ο δικαιούχος στηριζόμενος κρατά διαθέσιμα για την Επιτροπή όλα τα δικαιολογητικά που αφορούν τις δαπάνες για περίοδο πέντε ετών από την ημερομηνία της τελικής πληρωμής της επιχορήγησης. Ο δικαιούχος επιχορήγησης μεριμνά ώστε, εφόσον χρειαστεί, τα δικαιολογητικά που βρίσκονται στην κατοχή των εταίρων ή των μελών του να τίθενται στη διάθεση της Επιτροπής.

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ ΙΙ

ΟΙ ΕΤΗΣΙΕΣ ΕΚΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΔΡΑΣΕΩΝ

Europe for Citizens in numbers

Europe for Citizens Programme: 7 years of support (2014-2020)

The aim of the Europe of Citizens Programme is to contribute to citizens' understanding of the history, values and diversity of the EU and to foster conditions for civic participation and engagement at EU level.

- Promoting solidarity
- Fostering intercultural dialogue
- Cultural heritage and Diversity
- Remembering the victims and causes of totalitarian regimes
- Reflecting on civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes
- Debating on forms of intolerance
- Commemorating major historical turning points
- Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism

The Europe for Citizens programme raised awareness on remembrance, common history and Union's values and encouraged democratic and civic participation of European citizens. By addressing the programme multiannual priorities, the projects fostered intercultural dialogue and solidarity, promoted cultural heritage and diversity and reflected on European history, drawing lessons for today. Citizens were directly involved in debates and exchanges about the future of Europe and other themes of common interest, actively participating in the Union policy making process.

European Education and Culture Executive Agency

Europe for Citizens in 2014-2020

34 COUNTRIES

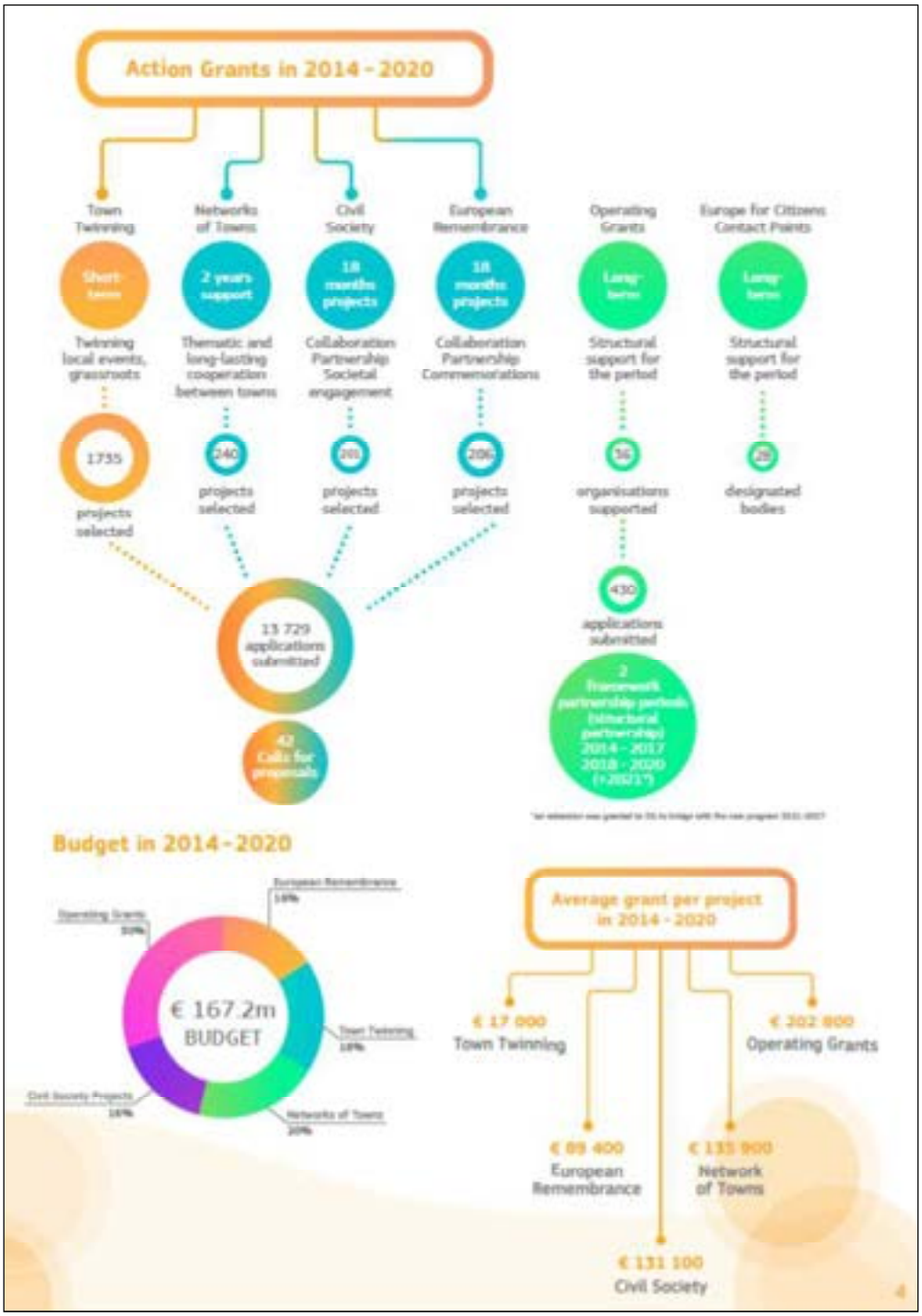
14 707 PARTNERS

2 529 PROJECTS

€ 167.2m BUDGET

Partner organisations of selected projects are established in all participating countries (28 EU Member States + 6 Non-EU)

Countries with the highest number of selected projects (61 % in total) were Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia


Action Grants in 2014 - 2020
Town Twinning
Networks of Towns
Civil Society
European Remembrance
Operating Grants
Europe for Citizens Contact Points
Short
2 years support
18 months projects
18 months projects
Long
Long
Twinning local events, grassroots
Thematic and long-lasting cooperation between towns
Collaboration Partnership Societal engagement
Collaboration Partnership Commemorations
Structural support for the period
Structural support for the period
1735
240
201
206
36
29
projects selected
projects selected
projects selected
organisations supported
designated bodies
430
applications submitted
13 729 applications submitted
42 Calls for proposals
2 framework partnership periods (structural partnership) 2014 - 2017 2018 - 2020 (+2021*)
Budget in 2014 - 2020
€ 167.2m
BUDGET
Town Twinning
Networks of Towns
Civil Society Projects
Operating Grants
European Remembrance
Average grant per project in 2014 - 2020
€ 17 000
Town Twinning
€ 89 400
European Remembrance
€ 131 100
Civil Society
€ 135 900
Network of Towns
€ 202 800
Operating Grants

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Strategy and General Affairs
Inter-Institutional Relations and Citizenship

Brussels, May 2015
EFCC/029/2015

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" PROGRAMME IN 2014

This report describes the main activities developed within the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 during its first year of implementation in line with the work programme and the revised work programme for 2014.

1. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

1. 1. Late adoption of the Europe for Citizens Programme

Due to procedural delays in the adoption of the Council Regulation establishing the programme, the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 could not enter into force as foreseen on 1 January 2014.

Following the Commission's proposal for a new programme in December 2011, negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council turned out long and complicated - with the European Parliament disagreeing on using article 352 TFEU as legal basis - and were concluded only on 18 November 2013, when the European Parliament gave its consent to the draft Council Regulation establishing the new Europe for Citizens Programme. In three Member States (Germany, United Kingdom and Czech Republic) the procedure foreseen in article 352 (2) for monitoring the subsidiarity principle by the national Parliaments requires the approval of the legislative proposal by national Parliaments. Whilst the respective national legislations were adopted in time in two of the Member States, in the last one it was only

adopted in April 2014. For these reasons, the Council could only adopt its Regulation (EU) N° 390/2014 establishing the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 on 14 April. It was published in the Official Journal L115/3 on 17 April 2014:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_115_R_0002&qid=1398334046443

In anticipation of the late adoption of the regulation, the Commission took all necessary measures to ensure a smooth implementation of the programme, in particular by ensuring that the Europe for Citizens programme was included in the act establishing the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) for 2014-2020, and in the Act delegating powers to it.

1.2. General budget of the Europe for Citizens Programme

Following the budgetary cuts agreed by the Heads of State and Government in the 2013 negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 to 2020, the general budget of European Union reduced the financial envelope for the Europe for Citizens programme by around 29,5 million EUR (- 13,7%) for the 2014-2020 period (from almost 215 million EUR in 2007-2013 to 185,5 million EUR in 2014-2020).

1.3. Adoption of the work programme 2014

The Annual Work Programme 2014 for the implementation of the Europe for Citizens Programme was adopted by decision C(2013) 7160 of 31 October 2013 for a total amount of 21.050.000 EUR based on the draft budget 2014 and under the condition of the Council's adoption of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

Further to the provision of an additional amount of 2.000.000 EUR by the budgetary authority and the transfer of an amount of 250.000 EUR from the cancelled preparatory action “European Civil Society House” to the Europe for Citizens Programme during the second semester 2014, the Annual Work Programme was revised and adopted on 10 September 2014 by decision C(2014) 6228 final.

1.4. New Commission and transfer of the Europe for Citizens Programme to DG Migration and Home Affairs

Following the establishment of the new Commission Juncker, the responsibility for the citizenship portfolio was given to Commissioner Avramopoulos, in charge of Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship. Accordingly, the Europe for Citizens Programme was moved from Directorate-General Communication (COMM) to Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs (HOME) as of 1 January 2015, while the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency remained responsible for the management of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

In this context, reflections started on possible synergies between the Europe for Citizens Programme and DG HOME's activities, in full respect of the programme's legal basis, objectives and budget.

2. ANNUAL PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2014

In line with the general objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme, annual priorities for 2014 were defined by the European Commission after consultation of the programme committee and the stakeholders participating in the civil dialogue.

The annual priorities for 2014 were laid down as follows in the work programme:

Strand 1: European remembrance

According to Article 3 of the Treaty of the European Union, the EU's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples.

In the context of this article and the general description of Strand 1, the Europe for Citizens Programme will support projects reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history as well as projects concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history.

Historical moments which will be commemorated in particular in 2014 will be **the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, the 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the 10 years of**

enlargement of the European Union to Central and Eastern Europe. These key moments of European modern history have therefore been chosen as annual priorities for Strand 1 of the Europe for Citizens Programme for the year 2014.

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

Elections to the European Parliament will be held in all Member States from 22 to 25 May 2014. These elections will be the first to be held under the Lisbon Treaty enhancing the role of EU citizens as political actors through Article 11 TEU.

Against this background, the annual priority of Strand 2 of the Europe for Citizens Programme for the year 2014 will be built around the elections to the European Parliament and citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU. There is a need for deepening **the debate on the future of Europe** with the aim of setting up a European public space, where European issues are discussed and debated from a European standpoint.

In this context, under Strand 2 of the Europe for Citizens Programme priority will be given to projects dealing with **citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU**, ranging from local democracy to the empowerment of citizens to play a full part in EU policy.

Applicants were encouraged to develop projects in line with the objectives of the programme and targeting the annual priorities.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME

3.1. Programme Guide Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020

The new Programme Guide presenting in detail the implementing rules for projects to be financed under the Europe for Citizens Programme (eligibility, selection and award criteria) was published on the website of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency immediately after the adoption of the programme in the EU's 23 working languages.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

Due to the late adoption of the programme, the first application deadline for projects had to be postponed from 1 March to 4 June 2014. The eligibility period for projects selected under both deadlines was adapted accordingly.[1]

3.2. Selection results in 2014

The Europe for Citizens Programme is implemented through the two strands "European remembrance" and "Democratic engagement and civic participation", which offer co-funding for European remembrance projects, town-twinning activities, networks of towns and civil society projects as well as operating grants to European civil society organisations and think tanks active in the thematic areas targeted by the programme.

Out of 2.087 applications received, 412 projects were selected, and around 1.100.000 participants were expected to be involved in the activities of the programme.

The Programme was implemented all together in 31 eligible participating countries: 28 Member States and 3 other participating countries, i.e. Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Given that the international agreements about their participation in the Europe for Citizens Programme were only signed at the end of the year, projects that were selected in the two selection rounds of the year 2014 will be funded retroactively.

As a consequence of the reduction of the financial envelope for the Europe for Citizens Programme by 13,7%, fewer projects could be supported than in the previous programme. Whereas 544 projects had been granted in 2013, 412 projects received funding in 2014, which is a reduction of 24,3%.

The attached table (annex 1) provides a summary per strand and per measure.

3.2.1. Strand 1 — European Remembrance

As regards "European remembrance" (strand 1), the Programme supports activities that encourage reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values in the broadest sense. Funds are available for initiatives to

[1] From 2015 onwards, the schedule of deadlines for applications is back to normal with two deadlines on 1 March and 1 September every year.

reflect on the causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history and to commemorate the victims of their crimes. This strand also encompasses activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history to foster common European memory and culture of remembrance. In particular, it gives preference to actions which encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means of moving beyond the past and building the future, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation.

This strand of the programme is implemented through European remembrance projects as well as through operating grants to European civil society organisations, memorial institutions, academic and research institutes active in the thematic area of European remembrance. Projects supported by the programme facilitate exchanges between memorial institutions, create links between non-profit organisations and research institutions and academia, foster European cooperation in the field of the memory, bring young people closer to the memory issues, help them to build better knowledge with clear European perspective and prevent xenophobia and stereotypes.

Project grants

In 2014, out of 472 submitted applications, 36 (35 + 1 from the reserve list) European remembrance projects from 19 Member States have been selected for funding for a total amount of 3.104.000 EUR. (see https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/publication_rem_2014_results.pdf).

Around 100.000 citizens were directly involved (and around 165.000 indirectly involved) in European remembrance projects in 2014.

The geographical spread of the applications shows that 29 out of 31 countries are represented as applicants and, if considering the partner organisations, all 31 countries are covered. The highest number of applications was presented by Italy (22%), Poland (10%) and Germany (8%).

The breakdown by subject was structured as follows for the applications received:

- EU history:
  27%
- Common EU values:
  26%

- Nazism: 15%
- Other totalitarian regimes: 9%
- Fascism: 8%
- Stalinism: 6%
- Holocaust: 5%
- Other: 4%

The annual priority themes were targeted by almost all submitted projects. The thematic breakdown for the received applications is as follows:

- The 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I: 37%
- the 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall: 26%
- The 10 years of enlargement of the European Union to Central and Eastern Europe: 29%

Example: Project "BURNT" by "Miteinander in Europa" (Germany)

The project "BURNT", promoted by 'Miteinander in Europa', was implemented in 2014 to remember and reflect upon the book burnings by the Nazi and upon the banning of certain literature during the Stalinist era in 5 European cities in four different countries (BU, DE, RO and SL). It aimed at involving local communities and citizens of all ages in the project activities, as well as stakeholders, members of the public administration, decision-makers in order to create a wide public awareness and debate about the EU values notably the freedom of expression in Europe. Citizens were invited to take part in creative and interactive ways in the project activities tailor-made to different target group: listen and read themselves literature forbidden during the Nazism and/or Stalinism, intergenerational dialogue with contemporary witness, theatre shows, production of documentaries and interviews filmed on the streets and lastly final forums in order to debate about the deliverables reached. Regarding the communication tools, project flyers were published and distributed on the streets, whereas interviews, theatre shows, speeches and discussions were put on the website of the project.
Web link to project:

http://www.miteinander-in-europa.eu/
http://burned-europe.eu/

Project partners: Recht in Europa (Gemany), Lernwerkstatt Europa e.V. (Bulgaria), FRG TIMISOARA (Romania), Drustvo za evropsko zavest (Slovenia)

Operating grants

In line with the call for proposals COMM C2/01-2013 on structural support for European public research organisations (think tanks) and European civil society organisations that had been published in November 2013, the selection of organisations receiving operating structural support took place in April 2014 following the adoption of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

Out of 22 remembrance organisations that applied for structural support, 6 organisations were granted for multi-annual operating grants covering the years 2014-2017 for a total amount of 1.213.966 EUR (see: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/efc-results-og-2014_en.pdf).

Remembrance organisations funded by the programme promote critical thinking, multi-perspectivity, mutual respect by a sound use of history and citizenship education towards the building and deepening of democratic societies, connecting professionals and civil society across boundaries of communities, countries, ethnicities and religions.

Support of Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

In 2014, the Europe for Citizens Programme continued to provide support for the restoration, protection and preservations of historical structures and objects in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. This is part of the 4 years' project "Preserving Authenticity – nine tasks for the years 2012-2015".

With the financial support of the programme considerable progress has been achieved in improving storage conditions of valuable archive materials containing hundreds of thousands data about the former inmates, installation of a modern permanent fire suppression system significantly improving the security of unique documents, digitalization of the archive camp documents and archaeological and conservation work.

Co-operation with UNESCO

In 2014, the Commission agreed with UNESCO to co-finance a project named "Holocaust in Contemporary Education - European Curricula,

Textbooks and pupils' perceptions in comparison". This project aims at fostering the development of effective policies supportive of education about the Holocaust, and more specifically to inform education stakeholders about the status of education on the Holocaust by means of a comparative overview of policies and educational media and to guide policy-makers wishing to introduce or to reinforce the position of the subject in the curriculum of their country. An amount of 150.000 EUR was committed for this purpose under the 2014 budget. The project will be implemented in 2015 and 2016.

3.2.2. Strand 2 — Democratic engagement and civic participation

Under this strand, the Programme supports activities that cover civic participation in the broadest sense, and focuses in particular on structuring methods to ensure that funded activities have a lasting effect. This strand also covers projects and initiatives that develop opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at Union level. The aim is to increase the citizens' democratic participation in political and economic decision-making, notably the participation of young people and women.

This strand of the programme is implemented through project grants to town-twinning activities, networks of towns and civil society projects as well as through operating grants to European civil society organisations and think tanks active in the thematic area of democratic engagement and civic participation.

Project grants:

Measure 1 : Town-twinning

Town twinning citizens' meetings consist in bringing together a wide range of citizens and citizens' groups from twinned towns, taking benefit of the partnership between the municipalities for developing relations and cooperation between their citizens. The meetings combine an informal character emphasizing the "learning by doing" approach with a thematic focus in line with the programme's priorities.

This measure involves the majority of projects and participants, and its impact is achieved through the direct participation of citizens. In the two selection rounds that were organized for town-twinning projects in 2014, out of 667 submitted applications, 252 town-twinning projects were selected for funding

for a total amount of 3.890.000 EUR.

For the quantitative analysis and detailed selection results, see annex 1 and the selection result lists on the website of EACEA at the following address:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/efc-results-tt-2014_en.pdf and https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/publication_tt_r2_2014_2.pdf).

Thematically, the future of Europe was targeted as main topic by 41% of town-twinning projects while citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU was chosen by 51% of the projects and the elections to the European Parliament by 28% of the projects (the total of these percentages exceed 100, as some projects were targeting more than one topic).

The majority of granted projects were multilateral projects (75%) whereas 25% of the projects were bilateral. Around 1.000.000 participants were directly involved (+ another 1.000.000 indirectly) in town-twinning projects and networks of towns.

It has to be noted that the number of applications decreased in comparison to the previous programme. This situation may be explained by the exceptional situation in 2014 with regards to the application deadlines, as the first deadline had to be postponed from March to June and the eligibility period to be modified in accordance.

Even though the geographical balance remains to be improved within the town-twinning measure, it should be underlined that in terms of the geographical spread including the partners, all countries participating in the programme are represented. The greatest number of hosting applications comes from Hungary (26,8%), Slovakia (19,6%) and Romania (12%). France and Germany, traditionally strongly committed in town-twinning, have a slightly lower share than in the past (5,7% and 8,7%). Of course, the geographic impact goes beyond the host country since every project involves citizens from one or more invited towns and countries.

Example: Project "Implicare activa, democratie Europeana" by Comuna Capitalnita (Romania)

This town twinning event took place in Capilnita (Romania) from 10/07/2014 to 14/07/2014 and involved 321 citizens. The main issues addressed during the project implementation were the active involvement in EU democratic life; EU elections; European citizens' rights issues; freedom of movement and equal opportunities.

Through different interactive methods (such as: "Gateway to Europe" – an info point; workshops; seminars; social activities; forum), the organisers have provided the opportunity to the participants to get actively involved with the raised issues and formulate their opinions about EU policies. The project managed to promote a debate and reflection about European citizenship and democracy, shared values, history and culture. It allowed participants to gain insight into the EU integration process and its impact on the citizens' daily lives as well as to discuss what will be the Europe of tomorrow.

The dissemination activities undertaken contributed to promoting opportunities for collaboration and exchange of best practices between large and varied group of stakeholders and citizens, with particular emphasis on civic participation and the NGO sector. The project was promoted via traditional and online media (i.e. TV, radio, press, blog etc.), using different dissemination material (booklet "Eurovision citizen"; CDs containing photos of the event, interviews; partners' websites:
http://www.polgaripart.ro/belfoldi-hirek/falunapok-kapolnason.html
http://www.kapolnasfalu.ro/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=19&Itemid=51&lang=ro)

Project partners: Gyöngyössolymos Köszégi Önkormanzyat (Hungary), Kapolna Kozsegi Onkormanyzat (Hungary), Bercel Község Önkormanyzata (Hungary), Urzad Miasta I Gminy (Poland), Mesto Modry kamen (Slovakia)

Measure 2 : Network of Towns

Under this measure municipalities and associations working together in a long-term perspective on issues of common interest have the opportunity to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation more sustainable and to to develop thematic cooperation in a long-term perspective.

In the two selection rounds that were organized for networks of towns in 2014, out of 224 submitted applications, 35 networking projects have been selected for funding for a total amount of 4.522.000 EUR. For the quantitative analysis and detailed selection results, see annex 1 and the selection result lists on the website of EACEA at the following address:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/nt_r1_2014.pdf and https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/nt_r2_2014.pdf .

The funded projects involved around 19.000 participants.

In terms of geographical spread including the partners, all countries participating in the programme are represented within this measure. Italy, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland are the most active countries in organising networks of towns. As all these networks involve at least four towns from different countries, the geographic impact goes of course far beyond the host country.

Thematically, the future of Europe was targeted by 42% of networking projects while citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU was chosen by 60% of the projects and the elections to the European Parliament by 13% of the projects (the total of these percentages exceed 100, as some projects were targeting more than one topic).

Example: Project "MIGRAIN" (migration and integration) by Urzad Miasta i Gminy Cieszanow (Poland)

The theme of the still ongoing project is the mobility of citizens within the EU and the immigration of citizens from third countries towards the EU.

The project aims at investigating issues linked to mobility and immigration in Europe and their social impact, and at giving citizens the opportunity to participate in the formulation of answers to these questions.

The towns participating in the network are facing effects of mobility and immigration including difficulties linked to the arrival of irregular immigrants from non-European countries. By exchanging ideas and examining possible solutions to these issues, the project is expected to contribute to the development of local strategies and policies for the social integration of immigrants. Moreover, the project will contribute to raising awareness among citizens living in the participating towns on the importance of migration for the society by showing successful models of integration of different groups of migrants and by highlighting the existing potential for changes in local communities.

Project partners: Diosd Varos Önkormanyzata (Hungary), Freundeskreis Partnerschaften Gemeinde Argenbühl (Germany), Dimos Lokron (Greece), Comune di Forli (Italy), Comune di Fusignano (Italy), Kmetstvo Aheloy (Bulgaria), Comuna Lupeni (Romania).

Measure 3 : Civil Society Projects

This measure supports the development of projects by NGOs and think-tanks aiming at enhancing citizens' participation in the EU process. Civil society projects bring together citizens from different walks of life to debate common European issues at local and EU level.

Out of 538 submitted applications, 29 civil society projects have been selected for funding for a total amount of 3.593.250 EUR (for more information see annex 1 and https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/listfofpublication-civ-2014_en.pdf).

Around 26.000 citizens were directly involved in civil society projects.

The geographical spread of applications shows that all the countries participating in the Programme are represented in the projects funded under this measure, either as applicant or partners. All selected projects dealt with the priority themes chosen for the year 2014.

Example: Project "SUCCESS" by "Institut français des relations internationales" (France)

SUCCESS is a network of young European citizens coming from different cultural, social and national backgrounds who are rethinking citizenship together in Europe. The project's objective was to contribute to the reversal of populist, racist and xenophobic citizenship in Europe and promote the founding values of European citizenship. SUCCESS adopted a "bottom-up" approach and raised the voice of the citizens living in several popular multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods and major European cities - Montreuil (near Paris), Palermo, Oeiras (near Lisbon),Birmingham – asking for a multicultural and integrated Europe.

As a result of the project, citizens living in disadvantage areas had the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing a tighter-knit Europe, thereby developing their feeling of belonging to the EU. Local groups were created in each of the towns involved in the project able to animate the debate on "citizenship", notably on civil participation of EU citizens and immigrants in the political and civic life, multiculturalism, mass media and transparency of institutions (accountability). Meeting with local, national and European policy makers (i.e Senate in France) allowed transferability of results and represents a successful example of collaboration and integration. A website, a video and a book/e-book were produced: Website: http://www.ifri.org/en/recherche/thematiques-transversales/migrations-

citoyennetes/repenser-citoyennete-europe

Project partners: Università di Palermo (Italy), Fundaçao Calouste Gubenkian (Portugal), University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

Operating grants:

In line with the call for proposals COMM C2/01-2013 on structural support for European public research organisations (think tanks) and European civil society organisations that had been published in November 2013, the selection of organisations receiving operating structural support took place in April 2014 following the adoption of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

Out of 139 think tanks and European civil society organisations that applied for structural support, 29 organisations have been selected for multi-annual operating grants covering the years 2014-2017 for a total amount of 5.474.702 EUR (See: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/efc-results-og-2014_en.pdf).

3.3. Dissemination and exploitation of results (Strand 3 : Valorisation)

Due to the particularly low budget provided in 2014, these activities were reduced to a minimum for this year.

Events

- **Holocaust Remembrance Day 2014 – 27 January 2014 - Brussels**

For the third time, the Commission organised a ceremony on the occasion of the Holocaust Remembrance Day for organisations active in the area of European remembrance, for Europe for Citizens Contact Points and for European Commission staff. Keynote speakers were Prof. Dr. Rita Süssmuth, former President of Germany's Bundestag, Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding, David Walzer, Israel's Ambassador to the EU, and Henri Gutman, President of Belgium's Jewish Laic Community Centre.

This event was funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme (50.770,40 EUR under the 2013 budget).

- **European Citizens' Forum 2014 – Brussels, 28 January 2014**

The following day, the Commission organised the European Citizens' Forum 2014 to look back to the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013 and ahead to the new Europe for Citizens Programme. Keynote speaker Prof. Jeffrey C. Goldfarb of the New York based New School for Social Research introduced into the debate and the question "Have Europeans learned from the 20th century for the 21st century?" Two panel debates were organised dealing with the following questions:

- "Is there a European memory creating a sense of belonging and encouraging civic participation?"
- "Citizens' Europe – a promise or an illusion? How to deal with growing euroscepticism and the perceived democratic deficit of the European Union?"

This event was funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme (149.169,90 EUR – under the 2013 budget) .

- **European Remembrance Networking Meeting,- Prague, 9-11 April 2014**

The topic of the conference was: "Turning Points of the 20th Century European History - Europe between war and peace 1914-2004" including the outbreak of World War I, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the EU's biggest enlargement in 2004. More than 200 people active in the field of history, memory and remembrance met in Prague to discuss how these events are perceived and interpreted in different countries and what their implications for politics of memory and remembrance are. The conference concluded that as Europe is still defined by painful experiences rather than triumphs and that there is still a strong obsession with division, it is important to recognize differences without being divisive. Additionally, as there is a tendency of Europe to become a "fortress" we should remember with Karl Popper that "the enemy of society is within, not outside the gates" thus focusing on promoting tolerance and respect and resisting xenophobic tendencies.

Participants came from 30 different European countries, 170 organizations and institutions and a variety of backgrounds. The event was a follow-up to the networking meetings for the beneficiaries of the European Commission's Europe for Citizens Programme, which took place in Erfurt in 2013, Copenhagen in 2012 and Brussels and Mechelen in 2011. The Europe for Citizens Programme cooperated with the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), the Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech

Academy of Sciences, the Federal Foundation for the Reappraisal of the SED Dictatorship and the European Solidarity Centre (Gdansk) to organise the networking meeting. The event was hosted by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its headquarters.

This event was funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme (179.141,45 EUR - under the 2013 budget).

- **Conference "Citizens in my city – Citizens in Europe". - Rome, 15-16 December 2014**

On 15 and 16 December 2014, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) organised in Rome the conference "Citizens in my city – Citizens in Europe". The Europe for Citizens programme provided financial support of 61.975 EUR. With the aim to strengthen synergies between the member of its civil dialogue group and the members of CEMR, the Commission organised the second civil dialogue meeting of the year back to back with this event.

The event provided the opportunity to discuss the development and challenges of European citizenship under different aspects addressing related issues such as mobility, diversity, integration, equality and partnerships as tools to enhance the concept of active citizenship. A particular focus was put on the town twinning movement as a fertiliser for European citizenship at the local level. The outcome of the conference was a document entitled "Hope for Europe" listing 25 proposals to revive the European projects.

Dissemination tools

- **Website**

Following the adoption of the new Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020, the website was adapted in line with the new Guidelines and within the framework of the web rationalisation exercise undertaken by DG COMM.

As a pilot site under this exercise, an EU Citizenship Portal was developed to include all topics related to EU citizenship (rights, participation, volunteering and the Europe for Citizens Programme). The content is updated on a regular basis to inform citizens about the citizenship activities and visitors have now a direct access to other related issues via direct links to other activities, programmes and participation tools managed by the European Commission. The url www.ec.europa.eu/citizenship has been visited 155.224 times in 2014.

In addition, an "E-mapping" project is being developed with the objective to better promote the projects selected within the Europe for Citizens Programme and their results. The project has started in 2014 and is due in the course of 2015.

- **Europe for Citizens Contact Points**

In 2014, 25 Contact Points were designated at a national level for the new Europe for Citizens Programme. In particular, two Europe for Citizens Contact Points (ECPs) were appointed in Belgium (one for each of its Flemish and German-speaking communities); for the first time since the Programme's creation, there was a Contact Point designated in Denmark and Malta. Ireland will launch a procedure for the appointment of a new ECP in 2015. It should be noted that Cyprus and Serbia have designated an ECP in December 2014, which will increase the number of ECP to 27 in 2015. There are still 3 Member States without any ECP (the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Portugal).

Two consultation meetings with ECPs took place during the year. The first meeting was organised by EACEA in February 2014 in Brussels, mainly to present the draft Programme Guide to the Europe for Citizens Contact Points awaiting the final adoption of the Programme. The second meeting was organised by the Commission in October 2014 with the aim to strengthen the co-operation with the Contact Points and to exchange impressions on the first selection rounds. In addition, an informal meeting of ECPs was organised by Italy's Contact Point during the Italian Presidency of the EU.

Evaluation

- **Ex post evaluation of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013**

In October 2014, a contract of 106.200 EUR was awarded by DG COMM to the contractor Coffey International for carrying out an ex post evaluation of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013. On this basis, the European Commission will have to submit a political evaluation report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 2015.

4. GENERAL ISSUES

4.1. Programme management

The Europe for Citizens Programme is centrally managed by the European Commission, mainly through the Executive Agency EACEA. Despite the difficult context of the year 2014 due to the late adoption of the Programme, the available budget was committed to the level of 100% in line with the budget presented to the programme committee within the 2014 work programme.

Many efforts were undertaken in 2014 to improve the economy and efficiency of the management of the Europe for Citizens Programme. Further to the Commission's decision of October 2013 authorising the use of lump sums and unit costs for the Europe for Citizens Programme (Decision COM C(2013) 7180 final), a global lump sum financing system was introduced for all action grants of the Europe for Citizens Programme. In addition, an online final report system (e-final report) was developed for all measures of the programme Europe for Citizens.

In line with Article 9 of the Decision establishing the Programme, the Commission is assisted in the implementation of the Programme by a programme committee comprising representatives of the Member States and participating countries. In 2014, the programme committee met in October, mainly to adopt its rules of procedures and to discuss the work programme for 2015.

4.2. Civil dialogue with the programme stakeholders

In accordance with Article 11(2) of the Treaty on European Union and as provided in Article 10 of the Council Regulation establishing the Europe for Citizens Programme for the period 2014-2020, the Commission organises regular Civil Dialogue meetings with approximately 50 European level organisations and think tanks actively involved in the Programme. The civil dialogue group discusses all matters related to the Europe for Citizens Programme, its annual priorities, and its implementation.

In 2014, two meetings took place in June and in December 2014. At the first meeting held in June in Brussels, participants were informed about the proposed work programme for 2015, the ex post evaluation of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013 and the feasibility study on the European Civil Society House. Following the suggestion made by participants, the second meeting of the Civil Dialogue was held for the first time outside Brussels, on 15 December 2014 in Rome, back to back with the conference "Citizens in my city – Citizens in Europe" organised by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) with support of the Commission with a view to encouraging synergies between civil society organisations and municipalities.

4.3. Follow-up of the study on the European Civil Society House

In 2013 and 2014, the Commission implemented the 2013 budget line 16. 05 09 introduced by the European Parliament for a preparatory action on the setting up of a European Civil Society House in Brussels, by commissioning an ex ante appraisal and feasibility study on the establishment of a European House for Civil Society (EHCS), including a mapping of existing structures dealing with European rights and civic participation, a needs assessment and possible scenarios to address the identified needs. The final report submitted in June 2014, concluded that the needs of both citizens and civil society organisations would be best addressed through existing structures and at a lower cost.

Based on the study conclusions, DG COMM decided not to proceed with the initiative and obtained the agreement of the European Parliament to transfer the budgetary appropriation foreseen for this preparatory action (250.000 EUR) to the Europe for Citizens budget line, with a view to developing capacity building of existing organisations.

LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex 1: **Overview of execution of budget and selection results 2014**
Annex 2: **List of Europe for Citizens Contact Points in 2014**

ANNEX 1

Europe for citizens programme: follow up selection and contracts (2014)													
Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget	Number of grants / contracts	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of ineligible application	Number of selected applications	Number of granted applications	Success rate	Decision date	Grant Awarded	Time to Decision (in months)
	Strand 1 - European remembrance and European citizenship												
1.1.	Remembrance projects	3.145.000	63	Programme Guide	4/06/2014	472	0	35+1	36	8%	23/07/2014	3.104.000	1,6
1.2.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1.490.000	6	Call COMM C2/01/2013	20/12/2013	22	0	7	6	27%	10/06/2014	1.213.966	1,7
	Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation												
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 1	4.165.000	417	Programme Guide	4/06/2014	418	1	168	167	45%	25/07/2014	2.854.000	1,7
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 2				1/09/2014	249	1	63+7	65	26%	7/11/2014	1.036.000	2,2
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - Phase 1	4.140.000	100	Programme Guide	4/06/2014	84	0	22	22	26%	24/07/2014	2.902.500	1,7
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - Phase 2				1/09/2014	140	0	12+3	13	9%	5/11/2014	1.620.000	2,2
2.3.	Civil society projects	3.020.000	38	Programme Guide	1/09/2014	538	0	28+1	29	5%	20/11/2014	3.593.250	2,7
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5.517.000	27	Call COMM C2/01/2013	20/12/2013	139	0	27+2	29	21%	10/06/2014	5.474.702	1,7
	Strand 3 - Valorisation												
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900.000	33	art 190.1 d RAP no Call	31/12/2013; 31/03/2014; 30/06/2014	25	0	25	25	100%	19/05/2014	714.025	1**
4.1.	Support to project selection	200.000	na	na								175.560	
	SUB TOTAL WP 2014	**22.580.000**	**686**			**2687**	**2**		**412**	**26%**		**22.688.003**	**1,8**
	C1	22.592.640											
	P0	4.186											
	C5	89.171											
	TOTAL	22.686.003	(1 projects TT was committed with 2000 les than awarded)										

Annex 2:

List of Europe for Citizens Contact Points in 2014

1. Austria
2. Belgium – Flanders
3. Belgium – German speaking Community
4. Bulgaria
5. Croatia
6. Czech Republic
7. Denmark
8. Estonia
9. Finland
10. France
11. Germany
12. Greece
13. Hungary
14. Ireland
15. Italy
16. Latvia
17. Lithuania
18. Malta
19. Netherlands
20. Poland
21. Romania
22. Slovakia
23. Slovenia
24. Spain
25. Sweden

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Strategy and General Affairs
Inter-Institutional Relations and Citizenship

Brussels, March 2016

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" PROGRAMME IN 2015

This report describes the main activities developed within the Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020 during its second year of implementation in line with the work programme of the year 2015.

1. background

1.1. Context

In the difficult political, social and economic context of the year 2015, the Europe for Citizens programme played an important role as one of the EU programmes helping to foster the civic engagement of citizens, to promote values such as tolerance, solidarity and non-discrimination and to encourage citizens to play a stronger role in the development of the EU through projects and activities, in which citizens who were already active within organisations or institutions as well as citizens who were not yet involved could participate and make their voice heard.

1.2. Adoption of the work programme 2015

The Annual Work Programme 2015 for the implementation of the Europe for Citizens programme was adopted by decision C(2014) 9220 of 8 December 2014 for a total amount of 21.894.000 EUR based on the draft budget 2015.

1.3. Transfer of the Europe for Citizens programme to DG Migration and Home Affairs

Following the establishment of the new Commission Juncker in 2014, the responsibility for the citizenship portfolio was given to Commissioner Avramopoulos, in charge of Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship. Accordingly, as of 1 January 2015 the political responsibility for the Europe for Citizens Programme was moved from Directorate-General Communication (COMM) to Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs (HOME). The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency remained responsible for the implementation of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

2. Annual priorities for the year 2015

In line with the general objectives of the Europe for Citizens programme, annual priorities for 2015 were defined by the European Commission after consultation of the programme committee and the stakeholders participating in the civil dialogue. Applicants were encouraged to develop projects in line with the objectives of the programme and targeting the annual priorities.

The annual priorities for 2015 were laid down as follows in the work programme:

Strand 1: European remembrance

In the context of the **70th anniversary of the end of World War II**, priority was given to projects that focussed on:

- World War II and the associated rise of intolerance that enabled crimes against humanity;

- The consequences of World War II for the post-war architecture of Europe: its division and the Cold war on the one hand, and the beginning of the European integration process following the Schuman Declaration in 1950 on the other hand.

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

In the discussion on the European Union in times of the economic crisis and following the European elections of May 2014, the 2015 annual priority of strand 2 of the programme was built around the **debate on the future of Europe**. Priority was given to projects that aimed at deepening the discussion on the future of Europe and the kind of Europe, citizens wanted but also stimulating new forms of civic participation whilst reinforcing those existing. The aim was not to limit the debates to citizens already supporting the idea of the European Union, but to reach out to citizens who had not been involved so far or who rejected the Union outright or put in question its achievements.

3. Implementation of the Europe for Citizens programme

3.1. Selection results in 2015

The Europe for Citizens programme is implemented through the two strands "European remembrance" and "Democratic engagement and civic participation", which offer co-funding for European remembrance projects, town-twinning activities, networks of towns and civil society projects as well as operating grants to European civil society organisations and think tanks active in the thematic areas targeted by the programme.

In 2015, the Programme was implemented all together in 33 eligible participating countries: 28 Member States and 5 other participating countries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Out of 2 791 applications received, 408 projects were selected, and around 1 100 000 participants were expected to be involved in the activities of the programme.

The attached table (annex 1) provides a summary per strand and per measure.

3.2.1. Strand 1 — European Remembrance

As regards "European remembrance" (strand 1), the Programme supports activities that encourage reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values in the broadest sense. Funds are available for initiatives to reflect on the causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history and to commemorate the victims of their crimes. This strand also encompasses activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history to foster common European memory and culture of remembrance. In particular, it gives preference to actions which encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means of moving beyond the past and building the future, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation.

Strand 1 of the programme is implemented through European remembrance projects as well as through operating grants to European civil society organisations, memorial institutions, academic and research institutes active in the thematic area of European remembrance. Projects supported by the programme facilitate exchanges between memorial institutions, create links between non-profit organisations and research institutions and academia, foster European cooperation in the field of the memory, bring young people closer to the memory issues, help them to build better knowledge with clear European perspective and prevent xenophobia and stereotypes.

Project grants

In 2015, out of 538 submitted applications, 33 European remembrance projects from 19 Member States have been selected for funding for a total amount of 3.021.560 EUR as of 1 January 2015. This corresponds to a success rate of 6%. See: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/european-remembrance-2015_en .

Around 100.000 citizens were directly involved (and around 165.000 indirectly involved) in European remembrance projects in 2015.

The geographical spread of the remembrance projects shows that 22 out of 33 countries are represented. The highest number of projects are developed by organisations coming from France (4 projects) and from Germany, Italy and Poland (3 projects each).

The breakdown by theme was structured as follows for the applications received:

- Common EU values: 23%
- Nazism/Fascism 17%
- Other totalitarian regimes:16%
- Holocaust: 15%
- Recent EU history 5%
- Stalinism: 3%
- Other:19%

Example of a European Remembrance project:
"Mobilising society against genocide, denial, racism and anti-semitism in Europe"" by "European Grassroots Anti-Racist Movement" (France)

The project "Mobilising society against genocide, denial, racism and anti-semitism in Europe"" by "European Grassroots Anti-Racist Movement" (EGAM, France) was selected in 2015 to address genocide denial discourses and the current rise in xenophobic and Eurosceptic trends. The project seeks to educate citizens on histories that were discredited, denied or marginalised in contemporary European society such as Holocaust and the Roma, the Armenian or the Srebrenica genocides. The project gathers 17 NGO's from 14 European countries to help raise awareness and promote a more inclusive Europe by exchanging good practice and by mobilising and empowering European civil society.

Operating grants

On the basis of the call for proposals COMM C2/01-2013 on structural support for European public research organisations (think tanks) and European civil society organisations that had been published already in November 2013, the selection of organisations receiving operating structural support from 2014 to 2017 had taken place in April 2014. Six remembrance

organisations had been selected for multi-annual operating grants covering the years 2014-2017

On the basis of their work programme for the year 2015, those 6 remembrance organisations were financed for the second consecutive year in 2015 for a total amount of 1 213 466 EUR. See:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/comm-c201-2013-selection-results-structural-support-for-european-public-policy-research_en .

Example of a European Remembrance operating grant:
European Observatory on memories (EUROM)

The European Observatory on memories "EUROM" gathers more than 30 partners in 15 countries and is hosted by the Fundacio Solidaritat at the University of Barcelona. The work of the observatory focuses on the public use of memories and the right of European citizens to remember.
In 2015, the work programme of EUROM mainly dealt with the collective memory through cultural heritage. The mechanism for awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing of cultural heritage and its impact at European level were analysed and the role of scientific knowledge, arts, new technologies and media in supporting the creation of new memory spaces was examined.
EUROM also commemorated the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp of Mauthausen (Austria). In this context, the role institutions and civil society can play in maintaining cultural heritage were discussed in relation to important moments of recent European history, for instance the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the German reunification or the dissolution of the USSR and their impact on Europe.

Support of Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

In 2015, the Europe for Citizens Programme continued to provide support for the restoration, protection and preservations of historical structures and objects in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. This is part of the 4 years' project ***"Preserving Authenticity – nine tasks for the years 2012-2015"***.

With the financial support of the programme considerable progress has been achieved regarding the following tasks:

1. structural reinforcement of the archives building;
2. Installation of fire suppressant system in the collections and the archives storage areas;
3. Conservation of two wooden barracks at the former KL Auschwitz II-Birkenau;
4. Modernisation of suitcase storage;
5. Enhancement of the long-term data storage system and the digital repository;
6. New equipment in the conservation workshop;
7. Modernization of display cases of objects belonging to the victims;
8. Conservation of fringed prayer garments as well as conservation and digitization of archival material; and
9. Analysis of the grounds, buildings and infrastructure of sector B1 in the former KL Auschwitz II-Birkenau.

To this end, a grant of € 4 million (95% of co-financing) was allocated to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum through the 'Europe for Citizens' programme for the period 2012-2015.

Co-operation with UNESCO

In 2015, the Commission cooperated with UNESCO by co-financing a project named ***"Holocaust in Contemporary Education - European Curricula, Textbooks and pupils' perceptions in comparison"***. This project is a joint initiative of UNESCO and the European Commission. It is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the current evolutions in the field of Holocaust education in the countries most directly affected by it through a comprehensive analysis of curricula, textbooks and pupils' perception of the Holocaust and to ensure guidance to education stakeholders wishing to teach about this subject.

An amount of 150 000 EUR was committed for this purpose under the 2014 budget. The project will be continued to be implemented in 2016.

3.2.2. Strand 2 — Democratic engagement and civic participation

Under this strand, the Programme supports activities that cover civic participation in the broadest sense, and focuses in particular on structuring methods to ensure that funded activities have a lasting effect. This strand also covers projects and initiatives that develop opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at Union level. The aim is to increase the citizens' democratic participation in political and economic decision-making, notably the participation of young people and women.

Strand 2 of the programme is implemented through project grants to town-twinning activities, networks of towns and civil society projects as well as through operating grants to European civil society organisations and think tanks active in the area of democratic engagement and civic participation.

Project grants:

Measure 1 : Town-twinning

Town twinning projects consist in bringing together a wide range of citizens and citizens' groups from twinned towns, taking benefit of the partnership between the municipalities for developing relations and cooperation between their citizens. The meetings combine an informal character emphasizing the "learning by doing" approach with a thematic focus in line with the programme's priorities.

This measure involves the majority of projects and participants, and its impact is achieved through the direct participation of citizens. In the two selection rounds that were organised for town-twinning projects in 2015, out of 1 404 submitted applications, 252 town-twinning projects were selected for funding for a total amount of 4 138 000 EUR. This corresponds to a success rate of 18%.

For the quantitative analysis and detailed selection results, see annex 1 and the selection result lists on the website of EACEA at the following address:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/strand-2-measure-21-town-twinning-deadline-2-march-2015_en and

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/measure-21-town-twinning-round-2-2015_en

Thematically, the debate on the future of Europe was targeted by 52 % of town-twinning projects.

Even though the geographical balance remains to be improved within the town-twinning measure, it should be underlined that in terms of the geographical spread including the partners, all countries participating in the programme are represented. The greatest number of selected projects come from Hungary *(20%)*, Slovakia *(16,6%)*, Germany *(11,9%) and Italy (10,3%*). Of course, the geographic impact goes beyond the host country since every project involves citizens from one or more invited towns and countries.

Example of a Town Twinning project:
"We in Europe - for peace and humanity in the world" (city of Burg/Germany)

The project "We in Europe - for peace and humanity in the world" led by the German municipality Burg gathered citizens from municipalities in France, Finland, Greece and Germany to discuss about the role of the European Union in the maintenance of peace and in respecting the human rights. Throughout roundtables, an international conference, meetings, family exchanges, the project aimed to reflect about the common values on which Europe was built on and to contribute to the construction of a sustainable network.

Measure 2 : Network of Towns

Under this measure municipalities and associations working together in a long-term perspective on issues of common interest have the opportunity to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation more sustainable and to to develop thematic cooperation in a long-term perspective.

In the two selection rounds that were organised for networks of towns in 2015, out of 339 submitted applications, 32 networking projects were selected for funding for a total amount of 4 067 500 EUR which corresponds to a success rate of 9%. For the quantitative analysis and detailed selection results, see annex 1 and the selection result lists on the website of EACEA at the following address:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/strand-2-measure-22-networks-towns-deadline-2-march-2015_en and

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/measure-22-networks-towns-round-2-2015_en

In terms of geographical spread including the partners, all countries participating in the programme are represented within this measure. Italy and Hungary remain the most active countries in organising networks of towns. As all these networks involve at least four towns from different countries, the geographic impact goes far beyond the host country.

Example of a Network of Towns:
CitiPart - Cities' Partnership against extremism and populism by "Maison de l'Europe des Yvelines" (France)

CitiPart is an interactive network that was set up between 8 towns dealing at local level with political debates of interest for citizens. It represents municipalities, town-twinning committees, European Houses and youth organisations from France, Germany, Poland, Austria and Hungary. Against the background of rising populism and Euroscepticism but also of decreasing participation in elections, the project aims at giving citizens the floor. The aim of the network is to reflect together on today's meaning of the common values of solidarity, tolerance and peace. Through multilateral conferences, citizens will have the opportunity to discuss with MEPs and local representatives and to present them a catalogue of proposals.

Measure 3 : Civil Society Projects

This measure supports the development of projects by NGOs and think-tanks aiming at enhancing citizens' participation in the EU process. Civil society projects bring together citizens from different walks of life to debate common European issues at local and EU level.
Out of 440 submitted applications, 27 civil society projects were selected for funding for a total amount of 3 322 750 EUR. This corresponds to a success rate of 6%. For the quantitative analysis and detailed selection results, see annex 1 and the selection result lists on the website of EACEA at the following address:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/civil-society-projects-2015_en

The geographical spread of applications shows that all the countries participating in the Programme are represented in the projects funded under this measure, either as applicant or partners. All selected projects dealt with the priority themes chosen for the year 2015. The highest number of

applications comes from Italy, Hungary, Poland, Germany, Bulgaria and Slovenia.

Example of a Civil Society Project:
"BY-ME" (Boosting young Migrants' Participation in European Cities: Transnational Solutions to Common Challenges) by Instituto Cooperazione Economica Internazionale (Italy)

The project "BY-ME: Boosting Young Migrants' participation in European cities" by ICEI promotes young people's participation in the elaboration of proposals in policy areas that concern them and the "European Union they would like". It aims in particular at boosting the participation of young migrants in the formulation of migration policies and implementation measures by supporting their involvement in local networks and the structured dialogue between young people of foreign origin and local administrations. The project brings together representatives of three big European cities (Milan, Barcelona and Lisbon) with civil society organisations and groups of migrants. Expected results are to increase young migrant's civic participation by promoting concrete activities at local level, to establish local networks and promote the participation of migrants' associations in these fora, to give young migrants the opportunity to contribute to the development of public policies and to share experience and best practice among the three participating cities and beyond.

Operating grants:

On the basis of the call for proposals COMM C2/01-2013 on structural support for European public research organisations (think tanks) and European civil society organisations that had been published already in November 2013, the selection of organisations receiving operating structural support from 2014 to 2017 had taken place in April 2014. Thirty-one European civil society organisations and think tanks had been selected for multi-annual operating grants covering the years 2014-2017

On the basis of their work programme for the year 2015, those 31 civil society organisations and think-tanks were financed for the second consecutive year in 2015 for a total amount of 5.627.984 EUR. (see:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/comm-c201-2013-selection-results-structural-support-for-european-public-policy-

research_en

Example of a Civic Participation operating grant (European think tank): Notre Europe - Institut Jacques Delors

The Jacques Delors Institute is a European think tank that was founded by Jacques Delors in 1996 under the name Notre Europe. Its aim is to produce analyses and proposals targeting European decision-makers and a wider audience, and to contribute to the debate on the European Union.

In 2015, the work programme of "Notre Europe - Institut Jacques Delors" focused on the promotion of European values and mutual understanding between national and European actors mainly by fostering economic and social inclusion in the Member States. "Notre Europe" undertook as well to analyse the European Union's democratic dimension on the basis of three main themes: representative democracy (European and national parliaments, political parties), participatory democracy (European and national elections, referendums, citizen deliberations, etc.) and European public sphere (in particular, the tracking of European public opinion). In addition, the Jacques Delors Institute examined the notion of European solidarity and the effectiveness and limits of existing solidarity mechanisms within the EU and researched the future of social Europe more generally.

3.3. Dissemination and exploitation of results (Strand 3: Valorisation)

Events:

- ***Holocaust Remembrance Day 2015 – 27 January 2015 - Brussels***

For the fourth time, the Commission organised a ceremony on the occasion of the Holocaust Remembrance Day for organisations active in the area of European remembrance, and for European Commission staff. Keynote speakers were Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos, Ronen Gil-Or, Deputy Chief of the Mission of Israel to the European Union and Michal Frankl, deputy Director of the Jewish Museum Prague. The exhibition "The Holocaust in Europe" developed by the remembrance organization Mémorial de la Shoah was shown at this occasion at the visitor's centre of the European Commission.

This event was funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme (56 297 EUR under the 2014 budget).

- ***European Remembrance Networking Meeting - Tallinn, 4-6 April***

The topic of the conference was: *"Common European Memory: Promise, illusion or challenge?"*. More than 150 people active in the field of history, memory and remembrance representing 100 organisations from 20 countries met in Tallinn to discuss on relationships between national, regional and transnational frameworks of European memory and their influence on the possibility of developing a common approach. The geographical location and history of Estonia provided the opportunity to reflect not only on the region's experience of National Socialism, the Shoah and Soviet Communism, but also on the challenge of including minorities within a common European remembrance.

The event was a follow-up to the networking meetings for the beneficiaries of the European Commission's Europe for Citizens Programme, which took place in Prague in 2014, in Erfurt in 2013, Copenhagen in 2012 and Brussels and Mechelen in 2011. The Europe for Citizens Programme cooperated with the Unitas Foundation, the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, the Estonian Museum of Occupations, Providus and the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Communist Occupation Regime in Lithuania, to organise the networking meeting.

This event was funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme (116 435 EUR under the 2014 budget).

Dissemination tools

- ***Website***

The EU Citizenship Portal was updated on a regular basis to inform citizens about European citizenship activities. The url www.ec.europa.eu/citizenship has been visited 107 733 times in 2015.

A new database of projects funded under the Europe for Citizens programme was prepared and will be made available in 2016. For this purpose, 53 500 EUR were committed under the 2015 budget.

The purpose of the platform will be:

- to disseminate information on the selected projects;
- to promote the exchange of good practice;
- to give more visibility to the projects funded under the current programme;
- to serve as a project database, with project summaries, links, products and outcomes;
- to enable beneficiaries to identify potential partners for future projects.

- ***Europe for Citizens Contact Points***

In 2015, a total of 29 Contact Points were operational at national level for the Europe for Citizens Programme. For the first time since the Programme's creation, Contact Points were designated in Cyprus, Serbia and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Ireland appointed a new ECP. There are still 3 Member States without any ECP (the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Portugal).

Two consultation meetings with Europe for Citizens Contact Points took place during the year. The first meeting was organised by the Latvian Contact Point in April 2015 in Riga, the second meeting by the French Contact Point in October in Paris with the aim to improve the co-operation between the Commission and the Contact Points, to present the multi-annual priorities of the Europe for Citizens programme for the years to come and to exchange impressions on the project selection of the year 2015.

Evaluation

- ***Ex post evaluation of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013***

In October 2014, a contract of 106 200 EUR was awarded by DG COMM to the contractor Coffey International for carrying out an ex post evaluation of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013. The external report was published in June 2015. See:
http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/final_efcp_final_report_2015_10_15.pdf.

On the basis of this external evaluation, in December 2015 the European Commission published a political evaluation report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and

the Committee of the Regions. See:
http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/evaluationreportefc2007-2013_en.pdf.

4. General issues

4.1. Programme management

The Europe for Citizens Programme is centrally managed by the European Commission and mainly implemented through the Executive Agency EACEA. The overall programme budget was committed to the level of 100% in line with the budget presented to the programme committee within the 2015 work programme.

Intensive use of IT tools introduced the previous year allowed the Agency in 2015 to cope with the increasing number of applications. The automatic filter of eligibility criteria processed by the eForm freed up time and resources and enabled the Agency to focus on the assessment of the eligible proposals. The briefing of experts in charge of the evaluation of projects and the assessment of project proposals were successfully organised online allowing significant savings in terms of time and budget. The monitoring strategy of the Europe for Citizens programme was successfully implemented. 44 projects were monitored either on site or at the Agency premises.

In line with Article 9 of the Decision establishing the Programme, the Commission is assisted in the implementation of the Programme by a programme committee comprising representatives of the Member States and participating countries. In 2015, the programme committee met in October, mainly to discuss the work programme for 2016 including the multi-annual thematic priorities for the remaining years of the programme.

4.2. Civil dialogue with the programme stakeholders

In accordance with Article 11(2) of the Treaty on European Union and as provided in Article 10 of the Council Regulation establishing the Europe for Citizens Programme for the period 2014-2020, the Commission organises regular Civil Dialogue meetings with approximately 50 European level organisations and think tanks actively involved in the Programme. The civil dialogue group discusses all matters related to the Europe for Citizens Programme, its annual priorities, and its implementation.

In 2015, a civil society meeting was organised in June in Brussels. Participants were informed about the proposed work programme of the Europe for Citizens programme for 2016 and the multi-annual thematic priorities for the years to come and about the state of preparation of the 3rd EU Citizenship Report of the Commission to be published in 2016. A brainstorming session was organised on the role EU citizenship policy could possible play in promoting the values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education following the Declaration of EU Education ministers of 17 March 2015.

Annexe 1: Europe for Citizens programme -follow-up selections and contracts									
Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of ineligible application	Number of selected applications	Success rate	Grant Awarded (Amount of Decisions)
	Strand 1 - European remembrance and European citizenship								
1.1.	Remembrance projects	3,088,900	Programme Guide	2/03/2015	538	0	33	6%	3,021,560
1.2.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1,413,967	Call COMM C2/01/2013	29/12/2014	6	0	6	100%	1,213,466
	Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation								
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 1	3,904,430	Programme Guide	2/03/2015	802	0	144	18%	2,338,000
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 2			1/09/2015	602	2	108	18%	1,800,000
				TOT	1404		252	18%	4,138,000
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - Phase 1	3,861,000	Programme Guide	2/03/2015	164	0	20	12%	2,457,500
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - Phase 2			1/09/2015	175		12	7%	1,610,000
				TOT	339		32	9%	4,067,500
2.3.	Civil society projects	2,831,000	Programme Guide	2/03/2015	440	0	27	6%	3,322,750
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5,474,703	Call COMM C2/01/2013	29/12/2014	37	2	31	84%	5,627,984
	Strand 3 - Valorisation								
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900,000	art 190,1 d RAP no Call	30/09/2015 at the latest	27	0	27	100%	761,525
4.1.	Support to project selection	200,000	na						200,000
	TOTAL WP 2015	**21,654,000**			**2791**	**4**	**408**	**15%**	**22,352,785**

Annex 2:

List of Europe for Citizens Contact Points in 2015

For contact details see: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/about-the-europe-for-citizens-programme/the-europe-for-citizens-programme-in-the-member-states/index_en.htm

1. Austria
2. Belgium – Flanders
3. Belgium – French speaking community
4. Belgium – German speaking Community
5. Bulgaria
6. Croatia
7. Cyprus
8. Czech Republic
9. Denmark
10. Estonia
11. Finland
12. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
13. France
14. Germany
15. Greece
16. Hungary
17. Ireland
18. Italy
19. Latvia
20. Lithuania
21. Malta
22. Netherlands
23. Poland
24. Romania
25. Serbia
26. Slovakia
27. Slovenia
28. Spain
29. Sweden

Ref. Ares(2017)1673593 - 29/03/2017

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION and HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate A: Strategy and General Affairs
The Director

Brussels, March 2017

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS"

This report describes the main activities developed within the Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020 during its third year of implementation.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Context

In the continuous complex political, social and economic context of the year 2016, the Europe for Citizens programme played an important role as one of the EU programmes helping to foster the civic engagement of citizens, to promote values such as tolerance, solidarity and non-discrimation and to encourage citizens to play a stronger role in the development of the EU through projects and activities, in which citizens participated and made their voice heard.

The rise of Euroscepticism – which became highly visible in the result of the UK referendum in June 2016 – highlighted the importance of the Europe for Citizens programme and reinforced the need to foster the development of a shared sense of European identity and to reflect on the causes of the European Union's loss of attractiveness and the disappearance of its credibility as a positive added value to Member States. The Europe for Citizens programme offered a unique forum to ordinary citizens allowing them to express their ideas about bout the future of Europe through a bottom-up approach.

The Europe for Citizens programme is implemented through the two strands "European

remembrance" and "Democratic engagement and civic participation", which offer co-funding for European remembrance projects, town-twinning activities, networks of towns and civil society projects as well as operating grants to European civil society organisations and think tanks active in the thematic areas targeted by the programme.

As regards "European remembrance" (strand 1), the Programme supports activities that encourage reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values in the broadest sense. Funds are available for initiatives to reflect on the causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history and to commemorate the victims of their crimes. This strand also encompasses activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history to foster common European memory and culture of remembrance. In particular, it gives preference to actions which encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means of moving beyond the pastand building the future, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation.

Under "Democratic engagement and civic participation" (strand 2), the Programme supports activitiesthat cover civic participation and focuses in particular on structuring methods to ensure that funded activities have a lasting effect. This strand also covers projects and initiatives that develop opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, solidarity and societal engagement. The aim is to increase the citizens' democratic participation in political decision-making processes.

1.2. Adoption of the work programme 2016

The Annual Work Programme 2016 for the implementation of the Europe for Citizens programme wasadopted by decision C(2015) 9186 of 18 December 2015 for a total amount of 23 074 481 EUR basedon the draft budget 2016.

2. MULTI-ANNUAL PRIORITIES FOR THE YEARS 2016-2020

As agreed with the programme committee at its meeting of 8 October 2015, the Europe for Citizens programme switched from the former system of annual thematic priorities to multi-annual priorities applying for the remaining period of the programme (2016-2020). The new system was introduced togive applicants more time to plan and prepare their projects.

However, the European Commission reserved itself the right to review and adapt the list of priorities should the need arise under the condition that the programme committee and the civil dialogue groupagrees on the modifications.

In this context, for the 2016-2020 period, priorities were designed to stimulate debates on dates of European significance and topics having a strong resonance in present times (for the European Remembrance strand) or anchored in the social, economic and political reality of the European Union(for the Democratic engagement and civic participation strand). The

following multi-annual priorities were laid down in the work programme for the period 2016-2020:

Strand 1: European remembrance

1. Commemorations of major historical turning points in recent European history

Year of application	Eligible commemorations
2016	**1936** Beginning of the Spanish Civil War **1956** Political and social mobilisation in central Europe **1991** Beginning of the Yugoslav Wars **1951** Adoption of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in relation with the post WWII refugee situation in Europe
2017	**1917** The social and political revolutions, the fall of empires and their impact on Europe's political and historical landscape **1957** The Treaty of Rome and the beginning of European Economic Community
2018	**1918** The end of the WWI – the rise of nation states and the failure to create a European cooperation and peaceful coexistence **1938/1939** Beginning of WWII **1948** Beginning of the Cold War **1948** The Hague Congress and the integration of Europe **1968** Protest and civil rights movements, invasion to Czechoslovakia, student protests and anti-Semitic campaign in Poland
2019	**1979** European Parliament elections – also 40 years since the first directly elected EP in 1979 **1989** Democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin wall **2004** 15 years of EU enlargement into central and Eastern Europe
2020	**1950** Robert Schuman Declaration **1990** German reunification **2000** Proclamation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

2. Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes
3. Ostracism and loss of citizenship under totalitarian regimes: drawing the lessons for today
4. Democratic transition and accession to the European Union

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

1. *Understanding and Debating Euroscepticism*
2. *Solidarity in times of crisis*
3. *Combatting stigmatisation of "immigrants" and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding*
4. *Debate on the future of Europe*

The definition of multi-annual priorities helped applicants to better focus on the programme's objectives and to submit more structured projects with a higher potential impact. The first year of experience with the multi-annual priorities showed the capacity of the programme stakeholders to adapt to the new system.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME

3.1. Selection results in 2016

In 2016, the Programme was implemented all together in 33 eligible participating countries: 28 Member States and 5 other participating countries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Out of 2 496 applications received, 395 projects were selected, and around 1 100 000 participants were expected to be involved in the activities of the programme.

The attached table (annex 1) provides a summary per strand and per measure.

3.2.1. Strand 1 — European Remembrance

Strand 1 of the programme is implemented through European remembrance projects as well as through operating grants to European civil society organisations, memorial institutions, academic and research institutes active in the thematic area of European remembrance. Projects supported by the programme facilitate exchanges between memorial institutions, create links between non-profit organisations and research institutions and academia, foster European cooperation in the field of the memory, bring young people closer to the memory issues, help them to build better knowledge with clear European perspective and prevent xenophobia and stereotypes.

Project grants

In 2016, out of 468 submitted applications, 38 European remembrance projects have been selected for funding for a total amount of 3 342 500 EUR. This corresponds to a success rate of 8,5%. See: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-

results/selection-results-strand-1- remembrance-round-1-2016_en

The highest number of European remembrance projects receiving a grant were developed byorganisations coming from Italy, France and Spain (3 projects each).

The breakdown by theme was structured as follows for the eligible applications:

Ostracism and loss of citizenship under totalitarian regimes: drawing the lessons for today	35%
Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes	30%
1991 Beginning of the Yugoslav Wars	24%
1936 Beginning of the Spanish Civil War	15%
1951 Adoption of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees inrelation with the post WWII refugee situation in Europe	15%
Democratic transition and accession to the European Union	14%
1956 Political and social mobilisation in central Europe	12%

Example of a European Remembrance project:

Project "CROCUS" (Ireland):

The Crocus Project is an Irish initiative whereby Holocaust Educational Trust Ireland provides yellowCrocus bulbs for school pupils aged 11 years and older to plant in memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust and thousands of other children who were victims of Nazi atrocities. The yellow flowers recall the yellow Stars of David that Jews were forced to wear under Nazi rule.

The Crocus Project is a tangible way to introduce young people to the subject of the Holocaust and toraise awareness about the dangers of racism, discrimination, prejudice and hatred. The children's involvement in learning about the Holocaust, in planting the bulbs and watching the flowers grow, encourages ongoing learning about the importance of tolerance and respect. HETI provides acomprehensive Information and Guidelines pack to assist teachers in educating about the Holocaust.

The Crocus blooms around the end of January about the time of international Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January). When people admire the flowers, the pupils explain what they represent and recall the children who perished in the Holocaust.

The Crocus Project was introduced at the launch of Holocaust Education Trust Ireland in September 2005. That year, 239 Irish schools participated in the project and six thousand primary school pupils planted yellow crocus bulbs. Since then, the Crocus Project has expanded and developed and now involves primary and post-primary pupils as well as some third level students and youth groups. Ten European countries have joined The Crocus Project and we hope that more will join each year until we have the whole of Europe participating and more than one and a half million crocus flowers bloomingeach year. In

2016/17 over 90,000 Irish and European school pupils were involved in the Crocus Project.

Operating grants

On the basis of the call for proposals published in November 2013, the selection of organisations receiving operating structural support 2014 to 2017 had taken place in April 2014. Six remembrance organisations had been selected for multi-annual operating grants covering the years 2014-2017

On the basis of their work programme for the year 2016, those 6 remembrance organisations were financed for the third consecutive year in 2016 for a total amount of 1 213 466 EUR. See:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/selection-results-operating-grants- 2016_en

Example of a European Remembrance operating grant:
European Observatory on memories (EUROM), Spain

The European Observatory on memories "EUROM" gathers more than 30 partners in 15 countries and is hosted by the Fundacio Solidaritat at the University of Barcelona. The work of the observatory focuses on the public use of memories and the right of European citizens to remember.

In 2016, the activities of EUROM dealt with the processes of socialisation and civic participation in theconstruction and/or reform of memory in Europe, the dangers of neo-fascist tendencies and how these can be combated through memorial policies and the new challenges the EU is facing in relation with the migration crisis (See: http://europeanmemories.net/).

EU-UNESCO project on Holocaust education

The study "Holocaust in Contemporary Education - European Curricula, Textbooks and pupils' perceptions in comparison" is a joint initiative of UNESCO and the European Commission co-financed through the Europe for Citizens programme. It is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the current evolutions in the field of Holocaust education in the countries most directly affected by it through a comprehensive analysis of curricula, textbooks and pupils' perception of the Holocaust and to ensure guidance to education stakeholders wishing to teach about this subject.

The research project is carried out by the Georg-Eckert Institute for International Textbook research based in Braunschweig/Germany (GEI). An amount of 150 000 EUR was committed under the 2014 budget. The project started in 2016 and will be continued to be implemented in 2017.

3.2.2. Strand 2 — Democratic engagement and civic participation

Strand 2 of the programme is implemented through project grants to town-twinning activities, networks of towns and civil society projects as well as through operating grants to European civil society organisations and think tanks active in the area of democratic engagement and civic participation.

Project grants:

Measure 1 : Town-twinning

Town twinning projects consist in bringing together a wide range of citizens and citizens' groups from twinned towns, taking benefit of the partnership between the municipalities for developing relations and cooperation between their citizens. The meetings combine an informal character emphasizing the "learning by doing" approach with a thematic focus in line with the programme's objectives and multi-annual priorities.

The majority of projects and participants of the Europe for Citizens programme fall under this measure, and its impact is achieved through the direct participation of citizens. In 2016, out of 1 093 submitted applications, 237 town-twinning projects were selected for funding for a total amount of 4 131 500 EUR. This corresponds to a success rate of 22%.

For the quantitative analysis and detailed selection results, see annex 1 and the selection result lists on the website of EACEA at the following address:
https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-

site/files/publication_website_tt_2016_r1.pdf and

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-

site/files/list_of_projects_granted_tt_2016_r2_0.pdf

The beneficiaries of Town Twinning fully addressed the multiannual programme priorities. Reactive tothe current political and social contexts, the selected projects put emphasis on the issues related to the Debate on the future of Europe particularly in the context of the outcome of the UK referendum and growing Euroscepticism, migration challenges and solidarity in times of crisis.

Considering the strong interconnection between the programme priorities most of the project promoters managed to successfully combine different themes and programme priorities looking for synergies and concrete outputs. Thus, migration and intercultural dialogue was covered by 43%, the debate on the future of Europe by 42%, solidarity in times of crisis by 26% and Euroscepticism by 21% of the selected town-twinning projects.

Even though the geographical balance remains to be improved within the town-twinning measure, it should be underlined that in terms of the geographical spread including the partners, all countries participating in the programme were represented. The greatest number of

selected projects came from Hungary *(16%)*, Slovakia *(16%)*, *Italy (13%)* and Germany *(11%)*.

Example of a Town Twinning project:
Project: "We of Today – Europe of Tomorrow" by Silales rajono savivaldybes administracija, (Lithuania)
The aim of this small-scale trilateral town-twinning project developed by a Lithuanian town in cooperation with its partner towns from Poland and Germany was to make young people aware of different aspects of migration, to promote tolerance and solidarity towards migrants and refugees and to decrease xenophobia. To achieve this objective the project used non-traditional interactive teaching and learning techniques including round table discussions, a walking event for tolerance, simulation games, workshops, a "living" library, film screening, etc. The idea behind was that innovative learning methods offer the opportunity to assess the migration crisis and its origins from different perspectives and to gain a better understanding of the situation of migrants and asylum-seekers.

Measure 2 : Network of Towns

Under this measure municipalities and associations working together in a long-term perspective on issues of common interest have the opportunity to develop networks to make their cooperation more sustainable and to develop thematic cooperation in a long-term perspective.

In 2016, out of 328 submitted applications, 30 networking projects were selected for funding for a total amount of 4 120 000 EUR which corresponds to a success rate of 9%. For the quantitative analysis and detailed selection results, see annex 1 and the selection result lists on the website of EACEA at the following address:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/publication_website_nt_2016_r1_.pdf and https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/results_nt_phase_2_2016.pdf

The programme multiannual priorities, particularly the one tackling migration issues, found significantresponse at local and regional levels of *Networks of Towns* beneficiaries. Thus, migration and intercultural dialogue was covered by 57 %, the debate on the future of Europe by 33%, solidarity in times of crisis by 23% and Euroscepticism by 20% of the selected Networks of Towns projects. The migration theme appears more as a cross-cutting issue, largely interconnected with other multiannualprogramme priorities.

The greatest number of selected projects came from Italy *(23%)*, France *(10%)*, *Hungary (10%)* followed by Germany *(7%), Spain (7%) and Poland (7%)*. As all these networks involve at least four towns from different countries, the geographic impact goes far beyond the

host country.

The large partnerships of the selected projects should be underlined: **in average around 10 partner** organisations were involved per project.

Example of network of towns:
"3i - Welcome to Europe: 3i - inclusion, integration & internationalisation" by Kalajoen kaupunki (Finland)

Based on a partnership between partner towns from Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Sweden, Italy and Montenegro this project aimed to address negative attitudes towards immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers by giving citizens the opportunity to interact and to exchange knowhow and best practice related to the **i**nclusion and **i**ntegration of migrants into local communities as well as on the **i**nternationalisation of all questions linked to migration (three "i"). By doing so, the project tried to foster a strong sense of European identity and to enhance mutual understanding between old and new members of the local communities. Through a platform to learn, share and debate on issues related to the future of Europe, focus was put on the involvement of members of the local communities in developing intercultural dialogue mechanisms.

Measure 3 : Civil Society Projects

This measure supports the development of projects by NGOs and think-tanks aiming at enhancing citizens' participation in the EU process. Civil society projects bring together citizens from different walks of life to debate common European issues at local and EU level.

Out of 541 submitted applications (which represents an increase of more than 18% in comparison to 2015), 25 civil society projects were selected for funding for a total amount of 3 413 750 EUR. This corresponds to a success rate of less than 5%. For the quantitative analysis and detailed selection results, see annex 1 and the selection result lists on the website of EACEA at the following address:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/selection-results-strand-2-measure-23- civil-society-projects-deadline-1st-march-2016_en

The geographical spread of applications shows that all the countries participating in the Programme are represented in the projects funded under this measure, either as applicant or partners. The highest number of applications came from ES, HR, IT and PL.

All selected projects dealt with the multi-annual priority themes with the following spread:

Understanding and Debating Euroscepticism	22%
Solidarity in times of crisis	28%
Debate on the future of Europe	46%
Combatting stigmatisation of "immigrants" and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding	40%

The projects submitted and selected in 2016 can be roughly classified in two major fields according to their focus on Solidarity or Democracy. Actions of solidarity (including volunteering) emerged particularly in the context of the **migrant crisis**. Many projects look at solidarity as the value which counterbalances the raise of racist and anti-tolerant behaviour. The other group of projects look into the **current threats to democracy** and its shortcomings; ways are explored through debates, enhanced understanding of the functioning of the EU, and development ofcivic participation, also for communities which have less access to policy- and decision-making levelsand information.

Example of a Civil Society Project:
European Citizens Crowdsourcing- EUCROWD by Zavod Institut Za Elektronsko Participacijo(Slovenia)

This project explored crowdsourcing as one tool offered by digital technologies to promote moreengagement of citizens in democracy. Crowdsourcing was understood by this project as an open call for on-line participation in a task by submitting information or knowledge, as it is used in processes ranging from urban planning to new product design to solve complex scientific problems. Seven public workshops organised through this projects dealt with the question: How can this tool foster a democratic debate on the future of the European Union? Citizens, NGOs, activists, experts, media, politicians and government officials gathered to share experience on e-participation at national and European level.Moreover, an online repository (knowledge centre on digital democracy) gathering best practice and guidelines for crowdsourcing at the national and European level in the fields of immigration, the economic crisis and the future of Europe was set up.

See: http://www.inepa.si/component/digifolio/project/35-eucrowd.html

Operating grants:

On the basis of the call for proposals published in November 2013, the selection of organisations receiving operating structural support from 2014 to 2017 had taken place in April 2014. Thirty-one European civil society organisations and think tanks had been selected for multi-annual operating grants covering the years 2014-2017.

Thirty civil society organisations and think-tanks presented their work programme for the year 2016, and were financed for the third consecutive year in 2016 for a total amount of 5 549 678 EUR. See:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/selection-results-operating-grants- 2016_en

Example of a Civic Participation operating grant (European think tank):Institut für Europäische Politik e.V. (IEP) , Germany

The aim of the *Institut für Europäische Politik*, a think tank organisation based in Berlin, is to analyse and to reflect on European policies as well as to disseminate their results to a wider public.
IEP's publications, which in 2016 were focused on the question how to target Euro-scepticism, and the organisation of a large number of public events, seminars and discussions, gave the opportunity to interact and to participate in constructing an ever closer Union by fostering a national and Europe-wide debate and by reflecting on EU institutions and policies, European citizenship and democracy, sharedvalues, principles and common history. In 2016, IEP organised 28 activities in various German cities as well as in Vilnius, Rome, Lisbon, Zagreb, Bruges, Maastricht and Nice. The IEP interacted with EU citizens, politicians, decision-makers, the academic world and civil society organisations by means of a series of events, study groups, transnational cooperation with other partners, teaching commitments at

3.3. Dissemination and exploitation of results (Strand 3: Valorisation)

- ***Holocaust Remembrance Day 2016 – 27 January 2016 - Brussels***

On the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January), the European Commission held a special event commemorating the Holocaust for organisations active in the area of European remembrance and for European Commission staff. This fifth edition was dedicated to the fate of the Roma during the Nazi regime and in particular to the story of the Roma from the village of Carta (Romania). Keynote speakers were Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender, Father Patrick Desbois, President of the French remembrance organisation Yahad-in Unum (YIU) and Nicolae Caldara, a Holocaust survivor and representative of the village of Carta.

The Macedonian singer and songwriter Esma Redžepova – nicknamed Queen of the Gypsies because of her contribution to Roma culture and its promotion – and her band the Folk Masters provided somemusical accompaniment. The event also marked the inauguration of an exhibition entitled 'Roma Memory' dedicated to the history of Roma persecution during the Second World War. This event was funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme (63 114 EUR under the 2015 budget).

- ***European Conference "European Citizenship in Challenging Times", 31 May – 1 June2017 - Barcelona***

More than 200 organisations representing more than 30 countries attended the European conference "European Citizenship in Challenging Times" that took place on 31 May and 1 June 2016 in Barcelona. This conference was organized by the Directorate General Migration

and Home Affaires (DG HOME) in cooperation with the European Observatory on Memories of the University of Barcelona's Solidarity Foundation (EUROM) and with support from the Barcelona City Council. It aimed to bring together stakeholders from both strands of the Programme and a wider audience to reflect on a positive and cohesive message the European Union could send to its citizens in the difficult political, economic and social context of the present times. This event was funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme (249 999 EUR under the 2015 budget).

Adam Michnik, human rights activist and founder of the Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborzca*, openedthe conference with a keynote speech underlining that *"Europe can only be saved by European citizens".* Following the introductory speech, panel discussions were organised dealing with the following questions:

- Panel discussion on Membership: How to foster identification with the European Union?
- Panel Session on Protection: How to consolidate the European Union's achievements andstrengthen the Union's citizens' rights?
- Panel Session on Participation: How to build a Union that fully involves stakeholders and thatencourages civic participation and democratic engagement?

On the second day of the conference, the participants continued discussion in the different strands (remembrance side and Civil dialogue meeting).

Sixth Edition of the European Remembrance Networking Meeting

The European remembrance stakeholders attended the sixth annual networking meeting for European remembrance organised at the El Born Centre of Culture and Memories in Barcelona. The meeting was opened by Andreas Huyssen, founding Director of the Center for Comparative Literature and Society of Columbia University who stressed that *"European memory cannot be fortressed. It must include memories of Europe as they circulate across the world".* A panel discussion on Memory, Citizenship, Solidarity and a second panel discussion on Public Policies on Memory in Spain were held. The different workshops organised during the meeting gave participants the opportunity to share their most successful practices.

Civil dialogue meeting

In parallel, the annual Civil Dialogue meeting was organised in the premises of the University of Barcelona. Thirty-seven member organisations of the Civil Dialogue group and more than twenty beneficiaries of action grants under strand 2 were represented.

The main topic of the civil dialogue meeting was the assessment of the implementation and the achievements of Europe for Citizens programme in its third implementation year.

The meeting was chaired by Marta Cygan, Director at DG HOME. In her capacity as rapporteur of theimplementation report on the Europe for Citizens programme, MEP Maria Teresa Gimenez Barbat gave a presentation of the implementation report on the Europe for Citizens Programme conducted by the European Parliament followed by a debate with stakeholders.

- ***Europe for Citizens database: VALOR***

The new dissemination platform VALOR co-funded by Europe for Citizens was made available on the Europa server at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/europe-for-citizens/projects/

The purpose of the VALOR database is to offer a comprehensive overview of all projects funded under Erasmus+, Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens, to promote the exchange of good practice and synergies between EU funding programmes in the area of education, culture and citizenship, to give more visibility to the granted projects and to enable organisations to identify potential partners for future projects. A total amount of 53 500 EUR had been committed for VALOR under the 2015 budget of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

- ***Europe for Citizens Newsletter***

An electronic newsletter was launched in January 2016 at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/home/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?newsletter_service_id=177&lang=default

The idea of the newsletter was not only to provide information about the implementation of Europe for citizens, but as well to disseminate some news about funded projects and activities organised by beneficiaries, partner organisations and stakeholders as well as a calendar of events relating to citizenship issues.

Three editions of the newsletter were published during the year 2016.

3.4. Europe for Citizens Contact Points

In 2016, a total of 31 Europe for Citizens Contact Points were designated at national level. For the first time since the programme exists, Contact Points were designated in Luxembourg and Portugal. The United Kingdom is now the only EU Member State that does not have a Contact Point for the programme.

A consultation meeting of the Europe for Citizens Contact Points was organised by the Slovak Contact Point in November in Bratislava with the aim to improve the co-operation within the network and between the Contact Points and DG HOME and EACEA, to exchange impressions on the project selections of the year 2016 and to deepen the understanding of the European remembrance strand and the particular situation of Central Europe. For this purpose, the Contact Point Meeting was organisedback to back with the Central European Forum, which is co-financed by the Europe for Citizens Programme. See: http://www.ceeforum.eu/en/ .

3.5. Evaluation

- ***Mid-term evaluation of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020***

In October 2016, a contract of 153 150 EUR was awarded by DG HOME to the contractor Deloitte for preparing a study in the context of the mid-term evaluation of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014- 2020. The results of the evaluation will be used by the Commission to assess the results and outputs of the programme compared to its objectives and to reflect on the continuation of the programme after 2020 and on first orientations for a possible successor programme after 2020.

4. GENERAL ISSUES

4.1. Programme management

DG HOME is responsible for the development and political steering of the Europe for Citizens programme. It manages the budget and defines objectives, strategies and priority areas for the programme. Furthermore, it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the programme at European level.

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) established by Decision 2013/776/EU of the European Commission of 18.12.2013 is responsible for the implementation of the majority of activities of the Europe for Citizens programme.

In 2016, the overall programme budget was committed to the level of 100% in line with the budget presented to the programme committee within the 2016 work programme.

During 2016, stability in programme implementation was ensured. Intensive use of IT tools introduced two years earlier allowed the Agency in 2016 to cope with the high number of applications. EACEA continued its efforts to support applicants and to meet beneficiaries with the double aim to improve and to learn from project implementation as well as to discuss themes relevant to the programme and gather suggestions and ideas. The online E-final report system was extended to all measures of theprogramme taking into consideration the feedback received from users. The monitoring strategy of the Europe for Citizens programme was successfully implemented.

4.2. Programme committee

In line with Article 9 of the Decision establishing the Europe for Citizens programme, the Commission is assisted in the implementation of the programme by a programme committee comprising representatives of the Member States and participating countries. In 2016, the programme committeemet in October, mainly to discuss the work programme for 2017 including the multi-annual thematic priorities for the remaining years of the programme. At this occasion, the programme committee was informed as well about the European Citizens' Initiative and the European Solidarity Corps.

4.3. Civil dialogue with the programme stakeholders

In accordance with Article 11(2) of the Treaty on European Union and as provided in Article 10

of the Council Regulation establishing the Europe for Citizens Programme for the period 2014-2020, the Commission organises regular Civil Dialogue meetings with approximately 50 European level organisations and think tanks actively involved in the Programme. The civil dialogue group discusses all matters related to the Europe for Citizens Programme, its annual priorities, and its implementation.

In 2016, a civil dialogue meeting was organised in June in Barcelona (see point 3.3). Stakeholders were consulted about the work programme 2017 and informed about the ongoing mid-term evaluation andthe European Citizens' Initiative.

4.4. European Citizens' Initiative

In the course of the budgetary negotiations 2016, it was decided to split the budgetary line for the Europe for Citizens Programme into two separate lines. A new budget line specifically dedicated to the European Citizens' Initiative was added and for the year 2016, a total amount of 640 000 EUR was transferred from the Europe for Citizens programme to the new budget line supporting the European Citizens' Initiative. This decision did not affect the Europe for Citizens programme substantially as it concerned only about 3% of the overall budget but contributed to increasing synergies between both instruments.

4.5. European Solidarity Corps

In his State of the Union speech of September 2016, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, announced the setting up of a European Solidarity Corps with the aim to give young people across the EU the opportunity to volunteer where help is needed and to respond to crisis situations. In the first phase of its setting up, the European Solidarity Corps will build on existing EU programmes including the Europe for Citizens programme. A revised version of the Programme Guide taking account of the European Solidarity Corps as a new feature was prepared at the end of the year and published on EACEA's website in the beginning of 2017 at the following address: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/news/revised-2017-programme-guide_en.

Europe for citizens programme: follow up selection and contracts (2016)

Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of selected applications	Success rate	Amount of Decision
	Strand 1 - European remembrance and European citizenship							
1.1.	Remembrance projects	3.328.140	Programme Guide	1/03/2016	468	38	8%	3.342.500,00
1.2.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1.213.467	Call COMM C2/01/2013	16/11/2015	6	6	100%	1.213.467,00
	Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation							
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 1		Programme Guide	01/03/206	574	124	22%	2.182.500,00
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 2	4.173.456		1/09/2016	519	113	22%	1.949.000,00
				TOT	1093	237	22%	4.131.500,00
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - Phase 1		Programme Guide	1/03/2016	151	17	11,3%	2.312.500,00
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - Phase 2	4.084.669		1/09/2016	177	13	7,3%	1.807.500,00
				TOT	328	30	9.1%	4.120.000,00
2.3.	Civil society projects	3.104.605	Programme Guide	1/03/2016	541	25	4,6%	3.413.750,00
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5.627.984	Call COMM C2/01/2013	16/11/2016	31	30	97%	5.549.678,42
	Strand 3 - Valorisation							
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900.000	art 190,1 d RAP no Call	13/11/2015 and 30/09/2016 at the latest	29	29	100%	795.000,00
4.1.	Support to project selection	200.000	na					#REF!
	interest for delay in payments							
	TOTAL WP 2016	**22.632.321**			**2496**	**395**	**16%**	**#REF!**

Annex 2:

List of Europe for Citizens Contact Points in 2016

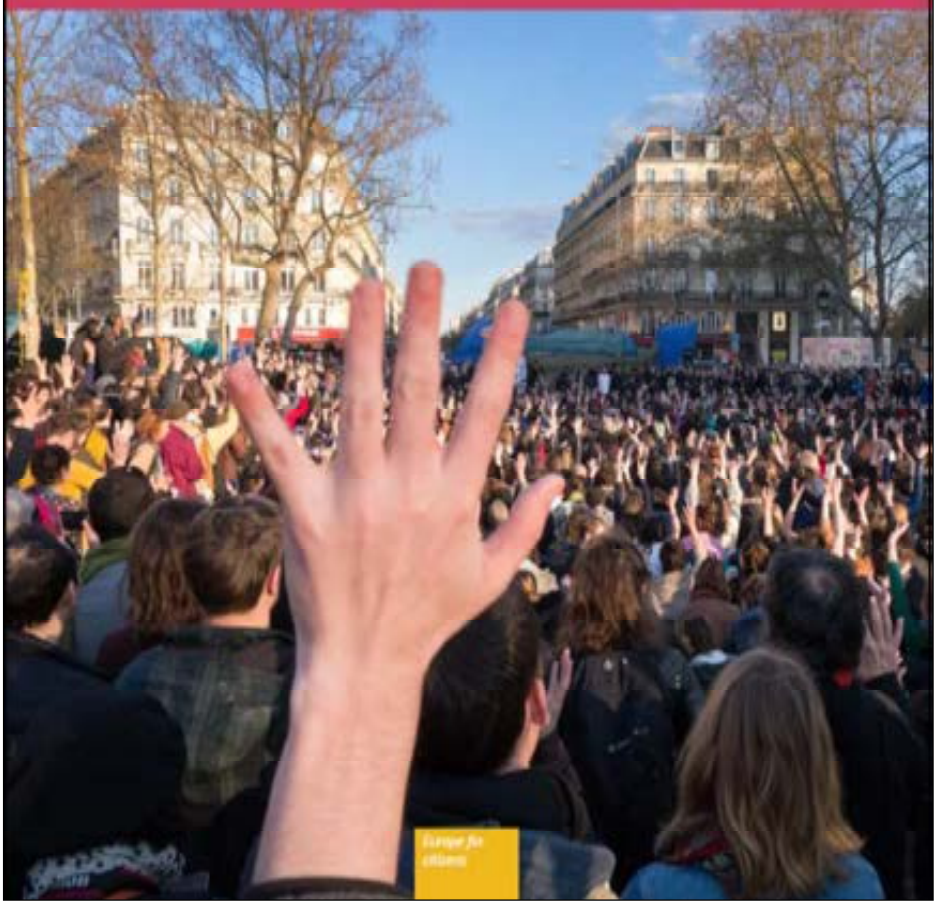
For contact details see: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/about-the-europe-for-citizens-programme/the-europe-for-citizens-programme-in-the-member-states/index_en.htm

1. Austria
2. Belgium – Flanders
3. Belgium – French speaking community
4. Belgium – German speaking Community
5. Bulgaria
6. Croatia
7. Cyprus
8. Czech Republic
9. Denmark
10. Estonia
11. Finland
12. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
13. France
14. Germany
15. Greece
16. Hungary
17. Ireland
18. Italy
19. Latvia
20. Lithuania
21. Luxembourg
22. Malta
23. Netherlands
24. Poland
25. Portugal
26. Romania
27. Serbia
28. Slovakia
29. Slovenia
30. Spain
31. Sweden

European Commission

Europe for citizens Programme

Results 2017



Europe for citizens

Report 2017

2017 AT A GLANCE

1942 applications submitted within the EFC programme

1912 applications submitted within action and operating grants (RBM, TT, NT, CSP, OG)

1076 applications submitted for action grants (RBM, TT, NT, CSP)

412 applications selected (of which **382** for action grants RBM, TT, NT, CSP and operating grants)

20% of average success rate within action and operating grants

Applicant organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

Beneficiary organisations are established in **all EU Member States except LU**

Partner organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

IT, SK, HU, PL, RO and **DE** are the countries that introduced the highest number of applications (61% in total)

IT, SK, HU, DE, FR and **PL** are the countries with the highest number of applications selected (59% in total)

MT, DE and **FR** have the highest success rate per country (ratio submitted/selected per country for action grant) among Member States

2133 partner organisations directly involved in the EFC projects selected in 2017

An average of **5 partners** per project in TT and **8 partners** in all other actions (more than **10 partners** for NT)

Placement for **240 members** of the **European Solidarity Corps** approved in 2017

10 members of the **European Solidarity Corps** already recruited and operational in 2017

Average grant per project:

In OG: € 107.016

In NT: € 133.203

In CIV: € 133.167

In RBM: € 99.667

In TT: € 17.442

Almost **60%** of the projects selected in 2017 focused on the debate on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism

LU, ES, MT, DE, FI, IE and **PT** are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is above 80%

BG, CZ, UK, IT and **EL** are the countries where the feeling of being European citizens is below 60%

2014-2017 AT A GLANCE

9169 applications submitted within action grants and operating grants (REM, TT, NT, CSP, OG)

8920 applications submitted for projects grants (REM, TT, NT, CSP)

1409 applications selected (of which 1372 for action grants REM, TT, NT, CSP)

15 % of average success rate within action and operating grants

Beneficiary organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

HU, IT, SK and **PL** are the countries that introduce the highest number of applications (50% in total)

HU, SK, IT, DE and **PL** are the countries with the highest number of applications selected (50% in total)

MT, DE, IE, FR and **SE** have the highest success rate per country (ratio submitted/selected by country) within Member States

7801 partner organisations directly involved in EFC projects selected in 2014 - 2017

An average of **5 partners** per project in TT and **8 partners** in all other actions

Average grant per project:

OG: € 107.000
NT: € 131.570
CIV: € 120.045
REM: € 88.002
TT: € 16.668

Total grants awarded according to the Decisions taken so far amount to **€ 90.438.000**

Projects mainly focused on

Debate on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism

Migration, social inclusion and solidarity in times of crises

LU, ES, MT, DE, FI, IE and **PT** are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is higher

BG, CZ, UK, IT and **EL** are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is lower

PART A

RESULTS 2017

OVERVIEW

In 2017 the 'Europe for Citizens' programme showed its maturity and stability. Supported activities were implemented successfully in all Member States and corresponded to the priorities set out by the Commission.

Almost 60% of Programme beneficiaries selected in 2017 focused on the **debate on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism** namely:

- Designing different scenarios on how the European Union could evolve by 2025;
- Highlighting the importance to involve youngsters in the debates;
- Promoting participation to the upcoming **2019 European Elections** with a special focus on first-time voters;
- Implementing innovative channels of civic participation and monitoring fake news;
- Analyzing the impact of Brexit and the 'cost of non-Europe'.

Almost 40% of projects granted **combatted stigmatisation of "immigrants"** and helped to build counter narratives showing **solidarity in time of crises**, i.e.:

- Analyzing the migration crisis and new policy approaches for refugees;
- Sharing practices and strengthening social inclusion systems for immigrants;
- Promoting the integration of immigrants and the analysis of its impact on local development;
- Working on media literacy and on the importance of a story-telling approach in combatting the stigmatication of immigrants;
- Volunteering and developing solidarity mechanisms as a form of civic participation.

Whereas in previous years organisations were active in the urgent management of the migrants and refugees crisis, in 2017 they concentrated rather on democratic participation on the Future of Europe. They proposed to combat the general mistrust in democracy, seeing democratic participation as a tool to face intertwined challenges such as populism and xenophobia.

The Europe for Citizens programme has thus demonstrated its flexibility and capacity to respond to the needs of citizens and address the issues at the top of the EU policy agenda.

European Remembrance projects maintain stability in the themes presented in 2017 compared to the previous years. Predominant is a reflection on the core **European values** –such as liberty, democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights– and the threats they faced in the recent history as much as today. The success for this strand stems from the bridge created by beneficiaries between the past and the present, to encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation.

The Europe for Citizens programme incorporated in the 2017 calls for proposals the Commission priority related to **European Solidarity Corps** which was very well received by organisations applying under European Remembrance and Civil Society Projects. A Programme beneficiary has been the **first organisation at Union level to welcome a member of the European Solidarity Corps**.

With regard to the **results of the programme management**, of note is the excellent execution rate (100% in commitments and payments). The Agency's effective and efficient grant management is demonstrated by indicators such as the **total time to grant beneficiaries** (5.1 months).

For the period 2014-2020 the **audit error rate** of the Programme – measuring the accuracy of the payments done by the Agency thanks to the verification performed by external Auditors – is 0%. This data confirms the added value provided by the use of user-friendly, **simplified financial procedures** (notably the lump-sums and flat rate).

Lastly, in 2017 the Programme **increased its average success rate** from 15% in 2016 to 20% in 2017. This is mainly achieved due to the decrease of submitted applications (around 23% in comparison with 2016). This decrease might be caused by multiple factors among which: (1) the very low success rate in the past years (which may have discouraged organisations from applying again); or (2) relevant information passed by the Agency and the National Contact Points, helping to avoid applications which do not fit the requirements of the Call. This decrease is particular relevant in countries like Hungary –which used to have the highest participation rate since the beginning of the programme– and results in a better geographical distribution across Member States.

STRAND 1 : EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

European Remembrance Projects

Throughout 2017 the Agency analysed the achievements of 'European Remembrance' projects selected in 2015 (for which 28 out of 33 final reports were closed in 2017), monitored the implementation of projects granted in 2016 (30 projects, of which 30 still ongoing and 8 closed in 2017) and carried out a new selection which resulted in the approval of 39 projects.

Before entering into the details of the analysis, there are two considerations that it is worth mentioning:

- The quality of projects implemented is generally very high and corresponds to the expectations raised at selection level. This result has a particular value in light of the very competitive selection process which excluded many valuable proposals.
- All projects were successfully implemented and responded to the priorities established for the Programme contributing to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity.

Projects implemented and closed in 2017 allowed to evaluate the impact of the priorities established in 2015 (framed in the in the context of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II) and to monitor the implementation of projects responding to the multi-annual priorities established in 2016.

They mainly focused on:

1. **European values** – such as liberty, democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights– and the threat faced within totalitarian and nowadays.
2. **World War II**: its dark past associated to the rise of intolerance and its consequences, the Cold war on the one hand, and the beginning of the European integration process following the Schuman Declaration in 1950 on the other hand.
3. **The Holocaust**, the genocide as escalation of other forms of intolerance as anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia.
4. Other important moment of the European history and the **European construction**.

All projects implemented present a strong European dimension, thanks to the themes treated, the partnerships and the capacity to overcome the local dimensions. This was for instance the case in the project titled '*L'Italia e la deportazione degli ebrei nei territori occupati durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale: 1939-1945*' coordinated by the Italian University LUISS in which the starting point was the analysis of the Italian role and responsibility in the Jewish deportation but the main part of the implementation focused on the Western Balkan countries -occupied by Italy during the War- and on the atrocities committed in these territories, which are often under-estimated or forgotten. An itinerant exposition and the work with higher educational institutes allowed a great dissemination of the results and the involvement of young generation in the discussions.

Young generations were the main target group of many Remembrance projects. For example, the project '*From war history to modern education*' coordinated by the Finnish Municipality of Rautjärvi realized a *comic book* to show to a young public – with simple and appropriate visual and written language – the life of children during the war; it has also developed a serious of **pedagogical tools** made available in internet in different languages which were already used in many meetings. The project '*Women, War and Peace*' implemented by the Irish organisation "Smashing Times Theatre" presented theatre performances -well appreciated by the youngsters- based on the life of women who stood-up against authoritarian and totalitarian regimes.

As in the past years, **Civil society organisations** played a primary role in commemorating the memory of victims and reflecting on multiple memories of genocide and discrimination. Thanks to the Europe for citizens' support, the Italian association "*Opera Nomadi*" could focus its activities on the holocaust of Roma, homosexuals and disabled people and made a proposal to integrate the Italian Law 211 – establishing the 27 January as "Remembrance Day" in Italy – with a strong emphasis on the 'forgotten holocausts".

Within the projects implemented, the commemorative aspects were often linked to the **Roma** or **women empowerment** in the present society. In this light, exemplary is the project titled "*70 Years after Auschwitz – Remembrance and Education of Young Europeans about the Roma Genocide*" carried out by the Romanian organisation "Asociatia Nevo Parudimos". It gathered together a large number of Roma and non Roma participants to discuss about different cultures and common values. Within the framework of this project the first Roma youth meeting was organised by Roma in the Czech Parliament. Furthermore, during the 'European Roma Platform' meeting, the beneficiary had the opportunity to present the results of the project to 200 representatives of all Member States, European Institutions, International and civil society organisations. It was the occasion to reiterate their request to the European Parliament for a stronger recognition and remembrance of the Roma Holocaust and its effect towards Roma people.

Another set of projects monitored in 2017 focused on the **post-war architecture of Europe**, including the one titled *"Behind Iron Curtains"* which encouraged meetings of historians, experts, students and the general audience to discuss about the communist past and history after 1945.

The *itinerant exhibition* realised within the framework of the project promoted by the Italian municipality of Macerata *"Walls and Integration: Images of Europe building"* is a good example of wide partnership and participation on themes of actuality.

Remembrance projects also successfully responded to the **refugee crisis** in Europe and to the priority fixed in 2016 on "1951 Adoption of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in relation with the post WWII refugee situation in Europe". The projects *"Migrations et Mémoires"* led by the French think tank "Institut Français des relations internationales" and *"European History Atlas under construction"* coordinated by the Polish organization Fundacja Stefa WolnoSlowa aimed at building a common European narrative on past and current migration flows. This objective was very ambitious and the organisations had to face with the limits of such construction nowadays. However both those projects created a sense of solidarity and belonging to the same European community between the participants of different age and cultural backgrounds and highly contributed to the dialogue on these matters at European level.

The project selection 2017 confirms the positive trend of the European Remembrance Projects of combining commemoration of the past with the discussion on the values on which the European Union was built. The link between the past and the present represents in fact the silver line of all the projects approved and responds to the Programme priorities.

The **39 projects granted** correspond to the following **typologies**:

1. Projects commemorating historical turning points capable to link the past to the present on broad themes and recurrent issues such as racism, genocide, loss of citizenship and the fight for fundamental rights;
2. Projects commemorating the persecution, discrimination, deprivation of fundamental rights of a specific minority group (i.e. Roma, mental disables, etc.) under European totalitarian regimes;
3. Projects at grassroots level with a strong networking component.

These projects propose a variety of activities such as big events (e.g. international conferences or debates), educational tools for formal and non-formal education, exhibition or online museum, digitalization and artistic activities. Such a variety shows how the simplifying financing system of the Call is a successful modality to cover various types of activities.

The 39 granted projects represent a good geographical coverage (**23 countries** out of 30 countries represented at application level); they are well structured, with **extended partnership** (8.5 is the average number of partner organisations involved per project). Concerning the impact, in total **163.000 participants are planned to be directly involved** with an average of **around 4200 participants per project**. Around 50% of the direct participants are young people (under 30 years old), in line with the objective highlighted in the Legal Base and the Programme Guide to reach the younger generation.

The threshold for funding remains at a high level: **82.5/100** — as it was already in 2016. This proves the good quality of the applications proposed for granting and that many other projects would deserve to be granted if more budgetary resources were available.

European Solidarity Corps

The Selection 2017 of the "European Remembrance Projects" included as a novelty the "European Solidarity Corps", a new feature of the Europe for Citizens Programme. Remembrance **organisations welcomed the Commission priority** to involve young people in solidarity activities through the European Solidarity Corps initiative. Out of 206 admissible applications, 104 (~50%) planned to involve volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps foreseeing a total of 925 placements (mainly in IT, ES, EL, SK, BG, FR, PL and HU). Almost 50% of the granted projects will host members of the Corps, for a total of 132 placements.

STRAND 2: DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Town Twinning

A decrease of 15% of applications under the Town Twinning (TT) measure in comparison to 2016 has to be noted, mainly due to the lower participation from HU (representing 50% of this decease), the country which used to have the highest participation rate since the beginning of the programme. This trend — already noted last year — contributed to a **better geographical distribution** as well as to a **better action success rate** (27% in 2017 against 22% in 2016).

Having said that, the biggest interest in the Town Twining action continues to come from Eastern European countries and particularly from HU and SK representing together in 2017 selections around 46% of the total number of submitted applications. Applicants from **29** countries participated in the 2017 TT selections. The highest number of applications continues to come from Slovakia **(26%)** and Hungary **(20%)** followed by Italy **(12%)** and Germany **(7%)**. It is worth mentioning that applicants from Bulgaria, a country that was absent in the 2016 Town Twinning selections, showed interest in the Measure. The geographical spread of the selected projects shows that **26** countries are represented as beneficiary. The geographical spread of those projects including the partners is important considering that **33 countries (all participating programme countries)** are represented within the selected projects.

The average amount requested per TT project (€ 10.140 in 2017) is higher than the "average value of grants" foreseen in the Commission annual work programme 2017 (i.e. € 13.724). Consequently, the number of grants allocated within this measure in 2017 is lower than the number foreseen in the annual work programme: 248 against 315. Despite the constantly increasing average value of the grant per town twinning project, it is important to underline that the TT action continues to **support projects with a very small budget**: grants between € 5.000 and € 10.000 were awarded to 29% of the selected projects.

TT projects involve an increasing number of partner organisations: in average 5.4 partner organisations are involved in a selected TT project. Globally the 240 selected projects will bring together around 1350 partner organisations representing an important diversity in terms of the partnership (e.g. municipalities, NGOs, twinning committees, associations etc.). Although the multilateral town twinning projects are inclined to further enlarge their partnerships, the programme continues to support bilateral TT projects.

The **240 TT selected projects** will mobilise citizens at local and EU levels, involving them in debates and exchanges of opinions around the multiannual programme priorities and focusing on the current challenges faced by the EU.

The distribution of the multiannual priorities by the 2017 TT selected projects is as follows:

Multiannual priorities addressed by the TT beneficiaries

It is worth stressing that the highest interest of 2017 TT beneficiaries goes to the priority **'Debate on the future of EU'**, thus responding to the call of President JUNCKER to reflect on different scenarios for how the European Union could evolve by 2025. The importance to involve youngsters in this debate was particularly emphasised by TT beneficiaries, making them active actors in building up the future of the European project.

Beneficiary: Comune di Este (IT)

Project Title: UNITED IN DIVERSITY

Project testimonies: 'L'impegno e la partecipazione dei cittadini europei adulti e giovani, uomini e donne che si possono il testimone della costruzione europea, saranno le armi che condurranno gli europei a vincere la lotta per l'affermazione di un continente unito e solidale, rispettoso della diversità'

The project UNITED IN DIVERSITY has implemented an information campaign highlighting the strengths and successes of the EU. Key goals of the project: consolidating and strengthening the idea of the EU citizenship, preserving and protecting multiculturalism, exchanging views on the EU citizenship and increasing the understanding of the Union policies and of their impact. The project has targeted youngsters in order to increase their awareness about rights and opportunities, to empower them with regard to decision-making and to encourage them to vote at the 2019 European Parliament Elections.

Reactive to the current political and social contents, **TT projects implemented in 2016 - 2017** very often addressed the priority **'Debate on the future of EU'** together with the analysis of causes of **'Euroscepticism'** and the rise of populist movements. 'Brexit, non-Europe scenario and its consequences for the future were also in the centre of the debate for most of the organized Town Twinning events.

Beneficiary: Newbury Twin Town Association (UK)

Project Title: A debate on The Future of Europe Following the UK Referendum on EU Membership

Project testimonies: 'This was a very enjoyable and informative meeting held in Newbury. The theme was 'The Future of Europe'. The meeting took the form of statements on the relationships between our individual communities and how we all felt being part of the EU. We split into our own towns and had a lively discussion culminating in a vote as to whether we agreed or disagreed on each statement. We then come together and looked at how each Town had felt about each statement. This was most entertaining as the results were shown by a 'swingometer' from red being least accepting to green being most accepting of each statement. This was a very clever method of giving clear results without any language barriers causing misinterpretation or incomprehension. Following the discussion and over the rest of the weekend, looking back at the various statements used at the meeting, we were able to discuss further with our guests how we as individuals felt about being part of the EU. I am pleased to say, despite the result of the Referendum, we were unanimous in our wanting to remain part of the EU and to continue our close associations with our Twin Towns.'

Beneficiary: Comune di Collecchio (IT)

Project Title: A Day without Europe

Project testimonies: "Citizens need first of all precise, coherent information in order to be able to form their opinions without false narratives that develop a distorted vision of the EU and its values. Euroscepticism, as well as the economic crisis, the migrants' issues and the lack of solidarity among EU member states represent an important ground for improving active participation, commitment and sense of ownership among EU citizens. The word "euroscepticism" hides countless political approaches, feelings, false narratives, wrong communication as well as the idea that all decisions were taken by a very limited number of people who lack the understanding of the everyday reality. For these reasons, we need strong "bottom-up" participation."

The aim of the project was to address the phenomenon of Euroscepticism and to approach it from a bottom-up perspective. Citizens actively participated with questions and debates during the conference, related to a variety of feelings and opinions after Brexit, the Swedish experience on migrant integration and the German role in the EU. Speakers at the Conference included academic experts and research centres who presented reasons of the Euroscepticism today with a historical overview on the different phases of European integration, on how the lives of European citizens would look like without the rights offered by the EU, especially with regard to youth policies, students and small entrepreneurs.

Within **2016-2017 TT implemented projects**, the priority on **migration** was often approached from the integration perspective putting an emphasis on volunteering and **solidarity** between countries and citizens. The importance of having a 'story-telling' approach in combatting the stigmatisation of immigrants was stressed by some project beneficiaries.

Beneficiary: Šilalės Rajono Savivaldybės Administracija (LT)

Project Title: We of Today – Europe of Tomorrow

Project testimonies: "The project gave an opportunity for three small towns from three different countries to discuss European issues and become a part of European community. It inspired local communities to be more interested in migration crisis and change stereotypes."

The project encouraged European youth to reflect upon two important EU issues –migration and refugee crisis. It motivated them to become personally involved in the process of finding solutions to EU problems and contributed significantly to the development of tolerance among young people. It also stimulated inter-cultural dialogue regarding creation of a better European future. For four days young people from Šilalė (Lithuania), Stavenhagen (Germany) and Krasnik (Poland) participated in a round table discussion, workshops, simulation games and a March for Tolerance. They watched social documentary films and tried an educational method called a "Living Library", based on storytelling. These non-traditional activities helped the international youth become aware of the migration crisis and attempted to promote general public tolerance towards refugees and migrants.

Beneficiary: Gmina Pila (PL)

Project Title: Unity in Diversity – an International Debate of Young People on European Solidarity

Project testimonies: "Active European citizenship respects the needs of others, cultural diversity, religion, freedom, dignity, struggles with stigmatization and exclusion. All limitations and phobias arise only in our heads. The strength and impetus to fight them will give solidarity and community."

The agenda of the youth meeting was based on the sustainable support of many aspects of social life and active European citizenship. It expanded knowledge of European values and perpetuated intercultural dialogue on solidarity, mutual understanding, combating stigmata and prejudice. The project stimulated the search for answers to various questions. What does it mean to be European during the migrant crisis? How do we achieve understanding, dialogue and respect of our differences, beliefs, cultures and traditions? Participants learned about the possibilities of active citizenship, and increased knowledge about the legal processes of the EU migration policy. Together, participants defined the concept of solidarity. For all of them, it is connected with another very important word – „together". Young people have recognized that only together and in solidarity Europe and all Europeans will be able to face the challenges of stigmatization, exclusion, rejection.

Noteworthy: within the 2017 selections, the upcoming programme priority '**2018 European Year of Cultural heritage**' has been already taken up by some programme beneficiaries, who used culture as a tool to address challenging issues such as Euroscepticism, stigmatisation of immigrants and to contribute to promoting tolerance and EU values.

Network of Towns

As for all programme actions in 2017, a decrease in the number of applications was also noted for Network of Towns (NT) projects (around 9 %). This decrease is mainly due to the lower participation of HU and IT applicants, the countries which used to have the highest participation rate within this action. This trend — as already noted last year — contributed to a **better geographical distribution** as well as to a **better action success rate** (11% in 2017 against 9% in 2016).

Applicants from **28** countries participated in the 2017 selections. The greatest number of applications comes from Italy **(23 %)** and Greece **(8 %)**. Applicants from Greece, Austria, Sweden and Bosnia & Herzegovina demonstrated in 2017 their increased interest in the action concerned. The geographical spread of the selected projects is wide with **19** countries represented as (lead) beneficiary. The geographical spread of those projects including the partners is even higher considering that **33 countries (all participating programme countries)** are represented within the selected projects.

The average amount requested per NT project (€ 120.500 in 2017), is higher than the "average value of grants" foreseen in the annual work programme 2017 (i.e. € 94.085). Consequently, the number of grants allocated within this action in 2017 is lower than the number foreseen in the annual work programme: 32 against 45.

Under this action **32** projects have been selected, providing support to municipalities and associations working together on a common theme in a long-term perspective, and wishing to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation sustainable. The projects under "Networks of Towns" action are characterized by **large, diversified and strong partnerships** (i.e. in average more than **10 partner organisations** per selected project), thus maximising programme impact at national/regional and EU levels. Altogether 32 selected projects will involve around **335 partner organisations** reflecting an important diversity in terms of the partnership (e.g. municipalities, regions, NGOs, twinning committees, foundation, associations, CSOs etc.).

Around **200 transnational events** will be organized by the NT beneficiaries across Europe (in average more than 6 international events will be organised per selected project), which will be coupled with local events in project partner countries.

The distribution of the multiannual priorities by 2017 NT selected projects:

The highest interest of NT beneficiaries goes to the issues related to the **Debate on the Future of Europe** and **migration** challenges. The topics such as upcoming European Elections 2019, with a special focus on the youth and first-time voters' participation as well as benefits of the EU integration and future challenges have been put at the centre of the debate by the selected projects. It is worth noting that the discussion on the Future of Europe goes beyond big cities. Issues such as the debate on the Future of Europe, Euroscepticism, migration changes and solidarity are also tackled in small rural communities.

The priority linked to the **debate on the Future of Europe** was successfully addressed by NT beneficiaries suggesting innovative approaches and new tools for citizens' mobilisation. The importance to involve youngsters in the debate on the Future of EU was particularly stressed during NT projects events, making them key players in the development of the European Project.

Beneficiary: Commune de Loches (FR)

Project Title: Se souvenir de l'Avenir – ongoing project (monitored in 2017)

L'Europe, ce sont les jeunes qui en parlent le mieux

Project testimonies: "J'observe deux tendances, une serait l'euro-enthousiasme et l'autre l'eurosceptisme, un mouvement conservateur qui met à l'avant la sauvegarde des traditions nationales, qui une fois intégrées dans la culture européenne risqueraient de se dissoudre. La réalité peut être au milieu car cet enthousiasme doit être modéré de façon à ce que l'élan conserve l'identité nationale, le passé de chaque pays. Les idéaux des pays qui composent d'UE doivent converger vers un point d'où l'on aurait partir pour construire un avenir commun."

The project event gathered around 250 invited participants from all EU member states. Around 300 volunteers assisted the project promoters to implement the project activities. The activity programme of the event was structured around the following main project objective: encourage participants to think about the European project and their future within this project, to reflect on the consequences of the non-EU vision. Conference on the future of the EU was organised in the form of an interactive discussion between Mrs Angélique Delahaye (MEP) and youngsters. It was important to explain to young generation that their views count and how they can contribute to the development of the EU project. Young people from all EU countries exchanged their experiences, their vision on the future in the European Union and consequences of the Brexit.

Under the priority **tackling migration issues** the NT beneficiaries put an emphasis on the following aspects: migration crisis and new policy approaches for refugees; digital strategies for immigrants' integration; integration of immigrants and its impact on local development; sharing practices and strengthening social inclusion systems for immigrants; volunteering actions and solidarity mechanisms addressing migration crisis.

Beneficiary: ANCI ABRUZZO (IT)

Project Title: "Reactivating European citizenship: a network of inclusive towns"- REACT (monitored in 2017)

The project aims at building a network of local authorities and NGOs from different EU countries in order to develop shared approaches on integrating migrants and combating every form of stigmatization, thus supporting the new "European Agenda on migration". The activities encourage intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, civic participation and young people involvement.

The project has defined young people (native and foreign or second-generation immigrants) as specific target group, taking into account that the active participation and creativity of the younger generation can raise ideas and suggestions that can support the process of integration and inclusive citizenship.

It is worth stressing that the multi-annual priorities are strongly interconnected and therefore, should be seen as complementary rather than dealing with independent issues. Indeed, very often the priority Debate on the Future of Europe was addressed together with the analysis of causes of Euroscepticism; while the priority on migration was approached from the integration perspective putting an emphasis on volunteering and solidarity between countries and citizens.

Civil Society Projects

The main subjects treated by the projects monitored in 2017 for Civil Society Projects were:

1. Migration/Integration (42 %)
2. Debate on the Future of Europe and Democratic participation (40 %)
3. Social cohesion/Inclusion (18 %)

In most of the cases themes are linked to each other and projects achieve fully their objectives when they were able to develop citizens' understanding of the Union **policy making-process** and **influence policies**. The annual priority of 2015 '**Future of Europe**' was very broad and could leave the door open to many interpretations. However beneficiaries focused on current policy issues, such as **migration**.

*The project titled **Boosting Young Migrants** coordinated by the Italian organization ICEI (Istituto Cooperazione Economica Internazionale) boosted participation of young migrants in the formulation of migration policies and measures. The project considered young migrants as dynamic stakeholders, able to play a role in planning, implementing policies, and participating in local networks to enhance their community, social and political inclusion. Main achievements: 1. Increased civic participation of young migrants; 2. Promotion of societal activities at local level 3. Impact on public policies; 4. Creation of local multi-actors networks associating migrants' associations; 5. Experiences shared at European level*

*The project **Reinventing European Solidarity And Raising Tolerance** led by the Greek Institute of Research and Training on European Affairs, wished to inform and raise awareness in key countries regarding the refugee crisis in Greece, Albania, Cyprus as main routes for the refugee and Belgium as the heart of Europe. Through the discussions, volunteerism, workshops and trainings with the youth they created a policy paper that expresses their concerns, ideas and vision for the EU and its role in the refugee crisis.*

Source: http://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/towards-a-european-public-sphere/#.WmB%2ofi4

In most of the cases, the start-up of the projects was linked to a specific **local dimension** and the Programme gave them the possibility to reach a European outreach.

The project ***Balkan refugee trail – a pathway for European solidarity*** *led by the organization Interkulturelles Zentrum based in Austria addresses the priority of combatting stigmatisation of "immigrants" and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Bringing together a variety of civic actors from all over the Balkan route, it tried to bridge the gap between these local experiences and the EU policy level. The project reflected on how this form of voluntary societal and intercultural engagement could help promoting the idea of solidarity and meeting future challenges for the European Union.*

Riksorganisationen Hela Sverige Ska Leva (SE) (=Swedish Village Action Movement) was the leader of the ***'Strengthening Participation among Rural Citizens in Europe'*** *project that promoted local development towards a sustainable society. The Movement consists of about 5000 village action groups encouraging participation of citizens living in rural areas in shaping policies as well as taking actions for the well-being of rural economies and communities. The project gave them opportunities to share their experience with almost 10 000 European citizens living in rural areas in BE, AT, CZ, CY, DK, UK, EE, FI, EL, NL, PL, PT, ES and IE. The biggest event of the project was the 3rd European Rural Parliament that took place in the Netherlands with participants from 40 European countries. The project had therefore a powerful impact and had a large European outreach.*

In other cases the co-responsibility of citizens was enhanced by their personal experience. In such context, the **solidarity** and societal aspects were remarkable as well as **volunteering**.

The Croatian project ***'Optimizing Volunteer Services in Times of Refugee Crisis'*** *led by Udruga "Mi" – Split encouraged volunteering as a form of solidarity in times of crisis. Together with seven civil society organisations from RS, FYROM, BE, UK and HU they exchanged experiences working with refugees and volunteers. Participants were asked to give their impressions on how they see the role of volunteers, and how it could be improved. This research was done at national level by all the partners and synthesised as recommendations for improving volunteer services in times of refugee crisis which could be read in a notebook titled* ***'Volontheka'****.*

Civil Society Projects contributed to the **shape a European citizenship**, acknowledging the differences existing in Europe in order to fight against xenophobia, prejudices and racism.

Euroscepticism has gained ground in Member States to the point of redrawing political maps and disrupting traditional political divisions. The term itself refers to very diverse forms of attitudes vis-à-vis the European construction, ranging from a mere criticism of its current integration modalities (Euroriticism) to an outright hostility toward the European Union itself (Europhobia). Rebuilding trust is a long process, and can be achieved only improving transparency, openness, and frank and honest **dialogue between politicians and the citizens** who elect them.

*The project **Debating Europe**, carried out by Friends of Europe aimed to foster debate on the full range of grassroots issues facing Europe, and to challenge traditional 'top-down' EU thinking with a citizen-driven 'bottom-up' approach. To these ends, Debating Europe produced 24 online debates, 24 infographics and hosted 2 live events in 2015 and 2016 involving citizens and decision-makers throughout Europe.*

Improving the understanding of European citizenship, diversity and future of Europe by **young citizens** was central to many Civil Society projects.

*Within the project **Debating Threats to Democracy and Human Rights** the civil society organization IDEA based in the Netherlands equipped youth with the skills required to debate different ideas, old and new values, and norms in Europe about threats, opportunities, risk and fears. Young people increased their self-esteem by participating as citizens in a multi-cultural Europe, and learnt to debate, write and even advocate for future social change.*

In the Selection 2017 the following priorities were covered:

1. Debate on the future of Europe (40%)
2. Combatting stigmatisation of immigrants and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding (20%)
3. Understanding and Debating Euro-scepticism (24%)[1]

It seems that whereas in previous years Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) were particularly active in the urgent management of the migrants and refugees crisis, in 2017 they concentrated more on democratic participation. CSOs proposed to combat the general mistrust in democracy, seeing democratic participation as a tool to face intertwined challenges such as migration, populism and xenophobia.

The 27 projects granted present a large geographical coverage (21 countries out of 32 countries represented at application level); they have large partnerships and cover all the thematic priorities highlighted in the Call. In total 21.304 participants are planned to be directly involved in the activities granted.

The threshold for funding remains at a high level: 82.25/100 —slightly higher than in 2016. This shows the good quality of the applications proposed for granting and that many other projects would deserve to be granted if more budgetary resources were available.

Civil Society organisations welcomed also the Commission priority to involve young people in solidarity activities through the **European Solidarity Corps** initiative. The Europe for Citizens Programme is thus successfully meeting the expectations of this new initiative and grassroots organisations in Europe. Almost 50% of the projects proposed for granting will host Corps members, for a total of 80 placements.

1. 'Solidarity in times of crisis' is a priority transversally treated in different projects (10%) either as part of the debate on the future of Europe, reasoning a reflection on potential solidarity mechanisms that could be developed at European levels or as an active way to combat stigmatisation of immigrants (e.g. by volunteering).

OPERATING GRANTS

2017 was the last year of the four-year Framework Partnership agreement (2014-2017) of the Operating Grants awarded to 36 organisations. In 2017 the Agency has analysed the reports presented by those organisations for the activities implemented in 2016 and has monitored the implementation of activities presented in the work programme 2017.

Those organisations worked successfully on the established Programme priorities, with a special focus on the debate on the Future of Europe –in many cases linked to Brexit- and on migration issues.

Activities took the form of public debates, publications, workshops as well as research & comparative analysis. Overall, in the course of 2017, the organisations raised awareness on EU issues and contributed to the European policy debates.

Many beneficiaries celebrated the **60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome** which was an opportunity for them to focus discussions on the **future of Europe** and to promote the message of a more united Europe. They called for **civic participation** to combat renewed **Euroscepticism, rising nationalism and populism, racism and xenophobia** while they also promoted European integration and the **active involvement of the European citizens in the democratic process**.

*In order to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome two of our beneficiaries, **Union of European Federalists (BE)** & **European Movement International (BE)** seized the occasion to gather in Rome and show support for the European project. Together with citizens from all across Europe they "marched for Europe" as a symbolic act of public support for a Europe of unity & solidarity while they also called for the European political unity.*

*The **Heinrich Böll Stiftung** (DE) held a conference to discuss the **future of Europe** in relation to the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. Participants coming from all over Europe reached a consensus at the end of the conference: "Europe is a liberal democracy success story and must sustain. Europe can make good on its promises. This is evident from over 60 years of peace and freedom in Europe. Not treating these achievements as a matter of course but fighting and standing up for them is now the order of the day."[2]*

Throughout the year the organisations engaged policy makers and civil society across the EU Member States in discussions on the **links between national and EU policies**, the role of national and EU institutions in making decisions that affect EU citizens. They organised series of debates addressed to citizens to discuss about the value of the Union today and the expectations for the future. All these activities aimed to reinforce the message that **civil society & citizens play a crucial role in bringing citizens closer to Europe**.

*In order to celebrate Europe Day, **Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana (PL)** organised their annual Schuman Parade. This important event involved participants from ten different countries and aimed at strengthening active citizenship and the EU integration process by embracing differences and exploring European identities.[3]*

*The Czech think tank –**Institut pro Evropskou Politiku EUROPEUM**– organised many public debates to ensure a high level of information about the Union amongst the general public. In the course of 2017 their research and roundtable discussions had diverse topics from the migration crisis, Central Europe and the rise of populism, Brexit and electoral challenges in the EU to climate change.*

2 [illegible]

3 [illegible]

Many of the supported organisations stressed the value of volunteering, cross-border mobility of volunteers, and analysed **how volunteering has an impact in terms of employment levels, European citizenship, solidarity & social inclusion**. Some of them successfully participated in the **European Solidarity Corps** initiative. They were committed to promote reinforced solidarity among EU citizens; they made constructive proposals and organised participatory activities on how to reform the Union to achieve such goals.

*The **European Volunteer Centre – CEV** hosted in Brussels one of the first participants of the "European Solidarity Corps". CEV's main aim is to promote solidarity via volunteering across Europe and to that end in addition to individual volunteering at local and national level they initiated the "European Volunteering Capital" project that is a multiplier tool to introduce new citizens to the importance and value of volunteering.*

*In the context of solidarity & social inclusion, the transnational civil society organisation **European Alternatives Limited (UK)** led the initiative "Re-Build Refuge Europe", a project that brought together partners from the UK, Sweden, Spain, Finland and Germany, and Greece. It aimed at counteracting the dominant discourses of 'crisis' and 'threat' by using art, culture and innovative practices allowing European citizens and refugees to learn from each other as equals. Activities of the project included storytelling, training and workshops for participants and the digital arts. Interim and final results of the project were exhibited during the Athens Biennale and the TRANSEUROPE Festival in Madrid.*[4]

Organisations under the 'European Remembrance' strand specifically dealt with the Holocaust and the post-war migration, genocide, 1917± revolution and transition towards democracies and the impact of the fall of empires on Europe's political and historical landscape.

*As one of the main priorities of the European Remembrance strand in 2017, **Politikatorteneti Intezet Kozhasznu Non-Profit KFT (HU)** organised events with invited guests on European history from 1914 to present and discussed the main social, political and historical dilemmas of the 20th century.*

The Fundacio Solidaritat UB, which also leads the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM), a transnational network of institutions committed to promote research of public memories, besides research on memorial politics in Europe also organised seminars and exhibitions to commemorate the Spanish Civil War and the Holocaust.

To conclude beneficiaries of operating grants showed their capacity to stay close to citizens' concerns whilst remaining focused on issues at the top of the EU policy agenda. They encouraged networking and cluster activities and were able to support civil society all over Europe.

4 http://europe-re-build.com/

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS WITHIN THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" PROGRAMME

Background

The European Solidarity Corps initiative was announced by President Junker at his State of the Union speech on September 2016 and officially launched by the Commission on 7th December 2017. The European Solidarity Corps initiative became immediately fully operational.

The Europe for Citizens programme incorporated this new feature already in the 2017 calls for proposals: applications submitted within the framework of European Remembrance and Civil Society Projects measures could already foresee European Solidarity Corps members. Also, organisations receiving an operating grant from the programme had the possibility to host Corps members in 2017.

State of play

The initiative and the possibility to welcome European Solidarity Corps members were very well received by organisations applying under the 2017 call for proposals: in the European Remembrance selection 2017, out of 206 admissible applications, 104 (~35 %) planned to involve members of the European Solidarity Corps for a total of 925 placements (mainly in IT, ES, EL, SK, BG, FR, PL and HU). In Civil society selection 2017, out of 363 applicants, 151 (42 %) planned to involve members of the European Solidarity Corps foreseeing a total of 1636 placements.

The success of the initiative is shown also by the selected applications:

- Remembrance Projects: Out of 39 awarded projects, 17 included European Solidarity Corps, for a total of 152 placements;
- Civil Society Projects: Out of 27 awarded projects, 13 included European Solidarity Corps, for a total of 88 placements.

In total, **240 members** of the Corps will be involved in **30 projects** in the framework of the 2017 selections of the Europe for Citizens Programme. Those beneficiaries were given access to the dedicated Portal (PASS) to enrol European Solidarity Corps participants.

10 members of the European Solidarity Corps were participated already in 2017 to activities supported by Europe for Citizens including 3 under the traineeship stands engaged by organisations supported by operating grants.

Depending on the activities planned in the framework of the Europe for Citizens projects, volunteers will be performing a different range of tasks, e.g. research and collecting material for European Remembrance projects, making guided tours in historical places for citizens and project participants, making/editing video and other communication material requiring technical expertise, ensuring contacts among project partners, supporting in the organisations of itinerant exhibitions, debates, conferences and festivals, disseminating the European Solidarity Corps initiative among the general public, especially for Civil Society projects.

Ongoing Monitoring

The implementation of the European Solidarity Corps initiative was followed up through monitoring missions, dedicated phone calls and email to reply to precise questions from beneficiaries on practical technical concerns.

In 2017, 21 out of 30 beneficiary organisations of Europe for Citizens projects have been specifically monitored on this feature to offer support and ensure consistency with the rules.

In practice

The *European Volunteer Centre (CEV)*, beneficiary of an operating grant, has been the **first organisation at Union level to welcome a member of the European Solidarity Corps** within the occupational strand of the European Solidarity Corps initiative. In particular CEV could offer the opportunity of a traineeship. A first member of the European Solidarity Corps joined the organisation in March 2017 working on different projects implemented by CEV on volunteering; the second trainee arrived soon after to work on communication. Being among the first young people to join the Corps, the two trainees appeared in a number of online articles

to talk about their experience and the value of being involved in a Europe-wide solidarity initiative: "Young people are already motivated to change the world, they just need quality programmes that enabled them to do so" said Helena GANDRA at the conference "Quality Traineeships in the EU –Youth Guarantee, European Solidarity Corps and beyond" organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Youth Forum.

European Network of Houses for Debate "Time to Talk" is beneficiary of a 2017 European Remembrance project *"Revolution Revisited – Rethinking Europe"*. In September 2017 the organisation has hosted three members of the European Solidarity Corps. The volunteers were involved in the organisation of the Vienna Humanities Festival organised by the beneficiary in the framework of their project. Their participation was crucial at all stages of the event, from preparation to the closure of the event. The cooperation among the hosting organisation and the volunteers were so positive that the volunteers performed additional tasks related to the editing of the event video. Gavrilova DESISLAVA, representative of "Time to Talk Association" said that without the volunteers it would not have been possible to edit that video and that she found it very beneficial to host them; she also reported that the volunteers valued their participation in the Festival and enjoyed the flexibility of the initiative with regard to timing, tasks and arrangements.

PART B

Examples of projects

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STRAND 1 : EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

"European crossed approaches : challenging remembrance gaps"

REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Beneficiary : Memorial de la Shoah (FR)
Project reference : 589075-CITIZ-1-2017-1-FR-CITIZ-REMEM
Partner countries : MK, ES, PT, BG, IT, HR, RS, EE
Number of direct participants : 275
Date of the project events : 01/08/2017 - 31/01/2019
Grant awarded : 97.500 €

Taking its starting point as an archive collecting evidence of Anti-Jewish persecution in 1943, the *Mémorial de la Shoah* is an institution deeply linked to the history of the Holocaust and WWII. Today the Mémorial serves as a point of reference on Shoah related matters at European level. Its main mission is to raise awareness on the unprecedented nature of the Holocaust as a shared European event as well as to promote the memory of the Holocaust as a founding event of the EU. Selected in 2017, the project 'European crossed approaches: challenging remembrance gaps', has started in July 2017 and will be completed at the beginning of 2019. Giving space for debate, reflection and exchanges, the project will foster mutual understanding, tolerance and reconciliation.

Together with 8 partners from MK, ES, PT, BG, IT, HR, RS, EE, the Mémorial de la Shoah (FR) organises multilateral and regional workshops bringing together approximately 270 educators, teachers, civil society stakeholders and experts. Besides deepening the general understanding of the holocaust and other mass atrocities, the seminars will address topics embedded in the regional history and visit to important historical places. Local dynamics and remembrance challenges between neighbours are revealed and serve as a basis to debate and reflect over Genocide issues, European remembrance and peace education. The workshops also address current challenges in education such as how to equip students with appropriate tools for critically analysing the information on the topic, distinguishing real and fake information and develop their ability to fight nationalistic or simplistic views.

Through its educational approach the project challenges and breaks up competing memories on exclusive victimhood by giving space to all victims and sufferings, hence allowing a common European narrative to emerge.

> *"The Tutsi genocide in Rwanda is proof, if any were needed, that the conditions enabling the planned destruction of part of humanity can still exist. It is therefore urgent to learn how to dissect the mechanisms of genocide to prevent it from occurring again in the future."*[1]

Source: http://www.memorialdelashoah.org/fr-memorialdelas-exposition-du-musee-memorialdelas-musdeshoa.html

1. http://www.memorialdelashoah.org/education-training/pedagogical-activities.html

STRAND 2 : DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

" Flüchtlinge in Europa – Eine Herausforderung für uns Europäer, die wir nur gemeinsam meistern können. Integration beginnt in den Kommunen."

TOWN TWINNING

Beneficiary : Stadt Bad Kötzting (DE)

Project reference : 582426-CITIZ-1-2016-2-DE-CITIZ-TT

Partner countries : PL, HU, NL, FR, ES, AT, CZ, SK, UK, LU, LV, PT, SL, HR, RO, EL, BE, EE, DK, BG, IT, SE, MT, FI, CY

Number of direct participants : 220

Date of the project events : 11/05/2017 – 14/05/2017

Grant awarded : 22.000 €

The Town Twinning event event took place in the *Municipality of Bad Kötzting* on 11-13 May 2017 and directly reached 220 citizens from 27 partner's cities of 25 European countries to discuss opportunities and risks of integration, increasing understanding of cultural similarities and differences and understanding of the EU's role in welcoming and integrating refugees and migrants. It included many different activities like forums, workshops, conferences, meetings and more 'social' activities. During the implementation and preparation around 150 citizens and 60 refugees were actively involved.

Before the event, each partner had undertaken a local research on the topic of migration, by interviewing refugees and migrants on their reasons for moving, their personal experiences and their expectations in relation to Europe. Refugees and migrants were contacted in their hometowns and partners prepared reports and presentations on the situation of refugees.

The public was largely informed on the town twinning project and on the topic 'refugees in Europe' and several weekly reports were published in local newspapers. The importance of the topic among the regional politicians was sustained by the presence of representatives of the regional government and members of the Bundestag. Several follow-up projects on the topic of migrants and refugees integration were planned and initiated thanks to the town twinning project.

PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIES

"The theme on migrants and refugees in Europe is a difficult, important and challenging topic that concerns us all. I believe that we have touched the subject on a micro-scale with empathy and integrity."

"Integration can be successful if both sides make an effort to reduce fear and prejudice by means of dialogue and also if an exchange becomes normality. This is more feasible in a small commune than in more urban centres. The fair distribution of refugees within Europe must be a priority; it should not be the case that a few countries become overwhelmed with hosting refugees as humanitarian aid might not be guaranteed in a satisfactory manner."

"Regards croisés Est-Ouest et intergénérationnels sur la solidarité en Europe: les attentes des peuples européens"

TOWN TWINNING

Beneficiary: Comité de Jumelage Fontenay-le-Comte (FR)
Project reference: 588647-CITIZ-1-2017-1-FR-CITIZ-TT
Partner countries: RO
Number of direct participants: 200
Date of the project events: 02/07/2017 – 07/07/2017
Grant awarded: 10 000 €

The project "Regards croisés Est-Ouest et intergénérationnels sur la solidarité en Europe: les attentes des peuples européens" was a bilateral project between France and Romania that took place in Fontenay-le-Comte in July 2017 and involved directly 200 participants. The participants focused their activities on three priorities of the Europe for Citizens programme: combatting stigmatisation of migrants; solidarity in times of crisis and debate on the Future of Europe.

The roundtable "Youth demands from Europe" aimed at designing the future of the EU from the youth perspective. In this regard, the activity gathered people under 40 with different experiences: a Romanian MEP, 3 local government representatives from Romania and France, a Polish citizen living in France, a former Erasmus student from France that studied in Romania and a volunteer working with an association dealing with migrants and vulnerable people integration in France. Although solidarity can have a different definition depending on each country's problems, the debaters agreed that European integration is a continuous process, that Europe thrives when EU Member States help each other, act as a bloc when facing threats, while protecting a common vision and destiny for Europe. Although not initially in the project, 12 local associations joined the debates and activities. For example, a visit to an association hosting vulnerable people, presented practical solutions for housing, access to labour market for people in need.

As a result of the project, the French municipality wants to further develop the partnership allowing more vulnerable people from Romania to discover France and Europe. They have also expressed their willingness to create a partnership between two high schools from France and Romania with an agricultural profile and help young Romanians to find traineeships in France.

PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIES

"Il faut que les relations s'harmonisent entre les pays européens riches de diversités culturelles et de compétences. - Ce grand moment de vie commune est-ouest a été rendu possible grâce au programme l'Europe pour les citoyens. Nous en sommes sortis grandis et surtout conscients de notre liberté commune, des défis à relever. Il faut y croire !"

"Le processus de la construction européenne n'a pas de date fixée d'achèvement, mais elle sera développée par chaque génération"

"La plupart d'entre nous avons bien compris, que pour l'intérêt général, il est nécessaire de travailler ensemble afin de maintenir une stabilité financière et politique. Même si par moment un sentiment d'injustice peut apparaître, dû à un manque d'information, un manque de transparence et de compréhension, il faut construire un avenir commun, une histoire commune."

Participants testimonies

"Les jeunes générations ont grandi avec l'Europe et acceptent mieux cette solidarité. L'avenir de l'Europe passe par l'éducation de nos enfants."

"J'attends de l'Europe qu'elle permette de favoriser encore plus les échanges entre les pays, que ce soit par la liberté de circuler ou de travailler. Je souhaite également plus d'harmonisation entre les différents États que ce soit au niveau des lois et des conditions économiques. En effet j'aime à croire que l'Union Européenne saura nous garder bien unis, saura se battre pour la défense des valeurs européennes. Aujourd'hui, nous avons besoin, plus que jamais, d'une plus grande uniformité des valeurs européennes dans tous les pays membres de l'Union Européenne, du soutien des droits de l'homme et des femmes en particulier, de l'investissement dans l'éducation et l'avenir des jeunes, de la solidarité avec la population de tous les pays membres de l'Union Européenne, de l'est à l'ouest."

"BAM - Bagages à main"

TOWN TWINNING

Beneficiary: Associazione Laboratorio del Cittadino Onlus (IT)
Project reference: 589177-CITIZ-1-2017-1-IT-CITIZ-TT
Partner countries: FI, FR, CZ, BE, EL, ES, UK, RO, PL
Number of direct participants: 212
Date of the project events: 01/10/2017 – 06/10/2017
Grant awarded: 25.000 €

The project 'Bagages à main' gathered in Italy in October 2017 22 partners from 10 different countries in order to debate around two of the annual priorities of the Europe for citizens Programme: promoting solidarity in times of crisis and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups. The main aim of the project was to shed light on the refugee crisis that impacts Europe since 2015, to reduce political, institutional, moral or ethical gaps and practices between different countries in Europe and finally, to provide the local communities with the necessary tools for a successful integration of migrants.

The project reached its purpose through both theoretical and practical activities – debates, workshops and an exhibition – in which more than 200 people with different backgrounds (academics, local governments' representatives, NGOs, migrants and other groups of vulnerable people) took part. The debates and workshops covered the following topics: history and future of the EU, inclusive and participatory democracy, reasons why migrants leave their countries, different types and means of migration, portraitisation of migrants in the media.

By presenting 22 video-testimonials/interviews with migrants living currently in Italy and by organising an exhibition where migrants shared their stories and journeys, the project promoted its strongest message of tolerance or "common humanity" (as named in the project), key-value that guided all the activities. As a result of the collaboration that started in 2016, the partners decided to create a network of participatory actions, aiming at finding new ways of rethinking and practicing democracy at local level, a better mobilisation of tools, human and material resources that can change socially and economically small communities.

PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIES

"Le fossé entre l'Europe et les citoyens risque de se creuser, jusqu'à rendre inacceptable les décisions prises par nos dirigeants nationaux et européens. Il est urgent de développer un autre discours européen et d'adapter des mesures significatives pour rapprocher l'Europe des citoyens"

"Pour moi c'est une richesse pour notre ville tout ce mélange de cultures et de choses qu'on peut apprendre des uns et des autres"

"J'espère qu'avec eux on va pouvoir réaliser une Europe enfin multiculturelle, une nouvelle Europe multiculturelle."

"Il ne suffit pas de préparer l'intégration mais il faut aussi que cette intégration soit acceptée et bien respectée, c'est ça qui fera la réussite d'une bonne intégration professionnelle et personnelle".

"YELAC - Young European Leaders for Active Citizenship"

NETWORK OF TOWNS

Beneficiary: Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) (FR)
Project reference: 389046-CITIZ-1-2014-1-FR-CITIZ-NT
Partner countries: DE, IT, UK, NL, ES, SK, LT
Number of direct participants: 109
Date of the project events: 01/11/2014 – 31/05/2016
Grant awarded: 80.000 €

The project "Young European Leaders for active citizenship" led by Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) in a partnership with German Association of CEMR (RGRE) (DE), CEMR Italian Section (AICCRE) (IT), Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) (UK), Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) (NL), Association of Basque municipalities (EUDEL), Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (ZMOS) (SK) and Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (LSA) (LT) aimed at encouraging **young representatives** to contribute to the European debate, increasing their involvement in the democratic life of the EU and to facilitate discussions and knowledge exchange among them on relevant European issues.

The project presented innovative forms of young citizens' participation, encouraging young elected representatives to use them in their constituencies, and to shed light on how to achieve a successful multi-level governance and partnership in the field of youth. The project also allowed coming up with recommendations to foster youth participation at the local level, as well as helping to re-define the institutional framework to facilitate youth engagement in politics.

The last project event summed-up the results of the implemented activities in order **to design a strategy for the future**. It re-addressed the main points raised previously regarding education, unemployment, housing and youth participation.

One of the most important achievement of the project is its follow up idea to establish a permanent Committee composed of mayors and councillors below the age of 35, that will follow EU politics closely in order to mainstream youth participation, contribute to the EU policies in the field of youth, strengthen the multilevel governance approach of EU decision-making and increase the presence of **young councillors and mayors** in EU decision-making (Council of Europe, European Youth Forum, EU institutions, Youth Intergroup of the European Parliament, etc.)

There was a strong agreement about the necessity of strengthening political education to reinforce participation and civic engagement among young people. It was stressed, that mentoring/coaching young people in the process of effective and meaningful participation and their involvement in planning and decision-making can help to boost civic participation.

The main key message of the citizens involved in the project was **'We need an integrated approach in order to involve youth in the decision-making process'**.

"EUROPOLY - An innovative Bottom-Up approach to fight euroscepticism through networking"

NETWORK OF TOWNS

Beneficiary: Centro Diego Fabbri Studi ricerche e formazione sul teatro (IT)
Project reference: 586732-CITIZ-1-2017-1-IT-CITIZ-NT
Partner countries: HR, HU, SL, ES, IT, BG, RO
Number of direct participants: 435
Date of the project events: 04/09/2017 – 31/05/2019
Grant awarded: 145.000 €

The project Europoly has the intention to tackle the "generational conflict" when it comes to citizens' attitudes towards the EU. More precisely, based on their research at local level and EU polls the applicant and his partners believe the economic, financial and refugee crisis have created a generational gap, reinforcing older generations more nationalistic views, while the young generations remain largely pro-European. The "Euroenthusiasm" of young generations is explained by the applicant by the opportunities the EU has to offer for youngsters (traineeships, exchange programmes) and access to information.

Therefore, the goal of the project is to interrupt the "generational conflict", to understand the reasons behind euroscepticism through debates, to use attractive and innovative communication means through arts, to inspire local authorities to create a bottom-up approach in designing local policies in order to better engage their citizens in their communities. Another expected result is to overtake the "institutional communication" and create more creative ways of passing the information, values and benefits of the EU from youngsters to Eurosceptics.

In this regard, 0 events will be held in different cities: in Dubrovnik, Fano and Medina del Campo the participants will find out about the roots of euroscepticism, mainly due to immigration, the economic situation and unemployment. The events in Velenje, Sozinok, Shumen and Targu Mures will focus on emphasizing the benefits and opportunities of being an EU citizen: free movement, peace, economic benefits. The final event will be held on Europe Day (May 9th) in order to maximize the impact of two years activities and will provide knowledge and tools to local policymakers in order to design local civic engagement strategies, to better communicate them and involve their citizens.

"WIR - Welcome and Integration for Refugees in Europe"

NETWORK OF TOWNS

Beneficiary: Vänersborgs kommun (SE)
Project reference: 580530-CITIZ-1-2017-1-SE-CITIZ-NT
Partner countries: IT, AT, DE, ES, FI, LV
Number of direct participants: 323
Date of the project events: 16/10/2017 – 15/10/2019
Grant awarded: 150 000 €

The project 'Welcome and Integration for Refugees in Europe' gathers seven countries with six local authorities, two associations and one University, with old and new member states with a North – South and East-West dimension. The aim of the project is to increase knowledge about the EU policies towards refugees and asylum seekers' integration, to exchange best practices, compare different European experiences and transfer new ways for welcoming and integrating refugees.

The applicant acknowledges the fact that migration can be a challenge for many EU countries as practices for welcoming and integrating refugees are very different at EU level. Misguided information, narratives creating stereotypes have created social and economic clashes in the member states and among member states. On the other hand, migration is also an opportunity for many EU countries in need of young populations and workforce. These two aspects are taken into account for all the proposed activities.

Different aspects are tackled, such as schooling, access to education for refugees, best practices on unaccompanied minor refugees, socio-economic support of migrants in Europe, the role of communication in creating stereotypes on refugees. In terms of methodology and for a better transfer of results, the applicant and his partners will organize coordination meetings, transnational meetings and focus groups. They intend to set up local valorisation groups consisting of stakeholders interested in deepening and engaging on the project theme. Apart from conferences, debates, workshops, the transfer of practices will be also ensured through volunteering festivals, for example the annual volunteering Day in Daugavpils (LT) and the annual multicultural feast in Collecchio (Unione Pedemontana), will be carried out through the local valorisation groups.

"European Citizen Initiative to Combat Political Extremism and Euroscepticism"

CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECT

Beneficiary: Republicon Tudományos, Oktatási és Kutatási Alapítvány (HU)
Project reference: 563986-CITIZ-1-2015-1-HU-CITIZ-CIV
Partner countries: PL, CZ, SK, DK, SI, RS, RO
Number of direct participants: 501
Date of the project events: 01/08/2015 - 31/01/2017
Grant awarded: 140.000 €

The project *European Citizen Initiative to Combat Political Extremism and Euroscepticism* aimed at combatting radicalism as well as studying Euroscepticism, the relationship between the economic and political crisis in the EU and citizen's attitudes to democratic values.

This was done by organising six high impact events in 5 EU Member States (HU, PL, CZ, SK, RO) and one in a pre-accession country (SR), in order to provide factual insight for European citizens to understand the roots of Euroscepticism and the factors behind the spread of political extremism.

For instance, the conference '*Migration's influence on Euroscepticism and Political Radicalism*', one of the main events of the project, took place in Prague and focused on the impact of migration on Euroscepticism and political radicalism. Speakers who elaborated on this issue and engaged in exchanges with citizens included inter alia the Austrian and Slovak ambassador to the Czech Republic. The discrepancy between media coverage, political discourse and the factual impact of refugees and migrants was amongst the main topics debated during the conference and various different approaches and perspectives concerning for example integration were developed by participants.

Other project's events covered the topics of the EU's foundations, the economic and political accomplishments of the EU, the rights and freedoms that every EU citizen is entitled to and the cohesion policy, which assures every EU citizen's wellbeing. Through these events, Republicon managed to inform EU citizens on the functioning and the achievements of the EU by providing a platform for dialogue and best practice exchange. This dialogue was enriched by the attendance of many high level speakers, such as Russia's former prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov, Chinese author and human rights activist Liao Yiwu, and Polly Mackenzie who was the former adviser to the British deputy prime minister Nick Clegg. Ultimately, the project managed to reach 663 European citizens and enabled them to exchange viewpoints and to debate so as to connect more to the purpose of the European project.

"Prisoners: Present Discussion and Contribution to the Future European Union"

CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECT

Beneficiary: Asociacija Novi Homines (LT)
Project reference: 563009-CITIZ-1-2015-1-LT-CITIZ-CIV
Partner countries: EL, MT, ES, PT, RO
Number of direct participants: 196 944
Date of the project events: 01/09/2015 - 28/02/2017
Grant awarded: 59 750 €

Professor Duncal from Germany said "Being in prison is equal to a lack of freedom to make movements. If you lose some rights, you will start to look for new ways of satisfaction"

The project, *Present Discussion and Contribution to the Future European Union* helped ex-prisoners and their family to get involved into a discussion about the benefits and impact of EU citizenship to ensure the universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity as stated in Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union are respected.

Projects events were attended by representatives from the Prison Departments, the National Human Rights Commission, and Commission for Women rights, retired and serving officers from the prisons and police departments, ex-prisoners and their family members, members from NGOs, academicians, bureaucrats and lawyers.

The project starts from the assumption that prisoners do not regularly exercise their voting rights and analyses causes and consequences in the light of next European elections. Total prison population in European Union countries (including pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners) is around 1, 7 million prison inmates (http://www.prisonstudies.org/) and while voting is the right of every EU citizen, prisoners are avoiding from exercising this right. Prisoners and ex-convicts are not prone to participate in democratic and civil actions or get participates passively as well as their family members.

The project was divided into eight parts, covering workshops, discussion, art and psychological activities, conferences, lectures and seminars, research and tours. The activities took place in all partner countries: Lithuania, Greece, Malta, Spain, Portugal and Romania and in all projects events, there were visits to prisons and open discussion organised. Topics as 'Prisons and Human Rights', 'How much freedom can you take away from someone', 'Opportunities of volunteering', The Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the Istanbul Protocol were discussed. In January 2017, the association Novi Homines hosted an art exhibition in Vilnius, realized by inmates.

Activities were the occasion for a productive dialogue between inmates, ex-inmates, institutions and public society, as well as start discussions about problems that European citizens encounter now in the related field.

As a conclusion, a policy paper containing *Recommendations to the European Parliament* aiming to have a harmonized European regulation of imprisonment has been prepared by the beneficiaries.

"One of the most significant changes in political level was done, when Minister of Justice Juozas Bernatonis attended the European Socialist Party Ministers of Justice meeting in Riga and supported proposals on the enforcement of sentences of restructuring the system of the European Union:

http://tm.lt/naujienos/pranesimas-spaudai/2366

We do not consider this political act as a result of our events, but we strongly believe that Novi Homines with this project is making a huge impact to society view in related field."[7]

7 http://novihomines.lt/prisoners

European Civic Forum

OPERATING GRANTS

Beneficiary: European Civic Forum (FR)
Project reference: 585098-CITIZ-1-2017-1-FR-CITIZ-OGCIV
Number of direct participants: 146.252
Date of the project events: 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2017
Grant awarded: 200.000 €

As a pan-European network with over 100 associations and non-governmental organisations across Europe active in fields such as education to citizenship and democracy, defence of human rights and development cooperation, **European Civic Forum** encourages civic engagement and works towards a genuine European civil dialogue.

In 2017 in collaboration with other civil society organisations and networks, ECF created spaces for open discussions on current social, economic and democratic paradigms for example in the course of '*European Civic Days*' held in Belgrade. The focus of the discussions was whether 'civil society should enter the political arena to change the rule of the game (political scene)'[8] by taking into consideration positive examples of civic mobilisations from Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Furthermore, a highly participative and interactive initiative, the '*European Civic Academy*', increased awareness among academic researchers about civil society needs and priorities as well as tried to identify collaborative opportunities for future research. The participants discussed new perspectives on challenges faced by civil society and expressed their views on the European civil society scene. With a '*European Citizenship Award*' ECF also promoted social and democratic innovation and rewarded creativity in the way NGOs, campaigns, individuals and social enterprises enact and reinvent citizenship in their daily life and work. These events contribute not only to **bring the European debate to the national and local level** and to reach a public often remote from the European challenges, but also to **feed the European policy process with national and local concerns**, give voice to grassroots initiatives and concerns so as to be better taken into account in the decision making process.

> 'CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER CAN UNLOCK A GREAT POTENTIAL TO REDEFINE OUR SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR A EUROPE OF EQUALITY, SOLIDARITY AND DEMOCRACY'[9]

Source: http://civicforum.eu/en/civic-spaces/european-civic-days-civil-society-perspectives-for-a-positive-narrative

8 http://civicforum.eu/en/civic-spaces/european-civic-days-civil-society-perspectives-for-a-positive-narrative
9 http://civicforum.eu/en/civic-foundations

Notre Europe – Institut Jacques Delors Association

OPERATING GRANTS

Beneficiary: Notre Europe – Institut Jacques Delors Association (FR)

Project reference: 585075-CITIZ-1-2017-1-FR-CITIZ-OGOV

Number of direct participants: 200 000

Date of the project events: 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2017

Grant awarded: 350 000 €

As a European think tank, the Jacques Delors Institute aims to stimulate European debates by producing various analyses and proposals targeting European decision-makers and wider audience. In the course of 2017 the Institute addressed the main challenges facing European citizens today in the light of rising populism and Euro scepticism. To this end, it organised series of debates, seminars and conferences on hot topics, including Brexit, Trump Election and Migration. A number of debates, publications and podcasts that reached more than 300 000 people offered analysis on issues directly effecting European citizens – including the Schengen area and the extension of the border control, or the impact of the German political crisis for Europe. The themes also included the possible impact of Brexit on the EU Budget and on the future of Europe. The activities took place all over Europe with the help of international researchers followed by prominent media attention (BBC, Financial Times, Reuters, Le Monde).

Enrico Letta, the president of the Jacques Delors Institute and former Prime Minister of Italy was a keynote speaker in the EACEA staff event where he shared his vision on citizens' participation in shaping the European political agenda. In an interview in the occasion of the 'Europe Day', Enrico Letta shared his view and message on the future of Europe:

> "THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WILL NATURALLY BE SHAPED BY ITS CITIZENS AND MEMBERS STATES' WISHES. I BELIEVE THIS FUTURE IS PROMISING IF WE CAN ALL LOOK AT THE WORLD IN A WAY TO ESCAPE FROM OUR INWARD LOOKING "CO-INNER CRISES". LOOKING AT THE WORLD CAN INDEED MAKE US AWARE THAT WE ARE TRULY EUROPEANS, I.E. UNITED BY A DEVELOPMENT MODEL AIMING TO RECONCILE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY, SOCIAL COHESION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. LET'S BE PROUD OF THIS MODEL AND LET'S TRY TO SAFEGUARD AND TO PROMOTE IT!"

Source: https://twitter.com/Delorsinstitute

PART C

QUANTITATIVE INFORMATION

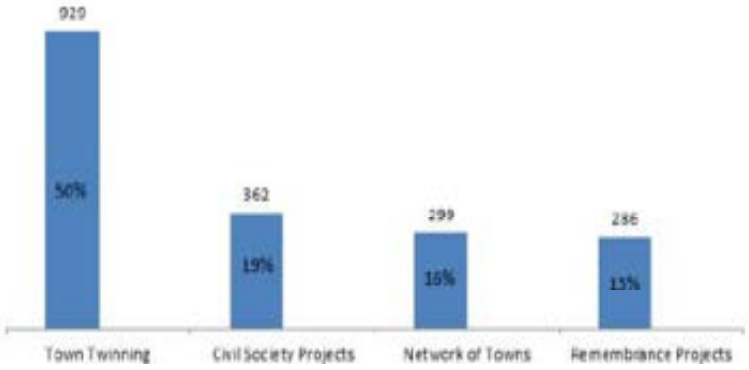
Europe for citizens programme : follow up selection and contracts (2017)

Europe for citizens programme follow up selection and contracts (2017)												
Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget	Number of grants / contracts	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of ineligible application	Number of selected application	Success rate	Decision date	Time to inform (in months)	Amount of Decision (euros)
Strand 1 - European remembrance and European citizenship												
1.1.	Remembrance projects	3.477.974	44	Programme Guide	1/06/2017	286	0	39	14%	15/06/2017	5,8	3.497.000
1.2.	Structural support think tanks, organisations at European level (Framework partnerships)	1.213.467	6	Call COMM C2/01/2013	25/12/2016	6	0	6	100%	9/03/2017	2,5	1.213.467
Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation												
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 1	4.323.291	315	Programme Guide	1/03/2017	482	0	134	28%	9/06/2017	3,3	2.309.000
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 2				1/09/2017	447	0	114	26%	11/12/2017	3,4	2.016.500
						929		248	27%		3,3	4.325.500
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - phase 1	4.233.844	45	Programme Guide	1/03/2017	145	0	17	12%	9/06/2017	3,3	2.287.500
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - phase 2				1/09/2017	156	0	15	10%	27/11/2017	2,9	1.975.000
						299		32	11%		3,1	4.262.500
2.3.	Civil society projects	3.254.440	34	Programme Guide	1/03/2017	362*	0	27	7%	15/06/2017	3,8	3.595.500
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (Framework partnerships)	5.627.984	31	Call COMM C2/01/2013	25/12/2016	30	0	30	100%	9/03/2017	2,5	5.547.927
Strand 3 - Valorisation												
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900000	33	Designated bodies	31/12/2016 and 30/09/2017 at the least	30	0	30	100%	17/02/2017	1,6	810.000
4.1.	Support to project selection	200000	na	na					na	13/03/2017	na	159.300
	TOTAL WP 2017	25.251.000	508			1942	0	412	21%		3,0	25.411.194

Applications submitted in 2017

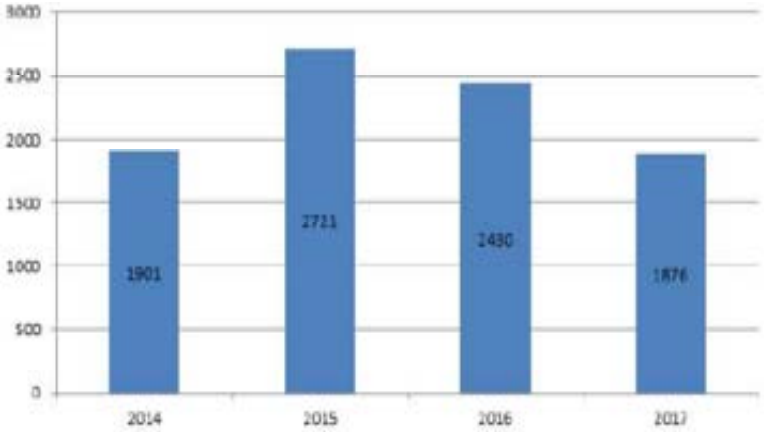
A total of 1876 applications were submitted within action grants. Furthermore 36 applications were presented within Operating grants and 30 were submitted by 'Europe for citizens' Contact Points that renewed their partnership. Therefore a total of **1942** applications were submitted in 2017.

- ### Overview per action



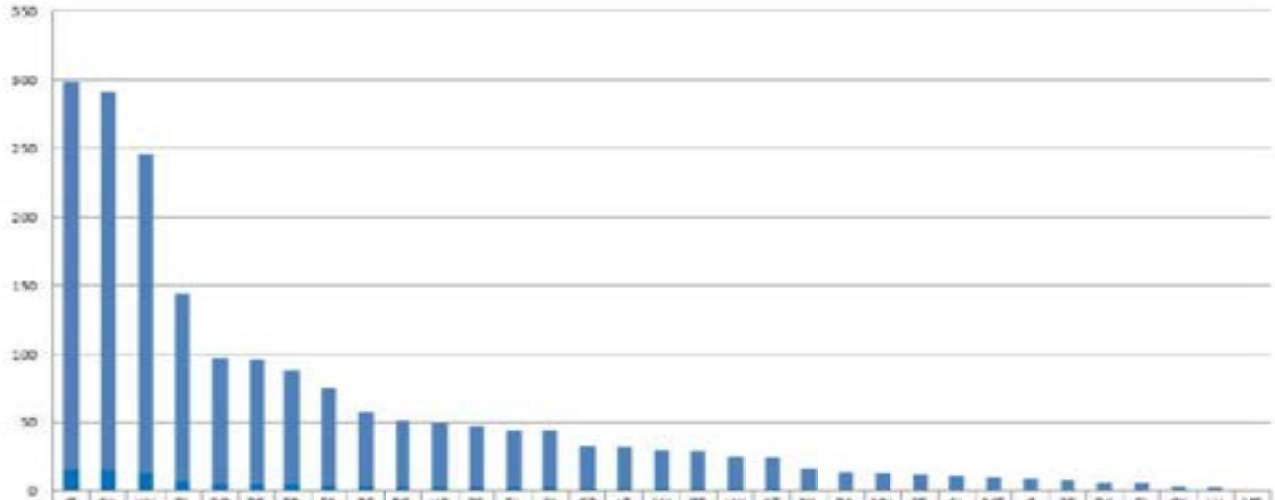
- ### Comparison 2014-2017

The number of applications for action grants submitted in 2017 represents a **decrease** of almost **23%** compared to 2016, a decrease of **31%** in comparison with **2015** and a minimum decrease of around **1%** in comparison with 2014 This decrease has improved the success rate of the Programme.



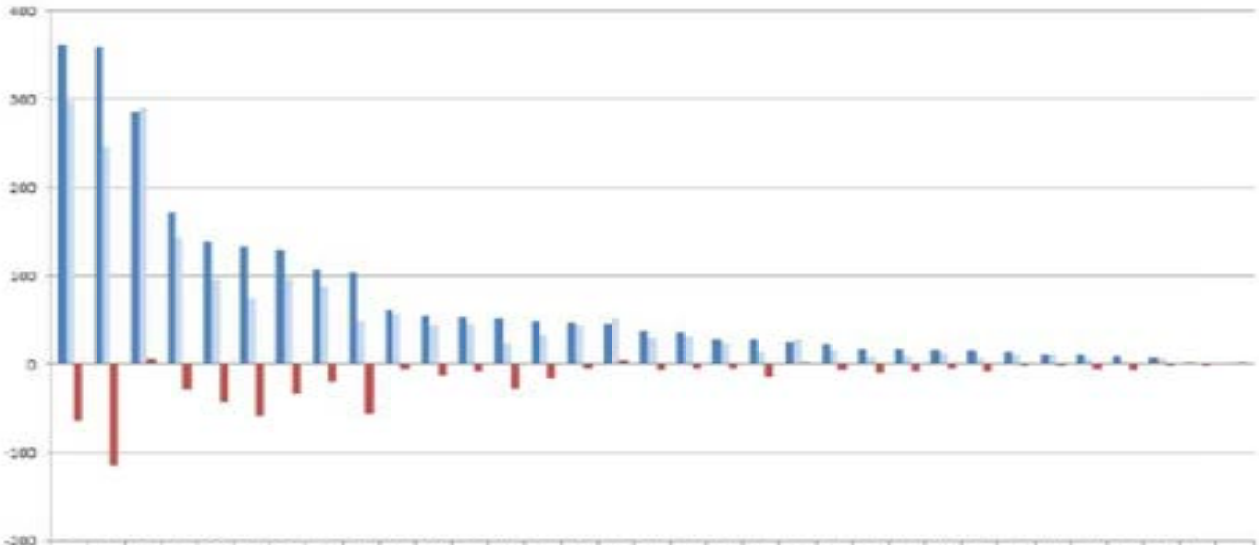
- **2017 - Overview per country of applications submitted within action and operating grants**

Organisations from all member states and programme countries are represented as applicant. **Italy** was the Member State introducing the greatest number of **projects (298) 15,6 %**, followed by **Slovakia (291) 15,2 %**, **Hungary (246) 12,9 %** and **Poland (144) 7,5 %**.



	IT	SK	HU	PL	RO	DE	FR	ES	BE	BG	HR	RS	EL	SI	CZ	LT	LV	PT	UK	AT	NL	BA	MK	SE	AL	MT	IE	DE	DK	FI	CY	LU	ME
Sub.	298	291	246	144	97	96	88	75	57	52	49	47	44	44	33	32	30	29	25	24	16	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	5	6	3	2	1
%	15,6	15,2	12,9	7,5	5,1	5	4,6	3,9	3	2,7	2,6	2,5	2,3	2,3	1,7	1,7	1,6	1,5	1,3	1,3	0,8	0,7	0,7	0,6	0,6	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,1	0,1

- Variation 2016-1017 per country



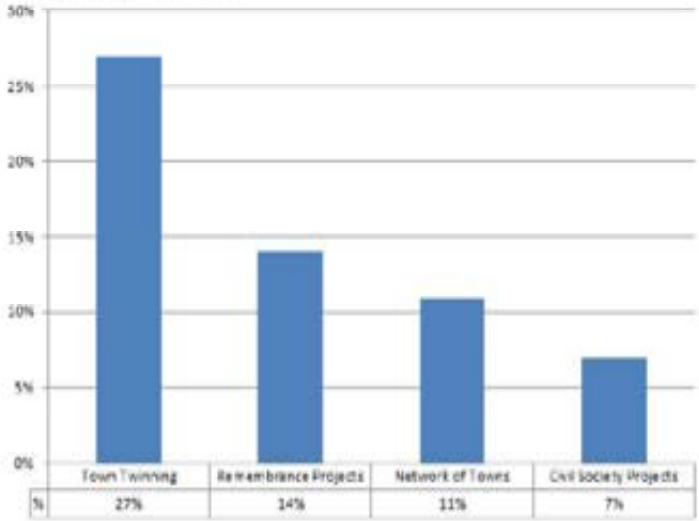
	IT	HU	SK	PL	DE	ES	RO	FR	HR	BE	SI	RS	UK	CZ	FI	BG	LV	LT	AT	BA	PT	NL	IE	MT	MK	EE	SE	AL	FI	CY	DK	ME	LU
2016	361	360	285	173	139	133	130	108	105	62	56	55	52	49	48	47	37	36	28	28	26	25	18	18	17	16	14	12	11	10	7	2	0
2017	208	246	291	144	96	75	97	88	49	57	44	47	25	33	44	52	30	32	24	14	20	16	9	10	13	8	12	11	6	3	6	1	2
Var.	-64	-114	6	-29	-43	-58	-33	-20	-56	-5	-12	-8	-27	-16	-4	5	-7	-4	-4	-14	5	-7	-9	-8	-4	-8	-2	-1	-5	-7	-1	-1	2

Applications selected in 2017

- **Programme success rate**

In 2017, out of the **1912** applications submitted (within TT, NT, REM, CSP and OG), **382** were selected. Therefore, the average success rate is **20%**

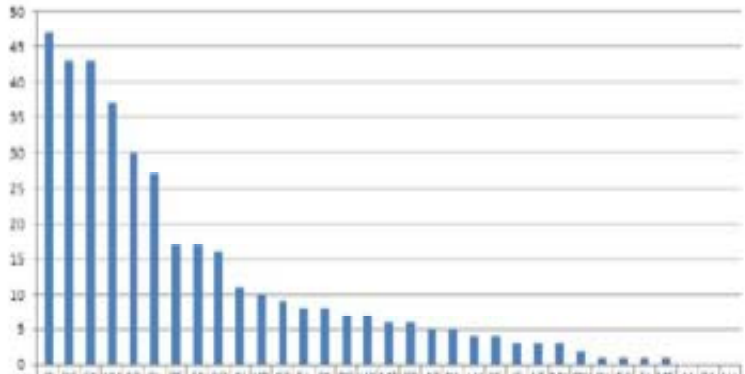
- **Success rate per action**



- **Success rate per country in relation to all 1912 applications submitted within action and operating grants.**

In 2017, 27 organisations from 20 Member States were beneficiaries.

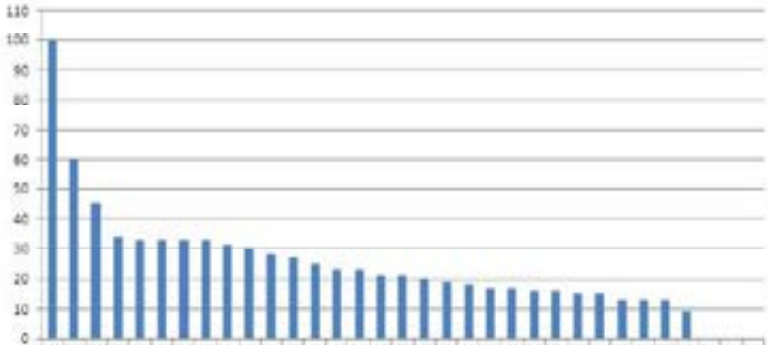
Italy, Germany and Slovakia have the greatest success rate followed by **Hungary and France**.



	IT	DE	SK	HU	FR	PL	BE	ES	RO	SI	HR	CZ	EL	RS	BG	UK	MT	PT	AT	NL	LV	SE	IE	LT	MK	DK	CY	EE	FI	ME	AL	BA	LU
Sel.	47	43	43	37	30	27	17	17	16	11	10	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
%	12	11	11	10	8	7	5	5	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- **Success rate per country in relation to projects submitted by the same country**

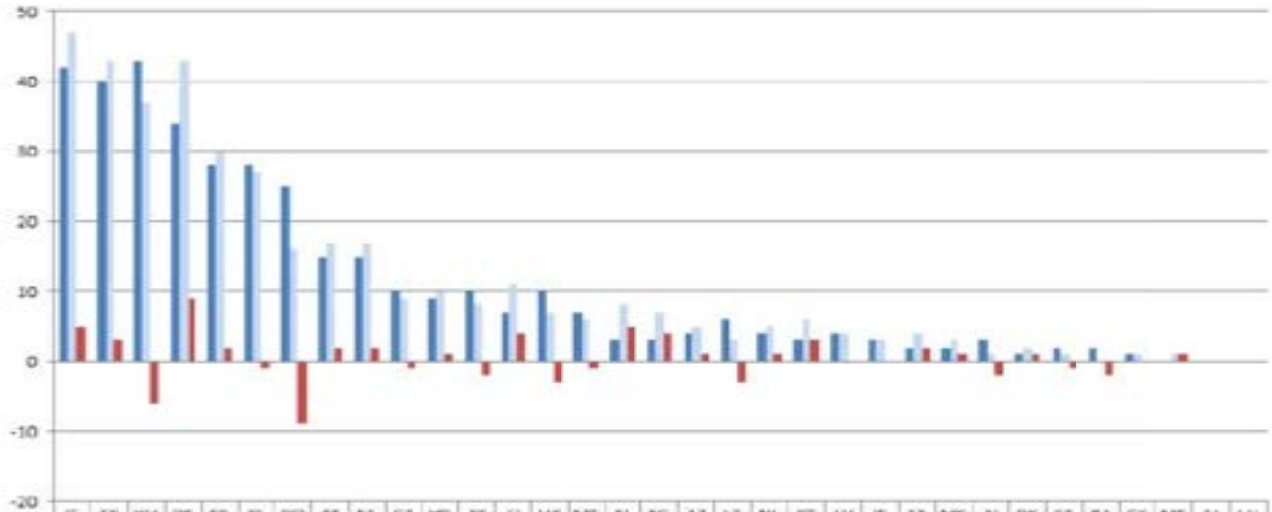
Ratio between applications submitted and selected per country.



	ME	MT	DE	FI	SE	IE	DK	CY	NL	BE	UK	CZ	SI	MK	ES	AT	PT	HR	PL	EL	RS	FI	RO	IT	HU	SK	BG	LV	EE	LT	BA	AL	LU
%	100	60	45	34	33	33	33	33	31	30	28	27	25	23	23	21	21	20	19	18	17	17	16	16	15	15	13	13	13	9	0	0	0

- **Applications selected: comparison between 2016 and 2017 (action grants and operating grants)**

Organisations of all Member States except Luxembourg are beneficiaries in 2017.



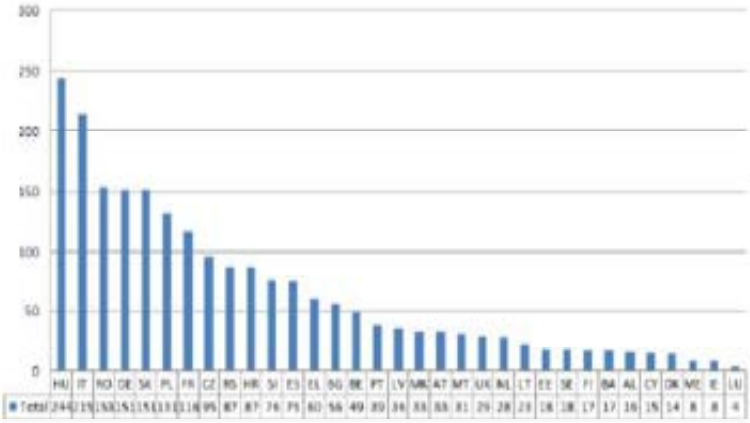
	IT	SK	HU	DE	FR	PL	RO	BE	ES	CZ	HR	KS	SI	UK	MT	EL	BG	AT	LT	NL	PT	LV	IE	SE	MK	FI	DK	EE	BA	CY	ME	AL	LU
2016	42	40	43	34	28	28	25	15	15	10	9	10	7	10	7	3	3	4	6	4	3	4	3	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	0	0	0
2017	47	43	37	43	30	27	16	17	17	9	10	8	11	7	6	8	7	5	3	5	6	4	3	4	3	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
Var.	5	3	-6	9	2	-1	-9	2	2	-1	1	-2	4	-3	-1	5	4	1	-3	1	3	0	0	2	1	-2	1	-1	-2	0	1	0	0

■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ Var.

Analysis of project partners

- 2017 - Overview per country

Total number of partners in projects selected by country:



- 2017 – Partners per country in selected applications

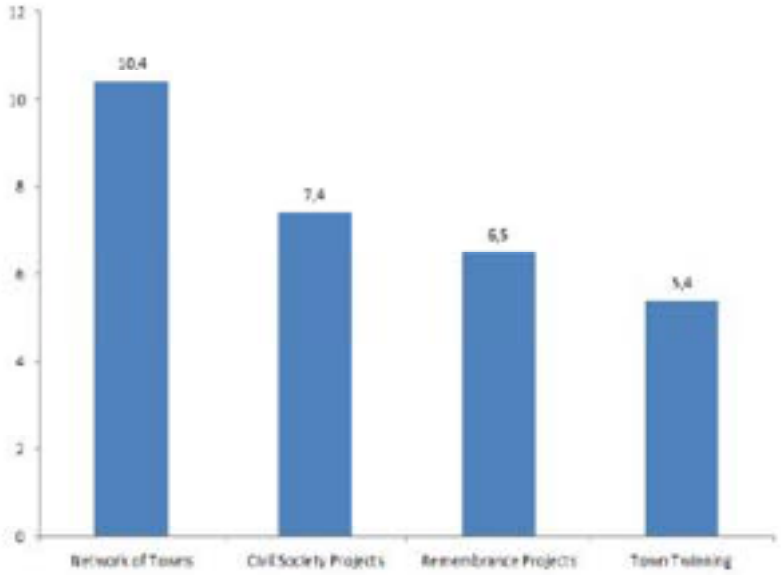
Action	Number of projects granted	Number of Partners in project granted	Average number of partners in 2017	Average number of partners in 2016
Network of Towns	32	334	10,4	9,7
Civil Society Projects	27	199	7,4	7,6
Remembrance Projects	39	254	6,5	6,9
Town Twinning	248	1346	5,4	5,2
TOTAL	346	2133	6,1	5,9

- Partners per action in selected applications 2017

Country	Network Towns	Civil Society Projects	Remembrance Projects	Town Twinning	TOTAL
AL	6	2	0	8	16
AT	5	6	6	16	33
BA	2	2	7	6	17
BE	6	16	9	18	49
BG	17	7	13	19	56
CY	4	2	2	7	15
CZ	7	7	11	70	95
DE	12	8	18	113	151
DK	5	2	3	4	14
EE	4	3	4	7	18
EL	17	12	8	23	60
ES	15	12	13	35	75
FI	4	1	2	10	17
FR	9	7	10	90	116
HR	18	8	9	52	87
HU	16	12	12	204	244
IE	1	2	1	4	8
IT	49	23	24	119	215
LT	5	2	3	13	23
LU	2	0	0	2	4
LV	11	2	3	20	36
ME	2	4	1	1	8
MK	7	7	5	14	33
MT	10	2	1	18	31
NL	4	3	10	11	28
PL	13	4	26	88	131
PT	12	4	4	19	39
RO	23	9	16	105	153
RS	12	8	12	55	87
SE	6	2	2	8	18
SI	20	7	8	41	76
SK	8	8	9	126	151
UK	2	5	2	20	29
TOTAL	334	199	254	1346	2133
Number of projects granted	32	27	39	248	346

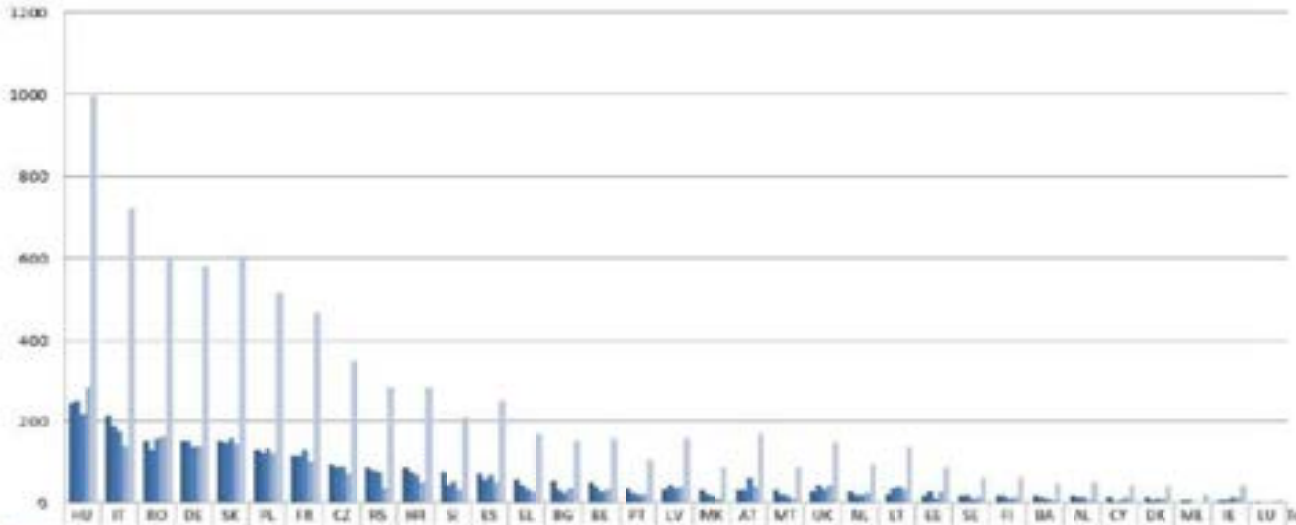
- 2017 - Overview per action

Average number of partners per action:



- **Total number of partners per country 2014 – 2017**

The number of partners have increased continuously since 2014.



	HU	IT	RO	DE	SK	PL	FR	CZ	RS	HR	SI	ES	EL	BG	BE	PT	LV	MK	AT	MT	UK	NL	LT	EE	SE	FI	BA	NL	CY	DK	MB	IE	LU	Total
2017	244	215	155	158	158	131	136	95	87	87	76	75	60	56	49	39	36	33	33	31	29	28	23	18	18	17	17	16	15	14	8	8	4	2155
2016	251	189	132	152	140	124	136	90	80	76	45	59	45	32	42	25	43	24	33	24	43	20	39	20	19	17	13	13	6	9	9	8	1	1556
2015	237	176	157	138	160	135	131	90	77	68	54	67	36	25	30	39	38	18	61	18	34	20	40	12	10	12	30	13	9	30	3	14	0	1002
2014	288	141	165	140	147	125	102	75	58	51	36	51	29	38	36	23	40	11	42	12	44	27	36	29	15	15	7	8	13	30	3	14	4	1810
Total	996	721	607	588	607	515	465	350	282	282	211	252	170	151	157	106	157	86	169	85	150	95	138	87	62	61	47	50	43	43	23	44	9	7801

Selection thresholds

The table below shows all the funding thresholds (i.e. lowest score obtained by a retained project) since the beginning of the current Europe for Citizens Programme in 2014. It takes in consideration also the released reserve lists.

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Remembrance	84	79,5	82,5	82,5
Civil Society	82,75	81,75	81,5	82,25
Town Twinning phase 1	53	78	74	71
Town Twinning phase 2	70,75	74,25	73	72
Network of Town phase 1	67,5	80	81	82
Network of Town phase 2	76,25	85	84	83

- Overview of the results for all actions since 2014

Index	Actions and sub actions	Years	N° applications received	N° applications funded	Grant awarded (in Mio€) according to the decision	Finding threshold* (incl. Reserve lists)	Success rate
Strand 1 - European remembrance							
1.1.	Remembrance projects	2014	472	36	3.104.000	84	0%
		2015	538	33	3.021.560	79,5	6%
		2016	460	30	3.342.500	82,5	0%
		2017	288	39	3.497.000	82,5	14%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	1764	146	12.965.060	82,1	8,2%
1.2.	Structural support for think thanks, organisations at European level (Framework partnerships)	2014	22	6	1.213.866	77,5	27%
		2015	6	6	1.213.466	n/a	100%
		2016	6	6	1.213.466	n/a	100%
		2017	6	6	1.213.466	n/a	100%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	40	24	4.854.364	77,5	n/a

* For the actions having 2 selection rounds ("Town Twinning" and "Networks of Towns" actions), the data provided shows weighted average based on number of applications received and finalised (NOK1x[illegible] + NOK2x[illegible])/(NOK1+NOK2)

Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation							
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings	2014	867	252	3.090.000	59,6	30%
		2015	1404	252	4.130.000	76,4	10%
		2016	1065	237	4.131.500	73,5	22%
		2017	829	140	4.535.500	71,5	27%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	4165	869	16.485.000	70,25	24,16%
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns	2014	224	30	4.322.500	72,9	18%
		2015	339	32	4.067.500	62,6	9%
		2016	328	30	4.130.000	62,6	9%
		2017	299	32	4.252.500	62,5	11%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	1190	129	16.972.500	68,15	10,8%
2.3.	Civil society projects	2014	320	29	3.085.250	62,75	5%
		2015	440	27	3.322.750	61,75	6%
		2016	541	25	3.413.750	61,5	5%
		2017	561	27	3.195.500	62,25	7%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	1860	108	13.015.250	67,18	5,75%
2.4.	Structural support for think thanks, organisations at European level (Framework partnerships)	2014	139	29	5.474.702	77,5	21%
		2015	37	31	5.627.984	n/a	84%
		2016	30	30	5.548.678	n/a	100%
		2017	30	30	5.547.927	n/a	100%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	236	120	22.200.291	77,5	n/a
Strand 3 - Valorisation							
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	2014	24	24	884.025	n/a	100%
		2015	27	27	781.525	n/a	100%
		2016	28	28	760.000	n/a	100%
		2017	30	30	810.000	n/a	100%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	109	109	3.045.550		n/a
TOTAL			8512	1625	90.438.015	70,22	17,45 %

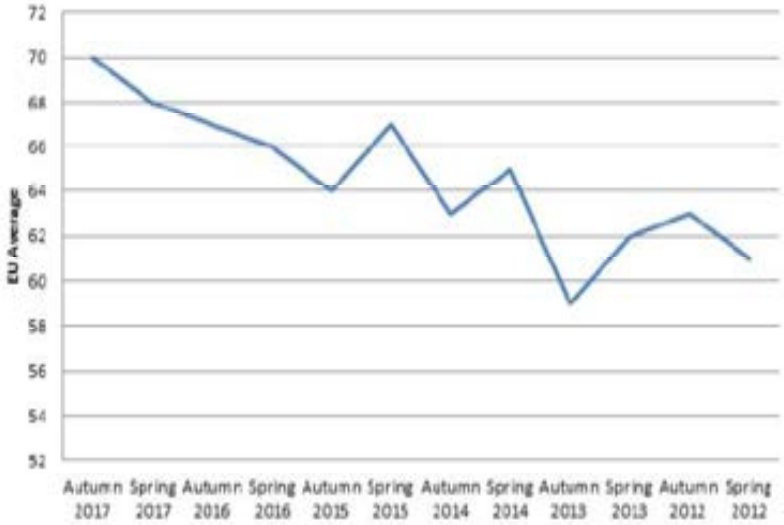
• Feeling of being a citizen of the EU

According to Standard Reports of the Eurobarometer the feeling of being an EU citizen on European average has remained stable over the last years (except a decrease in autumn 2013). In 2017, it reached a threshold of over 70%, which is the first time since spring 2010 and represents an increase of more than 10% since 2014. According to the most recent data (autumn 2017):

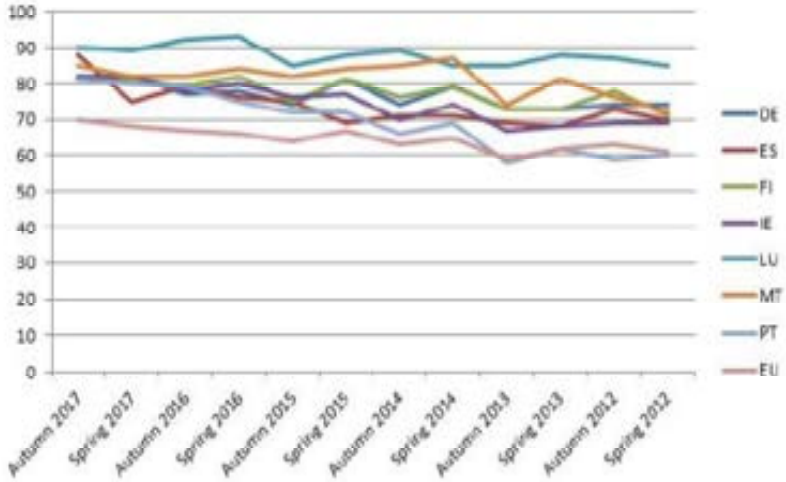
- LU, ES, MT, DE, PT, FI and IE are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is the highest
- EL, IT, UK, CZ and BG are the countries where the sense of European citizenship is the lowest

Country	Autumn 2017	Spring 2017	Autumn 2016	Spring 2016	Autumn 2015	Spring 2015	Autumn 2014	Spring 2014	Autumn 2013	Spring 2013	Autumn 2012	Spring 2012
	EB 88 p.39	EB 87 p. 30	EB 86 p.32	EB 85 p. 30	EB 84 p. 32	EB 83 p. 17	EB 82 p. 29	EB 81 p. 7	EB 80 p. 30	EB 79 p. 23	EB 78 p. 23	EB 77 p. 22
AT	70	73	66	69	63	72	73	67	63	66	63	60
BE	76	76	71	71	72	70	69	71	70	71	68	69
BG	56	55	50	49	47	50	40	46	49	48	47	50
CY	69	64	53	53	49	50	51	53	46	45	55	62
CZ	56	57	53	58	57	62	60	57	55	54	54	52
DK	82	82	77	78	74	81	74	79	73	73	74	74
DE	79	81	74	77	76	74	74	73	71	71	74	75
EE	70	75	75	76	73	79	70	76	72	70	73	67
EL	48	48	47	46	50	50	45	49	42	44	46	50
ES	80	75	79	76	75	69	71	71	69	68	73	70
FR	81	81	79	82	75	81	76	79	73	73	70	71
FR	63	64	61	67	61	61	63	63	57	61	66	65
HR	61	61	60	61	66	63	56	55	50	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
HU	67	70	69	65	69	67	67	59	59	59	54	51
IE	81	82	78	80	76	77	70	74	67	68	69	69
IT	54	53	51	49	49	53	47	47	45	52	51	45
LT	77	77	74	74	77	78	71	71	64	65	64	60
LU	90	89	92	93	85	88	89	85	85	88	87	85
LV	75	74	75	71	68	69	68	62	53	56	57	54
MT	85	82	82	84	82	84	85	87	74	81	76	72
NL	70	71	68	70	67	70	61	65	58	61	67	60
PL	77	80	78	76	71	74	74	77	67	70	74	67
PT	81	80	79	75	72	72	66	69	58	62	59	60
RO	62	66	67	59	62	65	60	61	56	53	51	60
SE	77	76	75	74	72	78	76	77	69	69	73	65
SI	73	71	73	70	75	65	69	69	61	64	60	66
SK	75	72	73	75	69	75	73	73	70	76	71	70
UK	55	54	55	53	52	56	60	52	42	48	48	42
EU	**70**	**68**	**67**	**66**	**64**	**67**	**63**	**65**	**59**	**62**	**63**	**61**

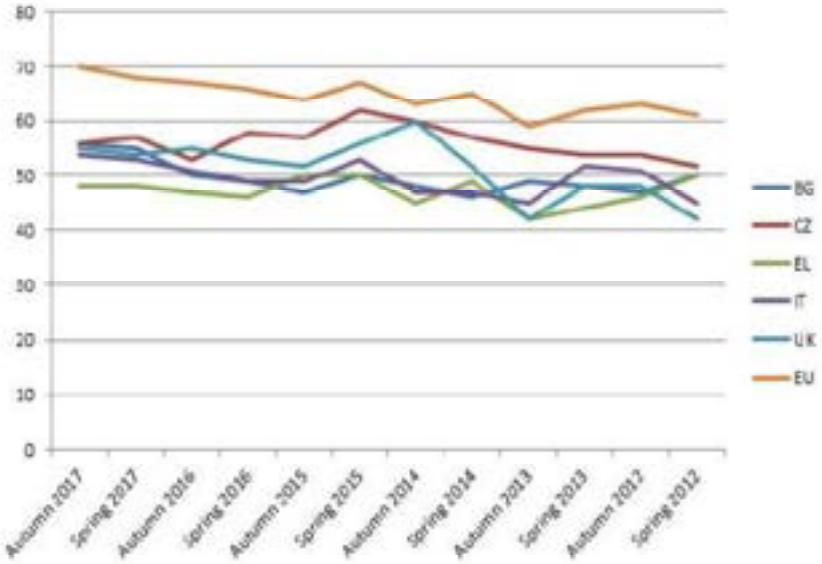
- Feeling of being a citizen of the EU: average



- EU countries that feel like EU citizens > 80%



- EU countries that feel like EU citizens < 60%



Synoptic table of projects submitted and granted per country and action in 2017

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME 2014-2020

STATE OF PLAY 2017

Applications Submitted								Total submitted		Total selected		Applications selected							Statistic data					
Country	Civil Society Projects	Remembrance Projects	Networking Projects	Town Twinning Phase 1	Town Twinning Phase 2	Network of Towns Phase 1	Network of Towns Phase 2	TOTAL (EUR 000 €)	TOTAL (EUR 000 €) without UK	Country	Civil Society Projects	Remembrance Projects	Networking Projects	Town Twinning Phase 1	Town Twinning Phase 2	Network of Towns Phase 1	Network of Towns Phase 2	Country	Applications Submitted in %	Applications Granted in %	Success rate (applications granted vs. submitted)	Population rate	Population Survey 2017
BE	3	2	0	0	0	3	4	12	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	BE	0,50%	0,00%	0,00%	0,50%	[illegible]
BG	8	4	0	1	4	3	4	24	24	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	BG	1,20%	1,10%	20,00%	1,40%	[illegible]
CY	5	2	0	0	0	3	4	14	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	CY	0,70%	0,00%	0,00%	0,70%	[illegible]
CZ	24	10	4	4	3	2	3	57	48	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	CZ	2,90%	4,40%	25,42%	2,10%	[illegible]
DK	20	11	0	5	10	2	4	52	52	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	2	0	1	2	0	2	DK	2,70%	1,8%	13,46%	1,80%	[illegible]
EE	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	EE	0,10%	0,10%	33,33%	0,10%	[illegible]
ES	9	5	1	11	12	0	1	30	30	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	1	4	1	0	0	ES	1,70%	1,50%	27,27%	2,00%	[illegible]
FI	11	6	4	15	19	3	8	66	52	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	2	4	12	14	1	1	FI	3,50%	11,10%	46,70%	13,60%	[illegible]
FR	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	8	8	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	FR	0,30%	0,30%	33,33%	1,00%	[illegible]
GR	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	8	8	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	GR	0,40%	0,10%	12,50%	0,90%	[illegible]
HR	7	8	0	2	2	12	11	48	48	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	HR	2,80%	2,00%	16,32%	3,00%	[illegible]
HU	14	17	2	9	14	10	4	71	71	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	4	2	5	4	1	0	HU	3,60%	4,40%	22,67%	4,60%	[illegible]
IE	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	6	6	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	IE	0,30%	0,70%	16,67%	1,00%	[illegible]
IT	11	10	10	23	14	3	7	78	78	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	10	7	10	0	0	IT	4,40%	3,60%	30,00%	12,60%	[illegible]
LT	15	6	0	10	8	0	0	40	40	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	0	0	5	3	1	0	LT	2,50%	2,0%	30,0%	0,80%	[illegible]
LU	21	13	1	35	33	5	10	146	143	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	3	1	13	9	2	1	LU	12,07%	9,00%	15,04%	1,07%	[illegible]
LV	6	3	0	0	2	0	0	9	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	LV	0,40%	0,70%	33,33%	0,80%	[illegible]
MT	69	52	0	63	45	39	30	298	293	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	4	0	20	16	3	1	MT	16,90%	11,60%	15,77%	11,17%	[illegible]
NL	11	12	0	3	3	3	1	32	32	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	NL	1,60%	0,70%	9,38%	0,30%	[illegible]
PL	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	PL	0,10%	0,00%	0,00%	0,10%	[illegible]
PT	6	10	1	3	3	2	5	30	29	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	PT	1,50%	1,0%	10,34%	0,37%	[illegible]
RO	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	RO	0,05%	0,10%	100,00%	0,10%	[illegible]
SE	8	3	1	1	1	1	2	17	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	SE	0,85%	0,70%	23,08%	0,80%	[illegible]
SI	7	5	0	4	1	1	1	20	20	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	SI	0,50%	1,1%	30,00%	0,40%	[illegible]
SK	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	16	16	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	SK	0,80%	1,10%	31,25%	1,20%	[illegible]
UK	71	44	1	31	29	11	6	149	141	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	1	11	11	1	0	UK	7,10%	3,6%	18,79%	7,7%	[illegible]
AT	15	5	0	6	2	2	1	31	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	AT	1,50%	1,1%	30,00%	1,90%	[illegible]
NO	12	12	0	40	23	5	5	97	97	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	1	0	7	6	1	0	NO	5,00%	4,10%	16,49%	5,70%	[illegible]
IS	15	9	0	9	10	4	4	47	47	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	IS	2,40%	2,00%	17,02%	1,40%	[illegible]
LI	2	1	0	0	2	5	2	12	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	LI	0,60%	1,0%	33,33%	1,07%	[illegible]
CH	12	10	0	5	7	3	7	44	44	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	0	3	2	1	1	CH	2,30%	2,00%	25,00%	0,80%	[illegible]
ME	9	18	1	119	137	30	7	330	330	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	1	1	19	13	1	1	ME	16,92%	11,10%	14,70%	1,10%	[illegible]
MK	7	5	4	2	2	1	1	21	21	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	0	4	1	1	0	0	MK	1,10%	1,0%	28,00%	13,61%	[illegible]
TOTAL	362	234	36	401	447	143	154	1777	1673	[illegible]	[illegible]	32	52	26	124	108	20	12	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%		100,00%	[illegible]

Synoptic table of projects submitted and granted per country and action in the period 2014-2017

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020
Report 2014-2017

Applications submitted										Projects selected								Statistic Data				
Country	CSP	NRM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2	TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected	CSP	NRM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2	Country	Applications Submitted in %	Applications Granted in %	Budget MS submitted/ granted per country	Population rate	Population Eurostat 2017
BG	30	11	0	2	0	0	5	51	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	BG	4,34%	0,00%	0,00%	0,11%	[illegible]
CY	34	14	0	13	7	0	0	68	[illegible]	4	7	0	4	1	2	0	CY	1,85%	1,40%	14,1%	1,41%	[illegible]
CZ	32	12	1	3	4	4	4	61	[illegible]	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	CZ	0,50%	0,14%	3,01%	0,73%	[illegible]
DE	110	51	51	15	4	6	12	248	[illegible]	4	7	4	1	0	2	1	DE	2,04%	1,40%	14,1%	1,14%	[illegible]
DK	120	44	8	6	16	16	23	233	[illegible]	3	5	0	2	0	2	0	DK	2,47%	1,18%	0,00%	1,14%	[illegible]
EE	14	0	0	2	2	2	3	23	[illegible]	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	EE	0,28%	0,28%	11,14%	0,14%	[illegible]
EL	38	14	5	43	41	4	4	149	[illegible]	2	4	1	10	11	0	0	EL	2,06%	1,74%	19,94%	2,06%	[illegible]
ES	98	51	22	149	136	17	20	493	[illegible]	7	10	4	48	50	5	7	ES	6,84%	16,75%	21,14%	16,44%	[illegible]
FI	14	4	1	4	2	0	0	25	[illegible]	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	FI	0,37%	0,28%	10,04%	1,14%	[illegible]
FR	17	20	0	6	6	1	1	51	[illegible]	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	FR	0,70%	0,84%	11,74%	0,71%	[illegible]
HR	40	44	1	5	13	27	40	170	[illegible]	4	5	0	1	1	1	4	HR	1,18%	1,28%	19,79%	1,01%	[illegible]
HU	116	113	22	30	44	26	34	385	[illegible]	7	9	2	14	12	0	2	HU	4,04%	5,46%	12,67%	8,83%	[illegible]
IE	10	6	1	1	1	4	1	24	[illegible]	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	IE	0,35%	0,44%	20,04%	1,04%	[illegible]
IT	98	44	42	117	111	18	22	452	[illegible]	4	11	10	22	22	4	3	IT	4,98%	7,13%	13,14%	12,44%	[illegible]
LT	31	44	1	19	29	25	19	168	[illegible]	4	5	0	12	11	5	2	LT	2,46%	3,14%	15,19%	0,80%	[illegible]
LU	130	116	6	161	416	65	74	1172	[illegible]	5	7	1	114	54	10	3	LU	14,14%	15,77%	12,79%	1,87%	[illegible]
LV	17	6	1	4	7	0	1	34	[illegible]	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	LV	0,46%	0,71%	20,44%	0,44%	[illegible]
MT	146	153	12	159	173	116	147	1108	[illegible]	10	14	0	42	50	17	4	MT	13,64%	15,46%	11,14%	11,12%	[illegible]
NL	46	53	0	14	13	0	5	131	[illegible]	4	6	0	1	0	0	1	NL	1,84%	1,28%	11,14%	0,53%	[illegible]
PL	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	PL	0,03%	0,07%	20,04%	0,11%	[illegible]
PT	27	41	0	21	8	12	17	126	[illegible]	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	PT	1,42%	0,49%	9,24%	0,97%	[illegible]
RO	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	[illegible]	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	RO	0,04%	0,14%	40,04%	0,51%	[illegible]
SE	12	7	4	7	4	4	5	43	[illegible]	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	SE	0,16%	0,17%	21,04%	0,95%	[illegible]
SI	30	4	1	12	4	0	4	55	[illegible]	2	2	0	4	5	1	1	SI	0,32%	1,14%	44,94%	0,04%	[illegible]
SK	34	11	4	6	1	4	4	67	[illegible]	4	6	1	1	0	1	1	SK	0,86%	0,63%	14,94%	1,21%	[illegible]
TR	140	169	10	134	97	34	34	622	[illegible]	5	11	1	16	19	4	1	TR	8,38%	7,41%	17,44%	7,21%	[illegible]
UK	38	13	2	13	7	0	7	69	[illegible]	2	1	0	5	1	1	1	UK	0,86%	1,04%	17,04%	1,94%	[illegible]
TOTAL	74	101	1	201	130	35	14	556	[illegible]	4	3	0	58	34	1	0	TOTAL	5,94%	4,47%	17,74%	1,71%	[illegible]
EU	54	37	2	28	32	10	10	169	[illegible]	0	3	0	4	10	1	1	EU	2,04%	1,94%	14,74%	1,34%	[illegible]
NO	14	7	1	4	5	10	7	47	[illegible]	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	NO	0,57%	0,04%	20,14%	1,47%	[illegible]
IS	48	34	0	12	27	10	12	136	[illegible]	3	3	0	4	4	1	1	IS	2,40%	1,04%	13,44%	0,04%	[illegible]
LI	52	79	8	417	412	10	27	1008	[illegible]	2	3	1	105	54	1	1	LI	11,04%	12,21%	15,44%	1,41%	[illegible]
LIE	46	24	17	15	17	3	7	130	[illegible]	4	3	4	4	1	0	1	LIE	1,30%	1,47%	13,04%	11,41%	[illegible]
TOTAL	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	TOTAL	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
				[illegible]		[illegible]							[illegible]		[illegible]							

Legenda
CSP Civil Society Projects
NRM Remembrance Projects
OG Operating Grants
TT1 Town Twinning Phase 1
TT2 Town Twinning Phase 2
NT1 Network of Towns Phase 1
NT2 Network of Towns Phase 2

Ref. Ares(2019)2319688 - 21/03/2019

European Commission

Europe for citizens Programme

Results 2018

Europe for citizens

Report 2018

2018 AT A GLANCE

1796 applications submitted within the EFC programme

1638 applications submitted within action and operating grants (RBM, TT, NT, CSP)

417 applications selected (of which **388** for action grants RBM, TT, NT, CSP and operating grants)

Average success rate of **23 %** (22 % within action grants for RBM, TT, NT, CSP)

Applicant organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

Beneficiary organisations are established in **all EU Member States except EE**

Partner organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

IT, HU, SK, FR, RO, DE and **PL** are the countries that submitted the highest number of applications (61 % in total)

IT, FR, HU, SK, DE, PL and **RO** are the countries with the highest number of applications selected (64 % in total)

CY, LU and **SE** have the highest success rate per country (ratio submitted/selected per country for action grant) among Member States

2243 partner organisations directly involved in the EFC projects selected in 2018

An average of **5.4 partners** per project in TT and **8 partners** in all other actions (more than **11 partners** for NT)

Placement for **240 members** of the **European Solidarity Corps** approved in 2017

10 members of the **European Solidarity Corps** already recruited and operational in 2017

Average grant per project				
OG	NT	CIV	RBM	TT
€ 222.628	€ 142.423	€ 134.904	€91.097	€ 16.936

Around **60 %** of the projects selected in 2018 focused on the debate on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism

LU, DE, IE, ES, MT, SE, EE, FI and **HU** are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is above 80 %

BG, EL, CZ, UK and **IT** are the countries where the feeling of being European citizens is below 60 %

2014-2018 AT A GLANCE

Beneficiary organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

HU, PL, IT and **SK** are the countries that submit the highest number of applications (50% in total)

HU, IT, SK, DE, FR and **PL** are the countries with the highest number of applications selected (62% in total)

MT, LU, IE, DE and **FR** have the highest success rate per country (ratio submitted/selected by country) within Member States

10044 partner organisations directly involved in EPC projects selected in 2014 - 2017

An average of **5 partners** per project in TT and **8 partners** in all other actions

Average grant per project				
OG	NT	CIV	REM	TT
€ 194.600	€ 155.885	€ 130.130	€ 89.000	€ 16.700

Total grants awarded according to the Decisions taken so far amount to **€ 114.618.155**

Projects mainly focused on:

Debate on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism

Migration, social inclusion and solidarity in times of crises

PART A

RESULTS 2018

STRAND 1: EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

European Remembrance Projects

In 2018 the implemented European Remembrance projects demonstrated their added value to a reflection on **EU common values** in the broadest sense (such as liberty, democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights) as well as on European cultural diversity. Commemorating major turning points in European history offered an opportunity to link the past to the present and the future. Projects implemented in 2018 show that no "Future of Europe" can be envisioned without a clear knowledge and some shared understanding of the past, and proper analysis of the present. Thanks to the efforts of European Remembrance organisations, different perspectives are shared on a European common history, and a stronger sense of community and solidarity is built among European citizens.

In particular in 2018 the Agency monitored the impact and results of the European Remembrance projects selected in 2016 (27 out of 37 projects closed in 2018), in 2017 (11 projects out of 39 closed in 2018) and successfully carried out the 2018 selection round with 37 proposals awarded grants.

These monitoring activities confirmed the **high quality** of the implemented projects – a result of the very competitive selection process – reflected in the high funding threshold of 82.5 for the relevant years 2016-2018. In addition, the projects analyzed conveyed a **strong European dimension** due to the following characteristics:

1) **The themes** – providing a strong link between the past and the present and dealing with recurrent issues such as racism, genocide and anti-tolerant behavior.

The project "1918: At the end of a war. The outcome of the First World War in seven European homelands" carried out by the "Opladener Geschichtsverein von 1979 e.V. Leverkusen" contributed to a deeper understanding of the meaning and consequences of war in general and the First World War in particular, at a local level as well as in a comparative perspective across Europe. It portrayed the ends of the First World War and the new beginnings after the war in seven European homelands, notably Jülich, Leverkusen and Schwedt (Germany), Brocknell (United Kingdom), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Raciborz (Poland) and Villeneuve d'Ascq (France). Focuses were economy, military, church, youth, politics and public life in each local context and the distinct forms of remembrance of the First World War. The results were presented in the exhibition in Leverkusen, accompanied by a diverse programme of lectures, discussions and guided tours. Additionally, the book "Kriegsenden in europäischen Heimaten" and the exhibition catalogue "The ends of the war in European homelands" in English, German and French were published.

2) **The strong partnership** (average number of 5-6 partners per project and a good variety of organizations involved (Civil Society Organizations, Survivors' Association, Cultural/Youth/Educational/Research organizations; public authorities etc.).

The initiative "The Voice from the Past – Recalling Memories in Diversity" led by the Comune Di Geraci Siculo was based on a transnational effort by 10 partner organisations from IT, PL, ES, DE, AL, PT, BG, EE, EL and RO with diverse backgrounds in civil society, academia or educational / media organisations. The commemoration of the victims of totalitarian regimes and the situation of minorities under totalitarian regimes went beyond the national perspective through youth forums, reconciliation events and the exhibition.

3) **The capacity to overcome the local dimension**: for example by a wide geographical outreach, by reflecting on a specific target group that was persecuted, discriminated against or antagonized, or by focusing on specific themes such as art or music in a transnational or European perspective.

The 2016 project "Roma History Remembrance project: for the benefit of the victims of Nazism" gave recognition to Roma victims of Nazi persecution in occupied countries during the Second World War and raised awareness of the Roma Holocaust. Taking the Roma victims in Latvia as a starting point, testimonials made by video interviews of living witnesses and victims, Roma conferences and an iterant exhibition gave a voice to the transnational remembrance of the Roma genocide - a tragedy of history that to this day has not yet been fully explored - often not even mentioned in school books.

4) **The focus on the European younger generation.** Young people represent a specific objective of the European Remembrance strand, as it is young people who build the future. By involving them in discussions about shared history, European Remembrance projects help young people to fully understand that the struggle for democracy, freedom and peace is part of Europe's very recent history and that the rights we enjoy now can never be taken for granted.

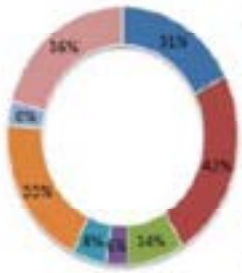
The project "Anatomy of Ostracism", implemented by the Finnish organisation "RKI – Rauhankasvatusinstituuti", strengthened dialogue among European youth and raised the issue of discrimination and ostracism in today's Europe. It increased young people's understanding of ostracism from a historical angle, notably by examining dehumanization processes in European societies in the last 100 years in four training courses. Newly developed participatory citizenship educational tools had a great impact among youth workers, teachers and other youth professionals in Finland and Serbia. The testimonial of a participant confirms this: she felt herself empowered to address in practice different forms of social exclusion and discrimination, because workshop trainers and facilitators were "practicing what they were preaching" and demonstrated how a safe and inclusive space can be created in classrooms and youth areas.

The 2018 project selection round demonstrated the **maturity** of the European Remembrance projects at this stage of the programme implementation. The funded initiatives empower citizens, bring Europe to the local level and help the voices of citizens be heard by local, national and EU institutions, encouraging tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means to move beyond the past and build the future.

The 357 eligible proposals submitted were characterised by a wide geographical coverage, representing 31 of 33 Programme countries eligible at the time of the selection (only Denmark and Luxemburg were absent). For the first time within this Programme, a proposal from a Cypriot organisation was awarded a grant within the European Remembrance Strand. Around 25% more applications were submitted than in 2017, mainly due to applications from Germany and Romania. This has led to a better geographical balance. This was also reflected in the **37 projects awarded a grant**, representing a good geographical coverage (**23 Programme countries** out of 31 at application level).

The considerable **increase** in the number of applications is possibly explained by the '**popularity**' of the priorities linked to the 2018 commemorations (1918 end of WWI; 1938/39 beginning of WWII; 1948 beginning of the Cold War; 1948 The Hague Congress; 1968 protest and civil rights movements) that were addressed by the applicants.

Overall the **priorities** were treated in the same ratio as follows - both for the applications submitted and for funded projects:



- 1918 The end of the WWI – the rise of nation states and the failure to create a European cooperation and peaceful coexistence
- 1938/1939 Beginning of WWII
- 1948 Beginning of the Cold War
- 1948 The Hague Congress and the integration of Europe
- 1968 Protest and civil rights movements, invasion to Czechoslovakia, student protests and anti-Semitic campaign in Poland
- Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes
- Democratic transition and accession to the European Union
- Antisemitism, Anti-Gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing lessons for today

In these projects, the commemoration of major historical turning points is mostly coupled with the other three multi-annual priorities. As in 2017, the funded projects successfully link past and present and combine the specific commemoration with a discussion of the values on which the European Union is built.

The **quality of the projects** submitted remained high, as reflected in the stable funding threshold of 82.5 – the same as in 2016 and 2017 – resulting in a highly competitive selection process. This demonstrates the success of the action and shows that many other projects below the threshold would deserve to be granted if more budgetary resources were available.

The project "30 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain" was implemented by the Slovakian organisation Post Bellum: taking its starting point as 1989, a crucial year for European history, the project's activities provoke reflection on the totalitarian past as well as on the current rise of extreme right and populist movements in European societies. Also, the project "Monuments of remembrance. 1918-2018" coordinated by the Polish organisation "Fundacja Krzyżowa Dla Porozumienia Europejskiego" raises awareness of the role that memory plays in shaping identity and values, by referring to monuments as visible signs of memory.

STRAND 2: DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Town Twinning

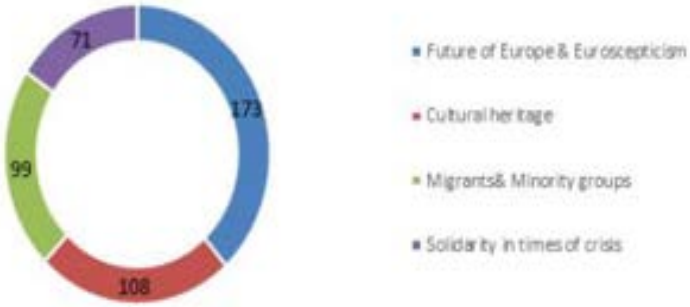
Town Twinning Selections 2018

Following the trend of previous years, the majority of applications continue to come from Eastern Europe, in particular Hungary and Slovakia who together represent 42% of the total number of submitted applications, followed by Italy (14%) and Romania (8%). The wide geographical distribution is shown by the fact that **27 countries** participated in 2018 selections **as applicants** and that **all programme countries (34)** were involved as partner organisations. It is also important to note that **Kosovo[1] is participating in the programme for the first time**. An overall 27% decrease in applications can be seen, mainly due to the lower participation of Hungary and Slovakia. This, however, contributed to a better geographical distribution, as well as to a better action success rate **(38% in 2018 compared to 27% in 2017)**.

The **255 TT projects** selected in 2018 brought around **1380 partner organisations** together, representing a wide diversity of partnerships (municipalities, regions, NGOs, twinning committees, Foundations, Associations). The geographical spread of the selected projects shows that 25 countries are represented as beneficiaries, involving partners from **33 programme countries**. The average grant awarded per TT project in 2018 was **€ 16 936**. Although there is a constant increase in the average value of grant per TT project, it is important to note that the action continues to support projects with a small budget. **Grants of between € 5 000 and € 10 000 were awarded to 32% of the selected projects**.

The selected initiatives will not only reach, but also **actively involve** citizens **both at local and EU level, by engaging them in discussions about hotly debated topics of today**.

Priorities addressed by TT beneficiaries in 2018
(Number of selected projects tackling programme priorities)



Project beneficiaries managed to **successfully combine different programme priorities** looking for synergies and concrete outputs. The programme priority **"Debating the Future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism"** remained at the centre of attention, as it was addressed by the highest number of beneficiaries, many of whom specifically highlighted the importance of participation in the upcoming 2019 EP elections. **It is worth noting that 2018 was the European Year of Cultural Heritage**. This initiative encourages people to discover the universal value of cultural heritage as well as strengthen their belonging to the European community. As a programme annual priority, it was successfully taken up by project beneficiaries who focused on the promotion of tolerance and EU values and used culture as a tool to address current challenges. Many programme beneficiaries also chose to address the topic of cultural heritage from the **Remembrance point of view**, raising awareness of European cultural diversity, our common values and history, commemorating historical events, as well as promoting reconciliation. In order to give further visibility to the programme

1 This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

and to underline its links to the '2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage', the beneficiaries were informed about the opportunity to apply for the **European Year of Cultural Heritage label**.

Town Twinning projects implementation 2018

More than **200 Town Twinning** projects were carried out in 2018. These projects managed to mobilize around **85 000 citizens** all over the Europe, who directly participated in EU debates around the 'Europe for citizens' programme priorities. The figures are even more impressive considering the number of citizens who were reached indirectly – around **6 000 000** (i.e. through the dissemination/follow-up activities and new communication channels such as facebook, twitter, project website etc.) It is important to stress that **all age groups** were actively involved in the project activities, thus reflecting equal access to the programme and contributing to better intergenerational dialogue. 10% of participants were aged below 30.

Among the **projects implemented and monitored in 2018**, the following **TT flagship initiatives** are of particular note:

Project Title: Gib dem Frieden dein Gesicht – Jugend für Miteinander und Solidarität in Europa

Organisation: Städte-Partnerschaftsverein Ebensee (AT)

Partners: Italy, Poland

Date of project event: 03.05.2018 – 07.05.2018

Grant awarded: € 25 000

The project Gib dem Frieden dein Gesicht took part in the municipality of Ebensee and built upon a strong cooperation across borders and languages. The project emphasized the recognition of how the past, present and future are linked together, as well as the importance of historical awareness. Throughout the event, participants agreed that learning from past mistakes and the active engagement of youth are both vital for creating a better future. Local students together with more than 170 international participants from Poland and Italy visited the Zeitgeschichte Museum Ebensee, a former Concentration Camp, in order to commemorate and face past events together. An evening concert was also organized, including the presentation of a piece for orchestra, specially composed of pupils' texts.

Testimonies from participants:

'Es wird unsere Aufgabe sein dafür zu sorgen, dass die Zukunft nie wieder zu einer solch schrecklichen Vergangenheit werden kann.' – (It is our job to ensure that such terrible historical events will never come to pass again.)

'Es war eine interessante Gelegenheit mit Jugendlichen aus anderen Ländern zu reden und zu diskutieren. Es sollte solche Gelegenheiten öfter geben.' – (It was an interesting opportunity to talk and have a discussion with young people from other countries, and such opportunities should be given more often.)

Project Title: Cooltural Partnership to strengthen the sense of belonging to the European Community

Organisation: Gmina Sosnowiec (PL)

Partners: Hungary, Romania

Date of project event: 08/10/2018 – 12/10/2018

Grant awarded: € 5 040

A 5-day event coordinated by the municipality of Sosnowiec (PL) brought partner organisations from Poland, Hungary and Romania together to promote intercultural dialogue, develop opportunities for engagement and thus contribute to the well-being of the citizens of the EU. Young people, senior citizens, people who were not involved in community life, and non-governmental organizations all actively participated in interactive debates organized around the topics of Euroscepticism and the future of Europe. Participants also emphasized the key role of cultural heritage in forming our national identity and agreed on its vital role in our common European future. Integration activities, a European picnic with the participation of a large audience, as well as various cultural visits all enriched the discussions and gave added value to the project. This project received the European Year of Cultural Heritage label.

Testimonies from participants:

'Participation in the project has made me aware of the importance of the European Union and of the benefits it brings to its citizens. I want to learn from peers across Europe, to discover differences between us and to accept them'

Project Title : MOVE – For A More Visible Europe – 9th European Picnic

Organisation : Municipality of Březová (CZ)

Partners : Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia

Date of project event : 31.08.2018 – 02.09. 2018

Grant awarded : € 25 000

The 9th edition of the European picnic brought 25 Municipalities from 10 countries together to support international partnerships, create opportunities for joint engagement and volunteering at EU level.

A presentation and interactive discussion was held around the 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring. Participants were invited to reflect on the international conditions and consequences, and agreed on its vital historical role in the chain of events through 1945-1956-1968-1989. Other activities focused on the topics of migration, solidarity, national interests and climate change. Discussions on the Future of Europe highlighted the importance of the triad of unity-solidarity-cohesion and led to the conclusion that solidarity and cohesion have a key role in building a stronger, united Europe. A questionnaire "who knows more about Europe" also helped to improve participants' knowledge about the EU. The 3-day program was also rich in intercultural performances which brought the different communities closer to each other. The success of the project on the European level can be measured by the high number of international participants (236) together with about 800 locals as well as the 65 000 citizens who were involved indirectly. .

Testimonies from participants:

"I did know about the Prague Spring, but I did not know so many details and especially international connections, conditions and consequences. Now I see the event much more clearly and how important it was. It was an important step towards democratic revolution in 1989."

"It was very interesting to take part in the discussions about the future of Europe; and unity, solidarity and cohesion being important ingredients of it. I am from Serbia, so I am interested to join EU as fast as possible; it is also our national interest!"

Network of Towns

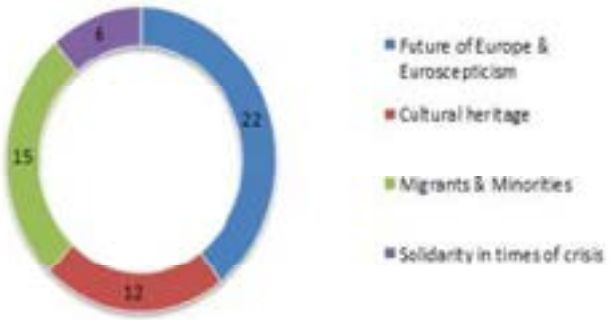
Networks of Towns Selection 2018

As in the previous year, Italy demonstrated the highest interest in the Networks of Towns action, representing 20% of the submitted applications, followed by Spain (9%) and Hungary (9%). In total **29 eligible programme** countries participated in the NT 2018 selections **as applicants**.

Under this action **35 projects** were selected for funding in 2018 involving **18 programme countries as beneficiaries**. The geographical spread of these projects is even more impressive if we look at the partner organisations involved, which represent **all eligible programme countries (34)**. The selected projects intend to involve **385 partner organisations** and are characterised by large, diversified and strong partnerships (i.e. in average **11 partner organisations** per selected project).

The **average grant** per selected NT project is **€ 142 423**.

Priorities addressed by NT beneficiaries in 2018
(Number of selected projects tackling programme priorities)



As TT beneficiaries, projects selected under the NT action also managed to **successfully combine different programme priorities** looking for synergies and concrete outputs. The programme priority **"Debating the Future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism"** was addressed by the highest number of beneficiaries (63%), with special focus on the involvement of youth in EU decision-making, the importance of the 2019 EP elections, as well as challenging Euroscepticism. It is also worth noting that **34% of beneficiaries** successfully responded to the programme annual priority **"2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage"**, who through a cultural approach managed to implement the programme objectives, strengthen European identity and a sense of belonging to the European community. Issues related **to the migration crisis, stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups** also remained at the centre of beneficiaries' activities (**43%**).

Networks of Towns projects implementation 2018

35 NT projects (selected in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017) were finalised in 2018, involving **more than 300 partner organisations** and bringing together a variety of types of actors (i.e. NGOs, municipalities, regions, villages, civil society organisations, experts, volunteers etc.) These projects mobilised around **30 000 direct participants** who took part in more than **220 networking meetings** organised all over the Europe. Thanks to the dissemination of the project results and their follow-up activities, around **4.7 million** citizens were reached indirectly.

The established networks focused on different issues representing the challenges faced not only in big urban centres but also in small localities and rural areas. The following themes and programme priorities were addressed by NT beneficiaries:

28% of projects tackled issues related to **migration**, which was addressed from different angles:

- **migration and its impact on societies** by combatting stigmatisation of migrants, stereotypes and growing Euroscepticism, by stimulating the debate on tolerance and solidarity, by understanding the causes and background of migration;
- **migration and solidarity mechanisms/integration of immigrants** – The NT beneficiaries also reflected on solidarity mechanisms and volunteering, presenting concrete policies implemented locally and regionally with regards to the integration of immigrants in the labour market and society. The integration of migrants and its positive impact on local development were also demonstrated by the implemented NT projects.

26% of projects put an emphasis on **civic participation**, notably: encouraging active participation of young people in local governance; civic participation and volunteering; citizens' engagement for resilience and sustainability; exchanges of good practices and new methods of civic participation.

20% of projects focused their activities on **solidarity** issues, promoting volunteering and exchange of good practices: EU solidarity models for sustainability; exchange of volunteering practices; integration of minorities and other disadvantaged groups. Moreover, besides exchanges of concrete solidarity mechanisms, these projects also managed to involve citizens in the debate around issues such as humanism, common EU values, and approaching solidarity and tolerance as tools to fight against populism and extremism.

18% of projects debated the **Future and Europe** and the challenges that the EU project is facing today. These projects emphasised on the benefits of EU integration, debated the four freedoms of the EU, but also reflected on the causes of growing Euroscepticism, Brexit and its consequences. The role of the younger generation was particular emphasised: young people succeeded in expressing their opinions and managed to establish a constructive dialogue not only with national authorities but also with EU institutions.

8% of projects were focused on cultural heritage and its impact on local/regional development as well as intercultural dialogue as a tool for integration, tolerance and solidarity.

Among the **projects implemented and monitored in 2018**, the following **NT flagship initiatives** are worthy of note:

Project Title: Se souvenir de l'Avenir

Organisation: Commune de Loches (FR)

Partners: IT, DE, BE, FR, NL, HU, BG, PL, PT, ES, UK, RO, SL, CZ, SK, LV

Date of project event: 19.08.2018 – 15.07. 2018

Grant awarded: € 150 000

The project Se souvenir de l'Avenir was launched and coordinated by the city of Loches, with the support of five towns in the Centre-Val de Loire region of France and their respective twin towns throughout Europe. It drew upon a wide network of partners, involving more than 600 invited citizens from the 28 EU Member States as well as 1 252 participants from the host towns. The project revolved around six meetings with the main objective to ensure that young citizens take ownership of their European identity, get involved and contribute to the future of Europe. By taking part in interactive discussions, workshops and intercultural exchanges, young people were able to widen their knowledge of hotly-debated topics surrounding the EU, including migration and Euroscepticism. They enabled participants to form constructive opinions of the EU and to share their hopes and fears. On the other hand, the participants were also reminded of the reasons why the EU was constructed, its achievements and why it is worth to invest in it and contribute to its future.

Unit C1 worked closely with DG COMM to promote an initiative launched by the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. The now widespread movement known as "Citizens' Dialogue" is a public debate forum that allows citizens to make their voice heard at EU level and share their views with decision-makers all over Europe. In this context, the final event of the project "Se souvenir de l'Avenir" involved the participation of Mrs Sixtine Bouygues (Deputy Director-General in DG Communication) who participated in a Citizens' Dialogue taking place as part of our programme. The debate took the form of a question and answer session where young people could ask Mrs Bouygues questions, reflect on how EU policies affect them, and share their vision and expectations for the future. Her participation was greatly appreciated by the younger generation, as they highlighted that her presence made the EU less inaccessible. Furthermore it was the first time that a Deputy Director-General attended a citizens' dialogue organised with the help of the Europe for Citizens programme. The event proved to be a success, bringing together 237 youngsters from 27 countries. Such debates are of special importance as they not only promote dialogue between young people, their municipalities and the EU, but also provide the opportunity for the younger generation to get actively involved.

Testimonies from participants:

"Ce projet nous permet d'intégrer les principes que la culture européenne incarne : la tolérance, l'amitié, la convivialité et aussi la force de garder nos traditions, nos coutumes et de les enrichir en dialoguant avec les citoyens d'autres cultures. Je pense que c'est une chance d'être européen."

"Mon sentiment très personnel, c'est que nous sommes dans une période qui suscite des doutes. L'idéal européen, je crois, existe malgré tout. Au sein de notre association, le sentiment d'appartenance européenne est déjà là. Mais il faut se battre aussi bien sur un plan humain que sur un plan institutionnel. Quand on rencontre l'autre, on s'aperçoit d'abord qu'on n'est pas si différent que cela, et ensuite on voit nos différences. Cette diversité est une richesse, elle est créative. Il ne faut pas vouloir l'effacer."

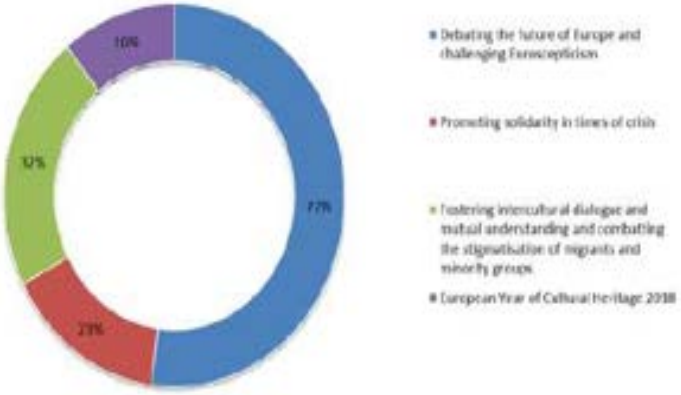
Civil Society Projects

In 2018 the Agency monitored around **100 Civil Society projects** involving around 585 partners from almost all Member States[2]. This monitoring once again showed the Civil Society strand's firm **engagement with EU citizens**: through an analysis of the final results, the monitoring of open projects and the selection of new projects, the Agency noted that the organisations address **citizens' concerns and interests**, even as these evolve through the years.

Pictures from the Swedish 2017 project 'FORA – development of European cultural citizenship via culture-based debate and policy making for Action Plan on Integration'

The projects selected in 2018 covered the priorities as follows. In most cases, projects addressed more than one priority; this approach reflects the complexity of such projects that aim to engage citizens in active participation.

Priorities addressed by CSP beneficiaries in 2018
(Number of selected projects tackling programme priorities)



As in previous years, the 2018 selection again showed Civil Society Organisations' substantial engagement with the priority 'Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism'. It underlined the CSOs' commitment to a major rethinking of the EU. More specifically this year, applicants have chosen to focus their work on preparing for the **European Parliament elections** in May 2019.

The **31 projects** that received grants represent a remarkable **geographical coverage** (19 out of 33 countries represented, 31 at partner level); they are well structured, with large partnerships (around **190 partners** involved, mostly grassroots organisations from

2 Except Luxembourg

almost all participating countries) and cover all the thematic priorities highlighted in the initial call for proposals.

The 2018 threshold for funding remains high: 82.5/100 — which is slightly higher than in 2017. This reflects the high quality of the applications submitted. It also means that many more projects would deserve to receive grants, were more budgetary resources available.

After the UK referendum on European Union membership, and in the context of rising populist movements, the projects selected in 2017 already focused on the issue of **democratic participation**. The projects address the general mistrust in democracy, and see democratic participation as a tool to face challenges such as migration, populism and xenophobia.

The ongoing UK project "Citizens' assemblies to renew engagement for the Future of Europe" noted the need to develop effective citizen participation to reduce the distance felt by many EU citizens from EU institutions, and to challenge the rise of Euroscepticism.

Within the project, an innovative, deliberative democratic instrument is being developed and evaluated: an EU form of Citizens Assembly (CA) allows regular citizens, rather than special interest groups, to participate in the agenda-setting process in a structured and informed way.

The project raises awareness among citizens and facilitates positive citizen participation in the EU's democratic future through policy recommendations.

Participants understood that the EU invests in regular citizens in Europe through programmes like this one.

We discovered new ways to participate in politics apart from the traditional ones (political parties, voting in elections, demonstrations, etc.), like Europe for Citizens programme and citizens' platforms.

(statements by the organisation and participants of the 2017 project "Active Democratic Change in EU Society" coordinated by the Asociación Juvenil Inter).

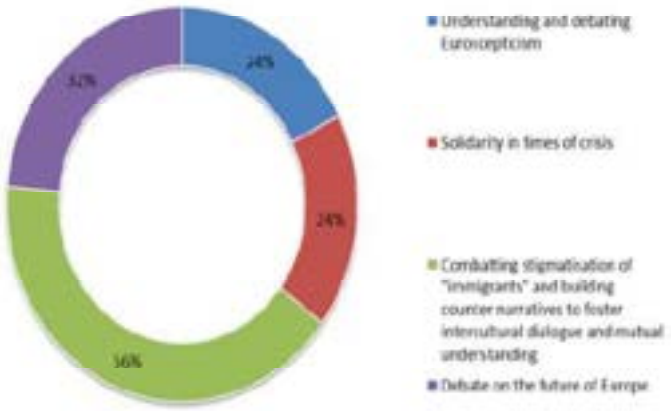
Pictures from the 2017 project "Active Democratic Change in EU Society"

Of the 27 projects from the 2017 selection, 24 are ongoing and three were already closed in 2018.

The projects finalised in 2018, which came mainly from the **2016 selection**, showed how, thanks to the support of the Europe for Citizens programme, 28 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and their 190 partners were able to carry out their engagement activities and reach citizens in **214 events**.

The projects finalised in 2018 covered the priorities as follows. In most cases, projects addressed more than one priority; this approach reflects the complexity of such projects that aim to engage citizens in active participation.

Priorities addressed by CSP projects finalised in 2018 and selected in 2016 or 2017



The projects' activities focused mainly on the two first annual priorities. The projects looked into the future of Europe and examined threats to democracy. A series of debates explored different ways to enhance citizens' participation in defining policies, enhanced understanding of the functioning of the EU and the development of civic participation generally, in particular for communities which have less access to information and influence. The projects explored innovative tools to reach out to as many citizens as possible and make it easier for them to get involved through virtual exchanges, online debates, social networks, webinars, the development of media literacy, vlogging (video blogging), e-participation, online platforms and crowdsourcing.

The Lithuanian project "The Road of the Citizen in the Mirror of History" follows the 2013 project "Road of the Citizen", which was supported by the Europe for Citizens Programme. It focused on a dialogue between different generations to promote a better understanding of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the EU, and on organising public conferences. Encouraging participants to be more conscious about the freedom and rights they enjoy as European citizens enables them to spread these rights and to defend them.

Participants had the opportunity to interview each other (young and old together), share stories about their experiences of Human Rights violations in former repressive systems, as well as interview experts who commented on how these rights are now granted by the EU. Young people considered what would happen if these rights were taken away from them.

The project received international recognition with the "European award for citizenship, security and defence" prize in Berlin in 2017. This annual prize, which is supported by the Council of Europe, rewards outstanding efforts towards promoting European citizenship, and European security and defence awareness.

Source: forumoteotras.lt

OPERATING GRANTS

END OF THE OLD PARTNERSHIP 2014-2017

In 2018 the 2014-2017 Framework Partnership was closed, and the organisations presented reports for activities implemented in 2017 - the last year of the cooperation.

The end of the partnership was the right moment for a reflection and celebration of what has been accomplished. A brochure 'Success stories from beneficiaries of the operating grants framework 2014-2017' was produced. This concise publication contains facts and figures for the period, but also interesting stories, quotes and pictures. It highlights the results that organisations were able to achieve thanks to their grant, and describes the activities implemented within Europe for Citizens Programme.

BEGINNING OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP 2018-2020

2018 was also the beginning of a new three-year Framework Partnership 2018-2020, awarded to 30 organisations.

The Agency organised a kick-off meeting with all the beneficiaries of this new Partnership. It was a great opportunity to meet and exchange.

Throughout the year, the Agency followed the implementation of the work programmes.

The organisations worked successfully on the established Programme priorities, with a special focus on the debate on the Future of Europe – in many cases linked to Brexit – and migration issues.

Activities took the form of public debates, publications, workshops as well as research and comparative analysis. Overall, in the course of 2018, the organisations encouraged and facilitated citizens' involvement in the democratic process, raised awareness of EU issues and contributed to European policy debates.

A wide spectrum of subjects and activities covered by the beneficiaries of the operating grants can be illustrated by two very different organisations: Paideia, a recipient of the grant under strand 1: European Remembrance, and the Institute of International and European Affairs selected under strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation.

***Paideia** is a Swedish organisation whose mission is to actively promote the renewal and flourishing of European Jewish cultural and intellectual life. 2018 brought renewed focus on the ramifications of Jewish migration from Poland and Czechoslovakia in 1968.*

Paideia held a conference: 1989–2019 Jews in Post-communist Europe. This conference, marking 30 years from the fall of the Berlin Wall, focused on the Jews of post-communist Europe as communities, individuals, activists, migrants, agents of change and cultural awakening, and targets of transition, anti-Semitism and renewed memory. For them, 1989 was a milestone not only in European and global history, but in Jewish history too.

The conference aimed to take stock of historical processes, challenges and concerns, including the grave concerns of renewed hostility to Jews and to Israel, and the more positive challenges of new freedom, cultural creativity and the realignment of memory. Sweden's unique vantage point in this historical realignment was included in the conference discussions.

Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden, is a crucial player in the renewal of Jewish cultural life in Europe, embedded in its longstanding education and activist work with students, cultural centres and active intellectual work across Europe, and was uniquely positioned to host this path-breaking meeting, along with partners in Sweden and beyond. 1989–2019: Jews in Post-Communist Europe set to explore and analyse contemporary Jewish life in post-communist Europe and beyond.

***The Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA)** is Ireland's leading think tank on European and international affairs. It is an independent, not-for-profit organisation with charitable status. Its aim is to provide a forum for those with an interest in strategic planning in Irish Foreign and EU policy, and to evaluate and disseminate strategic policy options in these areas.*

In 2018 one of the priority areas for IIEA was 'The Future of the EU27': a major project which aims to identify and analyse emerging trends in EU policy, examine their impact on Ireland, and identify strategic alliances for Ireland within an EU of 27. Citizen engagement is a central element of this project: all events are open to the public, a number of regional events will be held as part of the lecture series, and a suite of publications will be created which will be designed to be accessible to members of the public. Another important priority area was Brexit: Examining the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and its implications for Ireland, the EU and the UK. Work in this area is designed to complement and feed into the work on the Future of the EU27.

Every year IIEA publishes a number of timely publications which are free to download from the organisation's website. Notable 2018 publications include:

Shaping social policy: what role for the EU? in which two key questions for European social policy are examined: "What challenges should our countries tackle together?" and "What added value can EU level instruments provide in this struggle?

EU enlargement to the Western Balkans: towards 2025 & beyond. In this paper, which is part of the Future of the EU27 Project, the European Commission's Western Balkans Strategy is presented, exploring the context and challenges surrounding this new perspective for EU enlargement.

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

European Solidarity Corps Initiative within the "Europe for Citizens" programme

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) Initiative was announced by President Juncker at his State of the Union speech in September 2016 and officially launched by the Commission on 7 December 2017 with the aim to give young people across the EU the opportunity to volunteer where help is needed and to respond to crisis situations.

In its **initial phase** this initiative was implemented through eight contributing programmes, of which the Europe for Citizens programme was one of the first in 2017 to incorporate this new feature in the 2017 calls for proposals. Since October 2018, the European Solidarity Corps initiative has its own legal framework. The Europe for Citizens programme continued its support to this initiative in 2018: beneficiaries were invited to raise awareness of the European Solidarity Corps and involve it in the measures **"European Remembrance", "Civil Society Projects" and "Operating Grants"**.

Within the **European Remembrance projects**, European Solidarity Corps members are mainly involved in learning about active and intercultural Remembrance through participation in research activities, guided tours, organisation of webinars and debates. For instance, the 2017 project "Europeans win ostracism: from remembrance to a dialogue society" – also called E-WORDS – particularly addresses the younger generations with the aim of providing them with a sound understanding of the historical and political processes which led to totalitarian regimes in 20th century Europe. Mrs Alessandra Vinaiv, coordinator of the project which was granted to the "University of Siena - Department of Political ad International Science" said:

"It has been a real pleasure to work with all our ESC volunteers. I can affirm with no doubt that ESC volunteers and E-WORDS benefited one another: the young Europeans from the participation in a dynamic, innovative and very up to date project; the partnership from their eagerness, enthusiasm and skills. Considering that E-Words is now close to its end, I can surely say that work on awareness raising on European social values and human rights would have made less sense without the contribution of our young ESC".

Volunteers also expressed their enthusiasm for being part of the European Solidarity Corps initiative and described their main learning achievements in the following way:

"It was an amazing experience, not only because I could acquire new skills in organizing youth related political education events and all sorts of PR-activities, but also because I had the opportunity to gain insight into so many different perspectives on Europe's past, learning for a better common future" - said European Solidarity Corps Member Lorenzo Blumenthaler.

Michela Makcouw added *"I took care mainly of the management part of the project and I acquired both organizational and administrative skills (being involved in management, purchases and sales). Having participated in an international project was also a very important experience in my CV, for my involvement in future projects and with reference to future job opportunities".*

Within the **Civil Society projects**, European Solidarity Corps members are mainly involved in the organization and preparation of conferences, management of online media channels, dissemination of project results, and editing newsletter and webpage content. Besides acquiring skills in project management, Corps members learn about the status of civil society in different countries, as well as about public participation in policy making within an international context.

The project 'Active Democratic Change in EU Society' implemented by the Spanish association Juvenil Inter is an example: as the overall project aim was to bridge the gap between citizens and EU policy makers, the Solidarity Corps members not only learned about the EU, EU programmes and fundamental rights, but also gained a general insight into democracy, anti-corruption and transparency policies.

Finally, it was appreciated that think tanks which were supported through Operating Grants put their experience at the service of the European Solidarity Corps initiative, proposing seminars on EU subjects for Corps members, alongside hosting European Solidarity Corps members in their activities.

For example, in 2018, the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) organised two information sessions on the European Solidarity Corps, in order to present this EU initiative to a group of young people and present the possibilities for volunteering, traineeships and job opportunities. These sessions presented the ESC as a way of fostering civic engagement in a wide range of topics, e.g. environment, migrants and asylum seekers, cultural heritage and social inclusion.

PART B

Quantitative information

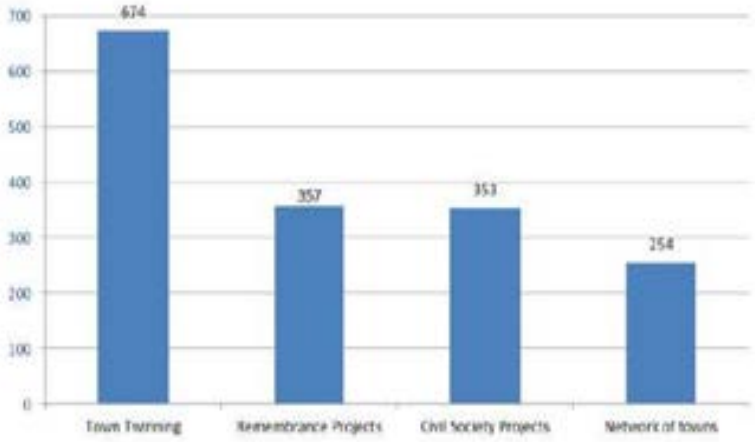
Europe for citizens programme: follow up selection and contracts (2018)

Europe for citizens programme follow up selection and contracts (2018)											
Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget	Number of	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of ineligible application	Number of selected application	Success rate	Decision date	Amount of Decision (euros)
Strand 1 – European remembrance and European citizenship											
1.1.	Remembrance projects	5.715.115	44	Call EACEA 40/2017 – Programme Guide	1/03/2018	357	0	37	10%	17/07/2018	5.170.600
1.2.	Structural support think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1.213.467	6	CALL EACEA 35/2017	18/08/2017	23	0	6	26%	1/02/2018	1.291.900
Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation											
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings – phase 1	4.619.141	295	Call EACEA 40/2017 – Programme Guide	1/03/2018	362	0	137	36%	21/06/2018	2.244.025
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings – phase 2				3/09/2018	292	0	118	40%	14/12/2018	2.074.700
						654	0	255	38%	4.318.725	4.325.500
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns – phase 1	4.515.080	38	Call EACEA 40/2017 – Programme Guide	1/03/2018	113	4	19	17%	5/07/2018	2.730.480
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns – phase 2				3/09/2018	141	2	16	11%	14/12/2018	2.254.320
						254	6	35	14%		4.984.800
2.3.	Civil society projects	3.533.392	31	Call EACEA 40/2017 – Programme Guide	1/03/2018	355	0	31	9%	26/07/2018	4.213.110
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5.627.984	31	CALL EACEA 33/2017	18/08/2017	106	0	24	23%	1/02/2018	5.518.505
Strand 3 – Valorisation											
5.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900.000	33	Designated bodies EACEA 31/2017	15/11/2017	29	0	29	100%	22/12/2017	782.500
4.1.	Support to project selection	200.000	na	na							
	TOTAL WP 2018	24.524.179	478			1796	6	417	23%		24.480.138 *

Applications submitted in 2018

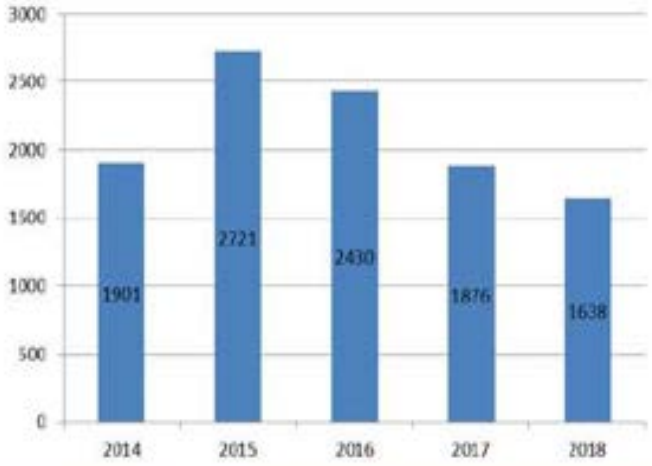
A total of 1638 applications were submitted within action grants. Furthermore, 129 applications were presented within Operating grants and 29 were submitted by 'Europe for Citizens' Contact Points that renewed their partnership. Therefor a total of 1796 applications were submitted in 2018.

- ## Overview per action



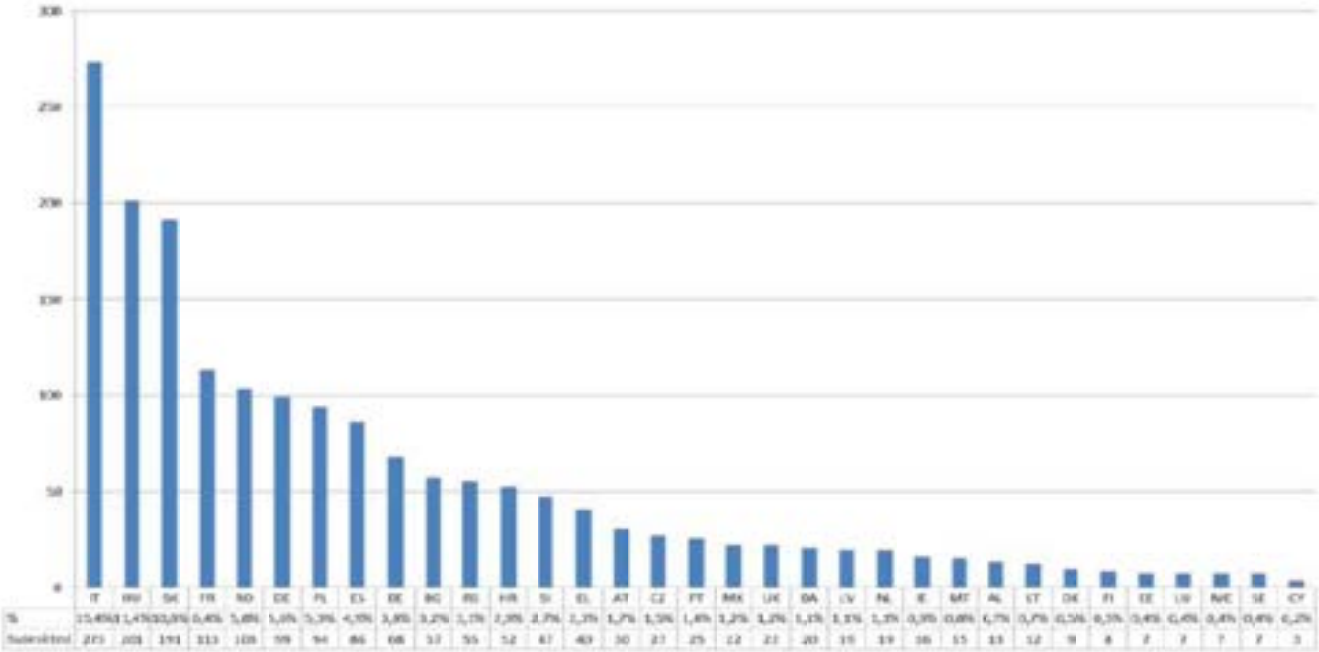
- ## Comparison of the number of proposals submitted 2014-2018

The decreased number of applications submitted in 2018 has a positive impact on the success rate.



- **2018- Overview per country of applications submitted – actions and operating grants**

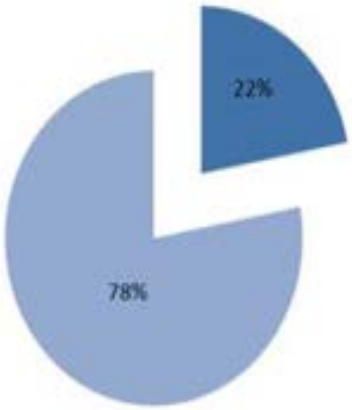
Organisations form all Member states and participating countries are represented as applicant. Italy was the Member State introducing the greatest number of proposals (275 proposals or 15.4%), followed by Hungary (201 proposals or 11.4%), Slovakia (191 or 10.8%) and France (113 or 6.4%)



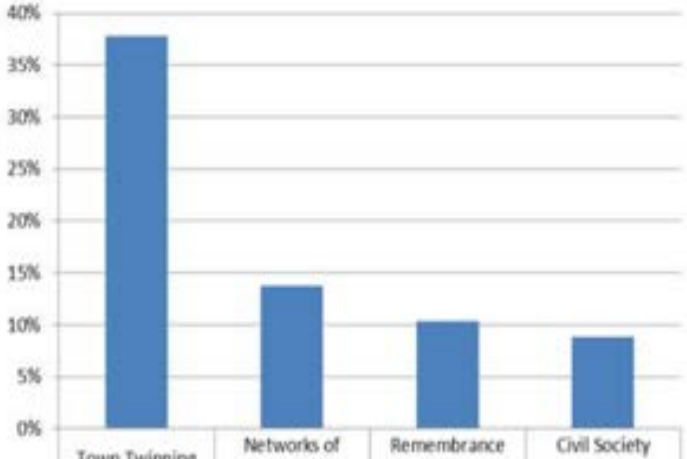
Applications selected in 2018

• Programme success rate

In 2018, out of 1638 proposals submitted for action grants (Town Twinning, Networks of Towns, Remembrance and Civil Society projects), 358 projects were selected: 255 for Town Twinning, 35 for Networks of Towns, 37 for Remembrance and 31 for Civil Society projects. Therefore, the average success rate is 22%.

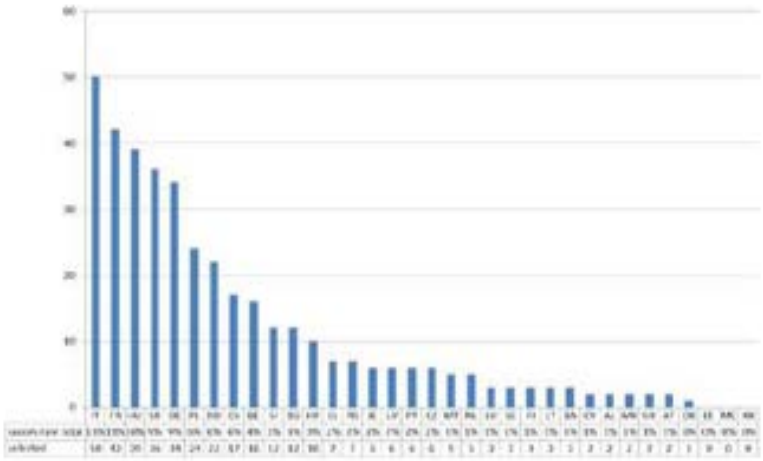


• Success rate per action



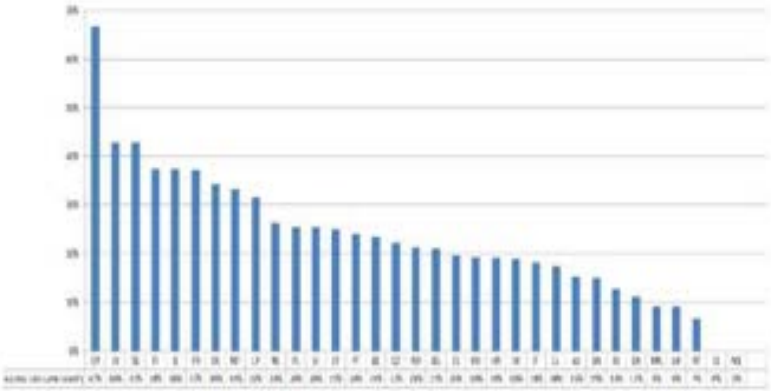
	Town Twinning	Networks of Towns	Remembrance projects	Civil Society projects
success rate	38%	14%	10%	9%

- Success rate per country in relation to the 1767 applications submitted (including Town Twinning, Networks of Towns, Remembrance, Civil Society projects and Operating grants)



- Success rate per country in relation to projects submitted by the same country

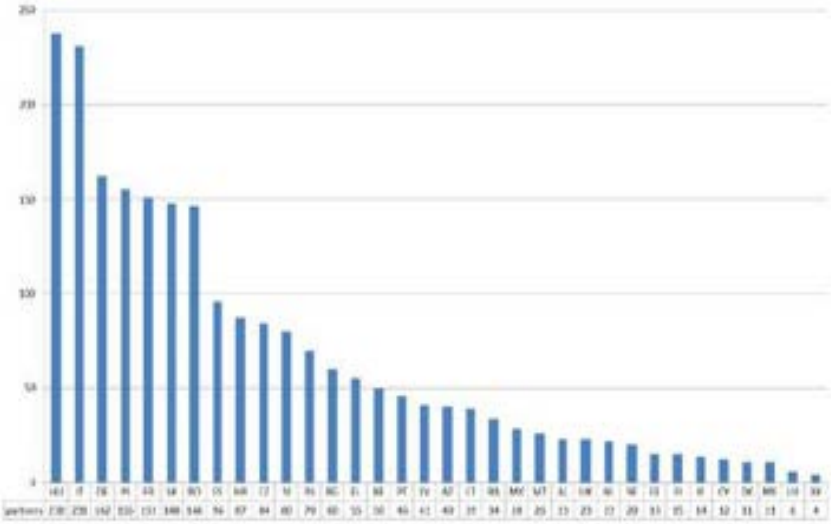
Ratio between applications submitted and selected per country.



Analysis of project partners

- 2018 - Overview per country

In total number 2243 partners were selected for action grants (Town Twinning, Networks of Towns, Remembrance and Civil Society projects). Breakdown per country below.



- 2018 - Partners per country in selected applications

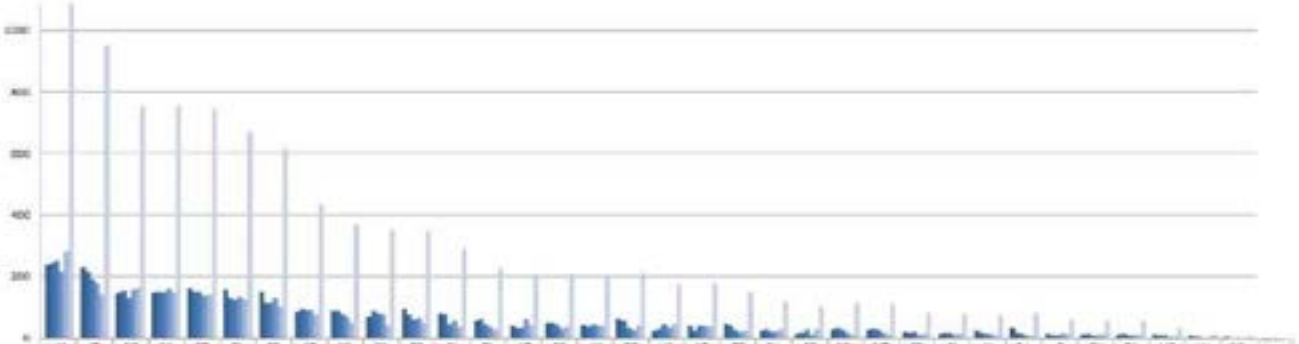
Action	Number of projects granted	Number of Partners in project granted	Average number of partners in 2017	Average number of partners in 2016
Network of Towns	35	385	11,0	10,4
Civil Society Projects	31	225	7,3	7,4
Remembrance Projects	37	254	6,9	6,5
Town Twinning	255	1379	5,4	5,4
TOTAL	358	2243	6,3	6,1

- Partners per action in selected applications 2018

Country	Network Towns	Civil Society Projects	Remembrance Projects	Town Twinning	TOTAL
AL	7	4	7	5	23
AT	21	4	9	6	40
BA	24	2	4	4	34
BE	14	10	13	13	50
BG	19	19	11	11	60
CY	2	7	1	2	12
CZ	57	9	10	8	84
DE	106	20	21	15	162
DK		5	1	5	11
EE	2	5	3	5	15
EL	15	18	11	11	55
ES	47	28	8	13	96
FI	6	4	2	3	15
FR	94	26	16	15	151
HR	53	15	9	10	87
HU	215	12	8	3	238
IE	9	2	3	0	14
IT	139	47	28	17	231
LT	20	6	10	3	39
LU	4	2	0	0	6
LV	24	10	2	5	41
ME	3	4	1	3	11
MK	13	6	5	4	28
MT	14	9	1	2	26
NL	12	2	3	5	22
PL	94	17	25	19	155
PT	17	17	5	7	46
RO	111	15	11	9	146
RS	49	13	3	5	70
SE	10	6	0	4	20
SI	45	22	7	6	80
SK	123	9	12	4	148
UK	9	7	4	3	23
XK	1	3	0	0	4
TOTAL	1379	385	254	225	2243
Number of projects granted	255	35	37	31	358

- **Total number of partners per country 2014 – 2018**

The number of partners has increased continuously since 2014. Since 2014, more than 10.000 partners have been involved directly in the action grants.



	HU	IT	RO	SK	DE	PL	FR	CZ	HR	BG	ES	SI	EL	AT	BE	CY	NO	UK	LT	PT	NL	EE	MK	MT	SE	FI	AL	RS	IE	CH	DK	MD	GE	NI	Total
2018	238	231	148	148	161	155	151	84	87	70	96	60	55	46	50	41	00	35	39	46	11	15	28	20	20	15	23	34	14	12	11	11	0	4	2140
2017	264	210	152	151	151	136	116	93	87	67	75	45	66	11	49	31	30	29	12	29	18	16	30	31	18	17	20	17	8	11	14	8	6	0	2139
2016	261	180	112	149	152	114	116	60	73	80	50	45	45	33	42	42	32	40	39	25	20	28	24	24	18	17	13	13	8	6	3	3	1	0	1850
2015	217	176	151	180	139	139	131	90	88	77	61	34	28	31	30	28	23	34	40	29	23	12	18	18	20	22	23	20	14	9	10	3	0	0	1850
2014	183	141	165	147	149	115	103	75	51	38	55	30	28	43	50	48	38	44	34	23	17	19	13	12	15	15	8	7	14	12	10	3	4	0	1805
Total	1139	952	733	755	741	670	618	404	349	332	348	191	225	156	207	188	211	179	177	152	127	123	114	111	82	78	73	81	58	55	54	34	15	4	10044

Selection thresholds

The table below shows all the funding thresholds (i.e. lowest score obtained by a retained project) since the beginning of the current Europe for Citizens Programme in 2014. It takes in consideration also the released reserve lists.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Remembrance	84	79,5	82,5	82,5	82,5
Civil Society	82,75	81,75	81,5	82,25	82,5
Town Twinning phase 1	53	78	74	71	71
Town Twinning phase 2	70,75	74,25	73	72	71
Network of Town phase 1	67,5	80	81	82	81
Network of Town phase 2	76,25	85	84	83	82

• Feeling of being a citizen of the EU

According to Standard Reports of the Eurobarometer the feeling of being an EU citizen on European average has remained stable over the last years.

Country	Autumn 2018	Spring 2018	Autumn 2017	Spring 2017	Autumn 2016	Spring 2016	Autumn 2015	Spring 2015	Autumn 2014	Spring 2014	Autumn 2013	Spring 2013	Autumn 2012	Spring 2012
	EB 90 p.33	EB 89 p.36	EB 88 p.39	EB 87 p. 38	EB 86 p.32	EB 85 p. 38	EB 84 p. 32	EB 83 p. 17	EB 82 p. 29	EB 81 p. 7	EB 80 p. 30	EB 79 p. 23	EB 78 p. 23	EB 77 p. 22
AT	75	77	78	75	88	89	83	72	73	87	63	68	63	80
BE	79	74	78	78	71	71	72	70	69	71	70	71	68	69
BG	51	51	58	55	50	49	47	50	48	46	49	48	47	50
CY	65	72	69	64	53	53	49	50	51	53	46	45	55	62
CZ	56	59	56	57	53	58	57	62	60	57	55	54	54	52
DE	86	84	82	82	77	78	74	81	74	79	73	73	74	74
DK	78	80	79	81	74	77	76	74	74	73	71	71	74	75
EE	81	78	78	75	75	76	73	79	78	76	72	70	73	67
EL	52	51	48	48	47	48	50	50	45	49	42	44	46	50
ES	83	82	88	75	79	78	75	69	71	71	69	68	73	70
FI	81	79	81	81	79	82	75	81	76	79	73	73	78	71
FR	62	61	63	64	61	67	61	61	63	63	57	61	66	65
HR	66	63	61	61	60	61	66	63	56	55	58	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
HU	80	77	67	70	68	65	69	67	67	59	59	59	54	51
IE	85	85	81	82	78	80	76	77	70	74	67	68	69	69
IT	59	56	54	53	51	49	49	53	47	47	45	52	51	45
LT	77	78	77	77	74	74	77	78	71	71	64	65	64	60
LU	89	93	90	89	92	93	85	88	89	85	85	88	87	85
LV	75	74	73	74	73	71	68	69	68	62	53	56	57	54
MT	82	82	85	82	82	84	82	84	85	87	74	81	76	72
NL	75	70	70	71	68	70	67	70	61	65	58	61	67	60
PL	79	80	77	80	79	76	71	74	74	77	67	70	74	67
PT	78	83	81	80	79	75	72	72	68	69	58	62	59	60
RO	68	64	63	66	67	59	62	65	68	61	56	53	51	60
SE	82	76	77	76	75	74	72	78	76	77	69	69	73	65
SI	72	73	73	71	73	70	75	65	69	69	61	64	68	66
SK	77	80	75	72	73	75	69	75	73	73	70	76	71	70
UK	58	57	55	54	55	53	52	56	60	52	42	48	48	42
EU	71	70	70	68	67	66	64	67	63	65	59	62	63	61

Synoptic table of projects submitted and granted per country and action in 2018

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020
Report 2018

	Applications submitted										Projects granted								Statistic Data				
	CIV	MEMORY	DIS	TTL	TTD	NTL	NTD	Total submitted		CIV	MEMORY	DIS	TTL	TTD	NTL	NTD						
AL	3	3	0	0	1	4	1	12	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	AL	8.34%	8.33%	7.00%	8.34%	[illegible]
AT	19	19	7	0	0	0	1	32	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	AT	1.95%	0.97%	10.00%	1.94%	[illegible]
BA	4	4	1	1	4	1	4	21	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	BA	1.19%	0.97%	11.00%	0.94%	[illegible]
BE	14	14	14	4	4	0	0	50	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	BE	1.00%	4.17%	21.00%	2.10%	[illegible]
BG	11	17	3	8	4	3	3	47	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	BG	2.13%	2.13%	21.00%	1.28%	[illegible]
CY	4	4	2	0	0	2	0	12	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	CY	8.17%	8.33%	34.00%	8.16%	[illegible]
CZ	9	11	8	9	2	2	0	37	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	CZ	2.70%	2.70%	22.00%	2.00%	[illegible]
DE	17	19	10	10	24	4	4	88	1	2	2	1	10	11	2	0	DE	1.14%	1.14%	56.00%	15.00%	[illegible]
DK	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	DK	9.10%	9.09%	11.00%	1.00%	[illegible]
EE	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	EE	8.40%	8.00%	3.00%	0.20%	[illegible]
EL	11	10	4	1	4	1	9	40	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	EL	2.50%	1.80%	17.00%	2.10%	[illegible]
ES	14	14	8	14	4	8	24	86	1	1	1	1	7	4	1	2	ES	4.07%	4.26%	19.00%	8.70%	[illegible]
FI	3	3	3	0	3	0	0	9	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	FI	8.40%	8.77%	17.00%	1.04%	[illegible]
FR	11	19	13	10	17	7	8	113	1	0	4	0	9	10	1	0	FR	8.40%	10.67%	47.00%	12.60%	[illegible]
GR	10	11	4	7	7	4	3	52	1	1	0	1	4	4	0	0	GR	1.94%	1.98%	19.00%	4.17%	[illegible]
HR	14	10	4	11	40	4	14	97	1	0	1	1	20	14	1	0	HR	11.10%	11.11%	19.40%	1.64%	[illegible]
HU	7	8	2	2	4	0	0	23	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	HU	5.00%	1.84%	17.00%	0.61%	[illegible]
IE	14	14	4	10	42	10	14	113	1	0	1	0	21	13	4	0	IE	11.40%	11.40%	18.00%	11.40%	[illegible]
IT	3	3	0	1	3	0	1	12	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	IT	8.00%	8.77%	21.00%	8.10%	[illegible]
LT	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	LT	8.40%	8.77%	12.00%	8.11%	[illegible]
LU	7	7	1	7	1	1	1	19	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	LU	1.00%	1.75%	11.00%	0.74%	[illegible]
LV	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	LV	8.40%	8.00%	3.00%	0.10%	[illegible]
MT	2	4	2	0	1	1	1	11	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	MT	1.00%	9.09%	8.00%	0.10%	[illegible]
NL	2	3	1	0	4	0	4	14	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	NL	8.00%	1.20%	11.00%	0.00%	[illegible]
PL	3	10	3	0	2	0	1	19	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	PL	1.00%	1.20%	21.00%	3.24%	[illegible]
PT	13	10	4	11	4	4	7	54	1	1	1	1	11	5	1	1	PT	1.10%	4.11%	21.00%	1.10%	[illegible]
RO	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	RO	1.00%	1.00%	24.00%	1.94%	[illegible]
SE	14	11	1	16	11	4	7	64	1	1	1	0	10	4	1	0	SE	1.14%	1.67%	21.00%	3.44%	[illegible]
SI	14	11	1	10	4	1	1	42	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	SI	1.14%	1.00%	11.00%	1.11%	[illegible]
SK	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	SK	8.40%	8.77%	12.00%	1.01%	[illegible]
TR	11	11	1	8	8	1	4	47	1	0	1	0	1	4	1	1	TR	1.10%	1.00%	21.00%	0.20%	[illegible]
UK	13	17	1	16	10	7	1	71	1	1	1	0	11	11	1	0	UK	1.14%	9.09%	18.00%	1.01%	[illegible]
HR	4	7	7	4	1	1	0	21	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	HR	1.77%	9.71%	9.00%	11.40%	[illegible]
MK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	MK	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	[illegible]
TOTAL	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%		100.00%	[illegible]
				656		218							225		35							[illegible]

Synoptic table of projects submitted and granted per country and action in the period 2014-2018

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020
Report 2014-2018

	applications submitted									projects selected								statistic data				
	CIV	MEMORIA	VAL	TY1	TY2	TY3	TY4	TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected	CIV	MEMORIA	VAL	TY1	TY2	TY3	TY4		Applications submitted 2014	Applications selected 2014	Success rate %	Population 2014	Population 2014
BE	15	14	0	2	1	7	9	44	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	BE	0,44%	0,40%	2,10%	0,44%	11.179.724
BG	90	69	8	10	7	6	11	196	22	6	6	1	1	1	2	1	BG	1,10%	1,40%	10,64%	1,64%	7.153.167
CZ	27	19	1	5	7	5	10	73	5	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	CZ	0,80%	0,40%	7,40%	0,73%	10.557.550
DK	129	92	79	17	11	8	13	350	31	10	8	10	4	2	3	1	DK	2,8%	3,44%	14,29%	3,10%	5.831.779
DE	161	161	8	14	12	17	19	392	32	5	6	0	1	4	2	1	DE	2,0%	2,47%	8,38%	3,16%	82.166.514
EE	18	1	0	2	3	3	8	35	9	3	1	2	1	0	1	0	EE	0,2%	0,10%	26,69%	0,16%	1.314.130
IE	82	48	4	48	32	8	8	230	44	3	7	2	10	14	1	0	IE	1,00%	2,40%	20,14%	2,80%	5.011.500
EL	99	117	32	201	160	21	24	655	105	10	11	2	78	21	2	2	EL	5,30%	10,30%	16,24%	13,60%	10.475.757
ES	21	4	2	4	2	0	1	34	9	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	ES	0,21%	0,20%	14,71%	0,88%	1.151.560
FR	21	22	1	8	6	1	1	60	6	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	FR	0,20%	0,30%	10,24%	0,75%	13.174.713
HR	53	38	1	8	13	34	43	192	13	5	0	0	1	3	3	1	HR	1,0%	1,30%	11,61%	2,40%	10.772.242
IT	117	111	28	40	70	55	70	470	55	8	8	3	11	20	4	1	IT	4,17%	5,80%	14,63%	8,80%	40.104.126
CY	14	9	1	1	4	4	1	32	9	1	4	0	1	1	1	0	CY	0,14%	0,10%	14,31%	1,04%	1.171.172
LV	70	58	10	173	128	70	50	579	140	6	13	18	40	48	7	1	LV	5,21%	8,27%	24,84%	17,07%	19.192.545
LT	61	49	4	43	34	16	11	218	27	4	4	1	14	14	1	1	LT	2,14%	2,47%	14,21%	4,40%	2.155.493
LU	74	148	11	74	47	40	47	432	29	7	4	2	13	4	1	1	LU	15,14%	12,47%	14,91%	1,47%	5.772.371
HU	24	12	1	5	6	1	1	50	14	1	0	1	1	4	0	0	HU	0,50%	0,80%	28,56%	0,84%	4.874.274
MT	461	379	31	279	233	198	203	1584	155	10	17	0	81	43	23	11	MT	16,14%	11,14%	11,74%	11,12%	40.485.393
NL	31	34	0	14	14	4	4	141	22	5	4	0	3	7	0	1	NL	1,14%	1,22%	14,77%	0,14%	2.844.861
AT	4	8	2	2	2	1	3	22	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	AT	0,21%	0,22%	18,18%	0,12%	852.198
PL	32	22	3	13	9	14	13	106	13	2	3	1	4	2	1	1	PL	1,14%	1,00%	12,26%	0,97%	13.814.179
PT	4	4	1	2	2	0	1	12	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	PT	0,21%	0,20%	16,67%	0,12%	852.198
RO	31	31	7	7	3	7	7	75	13	2	3	1	1	3	1	1	RO	0,60%	0,50%	17,33%	0,96%	21.174.201
SVK	12	11	1	12	11	4	13	64	17	2	2	0	3	8	2	1	SVK	0,34%	0,50%	42,19%	0,66%	475.797
SI	42	31	11	8	4	4	5	105	18	5	7	3	0	1	1	1	SI	0,87%	1,00%	16,84%	1,12%	17.121.204
FI	169	174	18	59	57	38	43	735	115	8	16	3	39	47	9	3	FI	8,73%	5,70%	15,65%	7,71%	10.535.487
SE	44	77	7	11	17	11	8	175	21	4	7	0	0	4	7	1	SE	1,27%	1,37%	16,94%	1,90%	17.700.197
UK	69	113	1	104	137	18	19	460	120	9	0	0	88	51	3	0	UK	5,34%	6,00%	16,61%	5,74%	18.739.321
IS	70	89	5	18	18	15	19	234	34	4	8	0	12	11	2	1	IS	2,14%	1,80%	14,53%	1,34%	7.101.444
NO	14	11	1	4	4	11	8	53	19	1	1	1	0	3	3	1	NO	0,34%	0,40%	35,84%	0,47%	15.121.742
CH	77	72	1	33	33	17	24	257	31	3	8	0	14	11	3	2	CH	1,40%	2,20%	12,06%	0,93%	2.154.833
MK	61	69	12	161	182	80	12	1.280	358	3	9	1	177	66	1	1	MK	11,78%	11,67%	28,13%	3,03%	7.447.123
LIE	14	11	12	13	13	4	7	140	33	4	6	4	1	3	0	0	LIE	1,21%	1,22%	23,21%	12,43%	80.232.317
MDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	MDA	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	3.194.859
TOTAL	2034	2121	278	2018	2139	830	980	10800	1767	136	180	67	736	368	73	40	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%		100,00%	330.136.430
				4757		1668							1364		108						21,75%	32.710.000

European Commission

Europe for citizens Programme

Results 2019

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Europe for citizens

Report 2019

2019 AT A GLANCE

1503 applications were submitted within the EFC programme.

1154 applications were submitted within action and operating grants (RBM, TT, NT, CSP)

404 applications selected (of which 374 for action grants RBM, TT, NT, CSP and operating grants)

Average success rate of 27 % (26 % within action grants for RBM, TT, NT, CSP)

Beneficiary organisations are established in all EU Member States

Partner organisations are established in all EU Member States

IT, HU, SK, PL , DE and RO are the countries that submitted the highest number of applications (56 % in total)

IT, SK, HU, DE, FR and PL are the countries with the highest number of applications selected (59 % in total)

IT, SK, HU and DE have the highest success rate per country (ratio submitted / selected per country for action grant) among Member States

2205 partner organisations directly involved in the EFC projects selected in 2019

An average of 5.3 partners per project in TT and 8 partners in all other actions (more than 12 partners for NT)

Average grant per project				
OG	NT	CIV	RBM	TT
€ 226.671	€ 159.520	€ 131.165	€ 80.803	€ 17.556

The majority of proposals addressed the priority on 'Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism', followed by the priority on 'Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups'

LU, ES, DE, FI, LT, MT, PL are PT are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is above 80 %

FR, BG, IT, UK and EL are the countries where the feeling of being European citizens is below 60 %

2014 - 2019 AT A GLANCE

Beneficiary organisations are established in all EU member States

IT, HU, SK, PL and are the countries that submit the highest number of applications (55 % in total)

HU, IT, SK, DE, FR and PL are the countries with the highest number of applications selected (61 % in total)

AT, LT, ME and ES have the highest success rate per country (ratio submitted / selected by country) within Member States

12 329 partner organisations directly involved in EFC projects selected in 2014 - 2019 (including beneficiaries)

An average of 5 partners per project in TT and 8 partners in all other actions

Average grant per project				
DG	NT	CIV	REM	TT
€ 201 023	€ 151 570	€ 120 557	€ 89 521	€ 16 033

Total grants awarded according to the Decisions taken so far amount to 140M€.

Project mainly focused on:

Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism and on fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups

PART A

RESULTS 2019

STRAND 1 : EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

European Remembrance Projects

The project selection in 2019 gave evidence of the richness and capacity of the European Remembrance projects to mobilize civil society organizations and public institutions in building the future of Europe.

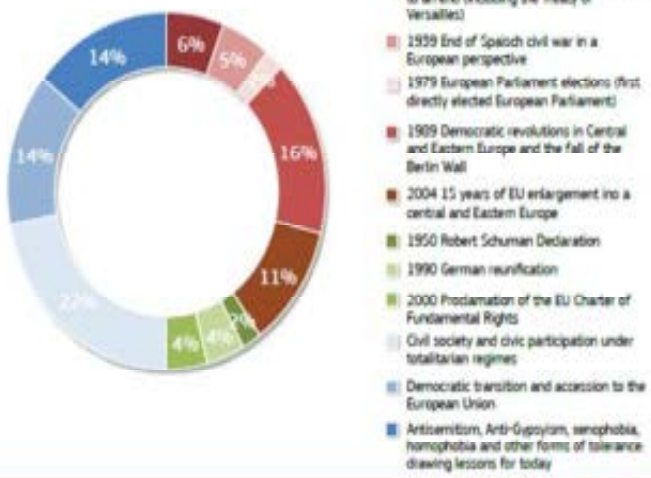
Projects covered a range of different activities: development of networks involving different stakeholders from different Programme countries, awareness on the recent European history, researches, events commemorating victims of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history (exhibitions, walking tours) and conferences and debates building intercultural dialogue.

As in previous year the 2019 selection was characterized by a strong competition based on the overall solid quality of projects submitted, resulting in a high threshold (80,5/100) and 49 grants awarded. Strong asset was the **European dimension** reached by the projects through the reflection on EU common values and on the European cultural diversity.

Thanks to the higher budget available than in previous years and the lower number of applications submitted, the **success rate** (success rate is the ratio of successful versus submitted applications) for this measure has increased in comparison with 2018 (18% in 2019 compared to 10% in 2018). However it is worth to note that not all valuable proposals could be granted because of the limited budget. Overall, the decrease in the number of applications submitted concerned most of the eligible countries, so that the submission rate by country remained rather stable in comparison to 2018.

The important widening of the geographical coverage within the selected projects (29 Programme countries compared to 23 Programme countries in 2018) mirored rightly the great interest in this measure at application stage (33 out of 34 Programme countries represented as applicant in 2019). Selected projects build on a solid partnership with five partners on average per project; therefore, given the 49 selected projects, around 245 partners are involved. Also qualitative, the selected projects focus on multi-sectorial partnerships (Civil Society Organizations, Survivors' Association, Cultural/Youth/Educational/Research organizations; public authorities etc.).

Newcomers - organizations **not yet funded** within the European Remembrance strand in the previous years 2014-2018 - represent more than 70% of projects selected. This figure confirms similar positive results of the Remembrance selection in 2018, well in line with the capacity of the Programme to be innovative and to reach out to a new public. The strong thematic focus of the selected projects covers effectively all multi-annual priorities for 2019-2020, their ratio being broadly in line with the priorities treated among all applications submitted:



As in previous years, around half of the projects couple the commemoration of major historical turning points with the other three more general multi-annual priorities. This approach shows a certain enthusiasm towards the commemoration of major historical turning points as well as demonstrates the complexity of such projects: aiming to link past and present and combine the specific commemoration with a reflection on the values on which the European Union is built.

In particular in 2019, the Europe for Citizens **Programme commemorated the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall through an inter-institutional conference** to foster further opportunities for a debate and reflection on this European historical turning point beyond national perspectives. This conference gathered colleagues from different EU services and several of the programme beneficiaries involved in transmitting the memory of the Berlin Wall to younger generations and in analysing its democratic implications for Europe today.

Mr Leo SCHMIDT represented the *Berlin Wall Foundation*, the main institution dealing with the Wall's cultural heritage; he addressed the challenges faced nowadays, notably in catering to an increasing number of visitors, to preserve the authenticity of the sites and to succeed in transmitting the spirit of the event to an increasingly diverse public.

Mr Oriol LOPEZ, from the *European Observatory of Memories* (EUROM) in Spain, insisted on the crucial role of mobilizing young people in the remembrance process. To do so, EUROM relies on a multidisciplinary and transnational network to contribute to the construction of public and collective memory that helps citizens use and interpret memorial heritage.

Mr Dominik KWIATKOWSKI, representing the *Lech Walesa Foundation* in Poland, explained how the foundation seeks to promote the values of democracy and peace, in times of conflicting approaches towards the Iron Curtain period and its aftermath in Europe.

Mr André BOSSUROY from MEDIEL in Belgium, noticed the low level of awareness among young Europeans concerning the Cold War. MEDIEL tries to propose remedies by offering them a different learning experience: becoming a reporter and collecting testimonies on the fall of the Berlin Wall. This was translated into a documentary film "1940-2010: réveil de la Guerre froide?" which was previewed during the conference (www.mediel.eu: in the menu, look for Web TV).

This meeting offered a unique opportunity to unveil the crucial role of projects financed by the European Commission to help European citizens better understand the EU, its history and its values.

In addition, **in 2019 the Agency monitored the impact and results** of the European Remembrance projects selected in 2017 (27 out of 29 projects closed in 2019) and in 2018 (6 out of 37 projects closed in 2019).

Similar to previous years more than half of these projects covered commemorations of major historical turning points, mostly in combination or overlapping with the other more general multi-annual priorities ("Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes", "Democratic transition and accession to the European Union" and "Ostracism and loss of citizenship under totalitarian regimes: drawing the lessons for today").

The European Remembrance projects carried out in 2019 successfully contributed to the **critical reflection on Europe's historical memory**. These projects actively engaged citizens to develop a better insight into European fundamental **values**: how respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy and the respect of human rights were shaped in the past and on how they need to be reinforced in present times. The projects results show that by looking into the recent European history, citizens are empowered to enter in the public discourse as well as in dialogue with political institutions at local, national and European level (e.g. youth roundtables, impulse papers).

The monitored projects covered a wide range of activities (e.g. conferences, debates, educational tools, role and theatre plays, exhibition or online museums) and mainly focus on:

Analysis and debates on European history

These projects approach the past from multiple perspectives and aim at developing citizens' reflection beyond the national perspective on topics having a strong importance also in present times.

Beneficiary: Palais Des Beaux Arts (BE)
Project Title: Remembering 1918: European dream of becoming modern
Partner countries: CZ, BE
Project implementation: 01-08-2017 – 31-01-2019
Grant awarded: 100 000 €

*The project **"Remembering 1918: European dream of becoming modern"** carried out by "Bozar" contributed to a deeper understanding of the meaning of the political, social and cultural transformations across Central Europe after the events of 1917 and 1918. The yearlong cultural program sought to enrich citizens' knowledge of this episode of European history and raise their awareness of the multifaceted nature of this change. Different national viewpoints were presented, thus familiarized citizens with the richness of European political and cultural landscape, while uncovering the transnational connections that shaped the inter-war Europe which can help further strengthening the Union today. A series of conference and debates on the inter-war history of Central Europe in BE, CZ, HU, FI engaged citizens in critical reflection on this important chapter in European transnational history and the meaning of 1918 past and present.*

Inclusive historical approach

These projects reflect on a specific target group that was persecuted, discriminated against or antagonized, or by focusing on specific themes such as art or music in a transnational or European perspective. This type of projects acknowledge the complexity of European history, incorporating remembrance on topics, which are underrepresented in the common public European Remembrance discourse.

Beneficiary: Network Europeo Per La Ricerca E La Formazione In Psichiatria Psicodinamica (IT)
Project Title: Memory Against Inhumanity: people with mental disorders under totalitarian regimes in Europe
Partner countries: EL, SI, RO
Project implementation: 01-09-2017 – 28-02-2019
Grant awarded: 99 750 €

The project "Memory against Inhumanity: people with mental disorders under toralitarian regimes in Europe" led by the Italian organization "Network Europeo per la Ricerca e la Formazione in Psichiatria" gave recognition to victims with mental illness during totalitarian regimes in Europe.

Taking as a starting point the travelling exhibition "Registered, persecuted, annihilated: the sick and disabled under National Socialism", the partnership implemented additional educational workshops, international video contest and final symposium to strengthen the historical knowledge on the persecution of the mentally ill and disabled in Europe. The partnership successfully promoted an intercultural reflection on the topic of "inhumanity" through linking past and present. "Remembrance serves not only to cry over past crimes but to recognize and reject present dangers."
"The project is amazing and we hope it will help to change something in our lives. We hope for a world without discrimination, where everybody respects the other person".
Testimonies from participants in GR and RO

Citizens engagement

This type of projects adopts a strong participatory approach by involving the target group (e.g. young people) in the set-up of the projects activities such as research, guided tours as well as organization of webinars and debates.

Beneficiary: Fundacion Altius Francisco De Vitoria (ES)
Project Title: European Decades
Partner countries: PL, RS, DE, EL, BG
Project implementation: 13-09-2017 – 12-03-2019
Grant awarded: 100 000 €

The project "European decades" implemented by the Spanish organsation "Fundacion Altius Francisco de Vitoria" gathered citizens from different backgrounds in debates directly linked to European historical events. Citizens played an important role in the local historical exploration (conducting interviews, visit museums, library archives) on specific chosen historical turning points in their own local communities: 1917 social and political revolutions and the fall of empires (BG), Beginning of WWII 1938/1939 (RS), 1968 Protest and civil rights movements (PL), 1957 The Treaty of Rome (EL), 1989 Democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin Wall (DE).

"To be able to live together we need to learn other "points of view", be open for discussion with other people and for the fact, that their arguments might be different from ours. It is great that the EU provides us with the possibility to meet in an international group and discuss our history."

Testimony from the International Seminar in Poland

Venues of projects monitored in 2019

STRAND 2: DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Town Twinning

The Town Twinning Selections 2019

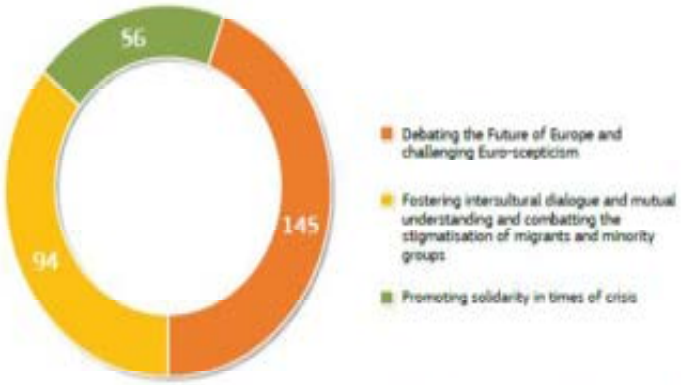
588 Town Twinning applications were received in 2019. Following the trend of previous years, the majority of applications continue to come from Eastern Europe, in particular Slovakia and Hungary who together represent 39% of the total number of submitted applications, followed by Italy (15%), Germany (8%) and Poland (8%). The wide geographical distribution is shown by the fact that **26 countries** participated **as applicants** in the Town Twinning selections run in 2019. In terms of geographical spread including partners, it is worth underlying that **all programme countries** (34) participated in 2019 selections. An overall 13% decrease in applications is noted, mainly due to the lower participation of Slovakia and Hungary. This, however, contributed to a better geographical distribution at submission level, as well as to a better action success rate (44% in 2019 compared to 38% in 2018).

The **260 TT** projects selected in 2019 brought around **1570 organisations** together, representing a wide diversity of partnerships (municipalities, NGOs, twinning committees, foundations, associations etc.) The geographical spread of the selected projects shows that 25 countries are represented as beneficiaries, involving organisations from **32 programme countries**.

The total amount awarded in 2019 under the Town Twinning action was **€ 4.512.450**. The average grant awarded per TT project was **€ 17 355**. Although, there is a constant increase in the average value of grant per TT project (i.e. in 2018 the average value of grant per TT project was € 16.936), it is important to note that the action continues to support projects with a small budget. Grants of between **€ 5 000 and € 10 000 were awarded to 31% of the selected projects**.

The selected initiatives will not only reach, but also **actively involve** citizens at both local and the EU level, by engaging them in discussions about hotly debated topics of today.

Priorities addressed by TT beneficiaries selected in 2019
(Number of selected projects tackling programme priorities)



Project beneficiaries managed to **combine different programme priorities** looking for synergies and concrete outputs. The programme priority **"Debating the Future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism"** remained at the centre of attention, as it was addressed by the highest number of beneficiaries, followed by the priority of **"Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatization of migrants and minority groups"**. It was also positively noted that the **remembrance and cultural heritage** components continue to be present within the themes addressed by the applicants, thus contributing to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity and further promoting active citizenship, tolerance and EU values.

Town Twinning projects implementation 2019

Overall, **234 Town Twinning projects** were completed in 2019.

These projects involved more than **300 towns and cities** across **29 different EU countries**.

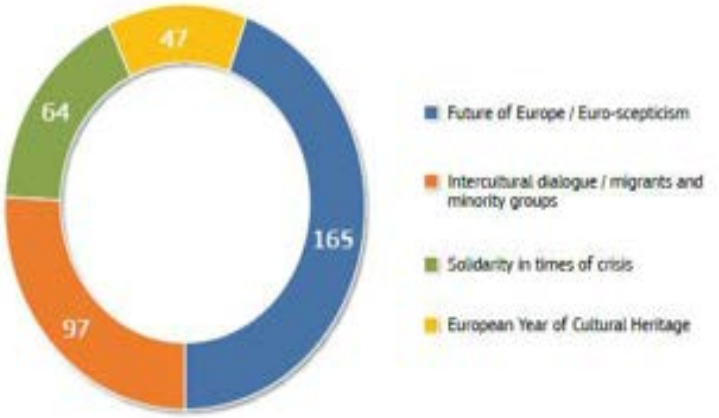
Towns and cities, which hosted Town Twinning events in 2019

It is positive to note that approximately **1.300 organisations** participated in Town Twinning activities with an average of **6** organisations per project. The implemented activities managed to mobilize more than **100.000 citizens** all over Europe who directly participated in EU discussions focusing on the "Europe for Citizens" programme priorities. According to the figures, the number of citizens reached indirectly is even more impressive and exceeding **5.000.000** (i.e. through the dissemination/follow-up actions and online via communication channels such as Twitter, Facebook, project website etc.)

It is significant to highlight that **all age groups** actively participated in Town Twinning project activities, thus indicating equal access to the programme and fostering intergenerational dialogues. The programme continues to give an importance in supporting **the participation of youngsters**: the projects implemented in 2019 involved 10% of citizens aged below 30.

The projects implemented in 2019 under Town Twining action particularly focused their activities on the following **programme priorities/topics**:

Priorities addressed by TT beneficiaries in 2019
(Number of selected projects tackling programme priorities)



Town Twinning flagship initiatives

Among the projects implemented and monitored in 2019, the following TT flagship initiatives are of particular note:

Project title: Multicultural Youth Educate the European Union
Organisation: Onga Varos Onkormanyzata (HU)
Partners: Hungary, Portugal, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Romania, Sweden
Date of project event: 17/06/2019 – 23/06/2019
Grant awarded 25 000€

A 7 day-long event coordinated by the municipality of Onga (HU) has brought 10 partner organizations from 8 countries together with the aim to promote work opportunities for youth, foster solidarity, intercultural dialogue, active participation and volunteering. The audience consisted of 320 direct and over 50 000 estimated indirect participants. Citizens from **diverse groups and backgrounds were involved**, including young people, minorities, eurosceptics, volunteers and disadvantaged people. It was significant to keep the balance between practical and theoretical activities as well as to support an active involvement of all people. The **enhancement of solidarity, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue** was stimulated. Throughout the event, participants were engaged in interactive debates, conferences, workshops, team building and role-playing activities. By exchanging best practices, the **projects contributed to social and youth work** aiming to **face unemployment** and **favour integration** of disadvantaged people. Implemented activities resulted in cooperation, mutual understanding and sharing among participants.

Testimonies from participants

"Our Municipality strongly believed in this project, because it was a great chance for us to meet other citizens of Europe and exchange methodologies, practices, ideas, and needs, finding common solutions and creating a new sense of belonging to the European Union. I want our community to be an example for other municipalities to strengthen the cohesion and the cooperation among Countries, through the strong development we are experiencing" (Town Twinning project participant).

"Our small community has a strong need to take part in actions at European level because otherwise there is a great risk that the feeling of marginalisation and distance turnout into opposition to the idea of Europe. For this reason I was very glad to take part in this meeting and to bring with me a wide representation of young people" (Town Twinning project participant from IT).

Project title: FOR A UNITED AND MULTICOLOUR EUROPE: The 10th, Jubilee European Picnic

Organisation: Comuna Vadu Crisului (RO)

Partners: Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, Romania

Date of project event: 23/08/2019 – 25/08/2019

Grant awarded 25 000€

The project "For a United and Multicolour Europe" took place in the municipality of Vadu Crisului as the 10th edition of European Picnic. It brought together 16 partners from 8 countries with the aim to foster international dialogue, promote unity and diversity of Europe as well as commemorate the 30th anniversary of democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The high number of direct (996) and indirect participants (100 000) demonstrates the strong impact of the project. The programme went on in two parallel flows of topics **in order to keep balance between culture and politics**. Citizens took part in interactive lectures, discussions, a political quiz as well as a unique multi-language poetry performance. Throughout the event, participants agreed that the 'multicolour' character makes Europe stronger. Multicultural activities mixed into the political programme **brought participants closer** to each other, **raised knowledge** about the European past, present and future as well as **reinforced the unity** of the EU.

Testimonies from participants

"It was a very good combination of hot European issues with spectacular multicultural events!" (Town Twinning participant from CZ).

Key message

"Europe is us... future of Europe is as we shape it."

Project title: Eurofest 19

Organisation: Comune di Este (IT)

Partners: France, Germany, Croatia, United Kingdom, Italy

Date of project event: 27/09/2019 - 01/10/2019

Grant awarded 16.630€

A 5-day long project "Eurofest 19" organized by Comune di Este brought together 5 counties with the aim to focus on the **issue of disability and social inclusion**. It involved more than 410 participants directly as well as 10 000 indirectly. Twinned towns exchanged and compared the best practices and set up a plan for **identifying new funds** for organizations helping disabled people. The main impact was to **raise awareness about disability** in sport, cultural and social field and improve the quality of life for the disabled. Participants had an opportunity to engage in various inclusive activities. Photo exhibition, music performance, conference regarding the European Disability Strategy as well as logo contest among disabled participants were organized to foster citizens' participation.

Testimonies from participants

"Bellissimo ed emozionante esperienza. L'alzabandiera resta il momento più toccante del progetto e la festa Europeao Este è uno bellissimo occasione per vivere l'Europa" (Town Twinning project participant from IT).

"Dobbiamo spingere di più per portare l'Unione Europeo a caso di tutti i cittadini. Dobbiamo parlare con le scuole, i giovani, trasmettere loro lo stesso entusiasmo che proviamo noi per l'Europa" (Town Twinning project participant from IT).

Venues of projects monitored in 2019

Network of Towns

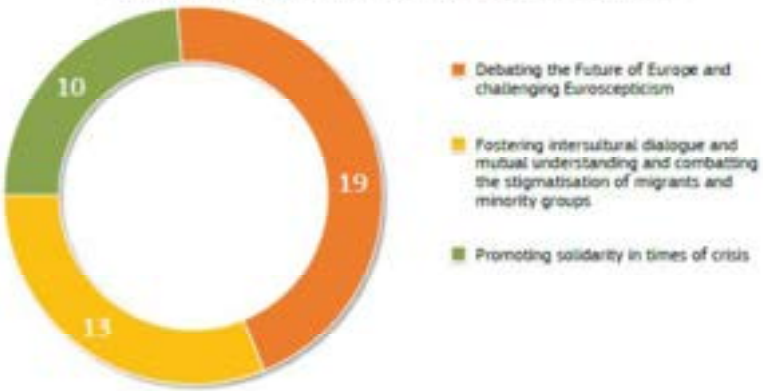
Networks of Towns Selection 2019

259 Networks of Towns applications were received in 2019. Following the trends of previous years, Italy demonstrated the highest interest in this action, representing around 29% of the submitted applications, followed by Spain (19%) and Hungary (9%). It is positive to outline that **almost all eligible programme countries (33 out of 34)** took part in the NT 2019 selections **as applicants**. In terms of geographical spread including partners, it is worth underlining that **all eligible countries (34)** were represented in 2019 Networks of Towns selections.

Under this action **36 projects** were selected for funding in 2019 involving **21 programme countries as beneficiaries**. The geographical spread of selected projects is even more impressive if we look at the **organisations involved in the project partnerships**, which represent **all eligible programme countries (34)**. The selected projects intend to involve **434 partner organizations** and are characterized by large, diversified and strong partnerships (i.e. in average **12 partner organizations** per selected project).

A total amount awarded in 2019 under Network of Towns action was **€ 5.022.720**. The average grant awarded per NT project was **€ 139.520**.

Priorities addressed by NT beneficiaries selected in 2019
(Number of selected projects tackling programme priorities)



As TT beneficiaries, projects selected under the NT action also managed to **combine different programme priorities** looking for synergies and concrete outputs. The programme priority **"Debating the Future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism"** was addressed by the highest number of beneficiaries. Debates related to the **migration crisis, stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups, and solidarity** also remained at the centre of the selected projects.

It is important to note that the **remembrance and cultural heritage** components continue to be present within the themes addressed by the Networks of Towns applicants and beneficiaries, thus contributing to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity and further promoting active citizenship, tolerance and EU values.

Networks of Towns projects implementation 2018

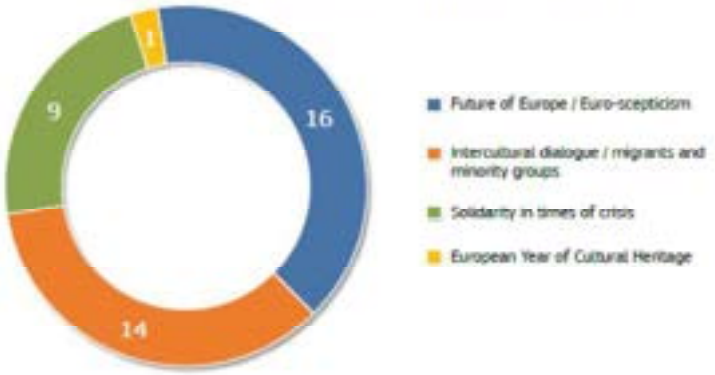
In total, **30 NT projects** selected in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were finalised in 2019. These projects implemented **more than 190 events**, taking place in **161 towns and cities** across **29 different EU countries**. The highest number of events were carried out in Italy (31), followed by Greece (17), Romania (12) and Spain (12).

Overall, NT projects involved **326 organizations** with an average of 11 organisations per project, bringing together a variety of actors (i.e. NGOs, regions, municipalities, villages, civil society organizations, experts, volunteers, etc.) The projects mobilized more than **26.000 direct participants** who engaged in diverse meetings and conferences organized across Europe. Including dissemination of project results and follow-ups, it is important to note that more than **2.000.000** citizens were reached indirectly.

It is worth to stress that, as it was the case for Town Twinning action, **all age groups** actively participated in Networks of Towns project activities, thus indicating equal access to the programme and fostering intergenerational dialogues. The programme continues to give an importance to supporting **the participation of youngsters**: 40% of the citizens involved in NT projects finalised in 2019 were under the age of 30.

The implemented activities tackled the challenges faced both in big urban centres and small localities in rural areas. The themes and priorities addressed by NT beneficiaries were the following:

Priorities addressed by NT beneficiaries selected in 2019
(Number of selected projects tackling programme priorities)



Most of the networks tackled issues related to the **Future of Europe** and debated on challenges that the EU is facing nowadays. The events highlighted the significance of EU integration and emphasized the role of young generation in establishing constructive dialogue with the EU institutions. The priority related to **fostering intercultural dialogue and combatting the stigmatization of migrants and minority groups** was also addressed by many NT projects finalised in 2019. The NT beneficiaries presented concrete policies implemented locally and regionally concerning the integration of migrants in the labour market and society. Tackling the priority related to **solidarity**, NT beneficiaries put an emphasis on **solidarity** mechanisms and exchange of good practices, such as EU solidarity models for sustainability or volunteering promotion. Besides, the debates involved issues such as humanism, common EU values approaching solidarity, cultural heritage and tolerance as tools to fight against populism and extremism.

Networks of Towns flagship initiatives

Among the projects finalised in 2019, NT flagship initiatives worthy of note are the following:

Project title: Heart of Europe

Organisation: DRUSTVO ZA NARAVNO UCENJE Z IGZIVLJANJEMUMETNOSTI IN NARAVE GLEDALISCE KOLENC (SI)

Partners: SI, SE, AL, EL, ES, BG, FR, IT

Project duration: 01/01/2018 – 01/06/2019

Grant awarded 150 000€

The project "Heart of Europe-network of towns promoting heart culture, solidarity and integration" brought together 14 partner organizations from 8 countries. The project involved more than 830 direct participants during 6 international events and over 2000 indirect participants during the whole duration of the project. The event addressed the problems of youth unemployment, globalization, immigration, European citizenship, Euroscepticism, stigmatization of migrants. **The innovative perspective of implementing activities via art and culture** facilitated comprehension of the debated topics. Through discussions, guided workshops, and presentations possible strategies were identified to **cope with youth unemployment and** to promote active volunteering and art. It also demonstrated strong contribution to the spirit of the European Year of Cultural Heritage by using culture as a tool to **promote intercultural dialogue and active civic involvement**. The most important achievement was the **creation of eight permanent and sustainable international cultural heart points**. In each participating country, creative centers ("heart points") were established in which cultural events are planned, created and performed. To promote the project's objectives, partners of the network explored different approaches of artistic expressions with the goal to **contribute to common European identity and promote EU values** as acceptance of diversity and mutual understanding.

Testimonies from participants

"This is a project (the project of the Heart of Europe, HE-ART), which, from diversity, from the various identities that exist among us, creates knowledge, connections, friendships and cooperation. This is a project dedicated to young people and our future generations. This project takes advantage of the opportunity Europe offers and builds Peace; a major project building cooperation between European countries; a project that works against misunderstanding, injustice, and dishonesty. It comes from the needs of young people and works for young people and later generations. This is a project that is against all the arguments that could defend the war in Europe; it is the invitation that the people in all diversity will begin and always work together; this is a project that calls for a new European culture, in which the differences will be our power and beauty - not the dividing line." (Network of Towns project participant from IT).

Key message

"We are delighted and grateful that through the project Heart of Europe, HE-ART, we have been able to establish HEART POINTS that will be creative centers in which, through cultural tourism and promoting each of our cultural heritage, we will sustainably contribute to the acceptance of the extremely valuable European diversity, mutually acceptance and cooperation, heartfelt friendship and friendly European citizenship" (Network of Towns project participant).

Venues of projects monitored in 2019

Civil Society Projects

In 2019 the Agency managed a portfolio of around 90 open Civil Society projects, involving more than 600 partners from almost all Member States. This monitoring once again showed Civil Society Organisations' firm engagement with EU citizens: through an analysis of the final results, the ongoing monitoring and the selection of new projects, the Agency noted that the organisations address citizens' concerns and interests, as these evolve through the years.

This year was marked by the attention given by the organisations to the **European Elections 2019**. Civil Society organisations (CSOs) financed by the Europe for Citizens programme worked hard to encourage citizens' democratic participation. They informed citizens on the functioning of the European Union, explained how the European elections work (voting process, parties and programmes), took stock of past and current legislatures, organised debates, put forward concrete proposals for the candidates and for the future of the EU, reflected on populism and fake news, and advocated for more transparency. These efforts, combined with other initiatives, including the #thistimeimvoting campaign, led to a record turnout, driven by a surge in participation by young people.

As in previous years, the **projects selected in 2019** showed CSOs substantial engagement with the priority 'Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism'. The future of Europe is tackled through general discussions on European values and the functioning of the EU, or specific work on the White paper on the Future of Europe and on the Conference on the Future of Europe. The future relationship with candidate countries and the Western Balkan countries is also explored. Intercultural dialogue is expressed mainly by focusing on migrants, be it at policy level, awareness raising on migrant groups or providing better services to migrants. Solidarity is largely present this year too across priorities and through the promotion of volunteering.

Priorities addressed by Civil Society projects beneficiaries in 2019
(Number of selected projects tackling programme priorities)

It is worth noting how the projects granted to civil society organisations in 2019 mirror 5 of the 6 **priorities established by the President von der Leyen for the period 2019-2024**. They will address a green Europe and climate change, solidarity and social inclusion, the use of digital tools to enhance democratic engagement (interactive communities and connected cities) the spreading of European values and, through all projects, a stronger democratic participation.

Civil Society Organisations are capable to give voice to the citizens of the Union and the Commission translates their prime concerns in political commitment: such interconnection and dialogue makes the success of this action and – in general – of the Programme.

The 2019 threshold for funding remains high: 82.5/100. This reflects the high quality of the applications submitted. It also means that the selection rate is very low for this action, and that many more projects would deserve to receive grants, were more budgetary resources available.

The **29** projects that received grants represent a remarkable **geographical coverage** (21 out of 34 countries represented, 32 at partner level); they are well structured, with large partnerships (around **200 partners** are involved) and cover all the thematic priorities highlighted in the initial call for proposals.

Project title: AUGmented Europe

Organisation : Meet Digital Communication srl Impresa Sociale (IT)

Partner countries : Italy, Latvia, Germany, Greece

Dates of project implementation : 01/03/2020 – 31/07/2021

Grant awarded 148 680 €

The project will explore the use of digital technologies to foster the active participation of youths to the political debate on the future of EU. It will investigate possible models to impact directly the EU political agenda.

The project will put into place 'augmented spaces' through traditional media content, social networking, and interactive community. This will allow young people to gather, share ideas and co-create joint scenarios, reaching a renewed sense of European belonging. 4 Social Media Hackathons will involve young people from all participating countries (onsite and online). Selected youngsters will be trained to facilitate remote participations. The events will focus on European challenges (immigration and social inclusion, climate change, the growing of nationalisms and poverty) and will aim at releasing creative policy recommendations to tackle these challenges.

A final co-creation event will put the project's results on stage. The event will be co-created by artists and will take place simultaneously in public spaces in 4 cities (Milan, Riga, Berlin, and Thessaloniki). It will involve the urban population, young people, citizens and policy makers. Cities will be inter-connected through media facades and screens showing real-time videos of what is happening the other cities.

Project title: Message for Europeans 3.0

Organisation : European University College Association (BE)

Partner countries : Italy, Hungary, Slovenia

Dates of project implementation : 01/09/2017 - 28/02/2019

Grant awarded 145 000 €

The Message for Europeans 3.0 project used the momentum of the **European Elections 2019** to reinforce civic debate and engagement among citizens. The project explored new, innovative methodologies

to engage young people in the public discourse on the future of Europe: debates, simulations, pecha kuchas, role plays and mock trials involved young people from 12 countries and covered themes such as the rise of populism, economic inequality, voters disengagement and the migration crisis. The events were leaded by a core group of student leaders. The project widely spread its declaration 'Message to Europeans 3.0' through online and in-person civic initiatives. The Declaration presents citizens' opinions and recommendations for the relaunch of the European integration. The project took more than 400 participants in a journey of reinforced civic engagement and democratic engagement.

Testimonies from participants

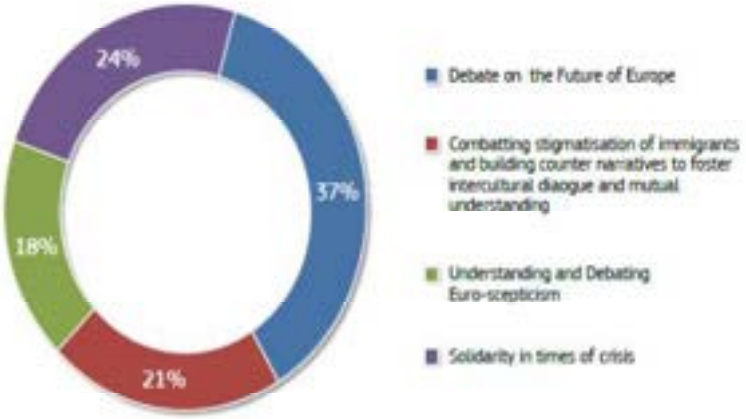
'I met incredible people from all over Europe, I challenged myself with something I had never done before (like debating in politics) and I took part in a flash mob in front of the European Parliament.'

'In terms of critical thinking, I believe to have learned how to express my position better, and furthermore how to understand the argument and position of others. By joining groups of different nationalities, I was able to think critically about Europe and my understanding of its future.'

The projects finalised in 2019, showed how, thanks to the support of the Europe for Citizens programme, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and their partners were able to carry out their engagement activities and reach citizens.

The projects finalised in 2019 covered the priorities as follows. In most cases, projects addressed more than one priority, this approach reflects the complexity of such projects that aim to engage citizens in active participation.

Priorities addressed by CSP finalised in 2019



Many projects finalised in 2019 tended to concentrate on youth engagement and volunteering.

They addressed democratic engagement through reflections on what the EU meant for participants, what their fears and hopes were about the EU. EU values were at the centre of the events: volunteering, strengthening solidarity, tolerance and inter-cultural diversity. Projects helped building a positive narrative on EU achievements and share information on the functioning of the EU.

Projects organized events such as debates, conferences, seminars, festivals, campaigns and workshops. They worked at grass root level which allowed them to include people who were less involved in discussions about the EU. Activities took place in main cities, but also in smaller towns across Europe. Organisations set-up online platforms through which they organized debates and which enabled participants to share testimonies, while increasing the projects' outreach. The use of social media too allowed gathering participants across borders. Projects conducted studies, for example to understand better migration and EU policies in the field of migration.

In terms of outcomes, projects developed tool-kits and guidebooks, allowing for a future use of their project results, which they sent to policy-makers.

Finally, we noted CSOs' strong will to concentrate on capacity-building activities, networking and sharing of good practices.

In conclusion, one can say that projects achieved impressive results in engaging citizens at EU level. Organisations showed their commitment to achieving long-term results and their creativity in their ways of reaching out to citizens.

Project title: 'RESPONSIBILITY. Freedom of Expression'

Organisation : THE WORLD OF NGOS (AT)

Partner countries : Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia

Dates of project implementation : 01/09/2018 – 21/06/2019

Grant awarded 57.960 €

The project 'RESPONSIBILITY. Freedom of Expression' aimed at identifying and promoting strategic approaches that civil society can use in order to tackle hate speech, fake news, harassment and intimidation, while maintaining a democratic environment and respecting the freedom of speech. The project gathered NGOs and research institutions from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania and brought together researchers, experts and citizens. It conducted research, organised a series of events and developed a **toolkit 'Counter-strategies towards hate and disinformation'**. The toolkit serves as a practical guide, and highlights Europeans' existing engagement and commitment in the field (like for example the European Commission's "Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online"). The project involved European Solidarity Corps.

This project has mapped out all relevant networks, organizations, institutions, tools and methods that currently exist in the field of hate speech and disinformation. It provides the user with a great deal of information on the topic itself, as well as numerous solutions on how to suppress hate speech and disinformation, where to seek help, with whom to cooperate, how to empower victims, about the legal frameworks and social context.

Extract of the testimony from the Croatian partner, a women's advocacy organization

Project title: While Innovating and Strengthening Europe – WISE

Organisation: Association des Agences de la Démocratie Locale

Partner countries: France, Italy, Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, Portugal, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Netherlands, Spain, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, Czech Republic, Romania

Dates of project implementation: 01/12/2017 – 31/05/2019

Grant awarded €150 000

Using bottom-up approach and participatory methods, the WISE project focused on promoting democratic engagement and active citizenship in local and union policy-making. In times of crisis, many people find themselves in unfavorable economic or social situation, and radicalized movements are appearing, with a huge wave of Euroscepticism is raising all over the Europe – as confirmed by the referendum in the United Kingdom on the leave from Europe Union, commonly known as Brexit. It was urgent to reassess where we are heading to. The occasion of remembrance of the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome in 2017 was a good starting point to reflect on and learn from the past of European Union. Most of the people that took part in the projects felt the need for a transformation in their own societies. The challenge was that they were usually not aware of how to improve the situation. Reflection on the past was the first step, throughout the implementation at the local level of the "EU LEARNING" path form all the partners. In this phase it has been useful and necessary to understand the causes of current problems and accessible means by which the desirable changes can be achieved, the participants have been setting together the priorities (i.e. Euroscepticism, climate change, EU citizenship perception, migration, elections, etc.) of the reflection ongoing under the guide and mentoring of the project partners. Citizens, coming from different countries and different social background, have been engaged in a reflection on what direction EU is heading to, and how they can drive a positive change. A specific attention was paid to the role and responsibilities of the organized civil society in catalyzing citizens' needs and priorities, mobilizing the communities, sensitizing about the EU values, promoting a critical mass, as well as encouraging the EU citizens to take active initiative on a local, regional, national or even European Union's level: CSOs are fundamental nowadays to actively participate in EU.

"Thanks to this conference I finally have a clearer understanding of the European Union, its way of working, the institution and the common history that is under it. I am more aware of our history and values, and since I am approaching now to be eighteen, and so I will have the opportunity to take an active part in the upcoming EU elections, it was really important to me to understand and know more about the Europe Union, in order to vote more consciously and have my say in shaping our common future"

Young European lady from high school in Civitavecchia (Province of Rome, Italy) attending the launching event in Rome.

The map below shows the venues of the projects monitored in 2019.

OPERATING GRANTS

With its Operating Grants, the Europe for Citizens Programme supports the regular activities of non-profit organisations with European outreach, for those contributing to raising awareness of European remembrance (Strand 1) and for those encouraging democratic and civic participation (Strand 2). In 2019, 6.0 million € was awarded.

Beneficiaries of operating grants are civil society organisations for European remembrance, European public policy research organisations (Think Tanks), platforms of pan-European organisations and civil society organisations working at the European level.

Indirectly they represent over 2000 organisations in Europe.

In 2019:

- Activities were organized in 28 Member States
- More than 1000 events were supported
- 6.0 million euro were awarded

2019 was the second year of the three-year Framework Partnership (Framework Partnerships are cooperation mechanisms established between a particular organisation and the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency) (2018-2020) of the Operating Grants awarded to 30 organisations. In 2019 the Agency has analysed the reports for activities implemented in 2018 and monitored the 2019 work programmes.

As 2019 was the year of the **European elections**, many beneficiaries organised awareness-raising activities to inform citizens and encourage critical thinking and democratic skills. The rise of populism and nationalism in Europe was predicted to be a major factor in the elections. That is why a particular emphasis was put on continuous fight against those phenomena. Many organisations organised workshops, trainings and campaigns with an aim to actively engage citizens and provide necessary knowledge to help in making informed choices. It demonstrated that the organisations participating in the Europe for Citizens programme stay very close to the citizens' concerns, and evolve with the European agenda.

Organisation: Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes

Grant awarded: € 200 000

I CHOOSE EUROPE

Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes (JEF) is a supranational, politically pluralist youth NGO with about 30,000 members in over 35 countries. The goal of JEF is the creation of a democratic European federation as a guarantee for peace and more free, just and democratic society.

JEF initiated "I choose Europe" campaign with intention to call citizens who believe in the European unity to come out and vote, choose Europe against the European project of the nationalists, to speak up for the Europe they want for the future. The project encouraged expression of choice by voting for a Stronger, Democratic, Social and Federal Europe. It also intended to call candidates and policy makers across Europe to rally around a road-map of reforms leading to such a Strong, Democratic Social and Federal Europe that can inspire the trust of the citizens and deliver on their expectations.

Organisation: Institut pre evropskou politiku EUROPEUM

Grant awarded: € 250 000

Institut pre evropskou politiku EUROPEUM is a non-profit, non-partisan, and independent think-tank

focusing on European integration and cohesion. EUROPEUM contributes to democracy, security, stability, freedom, and solidarity across Europe as well as to active engagement of the Czech Republic in the European Union. EUROPEUM undertakes original research, organizes public events and educational activities, and formulates new ideas and recommendations to improve European and Czech policy making.

EUROPEUM organized a series of workshops entitled Save the European Elections. It focused on students who were first-time voters in the 2019 European elections. Through active participation students learnt about the way the European elections work and discussed themes concerning election participation, democracy, European values and political representation.

'We were happy to welcome the project "Save the European elections" at our high school. Our students have broadened their knowledge about the European Union and most importantly, they got to know a lot of new information concerning the upcoming European elections and their political representation in the EU. I believe that many of these first-time voters are going to know why their participation at elections is important and what to do in the voting room,' said a participant.

Organisations supported under the 'European Remembrance' strand specifically dealt with preventing and countering extremism and anti-Semitism through history education.

Organisation: Mémorial de la Shoah

Grant awarded: € 250 000

The Mémorial de la Shoah partly thanks to the support of the Union - became a European reference network on the Holocaust and other genocides and on European identity. First founded as an archive collecting evidence of Anti-Jewish persecution in 1943, the Mémorial is an institution deeply linked to the history of the Holocaust and WWII. Today the Mémorial serves as a point of reference on the Shoah at European level.

For several years, the Memorial has been a key player in raising awareness of anti-Semitism and hatred. Activities such as school and teacher trainings, conferences and seminars, question the process behind antisemitism and other forms of exclusions, with a strong focus on the role of hate speech, fake news and propaganda.

In 2019 the Memorial continued to deconstruct cognitive biases through interactive and interdisciplinary pedagogical workshops, guided tours of the Memorial, inter-museums visits, film screenings and debates. The Memorial was also offering 'citizenship workshops' for people convicted of anti-Semitic or racist acts or speeches.

In recent years the Memorial has developed a unique program: pedagogical workshops are organized directly in schools, to ensure all students have access regardless whether they are able to travel to Paris.

One flagship commemoration in 2019 was **30 anniversary of the 1989 Democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin wall**. These were pivotal events in European history, which marked the end of the Iron Curtain. Commemorations took place across the EU in many forms: concerts, exhibition and artistic performances.

Organisation: Fundació Solidaritat UB

Grant awarded: € 291 100

Fundació Solidaritat de la Universitat de Barcelona leads a transnational network of institutions and organizations committed to the analysis and promotion of public policies in the field of memories called – European Observatory of Memories (EUROM). It aims to reflect on the recent history of the struggle for democracy and freedom in Europe, advocating for a plurality of memories.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, EUROM in cooperation with the Berlin Wall Foundation and a group of local artists promoted a multimedia performance entitled All along the watchtower.

All along the watchtower was a memorial show in between the concert, the recital, and the artistic performance. Taking as its starting point the song All along the watchtower, the show reviewed the hymns of resistance and struggle, declared the poems of hope, survival and of disappointment. Using direct and suggestive images of the walls as a global concept, it became a song of desire for freedom.

The show was conceived and produced by a multidisciplinary group of artists based in Berlin, all of them born and raised in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR).

The event was one of the acts of the Festivalwoche "30 Jahre Friedliche Revolution – Mauerfall and was presented on November 8 at 8 pm in Zionskirche Berlin. In Barcelona, it was part of the programme Paradigma Mur. Berlin-Barcelona 1989-2019/ 1961-2021 at El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria.

Venues of activities monitored in 2019

PART B

Quantitative information

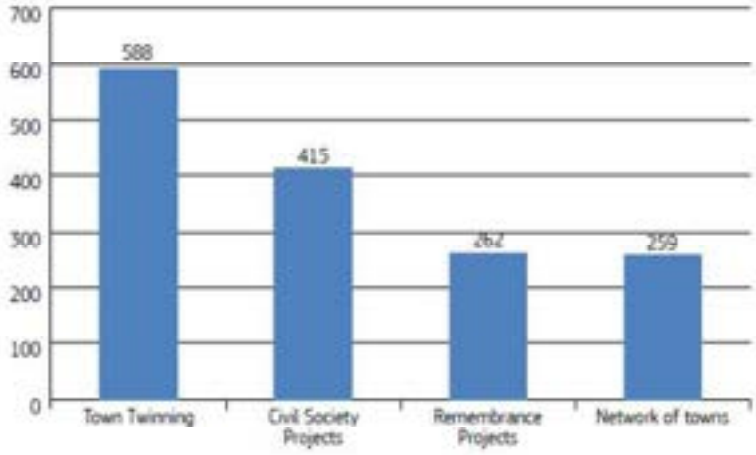
Europe for citizens programme: follow up selection and contracts (2019)

Europe for citizens programme follow up selection and contracts (2019)												
Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget	Number of grants / contracts	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of ineligible application	Number of selected application	Success rate	Decision date	Amount of Decision (euros)	Amount committed
Strand 1 - European remembrance and European citizenship												
1.1.	Remembrance projects	3.960.000	44	EACEA-51/2018	1/02/2019	262*	0	49**	18 %	8/07/2018	3.959.360 and reserve list 437.760	4.334.840
1.2.	Structural support think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1.291.900	6	EACEA 33/2017 invitation EACEA	17/12/2018	6	0	6	100%	13/03/2019	1.291.900	1.291.900
Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation												
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 1	4.837.736	277	EACEA 51/2018	1/02/2019	301	0	135***	44%	17/06/2019	2.259.190	4.512.450
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 2				2/09/2019	287	0	127	44%	17/12/2019	2.273.260	
						588		260				
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - phase 1	4.662.105	35	EACEA-51/2018	1/03/2019	131	1	18	14%	22/07/2019	2.539.080	5.022.720****
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - phase 2				2/09/2019	128	0	18	14%	13/12/2019	2.483.640	
						259		36				
2.3.	Civil society projects	3.728.676	28	EACEA-51/2018	2/09/2019	415*	4	29	7%	17/12/2018	3.769.270	3.803.795*****
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5.518.503	24	EACEA - 33/2017 Invitation EACEA 43/2018	17/12/2018	24	0	24	100%	13/03/2019	5.508.244	5.508.244
Strand 3 - Valorisation												
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900.000	36	EACEA 40/2018	29/11/2018	29	0	29	100%	21/12/2018	782.840	782.840
4.1.	Support to project selection	200.000			n/a						0	0
	TOTAL WP 2019	**25.098.920**	**450**			**1583**	**5**	**453**	**27%**		**25.320.544**	**25.256.789**

Applications submitted in 2019

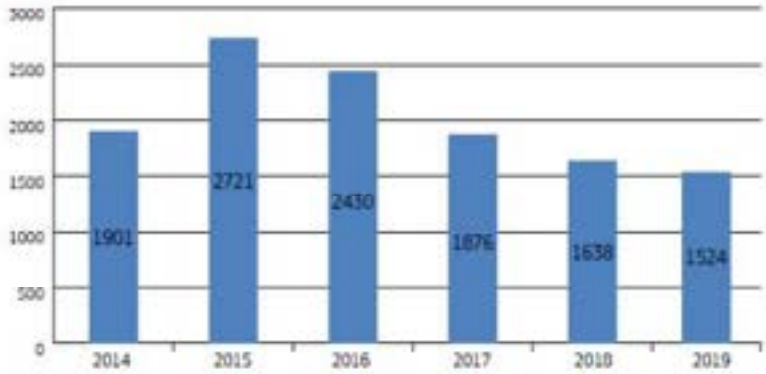
In total, 1583 applications were submitted in 2019, of which 1524 applications for action grants, 30 Operating Grants applications and 29 applications for the Europe for Citizens Contact points.

- Overview per action (action grants)



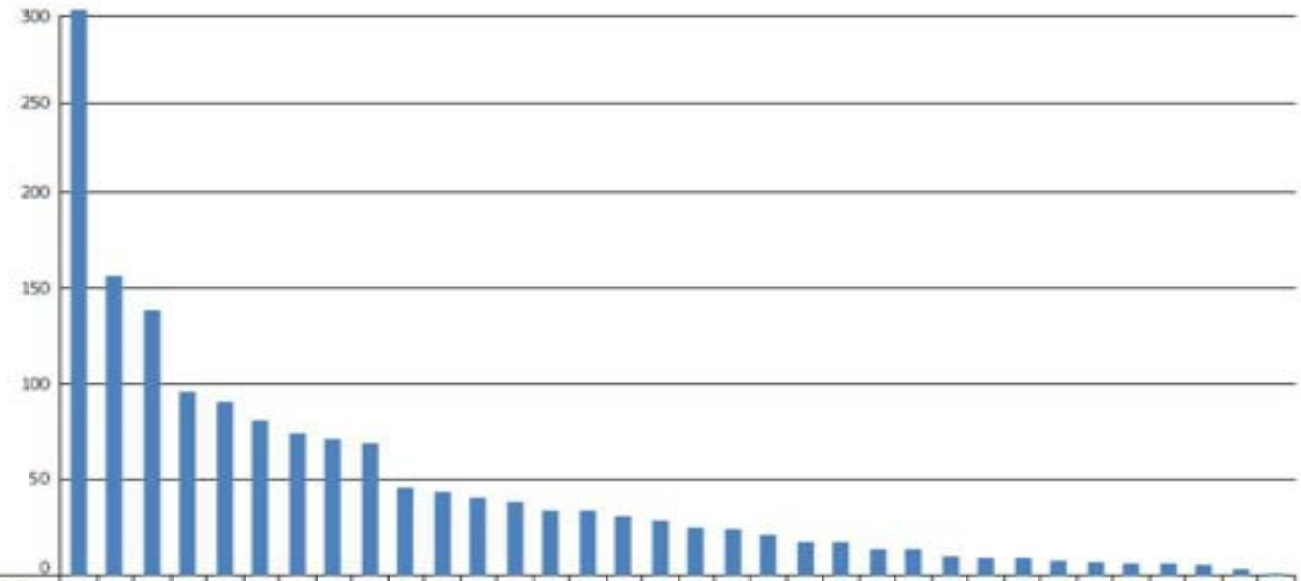
- Applications received 2014-2019 (action grants)

The decrease in number of applications submitted for action grants has a slightly positive impact on the success rate.



- **Overview per country of applications submitted – actions and operating grants**

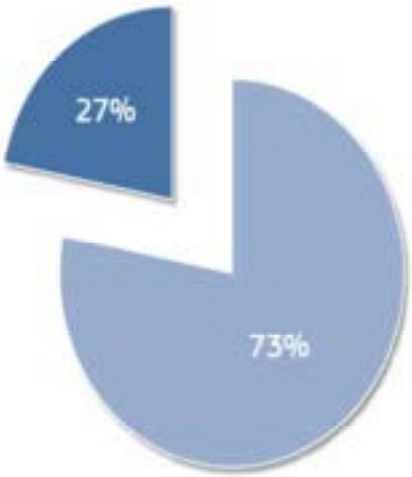
Organisations from all Member States and participating countries are represented as applicants. Italy was the Member State submitting the greatest number of proposals (303 or 19.5%), followed by Hungary (160 or 10.3%), Slovakia (146 or 9.4%) and Poland (97 or 6.2%).



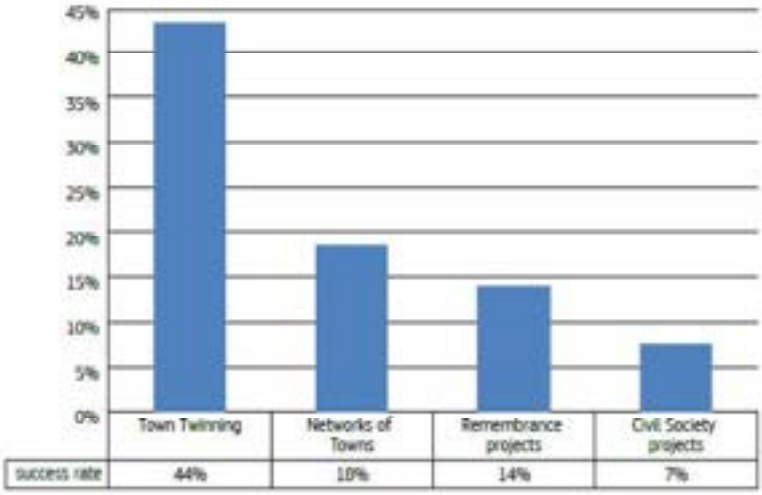
total	IT	HU	SK	PL	DE	RO	ES	FR	BG	RS	HR	BE	PT	CZ	AT	EL	SI	MK	NL	EE	IE	LV	AL	MT	BA	FI	SE	XK	UK	DK	ME	CY	LU	IS
1154	303	160	146	97	89	73	69	65	62	47	45	39	37	32	31	28	27	24	23	20	16	16	14	14	11	10	10	7	6	5	5	4	2	1
100%	19.5%	10.3%	9.4%	6.2%	5.7%	4.7%	4.4%	4.2%	4.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.5%	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	1.3%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%

Applications selected in 2019

- Programme success rate

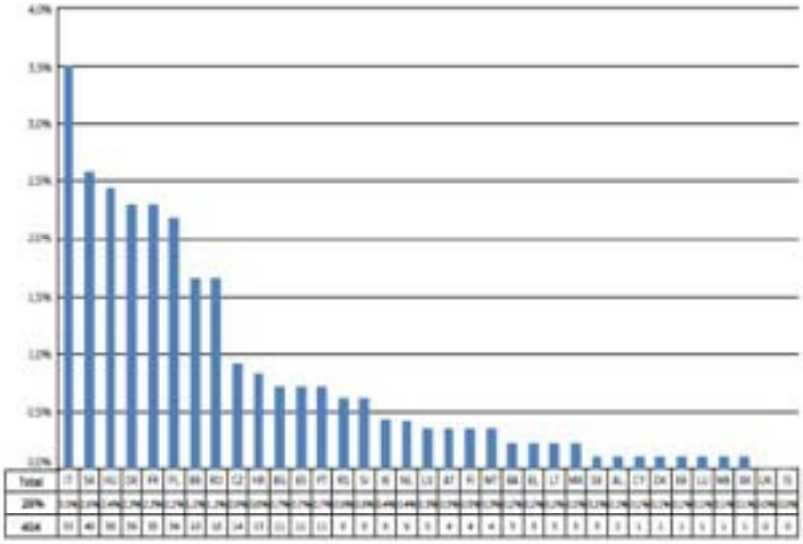


- Success rate for action grants by activity/measure

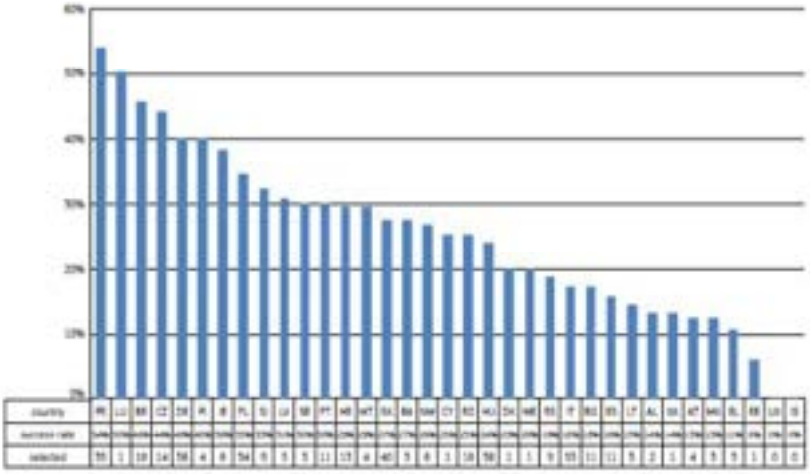


- Success rate per country

Success rate per country in relation to the 1554 applications submitted (European Remembrance, Town Twinning, Networks of Towns and Civil Society action grants and operating grants)



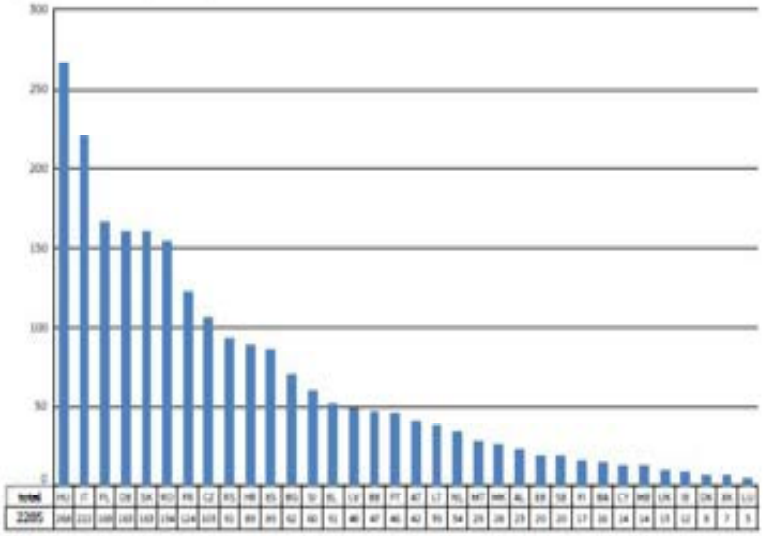
Success rate per country in relation to projects submitted by the same country
Ratio between applications submitted and selected per country



Analyse of projects partners

- Overview per country

2285 partners were selected for action grants (European Remembrance, Town Twinning, Networks of Towns and Civil Society projects). Breakdown per country below:



- 2019 - Partners per country in selected applications

Action	Number of projects granted	Number of Partners in project granted	Average number of partners in 2019	Average number of partners in 2018
Network of Towns	49	293	6,0	6,9
Civil Society Projects	260	1368	5,3	5,4
Remembrance Projects	36	434	12,1	11
Town Twinning	29	190	6,6	7,3
TOTAL	374	2285	6,1	6,3

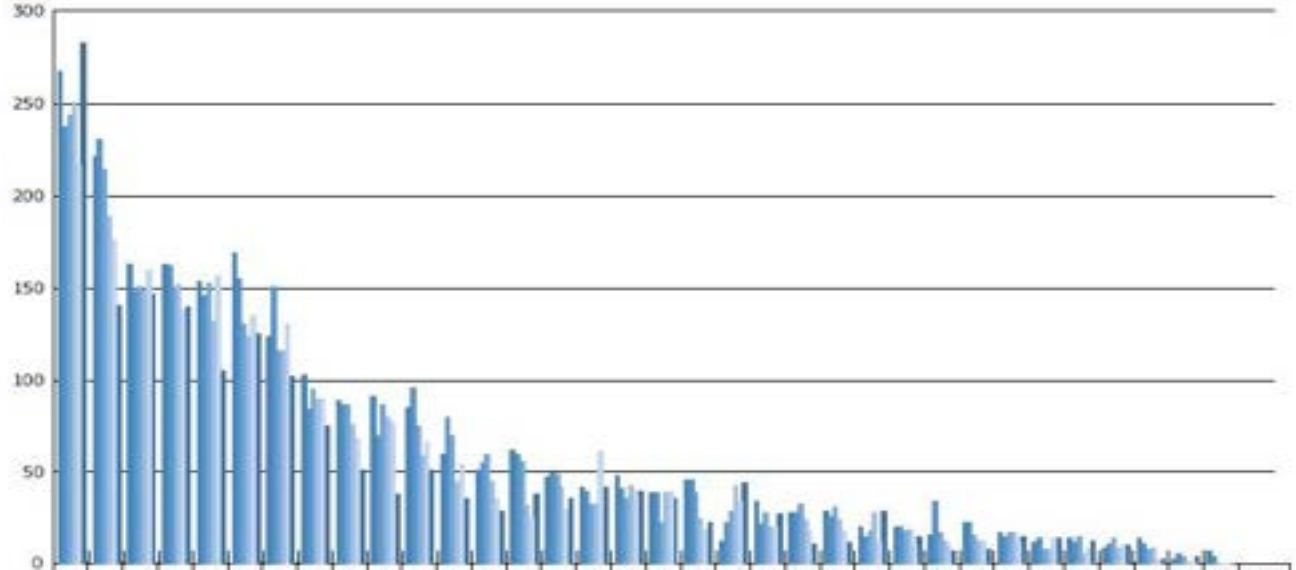
In tables at pages 6 and 7 of this document, the concept of "partners" includes all the organisations involved in the projects, included the applicants

- Partners per action in selected applications 2019

Country	European Remembrance	Town Twinning	Networks of Towns	Civil Society projects	Total
AL	5	5	11	2	23
AT	10	22	4	6	42
BA	2	7	6	1	16
BE	11	12	8	16	47
BG	11	21	23	7	62
CY	0	7	6	1	14
CZ	12	76	11	4	103
DE	28	105	20	10	163
DK	4	0	3	2	9
EE	4	5	6	5	20
EL	9	11	21	10	51
ES	16	34	24	11	85
FI	4	4	7	2	17
FR	17	82	15	10	124
HR	7	62	14	6	89
HU	16	225	19	8	268
IE	3	3	4	2	12
IT	27	126	49	20	222
LT	8	14	13	4	39
LU	0	1	2	0	3
LV	2	27	14	5	48
ME	2	4	6	2	14
MK	4	11	10	3	28
MT	2	14	12	1	29
NL	8	12	9	5	34
PL	36	98	22	13	169
PT	9	14	18	5	46
RO	15	110	20	9	154
RS	4	65	17	5	91
SE	1	8	9	2	20
SI	5	30	17	8	60
SK	11	144	5	3	163
UK	0	9	4	0	13
XK	0	0	5	2	7
IS	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	293	1368	434	190	2285
Number of projects granted	49	260	36	29	374

• Number of partners per country 2014-2020

The number of partners has grown continuously since 2014. Since the beginning of the programme, 12.329 partners were involved in action grants.



	HU	IT	SK	DE	RO	PL	FR	CZ	HR	RS	ES	SI	EL	BG	BE	AT	LV	LT	PT	UK	NL	MK	MT	EE	SE	BA	AL	FI	IE	CY	DK	ME	LU	XK	Total
2019	268	222	163	163	154	169	124	103	89	91	85	60	51	62	47	42	48	39	46	33	34	28	29	20	20	16	23	17	12	14	9	14	3	7	2285
2018	238	231	148	162	146	155	151	84	87	70	96	80	55	60	50	40	41	39	46	23	22	28	26	15	20	34	23	15	14	12	11	11	6	4	2243
2017	244	215	151	151	153	131	116	95	87	67	75	70	60	56	49	33	36	23	39	25	28	33	31	18	18	17	16	17	8	15	14	8	4	0	2133
2016	251	189	149	152	132	124	116	90	76	60	59	46	45	52	42	33	43	39	25	48	20	24	24	28	19	13	13	17	8	6	9	9	1	0	1956
2015	237	176	160	138	137	135	131	90	68	77	67	54	36	25	30	61	38	40	19	34	20	18	18	12	10	10	13	12	14	9	10	3	1	0	1902
2014	283	143	147	140	105	125	102	75	51	38	51	36	29	38	36	42	40	36	23	44	27	11	12	29	15	7	8	15	14	13	10	3	4	0	1810

• Selection thresholds (action grants)

The table below show all the funding thresholds for action grants (i.e. the lowest score obtained by selected projects) since the beginning of the Europe for Citizens programme in 2014. It takes into consideration the released reserve lots.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Remembrance	84	79,5	82,5	82,5	82,5	80,5
Civil Society	82,75	81,75	81,5	82,25	82,5	82,5
Town Twinning phase 1	53	78	74	71	71	71
Town Twinning phase 2	70,75	74,25	73	72	71	71
Network of Town phase 1	67,5	80	81	82	81	81
Network of Town phase 2	76,25	85	84	83	82	81

• Feeling of being a citizen of the EU

According to Standard Reports of the Eurobarometer the feeling of being an EU citizen on European average has remained stable over the last years.

Country	Autumn 2000	Spring 2001	Autumn 2001	Spring 2002	Autumn 2002	Spring 2003	Autumn 2003	Spring 2004	Autumn 2004	Spring 2005	Autumn 2005	Spring 2006	Autumn 2006	Spring 2007	Autumn 2007	Spring 2008
	EB 62 p.14	EB 61 p.36	EB 60 p.53	EB 69 p.36	EB 68 p.39	EB 67 p. 30	EB 66 p.32	EB 65 p. 30	EB 64 p. 32	EB 63 p. 17	EB 62 p. 29	EB 61 p. 7	EB 60 p. 30	EB 79 p. 23	EB 76 p. 23	EB 77 p. 22
AT	73	80	75	77	70	73	66	69	63	72	73	67	63	66	63	60
BE	74	81	79	74	70	70	71	71	72	70	69	71	70	71	68	69
BG	56	52	51	51	56	55	50	49	47	50	48	46	49	48	47	50
CY	72	73	65	72	69	64	53	53	49	50	51	53	46	45	55	62
CZ	65	58	56	59	56	57	53	58	57	62	60	57	55	54	54	52
DE	83	88	86	84	82	82	77	78	74	81	74	79	73	73	74	74
DK	79	82	78	80	79	81	74	77	76	74	74	73	71	71	74	75
EE	80	79	81	78	78	75	75	76	73	79	78	76	72	70	73	67
EL	51	57	52	51	48	48	47	46	50	50	45	49	42	44	46	50
ES	86	87	83	82	88	75	79	76	75	69	71	71	69	68	73	70
FI	81	85	81	79	81	81	79	82	75	81	76	79	73	73	78	71
FR	58	64	62	61	63	64	61	67	61	61	63	63	57	61	66	65
HR	66	64	66	63	61	61	60	61	66	63	56	55	58	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
HU	80	84	80	77	67	70	69	65	69	67	67	59	59	59	54	51
IE	80	85	85	85	81	82	78	80	76	77	78	74	67	68	69	69
IT	55	57	59	56	54	53	51	49	49	53	47	47	45	52	51	45
LT	81	80	77	78	77	77	74	74	77	78	71	71	64	65	64	60
LU	91	93	89	93	90	89	92	93	85	88	89	85	85	88	87	85
LV	73	76	75	74	73	74	73	71	68	69	68	62	53	56	57	54
MT	81	81	82	82	85	82	82	84	82	84	85	87	74	81	76	72
NL	72	77	75	70	70	71	68	70	67	70	61	65	58	61	67	60
PL	81	84	79	80	77	80	78	76	71	74	74	77	67	70	74	67
PT	81	84	78	83	81	80	79	75	72	72	66	69	58	62	59	60
RO	72	73	68	64	63	66	67	59	62	65	60	61	56	53	51	60
SE	79	83	82	76	77	76	75	74	72	78	76	77	69	69	73	65
SI	76	77	72	73	73	71	73	70	75	65	69	69	61	64	60	66
SK	79	80	77	80	75	72	73	75	69	75	73	73	70	76	71	70
UK	53	58	58	57	55	54	55	53	52	56	60	52	42	48	48	42
EU	**70**	**73**	**71**	**70**	**70**	**68**	**67**	**66**	**64**	**67**	**63**	**65**	**59**	**62**	**63**	**61**

Synoptic table of projects submitted and granted per country and action in 2019

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020
Report 2019

	Applications submitted									Projects selected								Statistic Data				
	1.1.1	1.1.2	1.2.1	1.2.2	1.2.3	1.3.1	1.3.2	TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected	1.1.1	1.1.2	1.2.1	1.2.2	1.2.3	1.3.1	1.3.2		Applications submitted in %	Applications Granted in %	Income rate submitted/ granted per country	Population rate	Population Income 2019
AL	3	4	1	0	2	0	3	14		0	1	0	0	1	0	0	AL	0,34%	0,34%	14,29%	0,14%	[illegible]
AT	13	18	1	0	0	0	0	32		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	AT	1,44%	0,44%	31,30%	1,40%	[illegible]
BA	3	1	0	1	0	5	0	11		0	1	0	1	1	0	0	BA	0,37%	0,34%	27,27%	0,30%	[illegible]
BE	11	4	10	0	2	1	1	30		1	2	10	0	1	1	1	BE	1,15%	4,46%	46,95%	2,41%	[illegible]
BG	13	30	0	4	4	5	7	63		1	2	0	1	2	1	2	BG	2,16%	2,72%	31,74%	1,40%	[illegible]
CY	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	4		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	CY	0,14%	0,25%	25,00%	0,14%	[illegible]
CZ	7	8	1	4	4	0	1	25		1	2	1	4	4	0	0	CZ	0,86%	3,47%	40,75%	2,00%	[illegible]
DE	20	18	1	18	38	2	1	82		2	4	2	16	14	1	0	DE	3,17%	8,61%	36,59%	15,41%	[illegible]
DK	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	DK	0,11%	0,21%	26,00%	1,00%	[illegible]
EE	4	2	0	1	1	1	3	12		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	EE	1,01%	0,21%	8,33%	0,30%	[illegible]
ES	14	6	1	0	0	2	4	28		1	1	0	0	0	0	1	ES	1,80%	0,14%	35,71%	2,02%	[illegible]
FI	17	25	1	2	4	12	8	69		1	4	1	1	2	2	0	FI	6,66%	2,72%	35,94%	8,70%	[illegible]
FR	9	2	0	0	2	1	0	20		1	1	0	0	1	1	0	FR	0,84%	0,99%	40,00%	3,09%	[illegible]
GR	14	5	0	11	11	1	4	46		1	1	0	10	13	0	1	GR	4,14%	8,64%	52,85%	11,67%	[illegible]
HR	15	5	1	5	7	0	5	43		1	1	1	1	4	1	1	HR	1,66%	1,27%	38,84%	0,77%	[illegible]
HU	17	36	1	21	35	11	9	130		2	1	1	30	15	1	2	HU	10,30%	8,41%	21,75%	3,40%	[illegible]
IE	5	4	1	1	4	0	1	16		1	2	1	1	1	0	0	IE	1,01%	1,40%	37,50%	0,47%	[illegible]
IT	33	48	1	32	52	30	43	163		1	4	0	22	30	1	2	IT	13,16%	11,01%	33,13%	15,40%	[illegible]
LT	7	5	0	0	2	4	2	20		1	1	0	0	1	0	0	LT	1,29%	0,74%	35,00%	0,14%	[illegible]
LU	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	LU	0,14%	0,21%	50,00%	0,11%	[illegible]
LV	5	5	0	0	1	3	5	19		1	1	0	0	0	1	0	LV	1,01%	1,14%	31,25%	0,30%	[illegible]
MK	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	5		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	MK	0,32%	0,21%	20,00%	0,11%	[illegible]
MT	10	6	0	2	1	5	0	24		0	1	0	1	1	0	0	MT	1,54%	0,14%	12,50%	0,30%	[illegible]
NL	4	1	0	1	1	3	4	14		0	1	0	1	1	0	1	NL	0,90%	0,99%	28,57%	0,00%	[illegible]
NO	10	2	1	0	0	0	0	13		1	0	0	0	0	1	0	NO	1,38%	1,49%	23,08%	2,14%	[illegible]
PL	14	19	1	11	16	4	4	69		1	4	1	10	11	0	1	PL	4,24%	5,47%	35,05%	7,14%	[illegible]
PT	7	8	1	5	7	5	4	37		1	1	0	1	4	1	1	PT	2,38%	2,72%	35,73%	1,64%	[illegible]
RO	19	19	1	16	14	5	3	77		1	1	0	0	5	1	0	RO	4,98%	4,46%	24,68%	9,60%	[illegible]
RS	14	7	1	10	4	0	0	37		1	1	0	5	2	0	0	RS	1,81%	2,72%	35,15%	1,47%	[illegible]
SE	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	10		0	1	1	0	0	0	1	SE	0,68%	0,74%	30,00%	1,14%	[illegible]
SI	7	3	0	4	5	0	0	22		1	1	0	2	4	1	0	SI	1,24%	2,47%	31,17%	0,00%	[illegible]
SK	9	6	1	10	16	5	6	53		0	1	0	10	15	0	0	SK	4,40%	5,94%	27,36%	1,14%	[illegible]
TR	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TR	0,34%	0,00%	0,00%	12,40%	[illegible]
UK	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	7		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	UK	0,41%	0,21%	14,29%	1,14%	[illegible]
XK	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	XK	0,06%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	0
TOTAL	413	252	14	191	247	131	126	1374	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%		[illegible]	[illegible]
				588		258							258		56							

Synoptic table of projects submitted and granted per country and action in the period 2014-2019

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020

Report 2014-2019

	Applications submitted									Projects selected								Multiple Data				
	CIV	MEMORY	CNS	TY1	TY2	NET1	NTS2	TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected	CIV	MEMORY	CNS	TY1	TY2	NET1	NTS2		Applications submitted in %	Applications selected in %	Success rate submitted/ granted per country	Population rate	Population average 2020
AL	19	18	8	2	4	7	8	56	[illegible]	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	AL	0,46%	0,14%	5,17%	0,11%	[illegible]
AT	75	57	9	15	7	9	13	185	[illegible]	6	9	1	4	3	2	3	AT	1,48%	1,29%	34,05%	1,61%	[illegible]
BA	29	16	2	6	5	8	12	82	[illegible]	1	2	0	2	3	0	0	BA	0,66%	0,57%	5,76%	0,73%	[illegible]
BE	149	86	89	17	11	9	13	353	[illegible]	13	19	17	4	5	4	2	BE	1,81%	2,72%	36,71%	1,14%	[illegible]
BG	133	121	8	18	23	24	10	382	[illegible]	4	6	0	10	8	3	0	BG	1,86%	1,89%	30,73%	1,34%	[illegible]
CY	17	2	0	2	3	4	3	33	[illegible]	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	CY	0,26%	0,57%	21,21%	0,14%	[illegible]
CZ	50	34	7	17	19	6	7	250	[illegible]	4	9	2	13	20	1	0	CZ	1,86%	2,63%	22,80%	2,46%	[illegible]
DE	117	134	34	221	188	23	25	744	[illegible]	12	19	6	59	79	8	7	DE	5,96%	10,88%	25,44%	15,68%	[illegible]
DK	24	5	2	6	2	0	2	39	[illegible]	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	DK	0,31%	0,29%	31,18%	1,68%	[illegible]
EE	25	29	1	7	7	2	3	74	[illegible]	2	2	0	2	3	0	0	EE	0,59%	0,57%	8,46%	0,21%	[illegible]
EL	83	84	3	6	11	30	30	243	[illegible]	6	7	0	3	3	3	0	EL	1,95%	1,29%	31,57%	1,01%	[illegible]
ES	144	146	39	48	54	45	38	515	[illegible]	9	12	3	22	18	6	4	ES	4,26%	3,45%	34,29%	6,87%	[illegible]
FI	19	11	2	2	7	5	1	47	[illegible]	2	5	0	1	3	2	0	FI	0,38%	0,00%	27,66%	1,04%	[illegible]
FR	94	93	78	147	170	29	34	635	[illegible]	8	17	10	34	35	7	7	FR	5,08%	7,87%	27,89%	12,04%	[illegible]
HR	107	80	7	49	40	38	34	335	[illegible]	6	6	1	18	21	4	5	HR	2,68%	2,77%	31,61%	0,80%	[illegible]
HU	168	104	11	629	213	101	96	1402	[illegible]	5	7	2	116	79	12	5	HU	11,87%	12,44%	34,15%	1,87%	[illegible]
IE	29	16	4	7	11	9	2	78	[illegible]	4	6	1	5	5	0	0	IE	0,57%	0,97%	25,58%	0,66%	[illegible]
IT	491	447	20	286	266	205	245	1959	[illegible]	16	21	0	110	61	24	13	IT	15,69%	12,25%	33,58%	11,57%	[illegible]
LT	58	60	0	15	18	10	8	169	[illegible]	6	7	0	3	8	0	1	LT	1,35%	1,15%	34,71%	0,51%	[illegible]
LU	5	0	2	0	2	1	4	14	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	LU	0,11%	0,27%	35,71%	0,11%	[illegible]
LV	57	57	6	20	20	16	19	195	[illegible]	3	6	1	4	2	2	1	LV	1,12%	1,06%	33,94%	0,17%	[illegible]
MT	7	6	1	0	0	0	3	17	[illegible]	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	MT	0,14%	0,14%	37,65%	0,17%	[illegible]
NL	41	17	7	9	8	10	7	99	[illegible]	2	4	1	1	3	1	1	NL	0,79%	0,86%	33,13%	0,29%	[illegible]
PL	18	12	1	13	11	9	14	78	[illegible]	1	3	0	7	10	3	4	PL	0,62%	1,43%	35,74%	0,08%	[illegible]
PT	52	36	13	9	4	8	7	129	[illegible]	4	9	1	0	3	2	1	PT	1,03%	1,00%	31,65%	1,27%	[illegible]
RO	167	158	15	189	131	44	49	813	[illegible]	8	18	1	48	50	5	5	RO	6,51%	7,00%	36,90%	1,21%	[illegible]
SE	51	32	5	16	17	16	13	150	[illegible]	5	5	0	8	8	3	3	SE	1,20%	1,67%	21,33%	1,94%	[illegible]
SI	109	154	1	262	111	25	27	766	[illegible]	7	6	0	72	35	5	0	SI	5,85%	6,17%	38,98%	0,75%	[illegible]
SK	84	56	5	48	42	19	30	285	[illegible]	5	5	0	17	15	2	1	SK	2,28%	1,98%	35,09%	1,14%	[illegible]
TR	21	12	5	5	5	11	9	68	[illegible]	1	2	1	0	3	4	0	TR	0,51%	0,79%	26,56%	1,87%	[illegible]
UK	84	82	1	34	36	25	29	290	[illegible]	4	7	0	16	17	4	2	UK	1,32%	2,30%	37,24%	0,14%	[illegible]
NO	71	101	18	418	119	45	48	1820	[illegible]	1	6	1	345	87	3	3	NO	13,94%	13,42%	37,36%	1,01%	[illegible]
CH	48	35	22	19	18	4	7	171	[illegible]	4	5	4	4	5	0	0	CH	1,37%	1,07%	32,87%	0,91%	[illegible]
XK*	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	7	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	XK*	0,06%	0,00%	14,29%	0,00%	[illegible]
TOTAL	2648	2434	600	2050	2096	780	917	12484	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	TOTAL	99,94%	99,96%		100,00%	[illegible]
				5855		3703							1588		290							

European Commission

Europe for Citizens 2020 Report

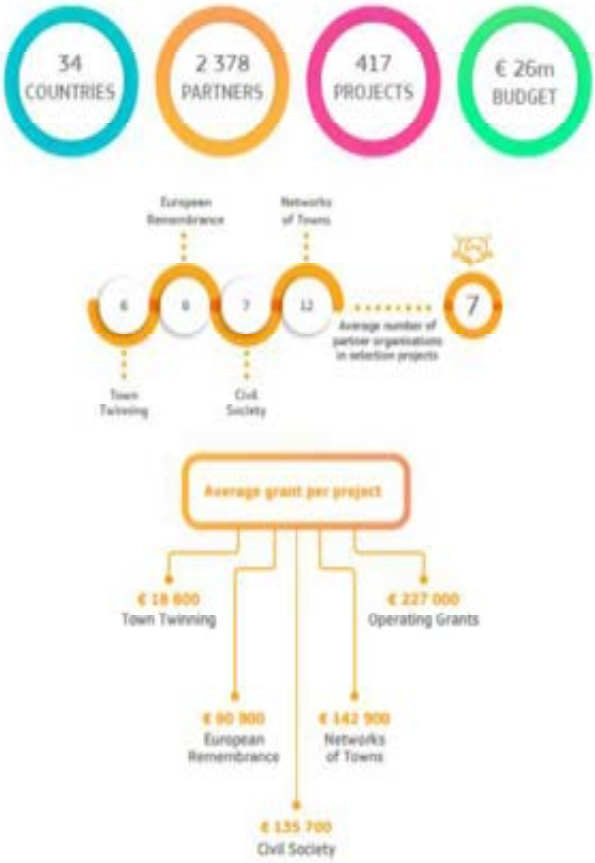
Europe for Citizens Programme Results

2020 AT A GLANCE

- Out of **1 761 grant applications** submitted in 2020, a total of **417 projects** were selected.
- Countries that submitted the highest number of **applications** (56 % in total) were Germany, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.
- Countries with the highest number of **selected projects** (54 % in total) were Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.
- The average success rate (ratio between selected projects and submitted applications) is 22% for action and operating grants.
- Countries with the highest **success rate** among all participating countries were Ireland, France, Malta and Netherlands.
- Projects selected in 2020 directly involved **2 378 partner organisations**.
- Partner organisations of selected projects are established in all participating countries.

The majority of selected projects under Strand 2 (Town Twinning, Networks of Towns and Civil Society actions) addressed the priority '**Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism**', followed by the priorities 'Promoting solidarity as a basic concept' and 'Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combating the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups'.

For Strand 1 (European Remembrance action), the selected projects mainly addressed the priority '**Commemoration of major historical turning points in recent European history**', followed by the priorities 'Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes', 'Anti-Semitism, Anti-Gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing the lessons for today' and 'Democratic transition and accession to the European Union'.



Feeling of being a European

Countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is below 60% : Bulgaria, Greece, France, Italy.
Countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is above 80% : Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland and Slovakia.

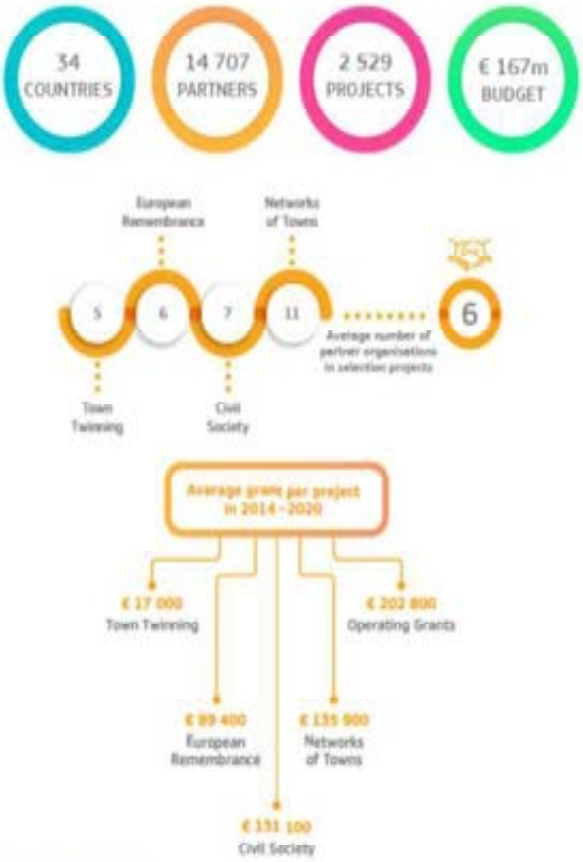
Source: Eurobarometer 93 - https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveykm/2262

2014-2020 AT A GLANCE

- Out of **14 222 grant applications** submitted in 2014-2020, a total of **2 529 projects** were selected.
- Countries that submitted the highest number of **applications** (54 % in total) were Germany, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.
- Countries with the highest number of **selected projects** (61 % in total) were Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

Partner organisations of selected projects are established in all participating countries (28 EU Member States + 6 Non-EU)

Belgium	France	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	Croatia	Austria	Albania
Czechia	Italy	Poland	Montenegro
Denmark	Cyprus	Portugal	Serbia
Germany	Latvia	Romania	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Estonia	Lithuania	Slovenia	Kosovo
Ireland	Luxembourg	Slovakia	North Macedonia
Greece	Hungary	Finland	
Spain	Malta	Sweden	



Budget in 2014 - 2020

PART A

RESULTS 2020

This report has two parts: Part A contains a qualitative analysis of the 2020 results and Part B the quantitative analysis, including main statistical data.

PART A - RESULTS 2020

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the programme implementation, in particular the project activities that were to gather together citizens travelling from all over Europe. The most impacted action was the Town Twining as the projects consisted in the organization of one main big event, and given the situation many of them could not take place. Many municipalities requested to postpone the Town Twinning event. Also, many longer-term projects running under European Remembrance, Civil Society and Networks of Towns requested an extension of their duration in order to have the time to adapt the organisation of their project activities to the new situation. These projects managed to rethink the format of their activities and adjust them to the challenging period, while achieving the same objectives. The photos in this report were taken before the COVID-19 crisis.

Set of testimonials during Europe Day 2020

STRAND 1 : EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

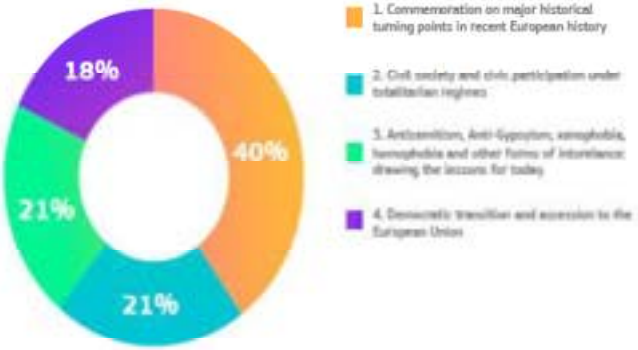
In 2020, the number of applications submitted under the European Remembrance call was stable compared with 2019 (255 **applications** in 2020 versus 262 in 2019) and this confirmed the attractiveness of this action in the final year of the programme. The geographical coverage of submitted applications was good, with **30 of the 34 programme countries** represented among the applicants. In terms of geographical spread including partners, **all eligible countries** were represented in this selection. The main applicant country remained Italy (19%), followed by Poland (13%), Spain (10%) and Germany (7%).

As in previous years, the selection was highly competitive due to good quality applications, resulting in a high threshold of 82.5 points. The **success rate** was stable compared with 2019: 19% in 2020 and 18% in 2019.

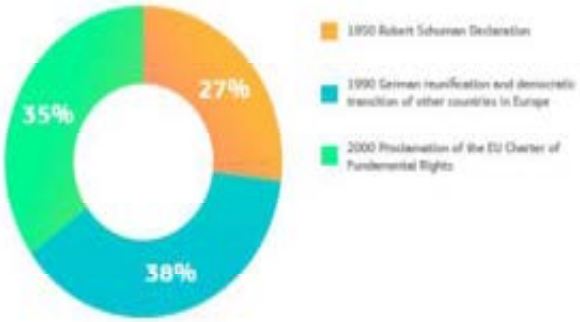
Overall, **54 projects** (including 5 from the reserve list) were **funded**, for a total commitment of EUR 4 912 620. The global score was equal to or higher than 82.5 points out of 100. The geographical spread of the selected projects showed that 26 programme countries were represented.

The projects selected were of **high quality**. They demonstrated a strong European dimension through the topics addressed, strong partnerships, and a capacity to overcome the local dimension with a focus on younger generations.

Selected projects covered the following **thematic priorities**:



1. Commemorations



In 2020, **30 European Remembrance projects** were analysed and finalised. They addressed a wide variety of topics centred on European remembrance and history, engaging a high number of citizens to reflect on European values, how they were shaped in Europe's recent past and how they can be fostered in present-day Europe. In total, **around 76 000 citizens** took part in events organised under the projects finalised in 2020. More than 13 000 000 citizens were also indirectly reached through the dissemination of projects.

These projects, which were selected in 2018 or 2019, mainly addressed the priorities linked to the **commemoration of pivotal events in recent European history**. Many projects focused on the Second World War and its consequences, especially the Jewish and Roma Holocausts. The fall of the Berlin Wall, the 30th anniversary of which was celebrated in 2019, and the democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe was also one of the most addressed periods, very often associated with discussions on civic movements under totalitarian regimes. The successive enlargements of the EU and the democratic transition in the former Eastern Soviet Bloc were also popular themes.

More and more projects combined priorities, notably through the celebration of recent events in European history coupled with a reflection on core European values. Examples include the fight against antisemitism and antigypsyism, the promotion of peace, solidarity, diversity of opinions and freedom of speech, and fostering a wider European civic engagement at EU level through volunteering.

Under these projects, a variety of **activities** took place, including conferences, educational workshops, exhibitions, and collections of testimonies. Digitalisation has steadily increased, and was strengthened in the context of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, with digital archives, online quizzes, video games or phone applications being developed as project outputs.

The COVID-19 outbreak had a major impact on running project activities that would have seen significant gatherings of citizens and participants travelling from all over Europe. The European Education and Culture Executive Agency processed 55 amendments to extend project durations. Overall, the organisations showed a remarkable adaptability to this difficult context by transforming activities into online or hybrid formats.

European Remembrance - Best practices

Project title: Observing Walls: 1989-2019

Organisation: Muzej Novejše Zgodovine Slovenije Slovenia

Partner countries: Germany, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The project **Observing Walls: 1989-2019** explored the issue of the wall as a physical entity and mental reality in the European cities of Berlin, Gorizia/Nova Gorica and Sarajevo. It was implemented by the Slovenian organisation Muzej Novejše Zgodovine Slovenije through a **travelling exhibition** actively engaging citizens. The project highlighted this complex issue in the context of the democratic revolutions in 1989 and also touched upon the 2004 EU enlargement. The project aimed to provide an in-depth analysis of the past, to challenge the prejudices of the present day and to create a **vision of a common European future** drawing on archives of **memory** and collecting personal testimonies from 1989 to 2004.

While many walls were brought down in European history, new ones were also raised, some of them deeply troubling to our society. In order to mobilise youth on this crucial topic, educational workshops and an online contest were organised to show how young people, inspired by the knowledge of the past, face today's mental boundaries of **intolerance, stereotypes, and hatred**.

Project reference: 600944-CITI2-1-2018-1-SI-CITI2-REMEM

Project implementation: 01/01/2018 – 30/06/2020

Website: http://www.muzej-nz.si/en/projekti/observing-walls-1989-2019

Testimonies from participants

"No more borders!"

"When the [Italian - Slovenian] boundary was drawn, I was a child, but these things remain strongly imprinted in your memory."

"If you go to Sarajevo, the memory is about the city without borders and today everything is defined by borders. [...] To what extent is it possible to overcome these divisions?"

"But the real motivation to flee didn't actually become acute until after the Wall was built, when suddenly the gate to good old West Berlin was no longer open. [...] That this gate to the so-called free world had simply closed."

Project title: From Remembrance of the Roma Holocaust to a European Reconciliation Process

Beneficiary: Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma EV, Germany

Partner countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Republic of North Macedonia, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

The project **From Remembrance of the Roma Holocaust to a European Reconciliation Process** had the objective of preserving the memory of Holocaust victims by raising awareness about the Roma genocide and the continuing presence of **antisemitism and antigypsyism**. The project also aimed to strengthen the **engagement and participation** of European citizens in the construction of EU values, culture, history and dialogue.

This project had a significant impact and visibility, playing a fundamental role to advance the recognition of European Holocaust Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma on 2 August. It was the largest and most recognized commemoration activity ever organized for this **Memorial Day** with various conference panels, workshops, artistic events and exhibitions. Some 2 000 participants attended the official commemoration ceremony, which took place in the Auschwitz Memorial Site. This project contributed significantly to the **formal recognition of the Memorial Day** in the European Parliament Resolution of 15 April 2015 and to the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation for 2020-2030 issued by the European Commission.

Project reference: 601052-CITIZ-1-2018-1-DE-CITIZ-REMEM

Project implementation: 07/09/2018 – 06/03/2020

Website: https://www.roma-sinti-holocaust-memorial-day.eu/education/project-excerpt-remembrance/

Testimonies from participants

"There is a lot that we European Roma youth have to fight for today. In a number of countries, even after so many years, the Roma Holocaust and the date of its commemoration, 2 August, continue to be officially unrecognised. In a number of countries where the majority of Roma perished as victims of Nazi persecutions, there are still no monuments, memorials or museums dedicated to the Roma victims. Roma youth voices matter and it is high time that we hear them!"

"Let's make sure that we, young Jews and Roma, are at the forefront of building a world of open doors and windows. A world without anti-Roma discrimination, antisemitism, and racism. A world that takes 'never again' seriously. A world of true peace."

STRAND 2 : DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Town Twinning Projects

In 2020, **557** town twinning applications were submitted. Following the trend of previous years, the majority of applications continued to come from Eastern Europe, in particular Hungary and Slovakia, who together accounted for 40% of all the submitted applications, followed by Italy (14%) and Romania (7.5%). In 2020, **28 countries** participated as applicants in the Town Twinning selections, with all **34 programme countries** being represented if partner countries are included. There was a small decrease (5%) in the number of applications submitted in comparison with 2019, possibly due to uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The **success rate** of 2020 selections was around 42%, against 44% in 2019 and 38% in 2018.

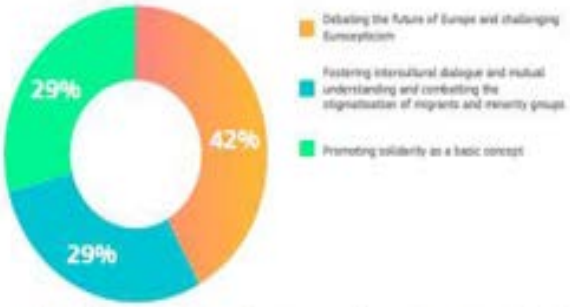
From the applications received, **231 Town Twinning projects were selected** bringing together 1 112 organisations, representing a wide diversity of partnerships (municipalities, NGOs, twinning committees, foundations, associations etc.) In terms of the geographical spread of the selected projects, 25 countries were represented as lead municipalities or organisations, involving partners from 33 countries.

The total amount awarded in grants under the 2020 Town Twinning action was **EUR 4 308 360**, with an average grant per project of **EUR 18 651**. Despite a constant increase in grant amount per project in recent years (EUR 17 355 in 2019 and EUR 16 936 in 2018), the action continues to support projects with smaller budgets led by small municipalities (grants between EUR 5 000 and EUR 10 000 were awarded to 17% of the selected projects).

The selected initiatives will reach out to and **actively involve** citizens at both local and EU level, by engaging them in discussions about topics at the top of the EU policy agenda.

The selected projects managed to **combine various programme priorities** looking for synergies and concrete outputs. The priority **Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism** remained the centre of attention, as it was pursued by the highest number of beneficiaries, followed by the priority **Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combating the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups**. The **remembrance and cultural heritage** components continue to be among the themes addressed by applicants, thus contributing to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and its diversity, and further promoting active citizenship, tolerance, and EU values.

Selected projects covered the following **thematic priorities**:



The **COVID-19** pandemic had a significant impact on the organisation of Town Twinning events in 2020. Compared with 2019, fewer cities and towns could host them. Many municipalities could not organize their events in 2020 and requested to extend the eligibility period in order to reschedule them.

Overall, **27 Town Twinning projects** from those selected in 2010 and 2019 were finalised in 2020. These projects involved a total of **146 municipalities**, with an average of 5 organisations per project. The organised events took place in **44 venues** across **12 EU countries**.

The project activities mobilised **12 000 citizens** all over Europe; they participated directly in EU discussions focusing on the programme priorities. The number of citizens reached indirectly (i.e. through dissemination/follow-up actions and online via communication channels such as Twitter, Facebook, project website) was around **1 700 000**. **All age groups** actively participated in Town Twinning project activities, thus indicating equal access to the programme and fostering intergenerational dialogues. The programme continues to attach importance to **youth participation**: the projects implemented in 2020 involved 30% of citizens aged under 30.

Venues of Town Twinning events finalised in 2020

Town Twinning - Best practices

Project title: Solidarity in time of crisis: citizens ask to renew the values of Europe

Beneficiary: Municipality of Casalvecchio Siculo, Italy

Partner countries: Spain, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia

Grant awarded: EUR 14 615

The Town Twinning project **Solidarity in time of crisis: citizens ask to renew the values of Europe** took place over 7 days in the Italian municipality of Casalvecchio Siculo. The event directly involved 172 participants, and many indirect participants, from the host municipality Casalvecchio Siculo and from municipalities in Spain, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Slovakia. The participants came together to reflect on new policy tools to respond to the challenges that solidarity faces in times of crisis. The project united citizens, local, regional and European politicians, experts, and representatives of the non-governmental sector. The rich and intense programme allowed all the participants to have fruitful exchanges on their experiences, through workshops, brainstorming sessions, exchanges and visits.

Project reference: 600009-CITIZ-1-2019-1-IT-CITIZ-TT

Project implementation: 15/01/2020 - 21/01/2020

Testimonies from participants

"We need to highlight the progress achieved and motivate young people to take active roles in their own communities, with a bold voice through active, informed and motivated participation."

"Solidarity in times of crisis is key to the world. At the same time, thousands of people are crossing the Mediterranean to Europe and it is a duty of everyone to promote, through our example of reception, the values of the EU, encouraging citizens to exchange views and sharing their experiences of life, fostering European cooperation, taking local and regional aspects into account. The European Union has made it possible for the continent to emerge from the crisis. We need to defend our achievements, and we Europeans have a key role to play in ensuring peace, and security and stability."

Project title: We Are All Equal

Beneficiary: Municipality of Spisky Stiavnik, Slovakia

Partner countries: Czechia, France, Hungary, Poland

Grant awarded: EUR 20 000

The project **We Are All Equal** contributed to the promotion of **intercultural dialogue**, mutual understanding and **destigmatisation of minority groups**. It helped to establish links between different communities, engaging them in common activities, and raised awareness about the European Union.

The exhibition of drawings on the topic of coexistence, by both Roma and by non-Roma children, provided support for **mutual understanding**. The project involved participants of all generations, and promoted **diversity, tolerance and common values** among the 700 local and 190 foreign participants from Czechia, France, Hungary and Poland.

Project reference: 609380-CITIZ-1-2019-1-SK-CITIZ-TT

Project implementation: 15/09/2020 – 15/09/2019

Website: https://old.spiskystiavnik.sk/we-are-all-equal/

Testimonies from participants

"A few generations in Spišské Štiavnik already live together with the Roma minority. We have come to our partners to present the programmes we have in the municipality for the Roma minority. We try to take part in activities outside school, sport, and cultural bodies. Let us know that they are equal. Some of these activities were also part of the project. I believe that they inspire our partners abroad to work with minorities."

"It was interesting to see how ordinary children and Roma children together created a joint poster, but also the entire exhibition of images. There were no barriers, no bias. In this way, we should work together for adults. I have seen a variety of interesting projects here at the event, the idea of living together with the Roma community, how to engage them in community activities, but also that they are the European patrimony of musicians. We also have the Roma community in the city, and we are working hard to build with the Roma community. The ideas I have seen here in the course of the project are sure to be applied at home."

Project title: BRIE-Burst Relationships to Interact at European level

Beneficiary: San Giljan Local Council, Malta

Partner countries: Latvia, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Cyprus

Grant awarded: EUR 25 000

The **BRIE Project** had two strands of activities. Local activities took place in each of the involved partner towns, and an international event took place in San Giljan. All countries involved have experienced the impact of **migration** and have shared successful local best practices in the field of **shelter** and **inclusion**. In addition, the project aimed at destigmatising people crossing **borders**. BRIE allowed participants to meet and discuss issues such as shelter and **integration**. It fostered twinning bonds among towns and cooperation at EU level.

The project directly involved 290 citizens, including young people, minorities, migrants, NGOs, volunteers, and third-country nationals legally residing in the EU. It contributed to improving intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, and to knowledge on EU migration policies, asylum and integration. It set counter-narratives to oppose xenophobic propaganda.

Project reference: 609465-CITIZ-1-2019-1-MT-CITIZ-TT

Project implementation: 28/11/2019 – 02/12/2019

Testimonies from participants

"Throughout this project we had the chance to analyse the migration phenomenon that affects us, particularly because of our geographical position. We discovered the problems other European Countries have, and we learned how it may be possible to solve them."

"Thanks to this Project we could know how amazing it is to stay together and to fight for the same ideas of brotherhood. BRIE was very effective in strengthening human relationships and I hope we can be an example for other small municipalities."

"The starting point of cultural dialogue is respect. Respect is the base for cultural understanding and social and cultural inclusion. It needs to be a two-way process involving the local society on one hand and the migrant community on the other."

Networks of Towns projects

In 2020, **320** Networks of Towns applications were received. Following the trends of previous years, Italy showed the highest interest in this action, accounting for 31% of submitted applications, followed by Spain (11%), Bulgaria (6%) and Hungary (6%). It is positive that **almost all eligible programme countries (31 out of 34)** took part as applicants in the Networks of Towns 2020 selections. In terms of geographical spread including partners, **all 34 eligible countries** were represented in the 2020 selections.

In 2020, **41 projects** were selected for funding, with beneficiaries from **21 programme countries**. The geographical spread of selected projects is even more impressive if we look at the **organisations involved in project partnerships**: they represent all eligible programme countries. The selected projects involve **486 partner organisations** and are characterised by large, diversified and strong partnerships (i.e. on average 12 partner organisations per selected project).

The total amount awarded under the Networks of Towns action in 2020 was **EUR 5 061 000**. The average grant awarded per project was **EUR 142 973**.

The selected projects under the Networks of Towns action managed to **combine various programme priorities** looking for synergies and concrete outputs. The programme priority **Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism** was addressed by the highest number of beneficiaries. In addition, debates related to the migration crisis, stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups, and solidarity were at the centre of the selected projects.

Networks of Towns applicants and beneficiaries also discussed climate change and the European Green Deal, together with topics related to remembrance, fundamental rights, discrimination against LGBTIQ communities, gender stereotypes and gender discrimination, and fake news. This contributed to citizens improving their understanding of the EU, its history and its diversity, and further promoting active citizenship, tolerance and EU values.

Selected projects covered the following **thematic priorities**:

In total, **16 Networks of Towns projects** from those selected in 2017 and 2018 were finalised in 2020. These projects involved **155 municipalities and organisations** with an average of **10 organisations** per project, bringing together a variety of participants (NGOs, regions, municipalities, villages, civil society organisations, experts, volunteers, etc.) These projects implemented **more than 103 events**, taking place in **92 towns and cities** across **25 EU countries**. The highest number of events took place in Italy (14), followed by Slovenia (11), Hungary (10) and Poland (8).

The outbreak of the **COVID-19 pandemic** had a significant impact on these projects as their core activities usually envisaged physical meetings, to enable direct exchange among participants from different countries. Facing restrictions for travel and face-to-face meetings, many beneficiaries had to request changes to their original activity plans to transform them to online or hybrid formats.

The project activities mobilised more than **14 000 direct participants** all across Europe. More than **1 200 000 citizens** were reached indirectly, including through the dissemination of project results and follow-up activities.

All age groups actively participated in Networks of Towns project activities, ensuring equal access to the programme and fostering intergenerational dialogue. Moreover, the programme continues to give importance to youth participation: some 34% of citizens involved in the Networks of Towns projects finalised in 2020 were under the age of 30.

The implemented activities tackled the challenges faced in big urban centres, as well as issues present in small localities in rural areas. Most of the Networks of Towns activities addressed issues related to **the future of Europe** and debated the challenges that the EU is currently facing. The events highlighted the significance of EU integration and emphasised the role of younger generations in establishing a constructive dialogue with the EU institutions.

When covering the priority **Fostering intercultural dialogue and combating the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups**, projects presented concrete local and regional policies regarding the integration of migrants into society and in the labour market.

On the priority related to **solidarity**, organisations focused on solidarity mechanisms and exchange of good practices, such as EU solidarity models for sustainability or volunteering at local, national and European level. In addition, participants addressed growing **Euroscepticism** and possible ways to fight populism and extremism. They also motivated young citizens to participate in the **2019 European elections** and promoted common EU values linked to solidarity, cultural heritage and tolerance.

Venues of events of Networks of Towns projects finalised in 2020

Networks of Towns - Best practices

Project title: Integrated approaches to sharing knowledge on social inclusion systems of migrants and the role of EU local authorities (ISLA)

Beneficiary: Unione degli Assessorati delle Politiche Sociosanitarie, dell' Istruzione e del Lavoro, Italy

Partner countries: Croatia, Slovenia and Portugal

Grant awarded: EUR 110 000

The project Integrated approaches to sharing knowledge on social inclusion systems of migrants and the role of EU local authorities brought together eight partner organizations from four different countries: Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Portugal. The project collected and developed best practices in the area of social integration of migrants and refugees and included a wide range of stakeholders such as citizens of involved municipalities, public bodies, civil society organisations, universities and schools. The activities were diverse. They focused on collecting data on the reception systems in Italy, Croatia, Slovenia and Portugal, and on mapping communication methods, strategies and tools that each country adopted when informing about the migration phenomenon.

The final result was a comparative report of good practices that highlighted communication procedures adopted with migrant communities and virtual methods of interaction. The report also analysed the systems of interaction with migrants for each individual country, with particular reference to the actions of active citizenship through volunteering. Moreover, the publication included a list of procedures, methods and draft recommendations that emerged as good practices from the individual experiences shared during the events.

Testimonies from migrants and operators had an important role in the development of the project, as they also highlighted the delicate issue of policies on the management of reception procedures. The project produced a list of European recommendations.

Project reference: 595520-CITIZ-1-2017-2-IT-CITIZ-NT

Project implementation: 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2019

Website: http://www.unioneassessorati.it

Testimonies from participants

"With the help of project ISLA we were familiarised with wider scope of migrations, get to know personal stories that in the media do not get so much attention. Conferences that were organised within the project gave us a clearer picture of what the migration situation is around Europe and new knowledge that can be adopted and used in different areas". "By listening to challenges and good practices in local and national environments of project partners, we gained new information and experiences in the field of implementing rights, opportunities and tolerance toward migrants, by taking into account their differences (culture, values, fears, wishes, hopes). We gained innovative ways of encouraging and developing communication among migrants and citizens of the host county, that we will use in future projects for the greater good of all citizens".

Project title: Europe on a Doorstep

Beneficiary: de Vila Boa do Bispo, Portugal

Partner countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Spain

Grant awarded: EUR 140 680

The project **Europe on a Doorstep** brought together 11 partner organisations from 11 countries (Portugal, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Spain). The objective was to raise awareness about the European Union and to talk about **Euroscepticism** and its origins and causes, with a special emphasis on the 2019 elections to the European Parliament.

The project targeted **youth and NEET** (not in education, employment or training) as groups vulnerable to Euroscepticism and radicalisation. A wide variety of activities were organised: **training for future community leaders**, a study visit focused on exchanging experiences, a seminar on European awareness, and a conference focused on presenting and disseminating the results. The six events gathered almost 500 participants, exceeding the expected turnout. The events had a broad outreach with participants coming from 16 countries. The events involved local government decision-makers, civil society organisations, community leaders etc. The activities inspired a few NEET participants from Portugal to create an **informal network of partners - EUdoor Network** - aimed at promoting European values, including through a website.

Key message(s) of citizens involved in the project

The future of Europe is not a responsibility of authorities and decision-makers - we are all going to live in it. It is a process in which all its citizens have a right to participate. By active participation and inclusion, as well as by choosing to be united in protecting human rights, democracy and equality, we are creating a better tomorrow for ourselves and for future generations in our communities and beyond.'

Project reference: 606280-CITIZ-1-2018-2-PT-CITIZ-NT

Project implementation: 01/08/2018 – 31/01/2020

Testimonies from participants

"Europe nowadays is facing a lot of challenges. However, in my opinion, among the biggest is the fact that its citizens start forgetting how important are its values, how many benefits it brings, such as access to education, mobility, human rights, democracy, and we often take it for granted, especially when it comes to young people. This project and its events opened more opportunities for active fieldwork for me and my organisation to promote active citizenship and European values among the youth. Sharing the experience, learning from good practices, creating tools and getting connected with so many like-minded people was one of the most valuable experiences."

Civil society projects

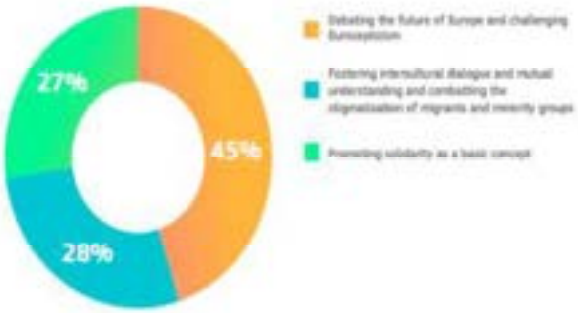
Civil Society projects remain very popular among European civil society and educational, cultural and research organisations. In comparison with 2019, there was a significant increase of 39% in the number of applications received (571 **applications** in 2020 versus 411 in 2019). The geographical spread of applicants and partners showed that **all 34 eligible countries** participated in the selection. The greatest number of applications came from Italy (22%), followed by Spain (0%), Poland (6%) and Belgium (6%).

The **multiannual priorities** were fully addressed by applicants, often successfully combining them. Many different topics were addressed, looking for synergies and concrete outputs. In particular, the priority **Debate on the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism** was the most addressed one (54%), followed by **Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combating the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups** (46%) and **Solidarity as a basic concept** (46%).

The **selection rate in 2020** was the lowest ever in the Europe for Citizens programme (6%). Unfortunately, many good projects could not be funded due to lack of available budgetary resources. The 2020 **threshold** for funding was high (82/100), reflecting the high quality of applications submitted.

In 2020, **33 projects** were selected, all with solid and transnational partnerships (with a total of 232 organisations involved and an average of 7 organisations per project). The total amount of funding was EUR 4 470 950 with an average grant of EUR 135 726. The **thematic scopes** of projects were wide and rich, covering various issues of high relevance for the programme and Commission priorities: migration, the debate on the future of the EU, the European Green Deal, e-participation, COVID-19 impact on societies, challenging Euroscepticism, fighting against LGBTIQ discrimination, media literacy, fundamental rights, civic participation and youth engagement. A wide number of direct participants is expected to be involved in the partnership activities.

Selected projects covered the following **thematic priorities**:



In 2020, **24** civil society projects were **finalised**. They involved 171 partner organisations from all across Europe. They carried out a broad range of activities (e.g. workshops, debates, conferences, research, surveys, and webinars) across almost all programme participating countries. In total, these projects gathered more than **45 300 direct participants** and reached out to around **5 200 000 indirect participants** through diverse dissemination activities and project outputs.

As for the other actions, the **COVID-19 pandemic** again had a significant impact on civil society projects monitored in 2020 when they envisaged physical meetings and direct exchanges among participants. Facing restrictions on travel and face-to-face meetings, many beneficiaries requested modifications in the format of their activities (from physical to hybrid or online). In addition, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency processed 10 amendments to extend eligibility periods to allow organisations to postpone their events or activities.

The **projects finalised in 2020** showed a strong commitment to the multiannual priority **debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism**. Over recent years, the majority of civil society projects chose to focus on this topic. Many of the projects finalised in 2020 discussed the future of Europe in the context of the 2019 European Parliament elections. The projects provided citizens with information on the functioning of the European Parliament, involved them in debates on their concerns and visions for Europe, and motivated them to vote. Many young people, marginalised groups and first time voters participated in these projects, which encouraged democratic involvement at EU level.

Another set of projects focused on the impact of **media and the digital space** on current developments and the challenges Europe is facing. Beneficiaries addressed topics such as fake news, media literacy and e-democracy, and developed diverse platforms, digital tools and educational methodologies to improve the conditions for civic and democratic participation.

Another group of projects strengthened the collaboration and networking between different civil society organisations across Europe. Activities included capacity development and exchange among these organisations at national, regional and European level. Furthermore, some of the projects focused on European rural areas with the specific aim of addressing the concerns and needs of rural citizens.

As in previous years, the promotion of **intercultural dialogue** and the fight against stigmatisation of **migrants and minority groups** continued to be at the centre of many projects. For example, beneficiaries explored the impact of hate speech against migrants and aimed to combat the social exclusion of Roma. Several projects also engaged in promoting **solidarity** between citizens and between Member States. In addition, some projects focused on the role of European **cultural heritage** as a shared source of identity, dialogue, belonging and citizenship in the European Union.

Despite the challenges that they faced in 2020, beneficiaries maintained their strong commitment to enhancing the active participation and democratic engagement of citizens across the EU. Organisations demonstrated their capacity to adapt quickly to new circumstances and at the same time deliver outstanding results.

Civil Society - Best practices

Project title: Smart eDemocracy Against Fake News

Beneficiary: Sabiedrības Līdzdalības Fonds, Latvia

Partner countries: Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Slovenia, France, Greece

Grant awarded: EUR 138 850

SMARTeD sought to raise awareness on the impact of **fake news** on active citizenship at local, national and European level. The project especially focused on how the growing amount of disinformation affects **e-participation** by citizens and how a skilful use of **e-democracy tools** can address this challenge.

With the aim of involving primarily citizens from rural areas, the project team successfully implemented 12 local workshops in Latvia, Estonia, Czechia, France, Greece and Slovenia. Around 400 workshop participants actively engaged in the debate on the negative consequences of fake news on e-participation and democratic processes, and they improved their practical skills in critical thinking, media literacy and communication.

The main project outputs include a common local workshop methodology, a comprehensive list of interactive and innovative online tools, and common recommendations to policymakers at the national and EU level on how to increase and improve the conditions for e-participation by European citizens.

Project reference: 605200-CITIZ-1-2019-1-SK-CITIZ-TT

Project implementation: 01/09/2018 – 29/02/2020

Website: https://smartedemocracy.org/

Testimonies from participants

"Participants of the final conference in Brussels all agreed on the significant consequences of disinformation at local, national, regional and European levels. Particularly, online disinformation affects our society by hampering the ability of citizens to make informed choices, disrupting electoral processes and breaking the integrity of our democratic institutions."

Project title: Words are Stones

Beneficiary: Lunaria – Associazione di Promozione Sociale e Impresa Sociale, Italy

Partner countries: Greece, Spain, France, Austria, Cyprus

Grant awarded: EUR 140 600

The project **Words are Stones** aimed to tackle **hate speech** against migrants, refugees and minorities in the public debate in six European countries: Italy, Greece, Spain, France, Austria and Cyprus. The project activities enabled the analysis of political discourses that exacerbate xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination in the partner countries, producing six national reports and one international report.

In eight transnational meetings, European citizens and civil society activists came together to discuss the crucial elements related to the spread of hostile and violent public rhetoric. The promotion of **intercultural dialogue** and the fight against forms of stigmatisation of migrants and minorities were at the centre of the final online awareness-raising campaign, which had an impact and a visibility beyond expectations.

As part of the campaign, five short video-clips accompanied by 19 memes and infographics were produced, presenting different situations of daily racism with an invitation to pay attention to thoughts and words.

Project reference: 601244-CITI2-1-2018-1-IT-CITI2-CIV

Project implementation: 01/09/2018 – 29/02/2020

Website: *http://www.cronachedisordinarioazzurro.org/words-are-stones-english/*

Testimonies from participants

"I find that overturning the discourse on immigration as a single discourse, stopping talking only about immigration, could be the right strategy, precisely because now it is not only the rights of migrants that are in danger but also the rights of women, of the LGBTIQ community."

"The fact that today's media earn on the number of clicks received, and therefore on the amount of people accessing or sharing their content, creates a situation in which the media have no interest in stopping hate speech as they are an important source of income."

Project title: Liberty Talks

Beneficiary: Stichting Masterpiece, Netherlands

Partner countries: Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Netherlands, Croatia

Grant awarded: EUR 140 430

The end of the Second World War in 1945 laid the foundation for European cooperation and peace. Its 75th anniversary offered a moment to commemorate as well as to reflect on how to safeguard a free and democratic Europe in the years to come. In this context, the project **Liberty Talks** aimed to encourage the **civic involvement of youth** across Europe, thus fostering European awareness and citizenship. In a series of ACT for Liberty events in the partner countries (Netherlands, Germany, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina), more than 1 000 participants were invited to debate current challenges to **European freedom**. Young people had the opportunity to engage in seven different topics: **freedom of speech, respect and identity, integration and migration, equality, democracy, fake and reliable news, and cybersecurity and privacy**. Through the development of a dedicated debate toolkit and a central online platform used during the talks, participants were stimulated to formulate their opinions and solutions in a creative way. A final project manifesto summarizing the outcomes of the project was disseminated to political stakeholders, including Members of the European Parliament.

Project reference: 601145-CITIZ-1-2018-1-NL-CITIZ-CIV

Project implementation: 15/11/2018 – 15/09/2020

Website: *https://actforliberty.eu/*

Testimonies from participants

"It's okay to have different opinions. Don't be afraid to speak up for yourself." (Freedom of speech)

"Men? Women? Doesn't matter! We are all humans. Success does not depend on your gender, religion or nationality... but in our efforts to achieve something..." (Equality)

"People not numbers." (Migration)

"Cookies! Do I have a choice?" (Privacy)

OPERATING GRANTS

With its operating grants, the Europe for Citizens programme supports regular activities of non-profit organisations contributing to raising awareness of European remembrance (Strand 1) and encouraging democratic and civic participation (Strand 2). In 2020, **EUR 6.8 million** was awarded to **30 organisations**.

As for 2019, the beneficiaries of operating grants were civil society organisations for European remembrance, European public policy research organisations (think tanks), platforms of pan-European organisations and civil society organisations working at the European level. Indirectly they represent over 3 000 organisations in Europe.

The **COVID-19 health crisis** has impacted every area of our lives and this was reflected in the activities implemented with the Europe for Citizens operating grants. Many organisations undertook research and advocacy activities linked to the measures taken across the EU to respond to the pandemic and the way they affected societies. Others focused on analysing the EU's response to the pandemic with a particular emphasis on the EU Recovery Plan.

The planned activities for 2020 have been delivered, although sometimes in a modified format. The year 2020 marked the **70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration** and some beneficiaries celebrated this significant event in the history of European integration. Many organisations carried out activities relating to the **Conference on the Future of Europe**. The focus was on issues of concern to EU citizens, such as democratic participation, migration and asylum, the economy, climate change, and digitalisation.

In terms of working methods, we have seen a rapid shift to virtual and remote work. Many workshops, meetings and conferences took place in a virtual space. The transition to new formats was very successful. In many cases, outreach was greater than in normal circumstances, as more participants were able to join virtual activities.

Overall, in the course of 2020, beneficiary organisations encouraged and facilitated citizens' involvement in the democratic process, raised awareness of EU issues, and contributed to European policy debates.

Organisation: The European Policy Centre (EPC)

Country: Belgium

Website: https://epc.eu/

Grant awarded: EUR 300 000

The **European Policy Centre** is an independent, not-for-profit think tank dedicated to fostering **European integration** through analysis and debate, supporting and challenging decision-makers at all levels to make informed decisions based on evidence and analysis, and providing a platform for engaging partners, stakeholders and citizens in EU policymaking and in the debate about the future of Europe.

The emergence of the COVID-19 health crisis and the resulting devastating economic and social impact led EPC to recalibrate its work programme and home in on the impact of COVID-19 across a range of policies and sectors, including monitoring and analysing the EU's response to the pandemic with a particular focus on the EU Recovery Plan – **Next Generation EU** – and the EU budget negotiations. EPC successfully adapted its events programme by switching to online platforms, extending its outreach and increasing its output. New event formats were introduced, such as the online Weekly Update, which gives the latest analysis on the EU's response to COVID-19 and reports on the outcome of the many high-level EU summits held by videoconference to coordinate the response by European leaders to the pandemic.

The EPC continued to develop its reflections on the delayed Conference on the Future of Europe, feeding decision-makers in the EU and Member States with ideas on its design, conceptualisation and implementation, as well as advocating for **citizen involvement** in the conference, including young people.

Brexit remained high on the EPC agenda with regular events and analysis of the practical and political ramifications for the EU and its citizens.

Key indicators for 2020

- *240 events organised*
- *106 publications resulting in 71,000 downloads*
- *22,750 people took part directly in events*
- *Social media: EPC events & publications were widely promoted through online platforms reaching more than 70,000 followers on: Twitter (34,000), Facebook (14,000), and LinkedIn (24,000)*
- *An average 50,000 visitors per month to the EPC website*

Organisation: Fondation Robert Schuman

Country: France

Website: *https://www.robert-schuman.eu*

Grant awarded: EUR 350 000

The **Robert Schuman Foundation** develops studies on the European Union and its policies, promoting the content of these in France, Europe and elsewhere in the world. It encourages, contributes to and stimulates **European debate** thanks to the wealth of its research, publications and the organisation of conferences.

The 70th anniversary on 9 May of Robert Schuman's declaration gave rise to an unprecedented digital event during which high-ranking European personalities, including the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, the Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, and the High Representative and Vice-President Josep Borrell, shared their vision for the future of the Union[1].

The Foundation reorganised its work by greatly developing its uses of new **internet tools**. It has tripled its activities and digital publications. In addition to the weekly newsletter, the Foundation published a daily letter containing information on the COVID-19 crisis in all Member States, the measures taken by Member States and the European Union, and the provision of online cultural events accessible in Europe. These publications were sent in French and English to over 200 000 subscribers.

Organisation: Gong

Country: Croatia

Website: *https://www.gong.hr/en/*

Grant awarded: EUR 198 094

Gong is a civil society organisation focused on enhancing **democratic processes** and institutions. It also seeks to develop democratic political culture and encourage active participation of citizens in political processes, particularly in decision-making processes related to **good governance, protection and promotion of the rule of law, human rights, and solidarity**.

In 2020, Gong continued to work to preserve the **civic space**, being among the leading organisations of the nationwide coalition for a sustainable civil society sphere. Transnationally, Gong continued and deepened its membership in **Europe-wide networks of civil society organisations**, including the governing structure of the European Civic Forum.

Gong's media, political and EU literacy programmes were updated, adapted and implemented, online as well as live, enabling a further reach toward interested **teachers and trainers**. The online programmes were Gong's first e-learning activities and were met with acclaim from users, who especially praised them for their relative ease of use, encouraging the further development of teaching materials and hands-on exercises. An entirely novel digital literacy module was developed and implemented, receiving positive feedback from users.

1 https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/special-page-on-may-9

Organisation: ICNM - Internationales Centrum fur Neue Medien Verein

Country: Austria

Website: *https://icnm.net/*

Grant awarded: EUR 200 000

The **ICNM – International Centre for New Media** - is a non-profit association, based in Austria. ICNM focuses on the use of digital technologies, social entrepreneurship and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, connecting and promoting social entrepreneurship and knowledge exchange. ICNM stands out for its special emphasis on the evaluation, promotion and showcasing of best practice in **digital projects improving society**.

On 9-11 March 2020, the **WSA Global Congress – Hack the Gap** took place in Vienna, gathering young social entrepreneurs and digital founders from more than 80 countries. Diverse formats offered participants the chance to discuss how we can work together to tackle the global challenges we are facing – **education, health, fake news, gender equality or climate change**.

The event was perhaps the last international gathering before all governments around the world announced lockdowns and strict measures in response to the pandemic.

ICNM immediately shifted all activities online and was able to organise its local, regional and global competitions as planned. In 2020, more than 700 impact solutions from 120 countries participated in the contest and more than 100 international jury members selected the 16 European Young Innovators, the 40 WSA Winners and the 5 WSA Young Innovators.

From 28 November to 2 December, the European **Young Innovators Festival** took place as a virtual festival, with panel discussions, pitching sessions, mentoring sessions and interactive knowledge webinars.

ICNM also conducted its pan-European student entrepreneurship programme **Youth for Innovation** online, where 70 students from 8 universities collaborated in international and interdisciplinary teams and developed project analysis for successful impact tech solutions.

PART B

QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

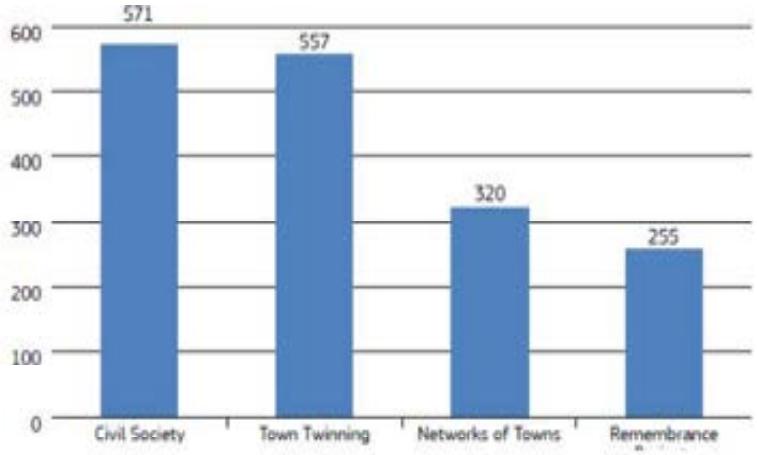
Europe for Citizens programme in 2020: selection and contracts

Europe for citizens programme follow up selection and contracts (2020)										
Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget*	Number of grants / contracts	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of selected application	Success rate	Decision date	Amount of Decision (euros)
Strand 1 - European remembrance and European citizenship										
1.1	Remembrance projects	4.140.000	45	EACEA-52/2019	4/02/2020	255	54	21%	15/06/2020	4.932.620
1.2	Structural support think tanks, organisations at European level (Framework partnerships)	1.291.900	6	EACEA 33/2017 invitation n° EACEA 53/2019	17/12/2019	6	6	100%	28/02/2020	1.291.900
Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation										
2.1	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 1	4.750.160	280	EACEA 52/2019	4/02/2020	285	121	44%	24/07/2020	2.314.290
2.1	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 2				1/09/2020	272	106	39%	14/12/2020	1.994.070
						557	231	41%		4.308.360
2.2	Networks of twinned towns - phase 1	5.127.228	56	EACEA-52/2019	5/03/2020	147	22	15%	9/07/2020	3.103.560
2.2	Networks of twinned towns - phase 2				1/09/2020	173	19	11%	14/01/2020	2.758.320
						320	41	13%		5.861.880
2.3	Civil society projects	3.941.254	20	EACEA-52/2019	1/09/2020	571	33	6%	15/12/2020	4.479.950
2.4	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (Framework partnerships)	5.518.508	24	EACEA - 33/2017 invitation n° EACEA 53/2019	17/12/2019	24	24	100%	28/02/2020	5.518.508
Strand 3 - Valorisation										
3.1	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	1.100.000	35	Invitation n° EACEA 54/2019	7/12/2019	28	28	100%	29/04/2020	916645
4.1	Support to project selection	200.000			n/a					0
	TOTAL WP 2020	25.069.065	450			1.761	417			27.288.658

Applications submitted in 2020

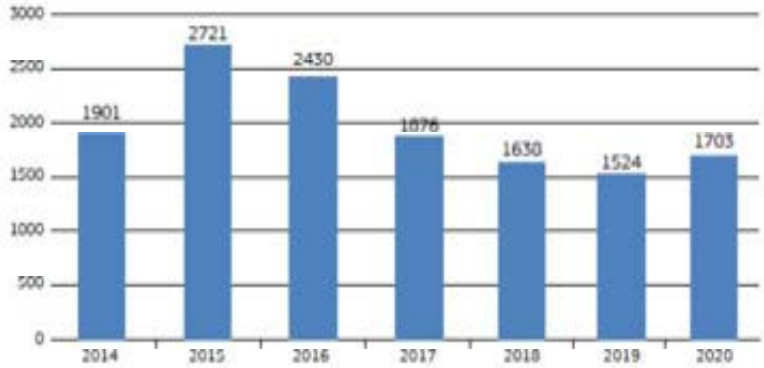
In total, 1 761 applications were submitted in 2020, of which 1 703 action grant applications, 30 operating grant applications and 28 applications for the Europe for Citizens contact points.

- Applications submitted in 2020 per action grants



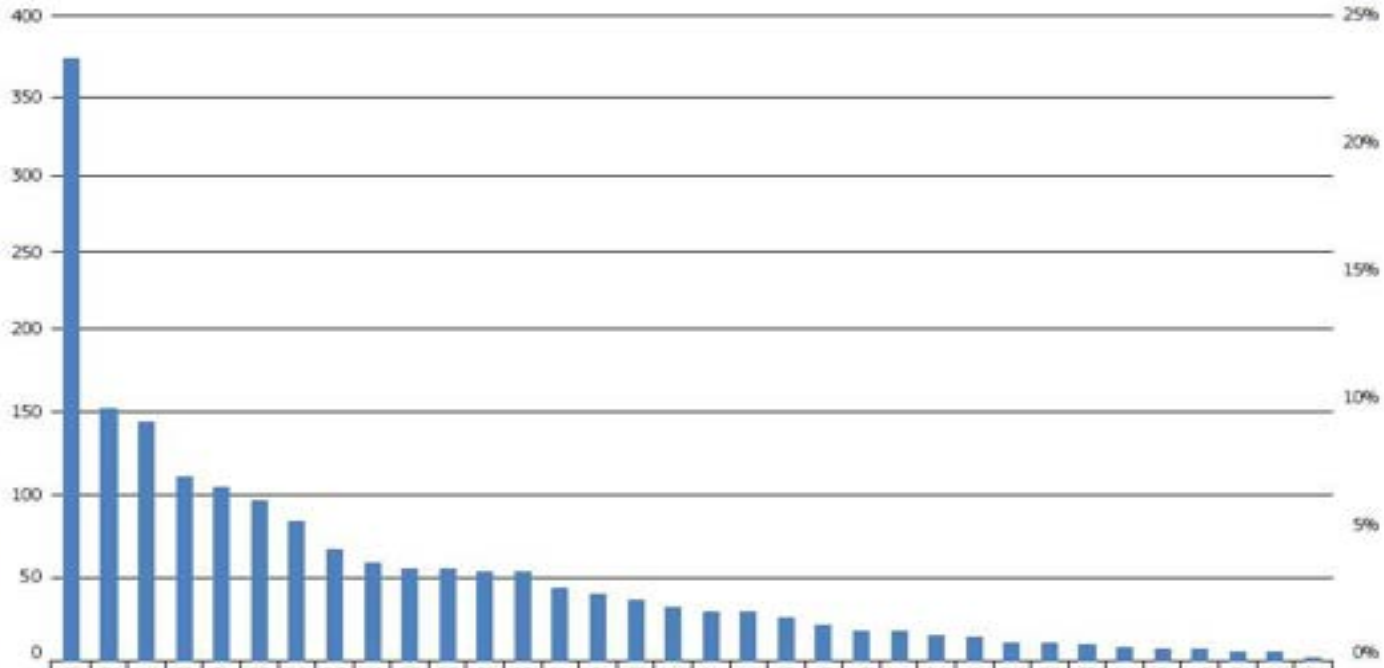
- Applications submitted in 2014-2020 per action grants

The relatively low success rate may have limited the number of applications after its rise in 2015.



- **Applications submitted in 2020 per country – action grants and operating grants**

Organisations from all Member States and participating countries are represented as applicants. Italy was the Member State submitting the highest number of proposals (355 or 20.5%), followed by Slovakia (150 or 8.7%), Hungary (145 or 8.4%), Spain (117 or 6.8%) and Poland (107 or 6.2%).

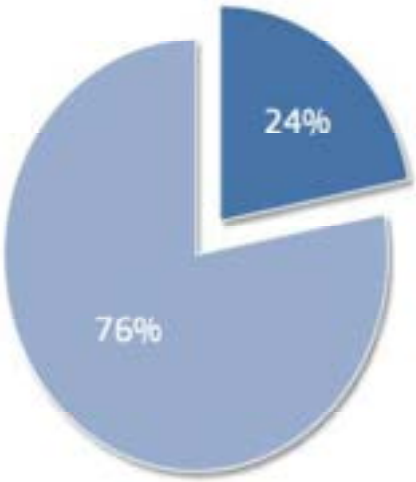


IT	SK	HU	ES	PL	DE	RO	BG	HR	BE	PT	FR	RS	EL	SI	CZ	MK	AL	LV	LT	AT	MT	NL	BA	IE	DK	EE	SE	LU	FI	ME	CY	UK	XK
355	150	145	117	107	95	77	65	58	53	53	52	52	42	40	36	24	23	23	20	18	17	17	15	15	11	11	9	8	7	7	5	5	1

Projects selected in 2020

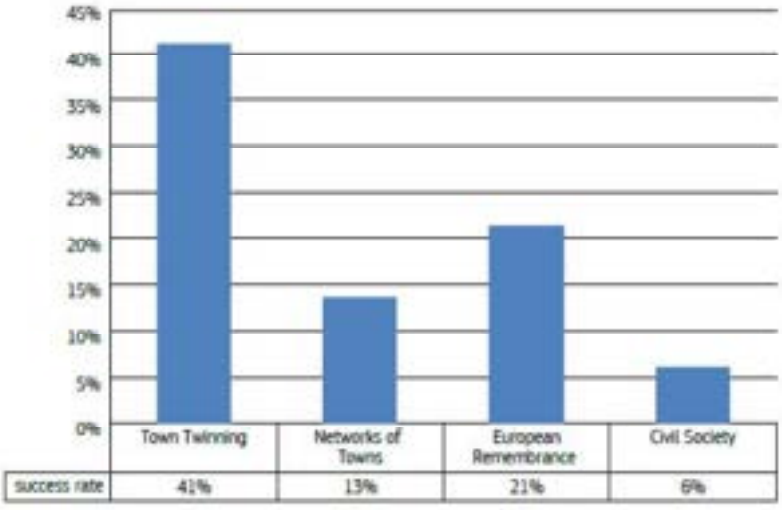
- Programme success rate (2020)

Ratio between projects submitted/selected



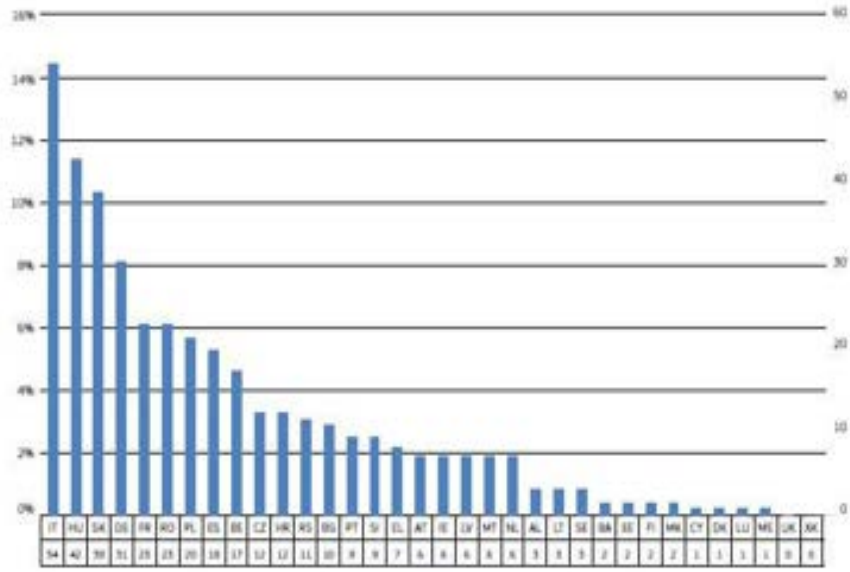
- Success rate per action grants (2020)

Ratio between projects submitted/selected



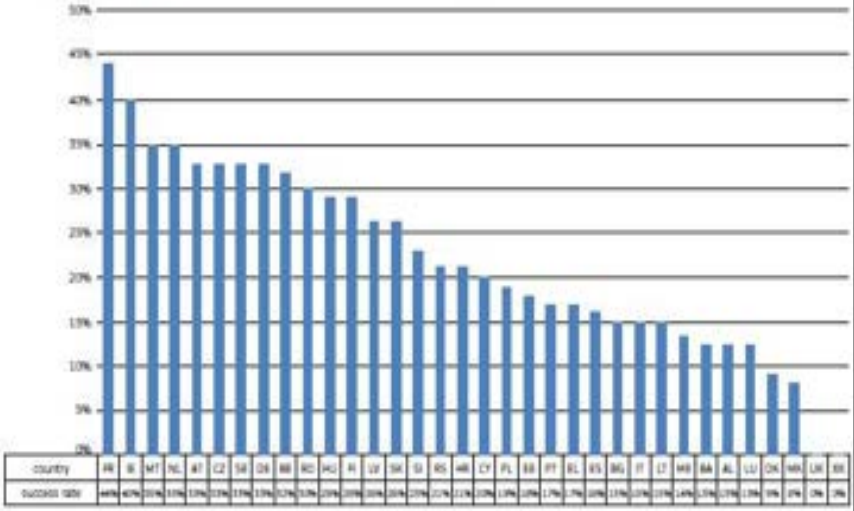
- Success rate for projects selected per country (2020)

Ratio between projects selected and total of projects selected per country



- Success rate for applications submitted per country (2020)

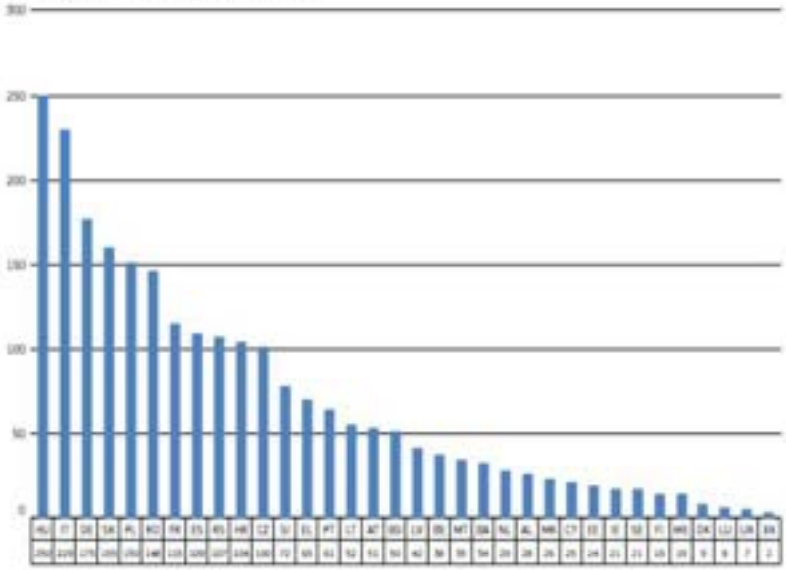
Ratio between applications submitted and projects selected per country



Analyse of projects partners in 2020

- Overview of partner organisations per country (2020)

In total, 2 370 partner organisations were directly involved in selected projects for action grants (European Remembrance, Town Twinning, Networks of Towns and Civil Society)



- Average number of partner organisations in selected projects per action grants (2020)

'Partners' refers to all organisations involved in the projects, including applicants.

Action	Number of projects granted	Number of Partners in project granted	Average number of partners in 2020	Average number of partners in 2019
Networks of Towns	41	486	11,9	12,1
Civil Society	33	232	7,0	6,6
European Remembrance	54	302	5,6	6,0
Town Twinning	231	1358	5,9	5,3
TOTAL	359	2378	6,6	6,1

- Number of partner organisations in selected projects per country (2020)

Country	European Remembrance	Town Twinning	Networks of Towns	Civil Society	Total
AL	5	9	10	4	**28**
AT	8	30	8	5	**51**
BA	7	14	6	7	**34**
BE	7	10	8	13	**38**
BG	10	11	24	5	**50**
CY	2	10	13	0	**25**
CZ	12	69	15	4	**100**
DE	9	100	30	14	**173**
DK	4	2	2	1	**9**
EE	4	5	9	6	**24**
EL	13	18	21	13	**65**
ES	23	41	31	14	**109**
FI	1	9	8	1	**19**
FR	14	62	25	14	**115**
HR	11	65	18	10	**104**
HU	7	215	20	8	**250**
IE	2	8	6	5	**21**
IT	28	127	48	26	**229**
LT	9	22	13	8	**52**
LU	1	2	3	2	**8**
LV	3	24	13	2	**42**
ME	2	8	5	4	**19**
MK	3	8	11	4	**26**
MT	2	19	14	0	**35**
NL	7	6	8	8	**29**
PL	30	85	27	8	**150**
PT	12	21	21	7	**61**
RO	12	114	14	8	**148**
RS	15	66	14	12	**107**
SE	1	5	8	7	**21**
SI	13	33	19	7	**72**
SK	4	134	12	5	**155**
UK	1	6	0	0	**7**
XK	0	0	2	0	**2**
TOTAL	302	1358	486	232	2378
Number of projects granted	54	251	41	33	358

Selection thresholds per action grants

The table below shows all funding thresholds for action grants (i.e. the lowest score obtained by selected projects) since the beginning of the Europe for Citizens programme in 2014. It takes into consideration the released reserve lists.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Remembrance	84	79,5	82,5	82,5	82,5	80,5	80
Civil Society	82,75	81,75	81,5	82,25	82,5	82,5	82
Town Twinning phase 1	53	78	74	71	71	71	71
Town Twinning phase 2	70,75	74,25	73	72	71	71	71
Network of Town phase 1	67,5	80	81	82	81	81	81
Network of Town phase 2	76,25	85	84	83	82	81	81

Feeling of being a citizen of the EU

Country	Autumn 2002	Autumn 2000	Spring 2010	Autumn 2009	Spring 2009	Autumn 2007	Spring 2007	Autumn 2006	Spring 2006	Autumn 2005	Spring 2005	Autumn 2004	Spring 2004	Autumn 2002	Spring 2002	Autumn 2002	Spring 2002
	EB 93 p.14	EB 92 p.14	EB 91 p.36	EB 90 p.33	EB 89 p.36	EB 88 p.39	EB 87 p. 38	EB 86 p.32	EB 85 p. 30	EB 84 p. 32	EB 83 p. 17	EB 82 p. 29	EB 81 p. 7	EB 80 p. 30	EB 79 p. 23	EB 78 p. 23	EB 77 p. 22
AT	72	73	80	75	77	78	73	66	69	63	72	73	87	63	66	63	60
BE	76	74	81	79	74	78	78	71	71	72	70	69	71	70	71	68	69
BG	52	56	52	51	51	56	55	50	49	47	50	48	46	49	48	47	50
CY	68	72	73	65	72	69	64	53	53	49	50	51	53	46	45	55	62
CZ	60	65	58	56	59	56	57	53	58	57	62	60	57	55	54	54	52
DE	82	83	88	86	84	82	82	77	78	74	81	74	79	73	73	74	74
DK	88	79	82	78	88	79	81	74	77	76	74	74	73	71	71	74	75
EE	79	88	79	81	78	78	75	75	76	73	79	78	76	72	70	73	67
EL	54	51	57	52	51	48	48	47	46	50	50	45	49	42	44	46	50
ES	79	86	87	83	82	88	75	79	76	75	69	71	71	69	68	73	70
FI	71	81	85	81	79	81	81	79	82	75	81	76	79	73	73	78	71
FR	59	58	64	62	61	63	64	61	67	61	61	63	63	57	61	66	65
HR	70	66	64	66	63	61	61	60	61	66	63	56	55	58	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
HU	88	88	84	88	77	67	70	69	65	69	67	67	59	59	59	54	51
IE	89	88	85	85	85	81	82	78	88	76	77	70	74	67	68	69	69
IT	48	55	57	59	56	54	53	51	49	49	53	47	47	45	52	51	45
LT	81	81	88	77	78	77	77	74	74	77	78	71	71	64	65	64	68
LU	89	91	93	89	93	90	89	92	93	85	88	89	85	85	88	87	85
LV	76	73	76	75	74	73	74	73	71	68	69	68	62	53	56	57	54
MT	72	81	81	82	82	85	82	82	84	82	84	85	87	74	81	76	72
NL	73	72	77	75	70	70	71	68	70	67	70	61	65	58	61	67	60
PL	83	81	84	79	88	77	88	78	76	71	74	74	77	67	70	74	67
PT	88	81	84	78	83	81	88	79	75	72	72	66	69	58	62	59	60
RO	68	72	73	68	64	63	66	67	59	62	65	68	61	56	53	51	60
SE	75	79	83	82	76	77	76	75	74	72	78	76	77	69	69	73	65
SI	77	76	77	72	73	73	71	73	70	75	65	69	69	61	64	68	66
SK	82	79	88	77	88	75	72	73	75	69	75	73	73	70	76	71	70
UK	n.a.	53	58	58	57	55	54	55	53	52	56	60	52	42	48	48	42
EU	70	70	73	71	70	70	68	67	66	64	67	63	65	59	62	63	61

Synoptic table of projects submitted and selected per country and action grant in 2020

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020
Report 2020

	Applications submitted									Projects selected								Statistic Data				
	CIV	REMEM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2	TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected	CIV	REMEM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2		Applications submitted in %	Applications Granted in %	Success rate submitted/ granted per country	Population rate	Population Received 2020
BG	10	1	0	0	7	2	3	23	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	BG	1,13%	0,77%	13,04%	0,53%	2.001.358
AT	8	3	1	1	1	0	1	14	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	AT	1,04%	1,56%	33,33%	1,47%	8.901.065
BE	7	2	0	1	0	2	2	13	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	BE	0,87%	0,51%	13,33%	0,66%	3.492.928
DE	32	6	10	0	1	0	4	53	12	3	3	3	0	1	0	1	DE	3,04%	4,37%	32,04%	2,17%	11.520.440
DK	19	13	0	3	2	0	12	49	10	1	3	0	2	1	2	1	DK	1,73%	2,57%	15,34%	1,31%	5.853.482
CY	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	CY	0,29%	0,26%	20,00%	0,17%	888.005
CZ	18	3	1	5	10	2	2	41	12	5	2	1	2	5	1	0	CZ	2,08%	3,08%	31,12%	2,01%	10.698.898
DE	35	19	2	21	19	5	3	95	21	2	4	2	10	11	1	1	DE	5,48%	7,97%	22,63%	15,63%	83.166.711
DK	7	3	0	0	0	0	1	11	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	DK	0,63%	0,26%	9,09%	1,09%	5.822.763
EE	7	3	0	1	0	0	0	11	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	EE	0,63%	0,51%	18,18%	0,25%	1.328.976
EL	10	9	0	2	2	8	5	42	7	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	EL	2,42%	1,80%	16,67%	2,01%	10.736.345
ES	46	21	1	8	7	15	21	117	19	3	4	1	4	2	3	2	ES	6,73%	4,88%	16,24%	8,90%	47.332.614
FI	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	7	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	FI	0,40%	0,51%	28,57%	1,04%	5.521.293
FR	15	6	8	7	12	1	9	58	25	1	3	8	4	6	0	1	FR	3,34%	5,91%	44,83%	12,63%	67.320.216
HR	20	6	1	9	6	3	5	50	12	1	2	1	2	5	1	0	HR	2,88%	3,08%	24,00%	0,76%	4.058.165
HU	16	12	1	54	34	11	9	143	22	0	1	1	22	14	1	1	HU	8,37%	10,16%	15,97%	1,94%	9.701.028
IE	5	4	1	3	1	0	1	15	6	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	IE	0,87%	1,54%	40,00%	0,93%	4.964.440
IT	124	44	0	91	84	40	57	441	53	0	7	0	19	13	5	4	IT	25,48%	33,68%	12,01%	11,21%	59.641.488
LT	12	5	0	0	1	1	1	20	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	LT	1,15%	0,77%	15,00%	0,51%	2.794.860
LU	5	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	LU	0,46%	0,26%	12,50%	0,12%	626.108
LV	9	5	0	0	1	0	2	17	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	LV	1,19%	1,54%	26,09%	0,36%	1.901.670
MT	3	1	0	0	0	1	2	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	MT	0,40%	0,26%	14,29%	0,12%	417.671
NL	19	2	0	0	0	2	1	24	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	NL	1,38%	0,51%	8,33%	0,39%	2.075.270
AUT	3	0	0	3	6	3	2	17	5	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	AUT	0,98%	1,54%	35,29%	0,10%	914.564
PL	10	2	3	1	0	1	1	17	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	PL	0,98%	1,54%	35,29%	3,27%	17.407.585
PT	32	34	1	13	13	9	0	102	17	1	0	1	7	0	1	0	PT	6,17%	5,34%	16,69%	2,14%	11.372.632
RO	21	16	0	4	6	3	9	59	8	1	2	0	3	1	1	1	RO	3,66%	2,31%	13,56%	1,93%	10.286.308
RO	19	9	0	27	15	4	3	77	12	1	2	0	11	9	0	0	RO	4,44%	3,13%	15,87%	3,63%	19.328.838
SI	10	1	0	2	6	2	0	21	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	SI	1,04%	1,02%	14,29%	1,30%	2.001.755
SK	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	SK	0,52%	0,77%	22,22%	1,04%	5.457.180
SE	20	8	0	3	9	2	0	42	9	1	1	0	2	3	0	2	SE	2,32%	2,31%	21,43%	0,99%	2.089.862
DK	9	3	0	42	64	9	2	129	27	0	1	0	22	13	1	0	DK	6,66%	10,03%	20,93%	3,03%	5.487.879
UK	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	UK	0,29%	0,00%	0,00%	12,60%	67.028.142
KOS*	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	KOS*	0,08%	0,00%	0,00%	0,34%	1.795.666
TOTAL	491	239	34	246	279	147	173	1.700	384	23	34	16	129	128	21	16	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%		100,00%	531.115.004
				557		320							251		41						81,75%	114.141.004

Legenda:

CIV	Civil Society Projects	OG	Operating Grants	TT2	Town Twinning Phase 2	NT2	Networks of Towns Phase 2
REMEM	Remembrance Projects	TT1	Town Twinning Phase 1	NT1	Networks of Towns Phase 1		*Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99

Synoptic table of projects submitted and selected per country and action in the period 2014-2020

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020
Report 2014-2020

	Applications submitted									Projects selected								Statistic Data				
	CIV	MEMORY	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2	TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected	CIV	MEMORY	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2		Applications Submitted in %	Applications Granted in %	Success rate (submitted/ granted) per country	Population rate	Population Forecast 2020
BG	29	19	0	2	11	9	11	81	2	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	BG	0,11%	0,24%	7,41%	0,53%	2,045,935
CY	64	62	20	10	8	9	16	203	20	7	11	1	1	1	2	4	CY	1,03%	1,21%	11,27%	1,67%	1,141,264
CZ	30	18	2	7	5	11	14	87	10	2	2	0	1	3	0	0	CZ	0,44%	0,40%	10,31%	0,84%	10,692,042
DE	181	73	96	17	18	9	17	406	36	16	12	10	5	6	4	3	DE	2,07%	2,11%	16,26%	3,17%	81,310,440
DK	176	136	8	23	25	21	47	437	25	1	11	0	11	4	5	1	DK	1,12%	1,02%	11,41%	1,21%	5,831,022
EE	26	2	0	1	3	5	1	38	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	EE	0,27%	0,15%	21,05%	0,17%	1,324,820
ES	64	57	4	42	79	8	9	263	38	5	11	1	23	21	1	0	ES	2,01%	1,44%	21,79%	2,01%	50,604,930
FI	141	111	16	142	107	16	16	549	28	14	13	0	101	87	5	4	FI	5,06%	5,81%	5,10%	0,55%	5,530,711
FR	31	8	2	8	2	5	5	59	2	2	3	0	5	2	0	0	FR	0,45%	0,28%	14,00%	1,09%	7,032,769
GR	32	32	1	4	7	2	5	83	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	GR	0,60%	0,34%	10,19%	0,21%	1,169,979
HR	45	73	1	8	13	44	12	201	10	0	6	0	1	1	4	2	HR	2,08%	1,34%	11,28%	1,01%	10,750,193
HU	188	167	31	56	61	60	79	642	37	12	17	0	16	10	6	6	HU	4,11%	3,68%	16,69%	0,96%	10,303,019
IE	22	14	2	2	8	5	1	54	12	2	4	0	2	4	2	0	IE	0,56%	0,53%	27,78%	1,64%	5,011,202
IT	99	59	80	134	183	90	37	687	67	9	20	10	10	10	7	6	IT	4,83%	7,39%	27,23%	12,62%	60,186,308
LV	131	40	4	38	46	41	39	339	10	1	4	1	10	10	5	1	LV	3,70%	1,77%	17,56%	0,36%	1,926,542
LT	164	176	12	867	151	112	100	1587	271	5	4	1	178	35	13	5	LT	16,23%	12,50%	15,34%	1,88%	2,793,120
LU	14	10	1	10	14	3	3	55	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	LU	0,00%	1,03%	30,23%	0,13%	0,596,049
MT	413	401	20	301	310	240	350	2114	240	11	19	0	114	38	19	19	MT	10,27%	13,05%	11,40%	0,21%	0,514,564
NL	70	49	0	13	19	11	9	169	20	7	4	0	0	0	0	1	NL	1,18%	1,11%	11,83%	0,54%	17,194,000
PL	10	0	2	1	2	2	5	22	6	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	PL	0,13%	0,24%	27,27%	0,12%	37,972,812
PT	46	52	6	26	32	16	11	189	20	4	7	1	11	4	2	1	PT	1,32%	1,11%	10,58%	0,30%	10,197,975
RO	30	7	1	0	0	1	5	44	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	RO	0,17%	0,28%	11,36%	0,12%	19,473,936
SE	60	19	7	9	6	12	10	123	16	3	4	1	3	1	2	1	SE	0,84%	0,89%	13,00%	0,29%	10,036,079
SI	19	12	1	16	19	12	16	95	12	2	3	0	2	2	4	4	SI	0,67%	1,46%	36,92%	0,10%	2,067,372
SK	42	40	22	20	4	7	8	148	16	0	10	1	0	1	2	2	SK	1,05%	1,03%	27,02%	0,27%	5,457,000
TR	309	171	10	192	344	51	54	930	66	0	13	1	71	43	6	3	TR	6,47%	7,08%	10,00%	7,14%	77,695,904
UK	72	42	3	20	12	10	12	171	15	1	1	0	11	0	4	4	UK	1,19%	1,52%	20,20%	1,31%	66,460,000
RO	127	143	1	249	198	27	30	775	40	4	8	0	48	40	5	0	RO	5,11%	5,21%	20,05%	3,63%	19,959,938
HR	106	61	5	55	49	16	56	337	24	4	8	0	10	10	1	1	HR	2,37%	2,54%	16,03%	1,30%	4,105,493
BE	26	14	4	3	5	11	10	73	20	4	1	1	0	3	4	7	BE	0,51%	0,75%	26,03%	1,94%	10,707,000
IS	54	50	1	30	47	27	11	220	20	1	6	0	10	10	4	4	IS	1,32%	2,15%	17,88%	0,30%	2,091,001
NO	79	106	14	140	102	54	50	545	60	1	7	1	147	102	4	1	NO	11,14%	11,92%	10,71%	1,08%	5,257,375
LI	72	34	22	19	18	4	9	178	12	4	5	4	4	1	0	0	LI	1,24%	0,87%	12,50%	12,60%	47,023,148
MK	8	2	0	1	0	1	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	MK	0,08%	0,04%	12,50%	0,18%	2,116,000
TOTAL	3,233	2,638	488	3,245	2,668	993	1,090	14,353	1,158	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%		100,00%	511,116,604
				5,912		2,083							1,791		246							

Legenda:

CIV	Civil Society Projects	OG	Operating Grants	TT2	Town Twinning Phase 2	NT2	Networks of Towns Phase 2
MEM	Remembrance Projects	TT1	Town Twinning Phase 1	NT1	Networks of Towns Phase 1		

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ ΙΙΙ

ΤΑ ΠΡΑΚΤΙΚΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ

Brussels, 28 October 2013

1ST INFORMAL MEETING OF THE FUTURE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS"
2014-2020 PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 10 OCTOBER 2013

MINUTES

1. Purpose of this 1st informal meeting

The Commission (COM) explained that the purpose of this 1st informal meeting is to start preparing the implementation of the future "Europe for Citizens" programme in due course despite the fact that the Regulation establishing the programme is not yet adopted.
COM outlined the state-of-play of the inter-institutional procedure and informed that the Council decided on 23 September 2013 to forward the draft regulation to the European Parliament for its consent.
COM reminded that, in parallel, the adopted final text should be approved by the national Parliaments from Germany, United Kingdom and Czech Republic It is only after the approval by these three countries that the Council will formally adopt the Regulation. The publication in the official journal will then follow. Whether adopted before or after, the Regulation will apply from 1st January 2014.
UK informed about its adoption process: consultation of the House of Lords in October, then the House of Commons, and royal assent in December or January.
DE reminded that the Regulation will be presented to the Parliament once the multi financial framework will be adopted and thus the budget for the "Europe for Citizens" programme confirmed.
COM confirmed that, following the cost-benefit analysis carried out by the Commission, the implementation of the Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020 will continue to be delegated to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The delegation package has been drafted and contains a draft decision re-establishing the EACEA and a draft decision delegating powers to the EACEA. This package, together with five other delegation packages for other Executive Agencies, will be presented to the Committee of Executive Agencies on 28 October 2013. Subject to the positive opinion of the Committee, the delegation package will be adopted by the Commission by the end of November. The "Europe for Citizens" programme is included in this package, even if the Regulation establishing the "Europe for Citizens" programme is not yet adopted at that time. A suspensive clause has been indeed inserted: the EACEA will be entrusted with the implementation of

the "Europe for Citizens" programme subject to the adoption of the basic act and as from its date of entry into force.
COM explained that the call for proposals relating to the operating grants must be anticipated. Indeed, in order to be able to cover expenses as from 1st January 2014, the proposals have to be submitted before that date.
Given the fact that the programme committee will only be established once the basic act is adopted, the future representatives of this committee have been thus invited to this 1st informal meeting in order to discuss the proposed work programme 2014 and to get their opinion "in principle". Once the Regulation will be adopted, COM will consult the established programme committee formally via written procedure.
COM summarized the next key steps :

- 10/10/2013 : discussion and informal opinion of the future programme committee on the draft work programme 2014.

- End of October : adoption of the 2014 work programme by the Commission under condition of (1) the adoption of the Regulation establishing the programme, (2) the adoption of the 2014 budget, with availability of the relevant appropriations, and (3) the favourable opinion or lack of objection of the programme committee

- Immediately after : launch of the call for proposals for operating grants by the Commission (since the EACEA mandate has not been renewed yet), under the same suspensive conditions ; deadline 20 December 2013.

- Once the programme Regulation will be adopted : formal consultation of the programme committee by written procedure on the version of the work programme adopted by the Commission.

- As regards the call for projects (town twinning, remembrance, civil society), they will be published immediately after the adoption of the Regulation establishing the programme.

Powerpoint presentation is attached in annex 1.

2. Presentation by the EACEA

EACEA confirmed its role of management of the future "Europe for Citizens" programme (including dissemination) while the Commission will be in charge of the political issues.

To that end, preparatory work is already well under way and, despite the budgetary constraints, EACEA is confident to implement the programme with efficiency.

EACEA reminded the work done in order to reduce the administrative burden such as paperless approach for the management of the programme, online applications, simplification of the eligibility criteria.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda proposed by the Commission was approved.

4. Items submitted for informal opinion of the Programme Committee

4.1. Rules of procedure

COM outlined the main provisions of the future rules of procedure, which reflect the standard rules of procedure published by the Commission, in particular :

- Article 2: the agenda of the future meetings will make a distinction between items submitted for opinion of the Programme Committee and items submitted for information.

- Article 3: the documentation will be submitted to the Programme Committee no later than 14 calendar days before the date of the meeting, except in duly justified cases.

- Article 4: the Committee will deliver its opinion according to the advisory procedure. The outcome of the vote will be decided by a simple majority of the component members of the Committee.

- Article 8: The chair may obtain the committee's opinion by written procedure. The time limit for delivering an opinion by written procedure is laid down by the chair according to the urgency of the matter. However, COM proposed to keep the five working days as used under the "Europe for citizens" programme 2007-2013.

- Article 10: the minutes of a meeting should be sent no later than one month after the meeting. In practice, COM proposed to keep the 15 working days as used under the "Europe for Citizens" programme 2007-2013.

No comments were issued. Therefore, COM reminded that the formal approval of these rules of procedure will be requested by written procedure as soon as the Regulation establishing the "Europe for Citizens" programme 2014-2020 is adopted.

4.2. Work programme 2014

COM reminded the general and the specific objectives of the "Europe for Citizens" programme 2014-2020 as well as its structure.

COM outlined the priorities set out for 2014 as well as the expected results and the indicative budget for each strand of the "Europe for Citizens" programme.

COM described the selection procedure and detailed, for each action, the award criteria, the type of organisations, the number of involved organisations, the maximum grant, the maximum percentage of co-funding and the maximum project duration.

The powerpoint presentation is attached in Annex 2.

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issues:

- Difficulties to meet the priorities set out under strand 1 (HR). COM reminded that these priorities are not exclusive. Projects concerning other defining moments in European history can be taken into account.

- Thematic links with the European Years, the volunteering and the EU–volunteers programme (RO). COM confirmed that links with the European Years will remain but that the European Year 2014 is not yet decided. COM reminded that the volunteering remain a key element of the European citizenship. On the other side, no common projects are foreseen with the "EU-Volunteers" programme as the Europe for Citizens programme does not provide with funding outside the European Union.

- The grant procedure as regards the call for operating grants (AT, BE, PL). COM explained that, further to the call for proposals, organisations will be selected for a framework partnerships for four years (2014-17); and under this framework partnership, they will sign a specific grant agreement for 2014. For the subsequent years, the selected organisations will have to submit a work programme each year in order to get their annual grant.

- The way to improve the geographical balance (NL, SI, SE). COM and EACEA will continue their efforts through information, the work done by the "Europe for Citizens Contact Points" (ECPs) and the selection procedure (for projects above the quality threshold, a better geographical allocation is sought).

- The publication of a more elaborated programme guide. COM confirmed that a detailed programme guide, based on this work programme 2014, will be

published in all languages after the adoption of the Regulation establishing the "Europe for Citizens" programme.

- The adequate language skills of the evaluators in order to ensure that projects are properly evaluated (DE, SI). EACEA confirmed that +/- 600 experts covering all languages of the Member States are currently registered in the data base. However, EACEA informed that a new call for expression of interest has been published (EACEA 2013/01 - open until January 2014) in order to recruit new experts. EACEA encouraged the Member States to convey the information in their country.

- The fact that only the maximum percentage of co-financing is indicated in the work programme and not the lump sums (AT, BE). COM informed that the Financial Regulation requires that the co-financing rate is indicated in the Work programme, even when unit costs/lump sums are used. COM confirmed that unit costs and lump sums will be applied to all actions, excepted operating grants. This will be explicitly indicated in the programme guide.

- The fact that action grants are foreseen for ECPs instead of structural support as provided in the draft Regulation (DE). COM informed that no operating grants can be awarded to public organisations.

- The deadline for submission of work programmes by ECPs. EACEA informed that the deadline will be fixed on 31/12/13 in order to cover expenses as from 1st January 2014. However, taking into account the delay in the adoption of the Regulation, other deadlines would be considered.

- The use of lump sums for ECPs. EACEA confirmed the use of lump sums for ECPs and detailed them. EACEA explained that these lump sums have been calculated on the basis of the activities of the ECPs during the years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

- The type of events to be organised by the ECPs and the possibility of outsourcing. EACEA underlined that the events (conferences, seminars, ….) must be organised or actively co-organised by the ECPs. Outsourcing will be possible (probably around 60 % of the tasks could be subcontracted, still to be confirmed).

- The difficulties for some ECPs to meet the requirements taking into account the limited amount of funding and the specific aspects of each Member State (living costs, travel costs, …) (FI, SE, UK). COM underlined that the maximum percentage of co-funding is 50 %, which means that 50 % should be covered by the Member States. EACEA reminded that the same budget is allocated in the

current programme and that the number of events required corresponds to the average of events organised by the ECPs in the current programme.

- The role of the ECPs to encourage applications while the budget allocated to projects is reduced (BE, NL). COM underlined that the budget for the programme will gradually increase over the years and reminded that the role of the ECPs is to help to identify the good projects and to encourage them to apply. The more active the ECPs are, the better projects COM and EACEA can expect to receive.

- The budget share allocated to operating grants compared to that for projects under strand 1 (AT). COM explained that a balance has been kept between the projects and the operating grants in the total budget (strand 1 and 2 combined). COM also underlined that the budget allocated to operating grants is fixed for 4 years. That means that, even if the budget will slightly increase in the following years, the budget allocated to operating grants will remain stable while the budget allocated to projects will increase. Moreover, COM informed that, in case of an increase of the budget for 2014 (2 millions EUR according to the latest news – still to be voted by the Parliament), this would enable us to increase the number of projects.

- The administrative budget not foreseen in the work programme 2014 (AT). COM informed that the administrative expenditures are not covered by this work programme 2014 which only covers the operational expenditure...

- The payment of prefinancing. EACEA confirmed that prefinancing will be paid for all actions, excepted for town twinning citizens' meetings.

- Concern about access by newly created organisations as the profit and loss account and balance sheet of the last financial year are to be submitted (HR). EACEA reminded that this only applies to grants above 60.000 EUR, and that it is not an eligibility criteria. Organisations newly created (< 1 year) can be selected. However, in such a case, no prefinancing is paid and interim payments can be foreseen depending on the progress of the projects. Another option is the submission of a bank guarantee. This will be made clear in the Programme guide.

- The level of co-funding of town twinning citizens' meetings. EACEA confirmed that the percentage of co-funding is the same as the previous years (50 % average) and that no complaints have been received until now.

After discussion, the following modification was made:

– The abbreviation of "Europe for Citizens Contact Points" is replaced by ECP instead of PEC.

– Town twinning - Maximum percentage of co-funding: correction of 70 % to 50 %, p. 13 in FR, DE and SP versions.

No other comments or objections were issued. Therefore, COM reminded that the formal approval of this revised work programme will be requested by written procedure as soon as the Regulation establishing the "Europe for Citizens" programme 2014-2020 is adopted.

5. Items submitted for information

Use of unit costs and lump sums

EACEA reminded that the use of unit costs and lump sums is appreciated by the beneficiaries.

EACEA outlined the context, the methodology, the results and the advantages of the use of unit costs and lumps sums.

The powerpoint presentation is attached in Annex 3.

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issue:

– The (un)equal treatment taking into account the living costs in some Nordic countries (SE). EACEA confirmed that this parameter is taken into account. Moreover, EACEA underlined, as an example, that the Finnish applications have doubled for actions using lump sums and not for budget based actions.

6. Any other business

Save the date : Europe for Citizens Forum on 28 January 2014

COM informed that a Europe for Citizens Forum will be held in Brussels on 28 January 2013. The objectives are to look back at the achievements and to reflect on challenges to be faced in the following years.

Save the date : Holocaust remembrance day on 27 January 2014

COM informed that, as in the last two years, this event will be held in the headquarters of the Commission and will consist of a commemorative ceremony accompanied by a cultural programme.

Nomination of the future Europe for Citizens Contact Points (ECPs)

COM encouraged the Member States to nominate their ECP (the letter requesting the nomination of the future ECPs was sent to the permanent representations on 4 September 2013).

Brussels, 6 November 2014

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 10 OCTOBER 2014

MINUTES

COM expressed its satisfaction of opening this 1st Committee meeting in the frame of the Regulation establishing the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020, but informed that this would be the last Committee meeting held under the auspices of Directorate General Communication (DG COMM) as the Citizens Programme was expected to move out of Directorate General Communication (DG COMM) in the Juncker Commission. [Meanwhile, decision was made to include it in Commissioner Avramopoulos' portfolio in charge of Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship and therefore to attribute its management to DG Home Affairs (DG HOME)].

This reorganization, that still needs to be approved by the new College, should be in place as from 1 January 2015.

7. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda EFCC/019/2014 proposed by the Commission (COM) was approved.

8. Items submitted for the opinion of the Programme Committee

8.1. Rules of procedure

Following the written consultation on the rules of procedure launched in May 2014, all Member States expressed a favourable opinion on these rules of procedure. However, even if it had no objection on the heart of the matter, Spain invited the Committee to adopt formally these rules of procedure during this meeting, as required by its legal service. Indeed, Article 9 of Regulation 182/11 states that "each committee shall adopt its rules of procedure by a simple majority of its members on a proposal from its chairman" without any reference to the written procedure.

The Europe for Citizens Programme Committee adopted its rules of procedure.

8.2. Work programme 2015

COM presented the Europe for Citizens work programme 2015, focusing on the annual priorities and on the budget proposed for 2015.

Concerning strand 1 "European Remembrance", 2015 coincides with the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, which was the scene of atroce crimes against humanity and had huge consequences in the post-war architecture of Europe.
Regarding strand 2 "Democratic engagement and civic participation", the annual priority 2015 will be built around the discussion on the future of Europe in times of economic crisis and following the European elections of May 2014.
The indicative total budget proposed for 2015 will be of 21,894,000 €. The distribution between strands will be as follows:

Strand 1 – European remembrance: 4,502,867 € = 20,6%
Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation: 16,091,133 € = 73,5%
Strand 3 – Horizontal Action Valorisation: 1,300,000 € = 5,9%

COM also informed that, in order to be able to stay in line with the draft EU budget 2015 and within the budgetary framework agreed by the EU finance ministers, the payment schedule of the Europe for Citizens Programme needed to be modified. The pre-financing rates will have to be reduced as follows:

– for action grants, EACEA will pre-finance at least 30% of the projects' budget (instead of 50 % so far), and a maximum of 70% after reception of the final report;

– for operating grants, EACEA will pre-finance at least 45% (instead of 80 % so far), and a maximum of 55% after reception of the final report.

COM is aware that this situation may cause problems for the beneficiaries. The only way out is to alert the budgetary authority so that payment appropriations foreseen in the 2015 draft budget are increased in the final budget that will be adopted in December.

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issues:

– The role that may play the Strand 1 in the current political context (euroscepticism, populism and high abstention rate). Considering that European remembrance projects are well designed to enable learning from the past to better understand the present, Sweden suggested to slightly revise the wording of the priorities linked to this Strand 1. The suggestion was approved by the Committee.

– The co-financing rate indicated under the different actions while using flat rates. COM underlined that the Financial Regulation requests the publication of the co-financing rate. COM suggested adding a footnote 4 in order to precise that the co-financing rate is based on the results of a statistical analysis and does not need to be demonstrated at project level.

– Detailed information provided to the applicants about the selection results: Education, Audiovisual, Culture and Executive Agency (EACEA) confirmed that each applicant is informed by letter, usually providing with the number of applications, the success rate, the fixed minimum score, the global score together with the score by criteria. The non-selection of an application is motivated and EACEA is open to any further request for information.

– Publication of applicants' data. EACEA informed that a list of all the beneficiaries is published but, in accordance with the data protection rules, not their detailed data.

– How to reach out the citizens who have not been involved so far? COM underlined that some award criteria take already into account the involvement of these citizens.

– Institutional communication. COM confirmed that no financial contribution is foreseen at this stage and that the communication priorities for 2015 and beyond are not yet known.

– The possibility to limit the reduction of the prefinancing rate for the EfC Contact points. COM informed that an increase of the prefinancing rate for one action would reduce accordingly the prefinancing rate for another action. The total envelope cannot be changed. COM again encouraged the Committee members to speak with their national budgetary authorities. President Barroso has already informed the Italian Presidency about this issue of lack of payment credits.

– The consequences of the prefinancing rate reduction on the results. COM informed that the number of projects to be awarded will not change and that there will be no consequence for the work programme to be adopted; only the payment scheme will change. EACEA also underlined that no prefinancing is foreseen to town twinning citizens meetings.

– The possibility to measure the impact of this reduction on the attractiveness of the programme. COM underlined that the success rate is quite low because of the high number of applications.

– The possibility to increase the support to civil society organisations, which are more able to deal with the consequences of the economic and financial crisis. COM reminded that the breakdown between actions is in accordance with the legal basis and that additional support to civil society organisations would mean a reduction in the support to local activities. COM also underlined that the European Parliament is, on the contrary, in favour of more town twinning projects.

– The citizens involvement in the policy-making process of EU. COM informed that this topic was indeed a key element during the negotiations and has become a key feature of the new programme. COM added that beneficiaries of operating grants already give recommendations to the EU and that, at project level, award criteria take this aspect into account.

– The distribution between projects focusing on the annual priorities and other projects. COM reminded that, besides the award criteria linked to the consistency with the objectives of the programme and the annual priorities, other award criteria are taken into account and can allow the selection of other brilliant projects.

– The possibility to finance online activities. EACEA confirmed that it is possible. Such activities have been already financed under the remembrance projects.

After discussion, the following modifications were made:

- Under 1.3.1. – Strand 1: the first, second and fourth paragraphs are replaced by these ones:

"Through its Strand 1, the Europe for Citizens programme supports projects that reflect on the causes **and developments** of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history or that concern other defining moments and reference points in recent European history, **connecting history to the developments of today** (see general description of strand 1, paragraph 1.3.2. below) .
The particular historical moment, which will be commemorated in 2015, will be the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II for its dramatic influence on modern European history. World War II was the most catastrophic war in history**; democratic governments were dismantled, large groups of citizens were excluded and persecuted, atroce crimes against humanity were committed and** human losses were enormous. More than 50 million people died, including 6 million victims of the Holocaust, 27 million soldiers and 19 million civilians. The European continent, but also other parts of the worlds were left in ruins.

In this context, under Strand 1 of the Europe for Citizens Programme, priority will be given to projects that focus on World War II, **the associated rise of intolerance that enabled crimes against humanity,** and its consequences for the post-war architecture of Europe."

- Under 2.1.5: addition of the footnote 4 linked to the co-financing rate. Reference to this footnote 4 is also added under 2.2.3.

The Committee gave a favourable opinion on the revised version of the work programme 2015.

9. Items submitted for information

9.1. Results of the "Europe for Citizens" programme 2007-2013

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) presented its document on the results of the "Europe for Citizens" Programme 2007-2013, giving an image of the programme 2007-2013, its evolution and its impact.

EACEA underlined that this document is more quantitative than strategic and presented some key figures for the period 2007-2013:

– almost 20,000 applications ; 6,500 awarded; i.e. 33% success rate;

– 25,000 towns of the European Union involved; 350 networks of towns;

– 4,250 civil organisations financed;

– more than 500 remembrance organisations involved;

– number of applications increased by 45% between 2007 and 2013;

– number of participants increased by 75% between 2007 and 2013.

EACEA drew also attention to:

– the current trend towards more structured projects, involving more partners, a transnational dimension and more interesting themes, which have multiplied the impact of the programme;

– the implementation of simplified processes, through flat rates, e-forms, and shorter deadlines for payments.

9.2. Ex-post evaluation "Europe for Citizens" programme 2007-2013

As set out in the Decision establishing the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013, the European Commission will have to submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions an ex-post evaluation report by 31 December 2015. This political report must be based on an external ex post evaluation report.

The budget foreseen for this ex-post evaluation will be limited to 120,000 € as the chosen tenderer will be able to base the evaluation on already existing material, in particular the mid-term evaluation of 2011, the Europe for Citizens Surveys 2008 and 2009 on developing impact indicators for the new Europe for Citizens

Programme, the study on measuring the impact of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013 carried out in 2013, the Europe for Citizens Report *Results 2007-2013* (available on the Internet in English and French in the section "Latest publication" under http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm) developed by the EACEA and the Commission's annual activity reports.

The specific contract with the chosen tenderer will be signed in October. The interim report will be requested for March and the Final Report for October 2015.

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issues:

– The involvement of the Committee in the process. COM indicated that the chosen contractor might get in touch with some Committee members and some PECs. COM added that the Committee would be informed of the progress and of the results of the ex-post evaluation, before submission of the political report to the other institutions.
– The methodology to be used. The methodology is not yet known as the contractor has not been selected for the moment; it will be defined during the kick-off meeting. However, COM already expects the use of existing data, interviews with stakeholders (Committee members, PECs, beneficiaries, rejected applicants).
– The fine-tuning of the current programme 2014-2020 in light of the results. COM reminded that the interim evaluation was already used to draft the current programme. New recommendations could be of course taken into account.

9.3. Third countries participation – state of play

COM presented the state of play of the participation of third countries in the Europe for Citizens Programme. The programme is potentially open to the participation of acceding countries, candidate countries and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries provided that they have concluded an agreement with the Commission.

Five third countries have expressed their interest to participate in the "Europe for Citizens" Programme 2014-2020:

– **Serbia:** has completed the internal procedures and will sign the agreement with the Commission by 27 October.

– **Montenegro:** the government of Montenegro will discuss the agreement on 9 October, which means that it may be signed before the end of October.

– **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM):** will complete the internal procedures by mid-October opening the way for the signature of the agreement.

– **Bosnia-Herzegovina:** will finalise the internal procedures in November and is likely to sign the agreement by the end of the year.

– **Albania:** COM is waiting for information from the Albanian government.

Provided that the agreement with these third countries is signed by the end of 2014:

– projects from these third countries, already selected and on a reserve list, will be awarded;

– the call for proposals for the operating grants will be open for organisations from these third countries.

9.4. Overview of the selections 2014

EACEA presented the results of the project selections in 2014 following the first deadline of 4 June 2014, confirming an average success rate of 26% at this stage.

Under the "European remembrance" Strand, 477 project applications have been received (increase of 11% compared to 2013). 33 projects have been selected for funding and two additional projects put on a reserve list for a total amount of about 3 million Euros.

In addition, 7 European remembrance organisations have been awarded an operating grant out of 22 applications received.

Under the Strand "Democratic engagement and civic participation", out of 418 town-twinning project applications received in the first phase (deadline of 4 June), 188 projects for an overall amount of 3 million Euros have been selected. 249 town twinning project applications have been received at the second application deadline of 1 September.

Out of 84 project applications of networks of towns received in the first phase, a total of 21 projects have been selected for almost 3 million Euros. For the September deadline, 140 networks of towns have applied for funding. EACEA underlined that all eligible countries are represented and more than 10 towns are involved in each project.

The increase of project applications is even higher for civil society projects as 538 project applications have been received for the September deadline.

Regarding operating grants for strand 2, out of 139 applications received, 29 organisations have been funded. The overall amount spent for operating grants for both strands in 2014 is around 7 million Euros.

9.5. European Civil Society House – state of play

Following the European Parliament vote in favour of a preparatory action in 2013 for the establishment of a European Civil Society House, the Commission carried out a feasibility study to assess the need to establish a new structure so as to ensure that there would be no duplication with existing initiatives. The study included an extensive mapping of existing structures dealing with European rights and civic participation, a needs assessment, the development and assessment of possible scenarios to address priority needs (including the establishment of a new structure and the use of existing structures) and proposals for the future.

The study has come to the conclusion that there was no need to establish a new structure and that the partially unmet needs of citizens and civil society organisations would be best addressed by strengthening and developing synergies among existing activities and structures at EU and national levels.

Based on the study conclusions, COM obtained from the EP the agreement to discontinue this preparatory action in 2014 (250,000€) and to transfer its budgetary appropriation to the EfC budget line (250,000€), with a view to financing more operating grants and civil society projects.

10. Any other business

N/A

The next Committee meeting is foreseen in the 1st semester 2015.

Brussels, 9 November 2015

EFCC/037/2015

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 6 OCTOBER 2015

MINUTES

1. Welcome and introduction

The Commission (COM) opened the meeting, underlining that this was the first meeting officially chaired by Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) since the move of the 'Europe for Citizens' programme from Directorate-General Communication (DG COMM) in November 2014.

COM ensured that the programme had not been impacted by this organisational change. It pointed out that it had been preserved as it used to be, with the same legal basis, the same general and specific objectives and the same budget. COM also stressed that DG HOME was fully committed to the programme monitoring, with the help of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), in charge of its operational implementation.

COM underlined that the new programme's positioning within the European Commission had contributed to further enriching its scope by building new bridges and by opening original perspectives, notably on migration and security issues.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda EFCC/035/2015 proposed by COM was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting were approved.

4. Items submitted for the opinion of the Programme Committee under the advisory procedure

a. Work programme 2016

COM presented the 'Europe for Citizens' work programme 2016 (document EFCC/036/2015) and noted that it contained an important change, i.e. the

switching from annual specific priorities to multi-annual specific priorities which would apply throughout the remaining period of the programme (2016-2020) in order for applicants to know them far in advance, and better plan and prepare their projects.

COM detailed the four priorities for the strand 1 'European Remembrance':

- *Commemoration of major historical turning points in recent European history*;
- *Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes*;
- *Ostracism and loss of citizenship under totalitarian regimes: drawing the lessons for today*; and
- *Democratic transition, accession to the European Union and Europeanisation*.

COM described the four priorities for the strand 2 'Democratic engagement and civic participation':

- *Understanding and debating euroscepticism*;
- *Solidarity in times of crisis*;
- *Combating stigmatisation of 'immigrants' and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding*; and
- *Debating on the future of Europe*.

COM also informed that the indicative total budget foreseen for 2016 would be of EUR 23 074 481, with the following breakdown:

- European remembrance (strand 1): EUR 4 596 467
- Democratic engagement and civic participation (strand 2): EUR 17 178 014
- Valorisation (horizontal action): EUR 1 300 000

COM reminded that different rules applied to grants:

- Action grants are available for remembrance projects under strand 1 and for town-twinning projects, networks of towns and civil society projects under strand 2. The Programme Guide provides online information regarding the funding opportunities for these actions grants (application procedures, selection procedures, general rules of relevant EU grants and deadlines for submission of applications).

- Operating grants are available under strand 1 and strand 2 following a specific call for proposals launched in November 2013 and awarding operating grants for the period 2014-2017. COM announced that in 2016, specific conventions based on the framework partnerships signed in 2014 would be concluded with the same organisations on the basis of their work programmes 2016 (list in annex of the draft work programme 2016).

Finally, COM presented the expected results for each strand and informed that, hitherto, all countries participating in the 'Europe for Citizens' programme had designated a Contact Point (ECP) apart from the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Portugal.

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issues:

– **Switch from annual priorities to multi-annual specific priorities.** It was welcomed and supported by Member States, in so far as it would enable candidates to plan their projects well in advance and give more impact to the programme.

– **Need for a bottom-up approach, i.e. involving citizens.** COM confirmed that projects had to be built with citizens in innovative ways and in accordance with the general and specific objectives of the programme.

– **Place left to the 'European Remembrance' strand.** COM underlined that this strand remained important in the programme as it was dealing with fundamental values. COM also reminded that cooperation with UNESCO was on-going, via co-financing of a project dedicated to Holocaust education. COM took note that Holocaust was a top priority for Sweden and United Kingdom.

– **Request for replacing the term "celebration" in 1st priority of the Strand 1 by the word "commemoration".** COM agreed.

– **Possibility of adding new commemorative dates.** COM reminded that, to be accepted, such new dates should reflect major historical turning points in Europe's 20th century and on their consequences for Europe today. In this perspective, among the different proposals, COM agreed to add 1956 "Political and social mobilisation in Central Europe" to the eligible commemorations.

– **Reservation concerning use of the word "Europeanisation" because of its negative meaning.** COM agreed to delete every occurrence of this term from the 4th priority of the Strand 1.

– **Need for a more positive approach of the European construction so as to counterbalance current negative discourses, notably in 'The Debate on the Future of Europe' priority.** COM confirmed that such a positive approach should (and would) be promoted as suggested by the Committee.

– **Request for putting forward the 'Combating stigmatisation of immigrants' priority, given the current context.** COM underlined that each priority had the same importance, and ensured that there was no hierarchy between them.

– **Need to include immigrants and/or organisations which represent them in the making/implementation of the projects, notably those related to the 'Combating stigmatisation of immigrants' priority.** COM reminded that projects were open to the participation of third country nationals legally residing in the EU. EACEA informed that some British projects involving immigrants had been already selected, with successful results. COM finally emphasized DG HOME's work in the integration area and said that this work could be completed with the programme (through training, sharing of best practices…).

– **Difficulties for applying in 2015 due to low pre-financing rates.** EACEA reminded that the budgetary authority had limited the payment credits in 2015, and that pre-financing rates had to be reduced accordingly. EACEA deemed that, if payment credits were not to be limited in 2016, pending on the results of on-going budgetary discussions, pre-financing level could be revised in the following way: 50% for actions grants and 80% for operating grants.

– **No update of the programme guide concerning the change of pre-financing rate.** EACEA informed that the late information regarding the availability of payment credits for 2015 could not be reflected in the programme guide in due time. However, this change was announced on the EACEA's website. COM also reminded that ECPs were fully aware of this situation.

– **Justification of cofinancing rate.** EACEA confirmed that the cofinancing did not need to be demonstrated at project level.

– **Better feedback required for non-selected projects.** COM informed that unfortunate applicants could request further information to EACEA on the non-selection of their projects.

– **Better distribution of funds and low success rates for civil society projects.** COM reminded that, due to the programme limited budget, the number of selectable projects was limited. To compensate this situation, COM said that it regularly organised networking meetings, such as the conference held in Rome in December 2014, which had allowed strengthening synergies between the civil society organisations and the members of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. COM also underlined the counterbalancing effect of operating grants which beneficiate to pan-European organisations that are able to gather civil society organisations at regional, national and European levels. COM also reminded that it regularly held a dialogue with the civil dialogue group involving +/- 50 organisations. Finally, COM invited the Committee to consult the website of these organisations (e.g. that of the Centre for international information and documentation in Barcelona which has published documentation on migration policy).

– **Sustainability of the projects.** COM underlined that a lot of projects were viable, and took the 'Douzelage' project as a good example.

– **The importance of the ECPs.** COM confirmed that the ECPs network worked well and that trainings were provided regularly to them to better accompany applicants. COM informed that ECPS had had their first meeting in Lithuania in April 2015 and that their next meeting would take place in Paris on 15 and 16 October 2015 and could be an opportunity to discuss the programme guide's improvement.

– **Lack of ECP in the United Kingdom.** UK informed that, considering the programme legal basis, a debate was requested at the Parliament level to designate such a structure. It added that this designation would depend on the results of the forthcoming referendum.

After discussion, the following modifications were made:

- Under 1.3.1.1. – Strand 1, point 1:

– one commemorative date was added: "1956: Political and social mobilisation in Central Europe";

– the term "Celebrations" was replaced by the term "Commemorations" in all the text; and

– under 1.3.1.1. – Strand 1, point 4, the term "Europeanization" was deleted in all the text, which was redrafted in the following way:

" ***4. Democratic transition and accession to the European Union***

For many Member States that experienced in their recent history a transition to democracy, accession to the European Union played an important role in supporting and consolidating democratisation. For example, through the system of "democratic conditionality", the pre-membership encouraged political changes and structural reforms, strengthened administrative capacity and improved minority protections.

Projects funded under the Europe for Citizens programme shall analyse how the EU accession perspective influenced democratic standards and practises of previous dictatorships or authoritarian regimes. They shall also reflect on the role of EU membership in the process of democratic transition. The projects will particularly focus on historical events, turning-points or steps which characterized this slow process of **changes**, and underline in what ways they contributed to overcoming the past, to achieving the end goal of

"returning to Europe", and to building the future. The projects shall highlight what were the key drivers of this process, and shall underline the difficulties met or the persisting difficulties, notably after the removal of the pre-membership conditionality and the EU accession. While taking stock of the enlargements accomplished these last decades and their results in terms of democratisation, the projects shall open the discussion on the desirability of future enlargements or on other kinds of partnerships with countries of the EU neighbourhood."

The Committee gave a favourable opinion on this revised version of the work programme 2016.

5. Items submitted for information

a. Annual activity report 2014

COM reminded that, due to procedural delays in the adoption of the Council Regulation establishing the programme, the 'Europe for Citizens' programme 2014-2020 could not enter into force as foreseen on 1 January 2014. It entered into force on 17 April 2014.
COM underlined that, due to budgetary cuts of the Multi Financial Framework 2014-2020, the financial envelope for the Europe for Citizens programme was reduced by around EUR 29,5 million (- 13,7%) for the 2014-2020 period, passing from almost EUR 215 million in 2007-2013 to EUR 185,5 million in 2014-2020.
COM presented the main facts and figures of the annual activity report 2014 (EFCC/029/2015):

- **Implementation:** the programme was implemented in 31 eligible participating countries (28 Member States and 3 other participating countries, i.e. Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

- **Selection results:** out of 2 087 applications received, 412 projects were selected, and around 1 100 000 participants were involved in the programme activities.

- **Under strand 1 - European remembrance:**

– 36 European remembrance projects;

– 6 operating grants;

– Support of Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (part of the 4 years' project *"Preserving Authenticity – nine tasks for the years 2012-2015"*);

– Co-operation with UNESCO: co-financing of a project named "Holocaust in Contemporary Education - European Curricula, Textbooks and pupils' perceptions in comparison", to be implemented in 2016 and 2017.

- **Under strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation:**

– 252 town-twinning projects;

– 35 networking projects;

– 29 civil society projects;

– 29 operating grants.

- **Under Horizontal Action – Valorisation:**

– Organisation of the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony for organisations active in the area of European remembrance, for 'Europe for Citizens' Contact Points and for European Commission staff;

– Organisation of the European Citizens' Forum 2014 to look back to the 'Europe for Citizens' programme 2007-2013 and ahead to the new 'Europe for Citizens' programme;

– Organisation of a European Remembrance Networking Meeting in Prague in April 2014 "Turning Points of the 20th Century European History - Europe between war and peace 1914-2004";

– Organisation, in cooperation with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), of the conference "Citizens in my city – Citizens in Europe" in Rome in December 2014 in order to strengthen synergies between the members of CEMR representing European local communities and civil society organisations;

– 25 'Europe for Citizens' Contact points designated.

- **Organisation of two Civil dialogue meetings** with approximately 50 European level organisations and think tanks actively involved in the programme to discuss all matters related to its implementation and its annual priorities.

- **Signature of a contract with Coffey International** in order to carry out an ***ex post*** **evaluation of the 'Europe for Citizens' programme 2007-2013.**

- **Implementation of the budget line 16.0509** introduced by the European Parliament for a **preparatory action on the setting up of a 'European Civil Society House' in Brussels**, by commissioning an *ex ante* appraisal and feasibility study on the establishment of a European House for Civil Society (EHCS), including a mapping of existing structures dealing with European rights and civic participation, a needs assessment and possible scenarios to address the identified needs. The final report submitted in June 2014, concluded that the needs of both citizens and civil society organisations would be best addressed through existing structures and at a lower cost.

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issues:

– **Choice of the civil dialogue group's participants.** COM informed that this choice was totally transparent. It pointed out that all organisations which had received an operating grant could take part in the civil dialogue group, as well as other civil society organisations at European level having expressed an interest in doing so. COM explained that, at this stage, around 55 organisations were members of the civil dialogue group.

– **Difference between the budget foreseen for each action in the work programme 2014 and the figures on EACEA's website.** EACEA informed that this discrepancy was due to an undervaluation of the average budget per project in the work programme 2014 compared to the actual costs of the selected projects, which were higher than foreseen.

b. Overview of the selections 2015

EACEA considered that 2015 was mainly a year of stability for the programme implementation, after the difficulties encountered in 2014 due to the late adoption of the programme.

However, EACEA reported two problematic elements in the programme management in 2015:

- the growing number of submitted applications (an increase of 35% compared to 2014);
- the reduction of pre-financing rate induced by the payment appropriations limitation.

Concerning the project selected after the first deadline of 2 March 2015, EACEA announced that:

- under strand 1 - European remembrance, more than 500 applications had been received (increase of 15 % compared to 2014) and 33 projects had been selected;

- under strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation, the selection related to the second round (deadline: 1st September 2015) for Town Twinning and Networks of Towns was still on-going and, therefore, it was too early to provide overall results. Instead, EACEA delivered a short analysis of the outcomes of the selection for civil society projects, informing that the main themes treated in the submitted applications were: migration/integration, social cohesion/inclusion and democratic participation.

- 35 operating grants had been renewed based on the Framework Partnerships signed for the period 2014-2017.

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issues:

– **Request for a better feedback to applicants when their project is not selected in order for them to understand their errors and improve their candidature.** EACEA replied that applicants already receive feedback from the

expert's evaluation as well as information on their score obtained for each criterion when their project is not selected. It added that further information could be requested. However, considering the volume of non-selected projects, and the limited budget available for this administrative task, EACEA considered that it was not in position to provide more detailed information for all non-selected projects, as this is the case for other programmes. EACEA ensured that it would try to be as complete as possible in its information while limiting the corresponding administrative burden.

c. Ex-post evaluation 'Europe for Citizens' programme 2007-2013

COM reminded that, as set out in the Decision establishing the 'Europe for Citizens' programme 2007-2013, the European Commission would have to submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions an *ex post* evaluation report by 31 December 2015. To this end, it pointed out that a contract had been awarded to Coffey International for carrying out an external *ex-post* evaluation of the 'Europe for Citizens' programme 2007-2013.

COM informed that the ex-post evaluation had taken place during the last ten months and that the final report had been approved by the Commission.

COM invited the representative of Coffey International to present the results of this evaluation. Coffey reminded the purpose and focus of the *ex-post* evaluation, detailed the approach and methodology used and summarized its key conclusions and recommendations.

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issues:

– **Follow-up of this evaluation.** COM announced that this evaluation would be published (done - http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/europe-for-citizens-programme/programme-2007-2013/index_en.htm) and that, on the basis of this independent evaluation, COM would issue a report to the other institutions in which its position would be given. COM informed that it shared most of the conclusions of the evaluation and ensured that it had already integrated some of its recommendations (e.g. increasing assistance and information to applicants through ECPs network, improving information on the programme through new communication tools, improving the programme management by a series of means, anchoring remembrance activities in the future, etc.) or anticipated them in the work programme 2016 that had just been adopted (e.g. concentration on a more limited number of priorities and increased predictability thanks to multi-annual priorities).

– **Need to ensure increased coordination among Commission services.** COM informed that reflection on how to ensure increased internal coordination on citizenship issues in general was on-going.

– **Need to encourage remembrance projects to look more towards future.** COM reminded that most remembrance projects involve young people and aimed at drawing lessons from the past to better apprehend the future.

d. Third countries participation – state of play

COM reminded that the programme is potentially open to the participation of acceding countries, candidate countries and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries provided that they have concluded an agreement with the Commission.

COM informed that agreements had been already signed with Serbia, Montenegro, FYROM and Albania. It added that Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was the last country out of those which had expressed interest in participating in the programme and was to sign the Agreement late October 2015.

COM concluded that, from the end of 2015, the programme would cover therefore all countries in Western Balkans.

e. Networking meeting with organisations active in the field of Memory and Remembrance (Tallinn, 4-5 May 2015)

COM provided a feedback on the Remembrance networking meeting that had taken place on 4-5 May 2015.

f. Next events in 2016

COM indicated that two events were planned for 2016:

- a Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony, which would take place in January in the European Commission premises. This ceremony would focus on the history of Roma persecution and extermination during the World War II as well as the persistent Roma discrimination today, namely through an exhibition entitled 'Roma Memory' by Paris based Yahad–In Unum organisation; and

- a major event provisionally entitled 'Memory, Citizenship and Solidarity', which would be organised in Barcelona in May. The event would bring together representatives of Remembrance and Civic Participation strands of the programme to debate on the links between historical memory, reflective and engaged citizenship and solidarity. Would also be invited: European Union political representatives, personalities from national and municipal levels, well-known public intellectuals, historians and representatives from civil society, as well as ECPs.

g. New dissemination tools for the Programme: e-newsletter and e-mapping

COM informed that it had started to work on two new dissemination tools for the programme:

- An *e-newsletter*, which would replace the current Flash Info and be sent on a regular basis to partners, stakeholders, members of the civil dialogue and national contact points of the programme, with a view to creating a community of interest around the programme and to communicating better on its concrete results.

- A *projects' dissemination platform* to be launched as of 1 January 2016, that would present the selected projects, provide information on them and give them more visibility and transparency.

COM underlined that both tools were under development and would be showcased to the Committee during its next meeting.

6. Any other business

N/A

The next Committee meeting is scheduled in the 2nd semester 2016.

ANNEX: Attendance list (EFCC/038/2015)

EFCC/038/2015 - EN

Brussels, 20 October 2015

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 6 OCTOBER 2015

ATTENDANCE LIST

Country	Organisation
AT	Federal Chancellery of Austria
BE	Ministerium der deutschsprachigen Gemeinschapft Flemish Government of Belgium – Department Cultuur, Jeugd, Sport and Media French-speaking Community
BG	Permanent representation of Bulgaria to the European Union
CY	Ministry of Education and Culture
CZ	European and Institutional Affairs Communication Department
DE	Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen and Jugend Permanent representation of Germany to the European Union
DK	Kultur Ministeriet

EE	Ministry of the interior – Citizenship and Migration Policy Department
EL	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction
ES	State Secretariat of Culture
FI	Ministry of Education and Culture
FR	Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes
HR	Government office for cooperation with NGOs
HU	Tempus Public Foundation
IT	Ministero dei Beni e delle Attivita Culturali e del Turismo
LT	Permanent representation of Lithuania to the European Union
LU	Permanent representation of Luxembourg to the European Union
NL	Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koningrijksrelaties DutchCulture
PL	Permanent representation of Poland to the European Union
RO	Ministerul Culturii
SE	Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society
SI	Ministrstvo za Kulturo

SK	Ministry of Culture
UK	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Albania	Mission of Albania to the European Union
Montenegro	Mission of Montenegro to the European Union
Serbia	Mission of Serbia to the European Union
	Coffey International Department Limited

Brussels, 18 October 2016

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 18 OCTOBER 2016

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

1. Welcome and introduction

Marta Cygan, Director of DG HOME.A of the European Commission (COM) opened the meeting, underlining that the European Union is currently confronted with complex challenges including the fight against terrorism, the response to a serious migration and refugee crisis and the outcome of the United Kingdom EU membership Referendum. Sixty years after the signing of the Treaty of Rome, it seemed more important than ever to reconnect the European project with citizens, to listen to their concerns and to discuss with them on the EU's future perspectives,

The Europe for Citizens Programme for the period 2014-2020 is seen as an important instrument in this respect as it invites citizens to actively participate in a bottom-up building of the EU.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda proposed by COM was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting were approved.

4. Items submitted for the opinion of the Programme Committee under the advisory procedure

a. Work programme 2017

COM presented the 'Europe for Citizens' work programme 2017 that was essentially based on the work programme 2016 reconfirming the multi-annual thematic priorities which will be applied throughout the remaining period of the programme (2017-2020) in order for applicants to know them far in advance, and better plan and prepare their projects.

Multi-annual priorities 2017-2020

COM detailed the four priorities for the strand 1 'European Remembrance':

- *Commemoration of major historical turning points in recent European history*

Reference years in 2017 will be the following:
1917 The social and political revolutions, the fall of empires and their impact on Europe's political and historical landscape
1957 The Treaty of Rome and the beginning of European Economic Community

- *Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes*;

- *Ostracism and loss of citizenship under totalitarian regimes: drawing the lessons for today*; and

- *Democratic transition, accession to the European Union and Europeanisation*.

COM described the four priorities for the strand 2 'Democratic engagement and civic participation':

- *Understanding and debating Euroscepticism*;

- *Solidarity in times of crisis*;

- *Combatting stigmatisation of migrants and fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding*; and

- *Debating on the future of Europe*.

Budget 2017

COM also informed that the proposed indicative total budget foreseen for 2017 will be of 23 231 000 EUR, with the following breakdown:

- European remembrance (strand 1): 4 691 441 EUR
- Democratic engagement and civic participation (strand 2): EUR 17 440 103 EUR
- Valorisation (horizontal action): EUR 1 100 000

COM informed that the committee on culture and education of the European Parliament voted an amendment asking for a budgetary increase of 4 650 000 EUR on commitments and payments for the Europe for Citizens programme for the year 2017. This amendment has been confirmed by the committee on budget of the European Parliament. After the final vote at the European Parliament scheduled for 26 October the negotiations with the Council will begin on 28 October.

Regarding the different types of grants, the following rules will be applied in 2017:

- Action grants will be available for remembrance projects under strand 1 and for town-twinning projects, networks of towns and civil society projects under strand 2. The Programme Guide which will be revised in the coming months will provide online information regarding the funding opportunities for these actions grants (application procedures, selection procedures, general rules of relevant EU grants and deadlines for submission of applications).

- Operating grants are available under strand 1 and strand 2 following a specific call for proposals launched in November 2013 and awarding operating grants for the period 2014-2017. In 2017, specific conventions based on the framework partnerships signed in 2014 will be concluded with the same organisations on the basis of their work programmes 2017 (list in annex of the draft work programme 2017). In the second semester of 2017, a new call for proposals for multi-annual operating grants for the period 2018-2020 will be published.

European Citizens' Initiative:

COM informed the committee that in the course of the budgetary negotiations 2016, it was decided to split the budgetary line 18 04 01 originally only foreseen for the Europe for Citizens Programme into two separate lines: While the original line has become line 18 04 01 01, a new separate budget line 18 04 01 02 has been added and is specifically dedicated to the European Citizens' Initiative. The intention behind is to increase synergies between both instruments, the EU funding programme "Europe for Citizens" and the political participation instrument "European Citizens' Initiative".

In this context, for the year 2016, a total amount of 640 000 EUR in commitment credits was transferred from Europe for Citizens to the European Citizens' Initiative while 840 000 EUR in commitment credits will be transferred in 2017. The proposed indicative total budget of 23 231 000 EUR takes already account of this new budgetary allocation.

The new actions foreseen within the European Citizens' Initiative aim at improving the communication on the ECI and at developing better IT tools for the registration of Citizens' Initiatives.

Discussion:

Following the presentation of the work programme 2017 by COM a debate was organised. The following points were raised by participants:

- **European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018:** Following the designation of the year 2018 as European Year of Cultural Heritage, the programme committee invited COM to add a priority on the European Year of Cultural Heritage for 2018. COM agreed on this priority to be included in the work programme 2018 and explained that cooperation with DG Education and Culture has started already on the preparation of the European Year.

- **Call for proposals on multi-annual operating grants:** In reply to questions of participants COM explained that a new call for proposals for multi-annual operating grants covering the years 2018-2020 will be published in 2017. As the grants awarded within this call for proposals will be financed on the 2018 budget, the call will be included in the work programme for the year 2018.

- **Budget 2017:** Participants agreed that the overall budget for Europe for Citizens was too limited, especially when comparing with other EU programmes. They stressed that low success rates created a lot of frustrations amongst applicants, in particular as regards remembrance and civil society projects as around 95% of submitted remembrance and civil society projects were rejected in 2015 and 2016. Participants welcomed the proposal by the Culture Committee of the European Parliament to increase commitment credits for 2017 by 4 650 000 EUR.

- **Type of projects:** Whereas some participants asked for an increase of the number of small scale projects (projects receiving less than 60 000 EUR, mostly granted within the town-twinning measure), other participant asked for a reinforcement of the European remembrance projects and of civil society projects as the respective success rates are particularly low. COM replied that the Council Regulation establishing the programme had to be respected stating in its annex that 20% of the available budget had to be spent on strand 1 and 60% on strand 2 of the programme. COM based its multi-annual budgetary planning on the requirements of the Council Regulation.

- **European Citizens' Initiative:** Participants stressed that synergies between the Europe for Citizens programme and the European Citizens' Initiative were desirable but regretted that the European Citizens' initiative had to be funded through the Europe for Citizens programme. COM stressed that this represents only about 3% of the overall programme budget and that the number of projects receiving funding under Europe for Citizens would not have to be reduced.

- **Pre-financing:** Participants echoed concerns of some beneficiaries that pre-financing is too low and too often subject to financial guarantees. EACEA first recalled that the level of pre-financing is constrained by the availability of payment credits. Town twinning projects never received pre-financing; pre-financing for National Contact Points ('PEC') is up to 80%, for operating grants up to 70%, and up to 40% for civil society projects. Financial guarantees are requested in line with Commission-wide rules; but, as appropriate, alternatives are used e.g. third-party guarantees or splitting pre-financing.

- **Feedback mechanism:** Participants encouraged COM and EACEA to improve the feedback to organisations that have not been selected. The network of National Contact Points should be better used to help giving feed-back to applicants. EACEA explained that it is analysing how the communication of results to unsuccessful applicants could be enhanced, whilst maintaining a balance between the level of detail and the administrative cost of processing the more than 2000 letters informing unsuccessful applicants of the results of the evaluation of their project every year, each of them containing information on the selection, the overall score received by the specific application, the score per award criterion. In the first selection phase of 2016 only 4 out of 2000 applicants complained against the results (0.2%). Communication with the National Contact Points ('PEC') is regular and fluid. It is done for instance through at least one general meeting per year, job-shadowing activities at EACEA, joint monitoring missions (Agency staff and PECs representatives) and ad hoc feedback on each selection.

- **Revision of Programme Guide:** Participants invited EACEA to provide better guidance to applicants by revising the Programme Guide in a user-friendly way. EACEA noted that the number of applications submitted (2500 per year) and low number of ineligible applications illustrates the clarity of the Guidelines (Programme Guide), notably in relation to general objectives and award criteria. Nonetheless, the Guide will be revised in 2017 to simplify wording and review definitions. In particular the financial part will be made even more reader-friendly.

Following the discussion, the Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft version of the work programme 2017.

4.2. EU Solidarity Corps

The Chair presented the plan of the European Commission to set up a European Solidarity Corps by the end of this year following the announcement made by President Juncker in his State of the Union speech of 14 September 2016. The idea is to give young people across the EU the opportunity to volunteer where help is needed and to respond to crisis situations, like for example the refugee crisis or the recent earthquake in Italy.

The Corps will be rooted in the core EU values of engagement and solidarity. By joining the Corps, participants will express their commitment and willingness to devote a period of their lives to helping others. By supporting others, including the most vulnerable in our societies and communities, young people will not only put the core EU value of solidarity into practice, but also acquire skills and

experience, including language skills, that can be valuable when looking for a job or considering further education and training.

Candidates wanting to join the Corps, and entities willing to host volunteers, will be able to do so via one single entry point: a dedicated European Solidarity Corps web-portal.

The European Solidarity Corps will be set up as soon as possible, and will start with making the web-portal operational. The objective is to get 100 000 young people signed up to the Corps by 2020.

The Corps will build on existing EU volunteering programmes for youth like for example the ERASMUS+ Programme of DG EAC or the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative of DG ECHO, but as well on programmes like "Europe for Citizens" which may wish to cooperate and establish synergies.

The Chair announced that the committee members will be consulted by writing.

They will be invited to answer the following questions by 11 November 2016:

- What do you think of the planned European Solidarity Corps?

- What kind of activities would you envisage where the European Solidarity Corps could intervene?

- What possible overlaps with existing national/international programmes do you see and how can they be avoided?

- Is there scope for co-operation/alignment between volunteering efforts in your country and the planned European Solidarity Corps?

5. Items submitted for information

a. Overview of the selections 2016

Brian Holmes, Director of EACEA gave an overview on the selection results for the ongoing year 2016.

More than 60 million EUR have been awarded since 2014, supporting the projects of more than 1000 direct beneficiary organisations across all Member States, and involving roughly 7000 organisations across our continent.

Programme management and implementation have been stable since the previous programme. The average time to take a decision is around 3 months, pre-financing payments are made within 8 days and final payments are generally made within 30 days.

In 2016, in total, around 2500 applications have been received. Applications were received from all Member States, except Luxembourg. Italy, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Germany submitted around 50% of all applications received.

EACEA stressed that there has been an overall decrease of around 10% in submitted applications mainly due to the Town Twinning action that experienced a marked decrease of applications coming from Hungary.

The following conclusions could be drawn:

- The very low success rate in European Remembrance (8%) and in civil society projects (4,3%) showed a strong interest for those actions which is not matched by the available budget.

- The introduction of multi-annual priorities that were introduced for the first time in the 2016 Work Programme has led to a 25% increase in the number of applications submitted for Civil Society Projects compared to 2015. At the same time, an increase in the level of quality was observed. A significant number of projects (49%) focus on migration issues and solidarity in times of crises.

- In European remembrance, applications received mainly focussed on on how *ostracism and the loss of citizenship under totalitarian regimes enables us to draw lessons for today* (39%) and on commemorating historical turning points in recent European history.

EACEA informed the participants that an additional 2.5 million EUR in payments credits have been requested for the Programme, on top of the 19.2 million EUR initially agreed by the budgetary authority.

Following the requests at last year's meeting of the programme committee, the pre-financing rate in 2016 has been increased from that of 2015: for the National Contact Points it was re-established at 80% and for the operating grants at 70%. It is of 40% for action grants.

Looking towards the future, EACEA announced that a 100% budget execution in both, commitment and payments will be reached by the end of the year, including the additional payment credits requested. The renewal of the Partnership with the beneficiaries of operating grants and National Contact Points will be launched before the end of the year.

b. Annual Activity Report 2015

COM presented the main facts and figures of the annual activity report 2015:

- **Implementation:** the programme was implemented in 33 eligible participating countries (28 Member States and 5 other participating countries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Montenegro).

- **Selection results:** Out of 2 791 applications received, 408 projects were selected, and around 1 100 000 participants were involved in the programme activities.

- **Under strand 1 - European remembrance:**

– 33 European remembrance projects;

– 6 operating grants;

– Co-operation with UNESCO: co-financing of a project named "Holocaust in Contemporary Education - European Curricula, Textbooks and pupils' perceptions in comparison",

- **Under strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation:**

– 252 town-twinning projects;

– 32 networking projects;

– 27 civil society projects;

– 31 operating grants.

- **Under Horizontal Action – Valorisation:**

– Organisation of the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony for organisations active in the area of European remembrance and for European Commission staff in January 2015 with exhibition "The Holocaust in Europe" by the remembrance organisation " Mémorial de la Shoah" (France);

– Organisation of a European Remembrance Networking Meeting in Tallinn in April 2015 "Common European Memory: Promise, illusion or challenge?";

– 29 Europe for Citizens Contact Points designated and one coordination meeting organised in October 2015 in Paris.

- **Organisation of a Civil dialogue meeting in June 2015 in Brussels** with approximately 50 European level organisations and think tanks actively involved in the programme to discuss all matters related to its implementation and its annual priorities.

c. Mid-term evaluation Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020

COM reminded that like in all EU funding programmes, a mid-term evaluation is foreseen for the Europe for Citizens programme. The European Commission will have to submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions a mid-term evaluation report by 31 December 2017 and a communication on the continuation of the programme by 31 December 2018. These reports will be based on an external mid-term evaluation.

Preparations have started as DG HOME is in the process of finalising a contract with an external consultant who next month will start working on the mid-term evaluation.

It was stressed that the mid-term evaluation is a very important step in the lifecycle of the Europe for Citizens programme as it will prepare the ground for the development of the next generation of programmes after 2020.

The purpose of the mid-term evaluation will be:

- to verify in how far the evaluation recommendations of the ex-post evaluation of the previous Europe for Citizens programme 2007-2013 have been followed;
- to verify if and to which extent the programme is on track for achieving its general and specific objectives.
- to assess qualitative and quantitative aspects of the programme implementation and;
- to reflect on the continuation or not of the programme in its current format or its merge with other EU funding programmes after 2020 and to suggest first orientations for a possible successor programme after 2020.

The members of the programme committee will have an important role to play as they will be consulted by the external contractor in charge of the mid-term evaluation. In addition, an open online public consultation will be conducted to reach a wide spectrum of respondents including participants and non-participants. (scheduled for the end of 2016/beginning of 2017).

d. Debriefing: Conference "European citizenship in challenging times", Barcelona (31 May – 1 June 2016)

COM reported on the conference "European citizenship in challenging times" that was organised in Barcelona from 31 May to 1 June of this year by the European Commission in cooperation with the European Observatory on Memories of the

University of Barcelona's Solidarity Foundation (EUROM) and with support from the Barcelona City Council.
The meeting brought together participants from 30 European countries representing some 180 organizations, networks and projects on memory, citizenship, and civil society. The event consisted of a plenary session for the two strands of the programme (Remembrance and civic participation) in the first day and two separate events –a meeting of the civil dialogue group and a networking meeting of remembrance organisations the following day.
The keynote speeches of Adam Michnik and Andreas Huyssen stimulated a participatory debate at many roundtables and panels that took place at the historical building of the University of Barcelona and El Born Centre of Culture and Memory. The feedback from the participants on the event was very positive.

6. Any other business

N/A

The next Committee meeting will take place in 2017 (date tbc).

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Annex: Attendance list

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION and HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate A: Strategy and General Affairs

Brussels, 18 October 2016

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 18 OCTOBER 2016

ATTENDANCE LIST

Country	Organisation
AT	Federal Chancellery of Austria
BE	Ministerium der deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft Flemish Government of Belgium – Department Cultuur, Jeugd, Sport and Media Fédération Wallonie - Bruxelles
BG	Permanent representation of Bulgaria to the European Union
CY	Permanent representation of Cyprus to the European Union
CZ	European and Institutional Affairs Communication Department
DE	Permanent representation of Germany to the European Union
DK	Danish Ministry of Culture/Agency for Culture and Palaces

EE	Estonian Ministry of the Interior – Citizenship and Migration Policy Department
EL	Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction of Greece
ES	State Secretariat of Culture – Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports
FI	Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland
FR	Ministère Français des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes
HR	Croatian Government Office for cooperation with NGOs
HU	Tempus Public Foundation
IRL	Department of the Taoisech
IT	Ministero dei Beni e delle Attivita Culturali e del Turismo
LT	Permanent representation of Lithuania to the European Union
LV	Ministry of culture of the Republic of Latvia
PL	Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
PO	Centro de Informação Europeia Jacques Delors
RO	Romanian Ministry of Culture
SE	Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society

SI	Slovenian Ministry of Culture
SK	Slovak Ministry of Culture
Serbia	Mission of Serbia to the European Union

Brussels, 12 June 2017

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 12 JUNE 2017

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

1. Welcome and introduction

Marta Cygan, Director of DG HOME.A of the European Commission (COM) opened the meeting, underlining that the European Union is currently celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Romeand that today it seems more important than ever to address citizens'concerns and reconnect the European project with its founding values. The Europe for Citizens Programme for the period 2014-2020 is seen as an important instrument in this respect as it invites citizens to actively participate in a bottom-up building of the EU.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda proposed by COM was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting were approved.

4. Items submitted for the opinion of the Programme Committee under the advisory procedure

a. Work programme 2018

COM presented the 'Europe for Citizens' work programme 2018.

For 2018, the multi-annual priorities were slightly streamlined and focussed with the aim to make them easier to understand for applicants. A new thematic priority was added for one year for 2018 as requested by the programme committee during its last meeting of October 2016 to take account of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

Multi-annual priorities 2017-2020

COM detailed the four priorities for the **strand 1 'European Remembrance', namely**:

- *Commemoration of major historical turning points in recent European history*

Reference years in 2018 will be the following:

1918 The end of the WWI – the rise of nation states and the failure to create a European cooperation and peaceful coexistence

1938/1939 Beginnings of WWII

1948 Beginning of the Cold War

1948 The Hague Congress and the integration of Europe

1968 Protest and civil rights movements, invasion to Czechoslovakia, s tudent protests and anti-Semitic campaign in Poland.

COM described the four priorities for the **strand 2 'Democratic engagement and civic participation.**

- *"Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euro-scepticism"*

- *Promoting solidarity in times of crisis*;

- *Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants*

- *Combatting Debating on the future of Europe*.

Budget 2018

COM also informed that the proposed indicative total budget foreseen for 2018 will be of 24 524 582 EUR, with the following breakdown:

- European remembrance (strand 1): 4 928 582 EUR
- Democratic engagement and civic participation (strand 2): EUR 18 295 597 EUR
- Valorisation (horizontal action): EUR 1 300 000

Regarding the different types of grants, the following rules will be applied in 2018:

Action grants:

- Action grants will be available for remembrance projects under strand 1 and for town-twinning projects, networks of towns and civil society projects under strand 2. A new version of the programme guide will be available in January 2018 to provide updated information regarding the funding opportunities for the actions grants (application procedures, selection procedures, general rules of relevant EU grants and deadlines for submission of applications).

- The unit costs and lump sums will be updated this year for the remaining years of the programme, as foreseen in the Commission Decision of 31 October 2013.

Operating grants:

- COM announced that in autumn 2017 an open call for proposals on "Structural support for European think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level" will published.

- Based on the results of this call for proposals, multiannual framework partnership agreements for the remaining years of the programme period 2018-2020 will be concluded with a maximum number of six remembrance organisations and 31 organisations active in the field of democratic engagement and civic participation.

- Specific annual conventions based on the framework partnerships will be concluded with these same organisations on the basis of their work programmes for each year of the period 2018-2020.

- The work programme foresees that the following categories of beneficiaries will be eligible:

  - Civil society organisations for European remembrance (strand 1): max. 200 000 EUR, co-financing rate: up to to 70%
  - Civil society organisations working at European level on democratic and civic participation (strand 2): 200 000 EUR, co-financing rate: up to to 70%
  - European think thanks (strand 1 and 2): 350 000 EUR, co-financing rate: up to to 70%
  - Platforms of pan-European organisations (strand 2): 600 000 EUR, co-financing rate: up to to 90%

European Citizens' Initiative:

COM GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE FOR 2018 AND THE PLANNED REVISION OF THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE REGULATION INCLUDING THE ROADMAP AND THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION RECENTLY LAUNCHED BY THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. 740 000 EUR ARE FORESEEN IN THE NEW BUDGET LINE 18 04 01 02 FOR THE EUROPEAN CITIZEN' INITIATIVE.

The new actions foreseen in 2018 within the European Citizens' Initiative aim at improving the communication on the ECI and at developing better IT tools for the

registration of Citizens' Initiatives. More information is available on the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/regulation-review

By linking the European Citizens Initiative to the Europe for Citizens programme, the Commission wishes to increase synergies between both instruments, the EU funding programme "Europe for Citizens" and the political participation instrument "European Citizens' Initiative".

Discussion:
Following the presentation of the work programme 2018 the following points were raised by participants:

- **European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018:** Participants welcomed the new thematic priority on the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and asked for further information on the type of projects that will be supported under this priority and on complementarities with the Creative Europe programme. COM explained that projects granted under this thematic priority will give citizens the opportunity to reflect on the role European cultural heritage plays in our lives as an essential element of cultural diversity and European identity. Unlike the Creative Europe programme offering co-funding for large-scale projects on cultural cooperation, the Europe for Citizens programme can reach out to the local and grassroots level and focus on cultural heritage in the daily life of citizens.

- **Budget 2018:** Participants agreed that the overall budget for Europe for Citizens was too limited. They stressed that low success rates created a lot of frustrations amongst applicants, in particular as regards remembrance and civil society projects. Participants welcomed the proposal by the European Parliament to increase the budget of the future programme.

- **European Citizens' Initiative:** Participants stressed that synergies between the Europe for Citizens programme and the European Citizens' Initiative were desirable but regretted that the European Citizens' initiative had to be funded through the Europe for Citizens programme. COM explained that the European Parliament proposed to include a separate budget line in the programme to fund the current initiative 2012-2015. However, a revision of the regulation, including the use of budget, is currently discussed with the Member States. COM also reminded that a public consultation on European Citizens' Initiative is open until 16 August 2017: https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-european-citizens-initiative_en.

- **Call for proposals on operating grants:** COM confirmed that a new call for proposals for multi-annual operating grants covering the years 2018-2020 will be published in autumn 2017. A short version and a long version of the call for proposals will be available.

- **Type of projects:** Whereas some participants asked for a reinforcement of the European remembrance projects and of civil society projects as the respective success rates are particularly low, others supported small scale projects (projects receiving less than 60 000 EUR, mostly granted within the town-twinning measure). COM replied that the Council Regulation establishing the programme had to be respected stating in its annex that 20% of the available budget had to be spent on strand 1 and 60% on strand 2 of the programme. COM based its multi-annual budgetary planning on the requirements of the Council Regulation.

- **Recurring beneficiaries**: Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) confirmed that the Europe for Citizens Programme is open to new first applicants but reminded that the selection criteria prevail.

- **Use of contribution in kind for co-financing:** EACEA reminded that, for simplification purpose, the subsidies are granted in the form of unit costs and lump sums. This option excludes the use of contribution in kind.

- **Anti-Semitism:** Some representatives raised questions about the multi-annual priority on anti-Semitism under the Remembrance Strand, arguing that this priority should also include other victims of totalitarian regimes. Other delegations however underlined that from their perspective and taken into account the current social context it is more relevant to highlight anti-Semitism as one of the priorities of the Remembrance Strand. Commission explained that the focus on anti-Semitism comes as a response to worrying developments such as recent attacks on European citizens of Jewish descent in Belgium and France and open expressions of revisionism of WWII fascist regimes in some Member States. The evidence of raising anti-Semitism has been already indicated in 2012 by the results of the survey on Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of discrimination, hate crime and anti-Semitism in eight EU Member States – Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Sweden and the United Kingdom conducted by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).

- **European Solidarity Corps:** Some delegations stressed that the relation between the European Solidarity Corps and the European Voluntary Service was unclear to them. Volunteers should have the same rights and receive the same funding independently of the EU programme offering the placements. COM was invited to communicate clearly to stakeholders and young people under which programme to apply in order to avoid confusion. COM replied that applicants have to apply directly on the webpage of the European Solidarity Corps at the following address: https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en. COM stressed the added value of the use of volunteers of the European Solidarity Corps. It was decided to consider the involvement of participants of the European Solidarity Corps as an

award criterion under "impact and citizen involvment" only and to withdraw it under "quality of the activity plan/work programme" (pages 15 and 19 of the English version).

- Croatia informed about the celebration of 10 years of implementation of the "Europe for Citizens" programme on 27-28 September 2017.

Following the discussion, the Committee gave by consensus a favourable opinion on the revised version of the work programme 2018.

5. Items submitted for information

5.1. Annual Activity Report 2016

COM presented the main facts and figures of the annual activity report 2016:

- **Multi-annual priorities**: In 2016, the Europe for Citizens programme switched from the former system of annual thematic priorities to multi-annual priorities applying for the remaining period of the programme (2016-2020). The first year of experience with the multi-annual priorities was very positive. The new system helped applicants to better focus on the programme's objectives and to submit more structured projects with a higher potential impact. It did not only show the capacity of the programme stakeholders to adapt to the new system but it showed as well that the priorities were well chosen. The majority of applications received and of selected projects dealt with the multi-annual priority themes.

- **Implementation:** The Europe for Citizens programme was implemented in 33 eligible participating countries (28 Member States and 5 other participating countries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Montenegro).

- **Selection results:** Out of 2 496 applications received, 395 projects were selected, and around 1 100 000 participants were involved in the programme activities.

- **Under strand 1 - European remembrance:**

– 38 European remembrance projects;

– 6 operating grants;

– Co-operation with UNESCO: co-financing of a project named "Holocaust in

Contemporary Education - European Curricula, Textbooks and pupils' perceptions in comparison",

- **Under strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation:**

– 237 town-twinning projects;

– 30 networking projects;

– 25 civil society projects;

– 30 operating grants.

- **Under Horizontal Action – Valorisation:**

– Organisation of the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony for organisations active in the area of European remembrance and for European Commission staff in January 2016 with exhibition "'Roma Memory";

– Organisation of a European Conference "European Citizenship in Challenging Times" bringing together stakeholder organisations from both strands, Europe for Citizens Contact Points, the civil dialogue group and representatives of European institutions from 31 May to 1 June 2016 in Barcelona;

– 31 Europe for Citizens Contact Points designated and one coordination meeting organised in November 2016 in Bratislava. For the first time since the programme exists, Contact Points were designated in Luxembourg and Portugal

During the debate, attention was drawn to the following issues:

- Results of the projects to be included in VALOR tool: COM will relay the request to the developers in order to analyse the feasibility.

- Annual Activity Report only in English while good promotion tool: COM will inquire about the possibility of a translation in all languages but reminded the limited resources available.

5.2. Overview of the selections 2017

Gilles Pelayo, head of unit of the Europe for Citizens programme unit at the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) gave an overview on the selection results for the ongoing year for the March 1, 2017 call for proposals which includes remembrance, civil society, town twinning citizens meetings and networks of towns projects.

The results achieved in 2016 showed that the Europe for Citizens programme is in line with the Commission's priorities. In particular, actions of solidarity - including volunteering - emerged in the context of the migrant crisis. Many projects look at solidarity as the value which counterbalances the raise of racist

and anti-tolerant behaviour. In this context, the role played by municipalities and regions – actors at the frontline in tackling the migration crisis – has to be particularly underlined. In general the grassroots responses to the crisis could provide valuable and appropriate policy impact and effective long-term solutions.

The first selection of the year 2017 has been implemented fully in line with the work programme. In total, around 1300 applications have been received by the deadline of 1st March 2017.

A general trend that was observed in the first selection of 2017 was a decrease in the number of applicants. Compared to the deadline in 2016, the number of applications submitted decreased by around 25% (1734 in 2016 against 1272 in 2017). It varied from one measure to the other (around 17% for town twinning; 33% for civil society projects; 38% for remembrance). The network of towns remained stable with a slight decrease of 5%. While in general this decrease was reflected proportionally in all programme countries, for town twinning it was mainly due to the reduction of the number of applications from Hungary – the country having the highest participation rate since the beginning of the programme – which ultimately contributed to a better geographical balance at the submission level.

EACEA also underlined the success of the multi-annual priorities defined by Commission in 2016.

The powerpoint presentation is presented in annex.

During the debate, COM and EACEA were invited to reflect on the possibility of a two steps selection procedure.

5.3. Mid-term evaluation Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020

COM presented the state of play of the mid-term evaluation of the Europe for Citizens programme. The European Commission will have to submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions a mid-term evaluation report by 31 December 2017. This report will be based on an external mid-term evaluation currently under preparation.

COM thanked the participants who participated in the strategic interviews and in the public consultation carried out by Deloitte for the European Commission. It was stressed that the mid-term evaluation is a very important step in the lifecycle of the Europe for Citizens programme as it will prepare the ground for the development of the next generation of programmes after 2020.

The purpose of the mid-term evaluation is:

- to verify in how far the evaluation recommendations of the ex-post evaluation of the previous Europe for Citizens programme 2007-2013 have been followed;

- to verify if and to which extent the programme is on track for achieving its general and specific objectives.
- to assess qualitative and quantitative aspects of the programme implementation and;
- to reflect on the continuation or not of the programme in its current format or its merge with other EU funding programmes after 2020 and to suggest first orientations for a possible successor programme after 2020.

COM presented preliminary findings of the mid-term evaluation by Deloitte. The final results of the evaluation will be available and published as soon as possible.

5.4. Exchange of ideas on scope, objectives and structure of the future Europe for Citizens programme 2021-2027

Marta Cygan introduced into the first discussion round about the future Europe for Citizens programme beyond 2020 underlining that the current Europe for Citizens programme represents an essential instrument of reaching out to the European citizens by providing European public space and an opportunity to experience Europe. She stressed that more than ever is the sense of citizenship based on the values of respect and democracy as expression of plurality fundamental for the future of the European Union and that the Europe for Citizens programme comprises of several unique features such as the focus on remembrance and critical reflection on European memory, involving citizens at the local level through town twinning, supporting and developing capacity of European civil society.

DG HOME intends to propose the continuation of the programme's activities in the next programming period. The future programme should consolidate its existing strengths and should address current social and political challenges.

Following this introduction a debate was organised. The following points were raised by participants:

- **Budget:** Participants underlined that a substantial budgetary increase for the future programme is necessary to achieve the programme's objectives, to reach a critical mass of citizens, to make a substantial impact and to meet the existing demands. The implementation report by the European Parliament asking for a future budget of 500 million EUR was referred to.

- **Format of the future programme:** The delegations which provided their feedback on the future programme argued that the Europe for Citizens programme should remain an independent programme as it has proven track of record and an established identity.

- **Scope, structure and objectives:** Participants confirmed that the scope and the objectives of the current Europe for Citizens programme have proven to be relevant and should therefore be maintained. The two strands should be

maintained as both have specific target groups and are achieving the intended results.

- **Simplification:** It was proposed to introduce an application procedure in two phases. In a first phase, applicants would introduce a short summary of the planned project. Only after a positive assessment of this first application, a detailed, second application would have to be prepared by applicants. COM is already reflecting on this option.

- **Synergies:** Participants welcomed the idea to develop stronger synergies with other existing instruments, for example with the European Solidarity Corps and with the future education and culture programmes.

- **Geographical balance:** The Commission was invited to take measures to improve the geographical balance that remains unsatisfactory.

5.5. European Solidarity Corps

COM reminded that the European Commission has put forward a legislative proposal for the establishment of a European Solidarity Corps, which will offer for the next three years volunteering, traineeships and job placements for thousands of young people across Europe.

COM underlined that Europe for Citizens is one of the eight EU programmes mobilised to offer placements under the European Solidarity Corps and to encourage and foster volunteering within this new EU-wide framework. Indeed, volunteering is an important element of the Programme inscribed in its objectives.

COM informed that as part of the first phase of the launch of the European Solidarity Corps, the Europe for Citizens programme has already engaged its first participants. Several projects selected after the March 2017 call will offer further placements later this year.

6. Any other business

6.1. **Debriefing: Holocaust remembrance event, Brussels, 30 January 2017**

A Holocaust remembrance event took place at Commission headquarters to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It was organised in cooperation with Paris based Mémorial de la Shoah – recipient of the an operating grant from the Europe for Citizens programme. The event was accompanied by an exhibition on Auschwitz-Birkenau. Two Holocaust survivors, one from Belgium and one from France participated in the event and gave their testimonies.

6.2. European stakeholder conference on the future Europe for Citizens programme January 2018

In order to receive feedback from the beneficiaries and stakeholders on the future programme a consultation forum will be held in January 2018 (dates planned are January 29 and 30 (tbc)).

Consultation forum will gather beneficiaries of the programme, representatives of the Civil Dialogue group, Europe for Citizens Contact Points and other stakeholders.

6.3. Civil dialogue meeting

Civil dialogue which brings together around 50 representatives of civil society organisations will take place on June 28. It will be organised “back to back” with Civil society days held by the European Economic and Social Committee thus creating synergies with other initiatives of the European Union in this area.

This edition of civil society dialogue will focus on the first reflections of the future of the Europe for Citizens programme post 2020.

The next Committee meeting will take place in 2018 (date tbc).

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Annex: Attendance list

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION and HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate A: Strategy and General Affairs

Brussels, 12 June 2017

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 12 JUNE 2017

ATTENDANCE LIST

Country	Organisation
AT	Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union
BE	Ministerium der deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft Belgiens Fédération Wallonie - Bruxelles
BG	Permanent representation of Bulgaria to the European Union
CZ	European Affairs Communication Department
DE	Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen and Jugend Permanent representation of Germany to the European Union
ES	Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural de España

Commission européenne, B-1000 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1000 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: +32 22991111.

FI	Europe for Citizens Contact Point – Finnish National Agency for Education
FR	Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
HR	Government Office for Cooperation NGOs
HU	Tempus Public Foundation
IRL	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
IT	Ministero dei Beni e delle Attivita Culturali e del Turismo
LT	Permanent representation of Lithuania to the European Union Ministry of Culture
LV	Ministry of culture
MT	Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government
PL	Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
PT	Centro de Informação Europeia Jacques Delors
RO	Ministry of Culture
SE	Myndigheten för ungdoms- och civilsamhällesfrågor
SI	Ministry of Culture
UK	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Serbia	Office for Cooperation with Civil Society

Brussels, 13 September 2018

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS, 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

1. Welcome and introduction

Marta Cygan, Director of DG HOME.A of the European Commission (COM) opened the meeting, underlining that 2019 will be an important year for the future of the Union. In May, few weeks after the planned withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union, the European elections will give the opportunity to EU citizens to vote the next European Parliament and to have their say in shaping the European Union of tomorrow.

Furthermore, 2019 will be a decisive year for the preparation of the next multi-annual financial framework and the next generation of EU funding programmes. It is the aim of the Commission to achieve before the elections of the European Parliament the adoption of the MFF 2021-2028 and the sectoral programmes including the successor programme of Europe for Citizens.

In this political context, the Europe for Citizens programme for the period 2014-2020 remains an important instrument. It is one of the EU programmes that target EU citizens directly and encourage them to take part in the debate and play a stronger role in the development of the EU.

Marta Cygan also reminded that the role of the programme committee is very important as it builds the bridge between the European institutions and the Member States in implementing the Europe for Citizens programme and preparing the future Rights and Values programme proposed by the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting were approved.

4. Items submitted for the opinion of the Programme Committee under the advisory procedure

a. Work programme 2019

The Commission presented the 'Europe for Citizens' work programme 2019 and underlined the continuity in the implementation of the multi-annual priorities.

List of the multi-annual priorities for strand 1 'European Remembrance':
1979
First directly elected European Parliament;
1989
Democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin wall;
2004
15 years of EU enlargement into Central and Eastern Europe
In addition, the following multi-annual priorities have been confirmed:
•Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes;
•Antisemitism, Anti-Gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing the lessons for today;
•Democratic transition and accession to the European Union.
The multi-annual priorities for strand 2 'Democratic engagement and civic participation' were confirmed, namely:
•Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism;
•"Solidarity in times of crisis" becomes "Promoting solidarity in times of crisis";
•Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups.
The specific annual priority of the year 2018 dedicated to the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 will not continue as the European Year 2018 as a Commission-wide campaign will end on 31 December 2018. But a reference to the Year of Cultural Heritage and the need to build on its achievements has been kept.
Europe for Citizens budget 2019
The Commission also informed that the proposed indicative total budget foreseen for 2019 is of 25 298 920 EUR with the following breakdown:
•Strand 1 - European Remembrance: 5 251 900 EUR
•Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation: 18 747 020 EUR
•Valorisation: 1 300 000 EUR
The proposed total budget of 25 298 920 EUR takes already account of the transfer of an amount of 1 085 000 EUR to the budget line for the European Citizen' Initiative.

Discussion:
Following the presentation of the work programme 2019 the following points were raised by the participants:
Request to add two dates under the priorities for Strand 1, agreed by the Committee:

1919 - Peace treaties bringing World War I to an end (including the Treaty of Versailles);

1939 - End of Spanish Civil War in a European perspective

More open wording in the priority "Antisemitism, anti-gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing the lessons for today" was agreed.

Reference to "citizens consultations". It was agreed to add a reference to citizens consultations under Strand 2.

Reference to "cultural organisations". It was agreed to add a reference to cultural organisations as potential beneficiaries under Strand 2.

Number of involved countries (2 for remembrance projects (instead of 1) and 4 for civil society projects (instead of 3)). Some delegations stressed that these increases could have an impact on small organisations. The Commission informed that applications tend to involve more and more countries. After discussion, it was agreed to come back to the number of involved organisations as foreseen in the previous years.

Migration crisis. The Commission confirmed that since 2016 40 % of the projects submitted have focused on this problematic and the idea is to continue to give citizens the opportunities to discuss this issue.

Revised deadlines for application. The Commission confirmed that small changes to deadlines will be introduced for 2019 in order to allow EACEA to optimise the use of its resources. The deadlines will be updated in the programme guide and the Committee will be informed on these changes. The Commission however underlined that there will be no reduction of the number of calls.

Participation of UK in the Programme. The Commission reminded that until 29/03/2019 UK is a Member State and is therefore allowed to participate in the programme. The participation of UK beyond that date will depend on the results of the Brexit negotiations.

Maximum rate of co-financing. Some delegations pointed out that this could create obstacles for applicants. The Commission informed that no changes have been introduced to modify the current practices and that the use of lumps sums and flat rates will continue.

Geographical balance. The Commission stressed that this is taken into consideration in the evaluation process but reminded the limited budget.

Application forms and programme guide to be readable and multilingual. The Commission is keen to have very accessible programme guide and application forms and encourages the Committee members and Europe for Citizens Contact Points to provide any comments they might have in order to improve them. The Commission confirmed that applications can be submitted in all official languages.

Following the discussion, the Committee gave by consensus a favourable opinion on the revised version of the work programme 2019 here attached.

5.Items submitted for information

5.1. Annual Activity Report 2017

The brochure "Europe for Citizens Programme – Results 2017" was distributed to the Committee.

The Commission presented the main facts and figures for the year 2017:

Implementation:

The Europe for Citizens programme was implemented in 33 eligible participating countries (28 Member States and 5 other participating countries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).
The programme increased its average success rate from 15% in 2016 to almost 21% in 2017. This success is mainly achieved through the decrease of submitted applications (by 23% compared to 2016). This decrease was particularly relevant in countries so far overrepresented in the programme and resulted in a better geographical distribution among Member States.
Selection results:

Out of 1 942 applications received, 412 projects were selected, and around 1 100 000 participants were involved in the activities of the programme.
Under strand 1 - European remembrance:

39 European remembrance projects;

6 operating grants;

Co-operation with UNESCO: co-financing of a study on "Holocaust in Contemporary Education - European Curricula, Textbooks and pupils' perceptions in comparison" performed by Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (Germany). The study will be presented in the beginning of next year.

Under strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation:

248 town-twinning projects;

32 networking projects;

27 civil society projects;

30 operating grants.

Under Horizontal Action – Valorisation:

Organisation of the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony for organisations active in the area of European remembrance and for European Commission staff in January 2017 with an exhibition on Auschwitz Birkenau by Mémorial de la Shoah and a video message by Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos recorded during his visit of Auschwitz-Birkenau;

New dissemination platform VALOR available on the Europa server;

30 Europe for Citizens Contact Points designated and one coordination meeting organised in September 2017 in Zagreb in the context of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Europe for Citizens programme in Croatia;

Mid-term evaluation study performed by Deloitte and final report of Deloitte study published in December 2017.

During the debate, Committee members expressed the wish to receive the Annual Activity Report before the meeting.

5.2.Overview of the selections 2018

Gilles Pelayo, head of unit of the Europe for Citizens programme unit at the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) gave an overview on the selection results of March 1, 2018 call for proposals which includes remembrance, civil society, town twinning citizens meetings and networks of towns projects.

The first selection of the year 2018 has been implemented fully in line with the work programme endorsed by the Committee last year. The selections were successfully finalised and award decisions were taken. All applicants were notified about the selection results, the contracting process is almost finalised and most of the pre-financing already made. Decisions were also already taken for the beneficiaries of Operating Grants and the National Contact Points upon the establishment of new partnerships for the period 2018-2020.

In total, 1767 applications have been received in 2018.

Compared to 2017, the number of applications submitted decreased of around 8% (1912 in 2017 against 1767 in 2018). It varies from one measure to the other (around 27% for town twinning (TT); 15% for networks of towns (NTT); very slight and non-representative decrease for civil society projects 2%). A significant increase has to be noted for remembrance projects: 25%.

The main decrease in 2018 selections is related to TT and NTT' measures. While this decrease is reflected proportionally in the NTT measure (to be explained by a relatively small success rate - 11% in 2017), for TT it is mainly due to the reduction of the number of applications from SK (41%) and HU (24%) – the countries having the highest participation rate since the beginning of the programme – which ultimately contributes to a better geographical balance at the submission level.

Therefore the silver lining to this decline is a better geographical distribution of applications across Member States and the increase of the success rate which reduces the number of disappointed applicants whose projects have not been selected.

Applications were received from all Member States and Programme countries. IT, SK, HU, FR and RO represent collectively around 50% of all applications received.

EACEA also stressed that the programme has been open this year to applicants from Kosovo, who already participated within the 2nd round of TT and NTT measures as partner organisations.

As regards the TT measure, EACEA underlined that more than 30% of the selected projects have a very small budget, which confirms that the Europe for Citizens Programme continues to support micro-projects. As regards the NTT measure, EACEA stressed the strong and large partnerships of the selected projects (in average 10 partner organisations per project).

EACEA also underlined the success of the multi-annual priorities defined by Commission in 2017.

The general increase of number of applications within the action “European Remembrance” could be indeed explained by the 'popularity' of the priorities linked to the 2018 commemorations (1918 end of WWI; 1938/39 Beginning WWII; 1948 Beginning of the Cold War; 1948 The Hague Congress; 1968 Protest and civil rights movements) that were addressed by the applicants.

EACEA however noted that in many applications a national or regional focus on historical remembrance prevailed over the European one.

As regards the call for Civil Society projects for 2018, which remains very popular among European civil society organisations, the multi-annual thematic priorities defined in the Call were covered well by the applicants.

In the projects selected, the roles of the civil society organisations go from acting on the ground to reflecting and making proposals to policy- and decision-makers at the local, national or European levels. As an example, many proposals give voice to citizens in preparation of the 2019 elections of the European Parliament, denounce the dangers of populism and nationalism, and propose concrete tools for more democratic information and participation, showing that the participation in the Europe for Citizens programme stays very close to the citizens' concerns, and evolves with the European agenda.

EACEA gave an overview of the main achievements in 2018:

•Revision of the programme guide 2018, which provided further clarifications and made it more user-friendly. National Contact Points were consulted and involved in in this exercise.

•Qualitative monitoring of the projects (also with a view to policy feedback and support) has been reinforced by EACEA through the 'story-telling' approach that is now fully included in the final e-Reports by beneficiaries

•For the first time a citizens' dialogue was organised with the help of the Europe for Citizens programme (i.e. Networks of Towns project) this year. The event, in Loches (FR) proved to be a success bringing in the debate 237 youngsters from 27 countries.

•Publication of two brochures, which were distributed to the Committee:

A. a brochure on the programme's "Results 2017". It provides an overview of the 2017 Europe for Citizens programme implementation —including data measuring the overall impact for the period 2014-2017 and the first results of the programme's participation in the "European Solidarity Corps" initiative.

B. a brochure on operating grants. This document provides an overview of the results achieved by the beneficiaries of Operating Grants in 2014 - 2017 under the Europe for Citizens Programme. It highlights the results and outcomes which organisations were able to achieve thanks to the grant, and describes the activities that they implemented within the Europe for Citizens Programme.

Finally, EACEA informed about the next steps for the last quarter of 2018:

•Selections under the 2nd round have just started - more than 430 applications have to be evaluated.

•Operating grant kick off meeting on 5th October aiming at clarifying technical and contractual issues related to the implementation of the work programme.

•Preparation of the next Call for Proposals following the approval of 2019 Work Programme.

•Launch of procedures to renew the Annual Agreements with the National Contact Points and the Partners beneficiaries of Operating Grants.

•The Programme has been selected by DG REGIO and the Committee of the Regions to organise and manage a workshop at the 2018 European Week of Regions & Cities on 8-11 October. The workshop will be focused on youth participation in the debate on the Future of Europe aiming to facilitate networking between decision-makers on a local, regional and EU level, gather ideas on how to boost youngsters participation in this debate and share successful initiatives and their outcomes.

The powerpoint presentation is presented in annex.

During the debate, the following points were raised by participants:

•**What about the projects on the reserve list ?** EACEA informed that the reserve list can only be used at the end of the budgetary year (+/- November), after the 2nd round of selections and only if some budget remains available.

Feedback from EACEA. EACEA informed that the feedback in the notification letter to unselected projects has been improved. Applicants can always require more information and the notification letter also details the means of redress opened to the applicants.

Statistics on the major reasons for refusal. EACEA informed that there are no such statistics but underlined that reasons of refusal are always linked to the lesser alignment with selection criteria.

Collaboration with the Committee of the Regions. EACEA reminded that there is no institutional collaboration with the Committee of the Regions but that the Committee of the Regions is interested in the geographical and regional aspects of the programme. The Commission informed that the Committee of the Regions is preparing an opinion on the future Rights and Values Programme proposed by the Commission.

5.3.Mid-term evaluation Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020

The Commission presented the results of the mid-term evaluation which was published last April and stressed that the mid-term evaluation has been a very important step in preparing the ground for the development of the Commission proposal for a new programme.

The Commission thanked the participants who participated in the public consultation of the beginning of this year and in the strategic interviews carried out by Deloitte for the European Commission in 2017.

Main points of the Commission's mid-term evaluation of Europe for Citizens:

•The results of the mid-term evaluation have been largely positive and encouraging. The programme is on track for achieving its objectives. The mid-term evaluation confirms its relevance for the promotion of civic participation, strengthening the sense of belonging together and mutual understanding. By working directly with citizens, the programme offers a forum for involving European citizens through a grassroots and bottom-up approach.

•The Europe for Citizens programme reaches out to a large number of citizens who without this programme would not have been engaged with the European project. At least 3 million citizens have been directly reached by the Europe for Citizens programme between 2014 and 2016. During the same period, about 4 million citizens have been indirectly impacted by the programme.

•Participation in the Europe for Citizens programme helps strengthening awareness on EU issues, developing mutual understanding and identification with Europe, and therefore contributes to consolidating the process of European integration in the long term perspective. Therefore, the Europe for Citizens programme is perceived as a step towards a more coherent EU strategy and policy in the areas of civic participation and European remembrance.

•The programme’s structure, with two strands and a cross-cutting measure on valorisation has proved to work efficiently and both operating and action grants have helped deliver the desired outcomes. The simplification measures carried out since 2014 have brought important improvements in terms of user-friendliness.

•Aspects that have been identified for improvement relate in particular to the increase of the programme's visibility, the revision of the monitoring indicators and the strengthening of synergies with other relevant EU funding programmes and initiatives.

During the debate, the following points were raised by participants:

•**Commission's follow-up on the 1st recommendation of Deloitte to merge TT and NTT measures.** The Commission confirmed the continuity of the two types of activities, which have different targets and their own merits. While NTT projects have a long-term impact, very small projects TT are also valuable on their own.

Importance of the civil dialogue which should be open to more participants from the outside. The Commission reminded that the Regulation establishing the Europe for Citizens programme provides that the Commission shall have a regular dialogue with the beneficiaries of the Programme and relevant partners and experts. While beneficiaries of operating grants have been changed, the Commission will continue to dialogue with the partners who are no longer beneficiaries. Moreover, the civil dialogue group is open to other organisations which are interested in participating; organisations asking for participation have been invited to the meetings. Finally, the Commission pointed out that in the framework of the next MFF, other stakeholders will be part of the future Rights and Values programme.

ES (Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha) informed about a future working paper on the Citizens' participation in the framework of the next MFF. The Commission confirmed its interest to have a close look at the proposal but underlined that the legislators should be also informed as the legal process regarding the next MFF has already been launched.

5.4.Commission proposal for a Rights and Values programme (2021-2027)

The Commission reminded that the proposed Rights and Values programme is the result of an intensive streamlining exercise aiming at the development of synergies among current EU funding programmes.

The Commission underlined that the Commission proposal for a Rights and Values programme will preserve the legacy and achievements of the Europe for Citizens programme. It acknowledges the specific characteristics of the merged programmes, including through the design of specific objectives and strands. The proposed "Citizens' engagement and participation strand" with two priorities reflecting the activities and specific objectives of the current Europe for Citizens programme will guarantee the continuation of all successful activities of the current programme.

The Commission pointed out that the proposed programme is no longer based on Article 352 TFEU, but combines several legal bases involving the European Parliament as a co-legislator on equal footing with the Council in the adoption of the proposed programme.

As regards the budget, EUR 642 million are foreseen for the Rights and Values programme. The Commission proposal foresees a budget of EUR 233 million for the strand "Citizens' engagement and participation".

The Commission informed that the institutions have started to work on the proposed programme. EESC and CoR are supposed to present their opinions in October. EP and Council have also started their respective work. In the EP, LIBE will lead the work, with FEMM and CULT being associated; this means in particular that the CULT committee will be responsible for the strand “Citizens engagement and participation”. In the Council, the “Ad hoc Working Party on JHA Financial instruments” will take up the proposal.

During the debate, the following points were raised by participants:

- **Title of the programme which does not refer to citizenship or citizens ; loss of the brand "Europe for Citizens".** The Commission underlined that other institutions (EP and EESC) have already expressed their concerns as regards this title.

- **Third countries associated to the Programme, in particular for the Citizens engagement and participation strand.** The Commission pointed out that the Rights and Values programme will be open to the third countries listed in the Article 7, provided that specific agreements between the Union and those countries are signed. The Commission reminded the good experience in the current programme with the Western Balkans.

- **Insufficient budget for the Citizens engagement and participation strand.** The Commission reminded the difficult overall budgetary situation following the UK's decision to leave the European Union. The Commission has avoided a budgetary cut and proposed, following the Impact Assessment, a budget of EUR 233 million for the strand "Citizens' engagement and participation".

- **Management of the programme.** The Commission informed that the programme will continue to be implemented under direct management (Article 8). The Legislative Financial Statement attached to the proposal also provides that the Citizens engagement and participation strand will continue to be implemented by the EACEA. Finally, the contact points will remain a tool as provided for in the Annex I (k) of the proposal. The use of contact points could be extended to other parts of the Rights and Values programme.

- **Simplification.** The Commission confirmed that flat rates and lump sums will continue to be used and could be extended to other parts of the Rights and Values programme. As regards cascading grants, the Commission will assess its possible use in the context of the Rights and Values programme.

- **Synergies with Creative Europe.** The Commission reminded that the Impact Assessment was prepared to analyse a possible European Culture, Rights and Values programme merging the 2014-2020 Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, Europe for Citizens programme, the Creative Europe programme and the Justice programme. But the Commission finally decided to have a self-standing Creative Europe programme. This does not prevent to explore synergies with Creative Europe.

5.5.European Citizens' Initiative

Pascal Herry (Secretariat-General – COM) gave the state of play of the European Citizens' Initiative.

To date, more than 9 million citizens have been involved, which confirms that this instrument is efficient.

The Commission reminded that on 13 September 2017, the Commission adopted a proposal for a reform of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) Regulation, for which discussions with the Council and the Parliament are underway.

The purpose of the reform is a less burdensome and more user-friendly ECI, but also increased awareness of this instrument and therefore more citizens' initiatives registered. In this perspective, actions have already been initiated using funding under the ECI budget line in the areas of IT support and communication mainly.

The Commission informed that the activities will be intensified in the coming months and the appropriations foreseen in 2019 (1.085.000 EUR) will be particularly needed to ensure that the Commission can meet its legal obligations set out in the future citizens' initiative Regulation, foreseen to enter into application in January 2020. The following activities are foreseen:

setting up a central online collection system for statements of support signed by citizens (art. 10 of the legislative proposal), the cost of which is expected to be borne entirely by the general budget of the EU;

improving the information and assistance to be provided by the Commission (under art. 4 of the legislative proposal), in particular through the setting-up of an online collaborative platform that provides organisers and potential organisers of initiatives with a discussion forum as well as an advice and information helpdesk; by upgrading and maintaining an online register to allow organisers to manage their initiatives; by providing translations of initiatives in all EU official languages; as well as by developing an EU file exchange service for the transfer of statements of support to competent authorities in Member States (for verification and certification purposes);

strengthening public awareness of the ECI through the organisation of communication activities and information campaigns (art. 17 of the legislative proposal).

The Commission underlined that in the context of the current negotiations on the ECI reform with the co-legislators there is agreement that these improvements are priorities for the successful implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative in the coming years.

During the debate, the Commission was invited to reflect on the use of the Europe for Citizens Contact Points, as good multipliers in order to increase the awareness of the ECI.

6. Any other business

6.1. Debriefing: Holocaust remembrance event, Brussels, 24 January 2018

In 2018 Holocaust remembrance commemoration took place at Commission Visitors' Centre to reach out to larger audience. The event was organised in cooperation with the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS) and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (POLIN) in Warsaw which provided an exhibition on citizens of different European countries who provided help and rescue to Jews during the Holocaust under the name "Between Life and Death". The exhibition stayed in the Visitors' Centre for several weeks to allow exposure by the regular visitors to the Commission. Three Holocaust survivors, one from Belgium, one from Poland and one from Lithuania participated in the event and gave their testimonies. A number of senior representatives of the EU institutions including Commissioner Avramopoulos, Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy participated in the event.

The next Committee meeting will take place in 2019 (date to be confirmed).

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Annex: Attendance list

ATTENDANCE LIST

Country	Organisation
AT	Federal Chancellery of Austria
BE	Ministerium der deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft Belgiens Fédération Wallonie – Bruxelles Vlaanderen - Department Cultuur, Jeugd and Media
BG	Permanent representation of Bulgaria to the European Union
CZ	European Affairs Communication Department
DE	Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen and Jugend
EE	Ministry of the Interior - Citizenship and Migration Policy Department
EL	Ministry of the Interior
ES	Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha
FI	Ministry of Education and Culture Finnish National Agency for Education
FR	Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères - Direction de l'Union européenne – Service des politiques internes et des questions institutionnelles
HR	Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
HU	Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union
IRL	Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union
IT	Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo
LT	Ministry of Culture Permanent representation of Lithuania to the European Union
LU	Zentrum fir Politesch Bildung
LV	Ministry of culture
NL	Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties
PL	Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego
PT	Centro de Informação Europeia Jacques Delors
RO	Permanent Representation of Romania to the European Union
SE	Myndigheten för ungdoms- och civilsamhällesfrågor
SI	Ministrstvo za Kulturo
UK	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union
Kosovo	Ministry of European Integration

Serbia	Office for Cooperation with Civil Society

Brussels, 20 September 2019

MEETING OF THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" COMMITTEE

BRUSSELS, 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

1. Welcome and introduction

Marta Cygan, Director of DG HOME.F of the European Commission (COM) opened themeeting, informing that this will be the last programme committee meeting organised by DG HOME.

On 10th September, the new President-elect Ursula von der Leyen presented the new Commission team proposed for the period 2020-2024. In Mrs. von der Leyen's team if confirmed, Vice-President Věra Jourová will be responsible for values and transparency including the responsibility for the Europe for Citizens programme and the future Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme. The Europe for Citizens programme will be transferred to DG Justice (JUST). The sector in charge of the Europe for Citizens programme in DG HOME will follow the programme and move to DG JUST whereas the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) will continue to be responsible for the implementation of the programme under the supervision of DG JUST.

Under the next Commission DG JUST will have a key role in upholding the values and rights which unite us, promoting European identity and increasing awareness about European citizenship and the rights it confers. The Europe for Citizens programme fits very well in this context and has the potential to become a powerful policy instrument under the newCommission.

Commission reassured that for applicants and beneficiaries, the impact of the reorganisation of the Commission will be limited as the implementation will continue as before and contact persons at operational level will remain the same.

Commission reminded that as 2020 will be the first year of the new Commission and European Parliament after the European elections of May, the Europe for Citizens programme must remain flexible enough to reply to incoming needs and to take on boardnew priorities. It also needs to be sustainable enough to continue the work on fundamental values of the European Union.

2020 will as well be the last implementation year of the current Europe for Citizens programme. For 2021, the Commission has proposed in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 to merge Europe for Citizens with the current Rights,

Equality and Citizenship programme of DG JUSTICE in a new programme called «Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values». This programme, together with the Justice programme, will be part of the proposed larger Justice, Rights and Values fund.

In these challenging times and the upcoming period of change, it will be crucial to offer EU citizens the opportunity to take part in the debate about Europe and to play a strong role in the development of the Union. Europe for Citizens will contribute through projects and activities in which EU citizens can participate and make their voice heard. It will continue to promote cultural diversity as well as the knowledge of shared history and to encourage EU citizens' responsible, democratic civic participation with the aim of fostering citizens' feelingof belonging to the EU.

Finally Commision reminded that the role of the programme committee is very important asit is the bridge between the European institutions and the Member States in implementing the Europe for Citizens programme.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting were approved.

4. Items submitted for the opinion of the Programme Committee under theadvisory procedure

4.1. Work programme 2020

Jutta Koenig-Georgiades (DG HOME A2 – COM) presented the 'Europe for Citizens' work programme 2020 and underlined that, as in previous years, priorities have been designed to stimulate debates on topics having a strong importance in present times. Priority will be given in particular to projects dealing with common European values and Europe's cultural heritage (for the European Remembrance strand) or to participative and innovative projects anchored in the social, economic and political reality of the European Union (for the Democratic engagement and civic participation strand).

List of the multi-annual priorities for strand 1 'European Remembrance'

- Civil society and civic participation under totalitarian regimes;

- Antisemitism, Anti-Gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing the lessons for today;
- Democratic transition and accession to the European Union.

In addition, the following specific priorities on commemorative dates will be applied in 2020:

- 1950 Robert Schuman Declaration;
- 1990 German reunification and democratic transition of other counrties in Europe;
- 2000 Proclamation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

List of the multi-annual priorities for strand 2 ' Democratic engagement and civic participation'

For 2020, the multi-annual priorities have been slightly streamlined and focussed with theaim to make them easier to understand for applicants:

- Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism;
- Promoting solidarity as a a basic concept;
- Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups.

Europe for Citizens budget 2020

The proposed indicative total budget foreseen for 2020 is of 26 069 065 EUR with the following breakdown:

- Strand 1 - European Remembrance: 5 431 900 EUR

- Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation: 19 337 165 EUR

- Valorisation: 1 300 000 EUR

The proposed total budget of 26 069 065 EUR takes already account of the transfer of an amount of 1 385 000 EUR to the budget line for the European Citizen' Initiative (see point 5.4.).

Expected results in 2020

Strand 1 - European Remembrance: 45 project grants and 6 specific annual operating grants will be awarded with the aim to promote debate and activities on European integration and history at a transnational level or with a clear European dimension.

Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation: A total of 280 town twinning projects, 36 networks of towns, 29 action grants for civil society projects and 24 operating grants will be selected under strand 2 with the aim to contribute to an increased understanding of and belonging to the EU by citizens.

Horizontal Action Valorisation: This action aims to increase learning from experience, sustainability and visibility of the programme. It will be in particular used for the funding of the Europe for Citizens Contact Points.

Europe for Citizens Contact Points (ECPs)

COM proposed a slight increase of the amount of the action grants to be awarded in 2020 to ECPs to enable them to close the current programme. Concretely this means that the eligibilty period for expenditure of Europe for citizens Contact Points will be extended by three months covering the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021. The maximum co- financing per country will increase proportionally as follows:

FR, DE, IT, PL and ES: maximum of EUR 68 750 each;

All the other countries participating in the Europe for Citizens programme: maximum of EUR

31 250 each, unless the agreement on their participation indicates a lower ceiling for a participating country.

Action grants

For the Europe for Citizens Programme, the Programme Guide provides information on procedures, criteria and other modalities relating to action grants. No significant changes are foreseen for the last implementation year of Europe for Citizens 2014-2020 (mainly updates of deadlines etc.).

Operating grants

Following the specific call for proposals on "Structural support for European think tanks and for civil society organisations at European level" of August 2017 for awarding operatinggrants for the period 2018-2020 multiannual framework partnership agreements were concluded with twenty-four European civil society organisations or think tanks. In this context, specific conventions based on the framework partnerships will be concluded in 2020 with these same organisations on the basis of their annual work programmes.

Discussion:

Following the presentation of the work programme 2020 the following points were raised by the participants:

- **Payments after 2020 for projects selected in 2020.** EACEA confirmed that payment appropriations will be made available in 2020 and following years to cover the 2020 commitments.

- **The reason of the increase of the budget allocated to ECPs and its consequences on the co-financing by the Member States.** COM confirmed that this pro-rata increase of the budget is due to the extension of the eligibility period and should enable the ECPs to close the current programme and ensure a smooth transition to the future programme in the first quarter of 2021. EACEA noted that this therefore implies a proportionate co-financing of Member States. The concrete elements of this revision will be published in the 'Invitation to submit proposals' that will be sent to the Contact Points by November 2019.

- **Nomination of ECPs under the future programme.** COM informed that it is clear from the negotiations that the ECPs network should be extended to all strands of the future programme. Its technical implementation has not yet been decided. Setting up an ECP will not be an obligation, but the Member States have already confirmed the important role of the ECPs. The nomination of the ECPs is a prerogative of the Member States. COM will send an invitation to Member States through their Permanent Representation to designate their ECP. While COM can plan to encourage some knowledge and skills, it will be up to each Member State to determine the best solution for the different strands of the future programme. Inter-ministerial cooperation can be also envisaged.

- **Training of ECPs in the framework of the future programme.** COM informed that it is still too early to plan training for the ECPs. COM recalled that the ECPs meet regularly. The next meeting will be held in Helsinki in November 2019.

- **Word "racial"(page 5 -EN version) – "rassischen"(page 6 - (DE version) to be revised.** It was agreed to cancel this word.

- **Reason for adding the paragraph on entities without legal personality under point 2.1.1. (page 12 – EN version).** EACEA confirmed that this echoes the Financial Regulation, which specifies the conditions to fulfil for entities without legal personality.

- **Business plan required for newly created entities (page 13 – EN version).** EACEA confirmed that, in line with the Financial Regulation, this business plan / action plan might be requested to newly created entities that do not have *ex post* financial data.

- **Deadlines of call for proposals in 2020.** EACEA confirmed that time of the deadlines can be slightly different due to the use of the eGrants corporate tool for the publication of the Calls for Proposals.

- **Eligibility of UK organisations post Brexit.** EACEA confirmed that there are uncertainties at this stage. One issue could be raised if, in a selected project, the UK partner influences the minimum number of partners required. A substitute partner would have to be provided in such a case.
- **Number of town twinning projects vs number of civil society projects.** COM confirmed that the distribution of the budget has not been revised for the last year of the implementation of the programme. However, a reflection will be made in the framework of the future programme.
- **Participation of EFTA countries.** EACEA reminded that the legal basis provides the participation of EFTA countries but none of them have expressed their interest to participate in the Europe for Citizens Programme. Organisation of these countries cannot therefore apply.

After discussion, the following modifications were made:

- Under 1.1. – Main features / general objectives of the programme:

  - Spelling mistake: "policymaking" replaced by "policy making".

- Under 1.2. – Political context

  - Given the uncertainties regarding the Brexit, this part of the sentence "the firstyear after the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union" is deleted.

- Under 3. – Antisemitism, anti-gypsyism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance: drawing the lessons for today

  - The word "racial" is deleted.

Following the discussion, the Committee gave by consensus a favourable opinion on the revised version of the work programme 2020 here attached.

5. Items submitted for information

5.1. EACEA Report "Results 2018"

Gilles Pelayo, head of unit of the Europe for Citizens programme unit at EACEA, presented the most significant points in the 2018 results report circulated ahead of the committee meeting.

5.2. Overview of the results of the first round of selections 2019

Gilles Pelayo, head of unit of the Europe for Citizens programme unit at EACEA, gave an overview of the preliminary results of the first phase of implementation of the programme in 2019 (Call deadlines: 1st February and 1st March) covering the measures Town-Twinning, Networks of Towns and European Remembrance.

EACEA also informed about the future selections under the 2nd phase of the implementation of the programme (deadline: 2nd September) covering the measures Town-Twinning, Networks of Towns and Civil Society projects.

5.3. State of play: Preparation of the future Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values

Daniela Mormile (DG HOME A2 – COM) reminded that for the next MFF COM proposed in May 2018 a new instrument: the Justice, Rights and Values Fund (947 MEUR over the seven years). This Fund includes a new Rights and Values programme and the Justice programme of which 642 MEUR for the Rights and Values programme and 305 MEUR for the Justice programme.

In the Commission proposal the Europe for Citizens programme was part of the Rights and Values programme which groups together two funding programmes for 2014 -2020 (the Europe for Citizens programme and the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme).

In the first phase of negotiations with the European Parliament and Council, the main lines of the Commission proposal were kept. A partial political agreement on the new programme was reached on 6 March 2019. The EP will be co-legislator together with the Council. The name of the programme has changed into Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme respectively. The current Europe for Citizens programme will be the strand “Citizens engagement and participation” of CERV. An additional Union Values strand was part of the compromise, provided that it would not prejudge the budget of the programme and the equilibrium between the different strands.

The Commission welcomes this compromise that has improved the Commission proposal by adding new synergies and broadening the scope of the programme.

The budgetary aspects and some related horizontal provisions of the future MFF programmes are subject to the overall agreement on the EU's next long-term budget, proposed by the Commission in May 2018. The European Council of 13-14 December 2018 set the aim to achieve an agreement on this budget in the European Council in autumn 2019 (October).

5.4. State of play: European Citizen's initiative

Pascal Herry (Secretariat-General – COM) gave the state of play of the European Citizens' Initiative.

A new Regulation on the European citizens' initiative was adopted in April 2019 (based on a proposal adopted by the Commission in September 2017) and will be applicable as of 1 January 2020.

This leaves a tight schedule for the Commission services involved to ensure that all the novelties and improvements introduced by the reform are developed and made available according to plan. This includes improved procedures, enhanced assistance and information for citizens, and new IT tools meeting the highest standards. A key requirement and priority for the Commission is to set up and manage directly a central system for online collection of statements of support. The support from Budget Line 18 will be earmarked for a great part to further develop and maintain these new IT tools.

After a slowdown in the number of new initiatives registered in recent years, the period since mid-2018 has been one of the most active so far; i.e. 26 registration requests submitted and

20 initiatives registered (state-of-play as at 20 September 2019). The increase is to be attributed to the revision of the instrument, which has put it under a renewed spotlight notably also in the context of the European Parliament elections, as well as the dedicated communication campaign and new online collaborative platform launched in spring 2018. These two activities will continue in 2020.

6. Any other business

6.1. Debriefing: European conference: «Europe for Citizens - History defines our future», Brussels, 2-3 April 2019

Marie Corman, (DG HOME – A2) debriefed on the high-level event "Europe for Citizens - History defines our future" held on 2-3 April 2019, in Brussels. The objective of the event was to bring together citizens and beneficiaries of the Europe for Citizens programme to exchange in the fields of active citizenship and remembrance and foster citizens' engagement with the Union and its values.

On 2 April: Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos participated in a panel discussion with Vera Jourova, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality and Corina Cretu, Commissioner for Regional Policy on the theme: "40 years after the first elections to the European Parliament, 30 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, where are we today? Looking to the future and moving forward". A walking dinner and a concert by Voix étouffées followed the discussion.

321 persons attended the evening. 70 were from the general public, 142 were participants in the Europe for Citizens programme, the other came from EU institutions.

On 3 April: the representatives of projects financed by the Europe for Citizens programme split into two groups. In the House of European History, one group discussed remembrance practices while the other group met in Concert Noble to discuss civic engagement initiativesin particular to counter disinformation. Both groups also discussed valorization and future prospects under the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework. A guided visit of the House of European History closed the event.

6.2. Upcoming event "Taking stock of European Memory Policies in 2019", 23-24October 2019, Paris - Bazoches-sur-Guyonne

Marie Corman, (DG HOME – A2) presented the upcoming event organised by the Jean Monnet House/House of European History, the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) and the European Commission in cooperation with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

The event will give projects that were selected by the Europe for Citizens programme in 2018and 2019, an opportunity to share their experience in the field of remembrance.

The event will take place at Hotel Meliã, La Défense in Paris and The Jean Monnet House, Bazoches-sur-Guyonne (45 km from Paris).

Invitations have been sent out. Due to limited capacity of the venues, participants (one representative per project) will be selected on a first-come-first-serve basis. Deadline for registering is 3 October 2019.

6.3. Activities Report: Europe for Citizens Contact Points 2018

Gilles Pelayo, head of unit of the Europe for Citizens programme unit at EACEA, presented quantitative and qualitative data on the work of Europe for Citizens National Contact Points in 2018.

6.4. European elections 2019: contribution of the Europe for Citizens programme

Anna Cozzoli (EACEA) presented the information gathered on the work done by beneficiary organisations to prepare this crucial moment in the Union's democratic life. Some snapshots of projects and testimonies from participants are presented in a factsheet distributed to the Members of the Europe for Citizens Programme Committee.

6.5. Europe for Citizens and #EURegionsWeek (7-10 October 2019)

Inna Petrenko (EACEA) informed that on the 8/10/2019, the EACEA – Europe for Citizens Programme will co-organise with the Research Executive Agency (REA), a workshop during the European Week of Regions and Cities.

The next Committee meeting will take place in 2020 (date to be confirmed).

ATTENDANCE LIST

Country	Organisation
AT	Federal Chancellery of Austria
BE	Ministerium der deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft Belgiens Fédération Wallonie – Bruxelles Vlaanderen - Department Cultuur, Jeugd and Media
BG	Permanent representation of Bulgaria to the European Union
CY	Ministry of Education and Culture
CZ	European Affairs Communication Department
DA	Ministry of Culture
DE	Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen and Jugend
EL	Ministry of Interior
FI	Finnish National Agency for Education
FR	Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères - Direction de l'Union européenne – Service des politiques internes et des questions institutionnelles
HR	Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
HU	Tempus Public Foundation
IRL	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
LT	Ministry of Culture Permanent representation of Lithuania to the European Union
LU	Zentrum fir Politesch Bildung
LV	Ministry of culture
MT	Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government
NL	Permanent representation of the Netherlands to he EU
PL	Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego
PT	Centro de Informação Europeia Jacques Delors
RO	Ministry of Culture and National Identity
SE	Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society
SI	Ministrstvo za Kulturo
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union
Kosovo	Ministry of European Integration
Serbia	Office for Cooperation with Civil Society

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ IV

ΕΚΘΕΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΗΣ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΝΔΙΑΜΕΣΗ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ (ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ)

Mid-term evaluation of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020

Executive Summary

September 2017

Request for services No 12, HOME/2016/EUCI/FW/EVAL/0001

Multiple Framework Contract HOME/2015/EVAL/02

Executive Summary

The Europe for Citizens Programme (EfCP or 'the Programme') 2014-2020 promotes fundamental values, the knowledge of Europe's shared history, and fosters citizens' responsible, democratic civic participation and the feeling of belonging to the EU. A mid-term evaluation of the EfCP covering the period 2014-2016 was mandated by the European Commission to Deloitte to assess whether the programme is on track.

The budget for the Programme for the period 2014-2020 is EUR 187.7 million, of which EUR 67 million have been spent. The Programme is implemented primarily through project-based Action Grants and Operating Grants.

To qualify, applicants apply under one of two Strands: 1. European remembrance, and 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation. Three types of measures are funded under Strand 2: Town-Twinning; Networks of Towns; Civil Society Projects. There are annual priorities for each Strand.

The Programme is heavily over-subscribed. Applications exceed projects funded in a ratio of some 6 to 1. Many good quality projects cannot be financed. Over the period in scope, applicants have come from all Member States and from four of the five candidate countries for EU membership, which are also eligible to participate. The countries with the largest number of lead beneficiaries are France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, with the four Central and Eastern European countries on this list disproportionately represented relative to their population. At the same time, Spain and the UK are proportionately under-represented.

The strands are complemented by a Horizontal Action which funds the analysis, dissemination and use of project results, including the support at national level via National Contact Points (co-funded by Member States) and meetings of a Civil Dialogue Group made up of members of civil society. This Group has an advisory role.

To evaluate these results, the study team gathered and analysed data from a number of sources:

- desk research (including internal and external programme documentation, relevant legislation, Eurobarometers, EACEA and Commission websites, project websites);
- interviews with EU officials and with beneficiaries of Operating Grants;
- a web-based survey targeting both beneficiaries and unsuccessful applicants;
- a workshop with members of the Civil Dialogue Group;
- Three online focus groups with National Contact Points;

- case studies of action grants;
- public consultation run by the European Commission about this mid-term evaluation.

A summary by evaluation topic is provided below, the more detailed conclusions to be found in the main body of the report.

1.1. Summary of Conclusions

1.1.1. Relevance

Given the arguably unprecedented challenges faced by the EU at present, there is still an important need to enhance citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity as well as to encourage debate and reflection on citizens' understanding of the EU. Thus **the general objectives** of the programme, i.e. to contribute to citizens' understanding of the Union, its shared history and diversity on the one hand, and to foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at the Union level, on the other, **were and remain relevant** to the problems to be addressed. This is based on finding that the original needs the Programme was designed to contribute to are still relevant. In both strands, activities also contribute to the two specific objectives of the programme. .

Together, the activities under both strands can provide **a continuum for understanding the past, present and future**, how they relate to each other, and the role European integration has played and is playing in shaping them.

1.1.2. Effectiveness & Sustainability

The Programme has been **effective in achieving its objectives and** the activities have contributed to the enhancement of civic participation and the overall debate on the past, present and future of the EU. The way in which individual citizens are involved in the activities is one of the Programme's strengths.

The broad definition of eligibility for Town-Twinning is a weakness. With so many applicants relative to the number of successful applications, there is therefore a case for ensuring that the preference for an EU dimension be strengthened in order to ensure what are currently largely one-off activities contribute to fulfilling the objectives of the Programme and that these projects result in sustainable outcomes.

There is a need to investigate how it would be possible to improve the geographical balance of Town-Twinning projects. Four countries consistently dominate the selection of Town-Twinning projects. Ways have to be found in order to encourage towns from other countries to engage with Town-Twinning. Further, the one-off nature of town twinning activities means in many cases that the outcomes are unlikely to be lasting, which makes these activities less effective than the Networks of Towns.

Dissemination activities have individually been effective but there is scope for a more strategic approach based on an overarching communication and dissemination strategy.

The principle of **using NCPs** to support the Programme **is sound**, but a formal evaluation of the NCPs would assist the Commission in better defining their role. Dialogue between the Commission and both NCPs and the Civil Dialogue Group shows room for improvement.

At mid-term of the programming period, the Programme has the potential to deliver **sustainable outcomes** in relation to the Programme's objectives.

1.1.3. Efficiency

The funds are being disbursed at an even rate and are broadly in line with an even spread over the seven years of the programme. This is helpful both to those administering the programme and the beneficiaries. Individual activities are providing value for money and the amounts are **proportionate** to the ambitions of the beneficiaries and cost-effective in fulfilling the objectives of the Programme through the type of beneficiary and activity they fund.

The current structure of the EfCP, with **the two strands and a Horizontal Action is working satisfactorily**, but greater clarity is needed as to whether the strands are truly stand-alone or a relationship is intended in order to establish a continuum between past, present and future.

Both **Action and Operating Grants** are being disbursed and utilised efficiently for the separate functions they fulfil and in pursuit of the Programme's objectives. Providing funding via lump sums particularly suits the Action Grants, although three years' experience of the system has demonstrated the need to review whether variations in costs of living and travel could be better taken into account within the overall budget without modifying this approach.

Expenditure on **support activities**, including NCPs, is cost-effective, but there is scope for more transparency in the selection and evaluation process through enhanced feedback to applicants, for a more strategic approach to communication and dissemination about the Programme. Ten years after the funding mechanism for NCPs was set is an appropriate time to review the role of NCPs and this funding mechanism in anticipation of the next Programme.

The **simplification** carried out over the last two years has been a major, and beneficial, leap forward, with only some fine-tuning possibly required.

1.1.4. Complementarity and Synergies

The EfCP complements other EU funding programmes in the field of EU citizenship, education and culture. The EfCP is also coherent with EU policies and tools dedicated to increasing EU citizen participation in civil society and providing them with information, as well as with other instruments in the areas of volunteering, youth, and research and innovation.

There is some evidence of **limited direct overlap** between the EfCP and other funding programmes, notably Erasmus+ and Creative Europe's Culture sub-programme in terms of content, objectives and target groups. Nevertheless, the EfCP has a unique programme offer

and reaches beyond the target groups it shares with these other funding programmes through the potential of a broad range of activities for all citizens, including the most disadvantaged.

There is at the same time **scope to do more to exploit synergies**, both at central level across Directorates-General and at national level with Creative Europe Desks and Erasmus+ National Agencies. Given that the European Solidarity Corps initiative has only been launched recently, the synergies with the EfCP are not yet optimised.

There is also scope to do more to **develop synergies between Strand 1 and Strand 2** on the basis of the natural connection between lessons learned from the past and plans made for the future of Europe.

1.1.5. Added value

The EfCP was set up as a horizontal pathway to informed sectoral dialogue on policy areas of interest to citizens and in addressing needs that only an EU intervention can address. Testing its added value, the EfCP succeeds in filling this gap.

The Programme demonstrates **added value** at the EU level both in the aggregate effect of its impact on participants and its complementarity with other EU funding instruments and policy initiatives. Importantly, there is very strong evidence that the Programme is overall unique, given that funding at national or regional level to achieve the same or similar objectives is at very best limited, notably if considered that the transnational element is a strong feature of successful projects.

There is a demonstrated need for EU action in the area of remembrance and civil society and **the positive impacts achieved by the programme are not likely to be attained by other means should it not be continued**.

1.2. Recommendations

Recommendations have been formulated for two different timelines:

1. for execution within the **current programming period**; and
2. to be implemented for the **next programming period**.

1.2.1. Recommendations for the current programming period

Governance

- Establish mechanisms, with adequate administrative support, for **structured dialogue with beneficiaries, the NCPs, the Civil Dialogue Group and the European Parliament** for discussion inter alia on policy developments in the fields of democratic engagement, civic participation and citizenship, synergies with other programmes and policies, exploitation and dissemination of results, monitoring and procedures.

- **Share more information with NCPs** on good practices in applications to enable them to provide better assistance to future applicants. This should include increasing the benefits of Horizontal Action by requiring NCPs to disseminate project results (more) and therefore add to the replicability of good practices and encouraging knowledge sharing.
- Carry out **a formal evaluation of the NCP network** with a view to implementing the recommendations in the next programming period. The evaluation should look at the NCPs role in dissemination and assistance to applicants based on an assessment of needs for communication and capacity-building, at complementarity and synergies with other EU networks at national level with similar roles, use of technology and innovation to reach beneficiaries, and potential for efficiency gains.

Programme Operation

- Consider how, by modifying the Programme Guide, but without needing to modify the Regulation:
  - the preference for projects to have **an EU dimension** contained in Annex I to the Regulation be strengthened in practice in order to ensure that this is always taken into account in Town-Twinning projects;
  - preference is given to **Town-Twinning projects which have in-built plans for sustainable outcomes**;
  - preference is given to projects which can situate their projects on a **continuum, which recognises the link between past, present and future**, irrespective of whether they are applying for Strand 1 or 2;
  - preference is given to **projects in which citizens are active and engaged participants** rather than passive beneficiaries of an activity;
  - further clarify the **synergies between the EfCP and the European Solidarity Corps** and how these will be taken into account in award criteria.
- Improve the **transparency of the selection process**, including information on the evaluation process, and the feedback per award criterion to rejected applicants.
- Review the **impact and performance monitoring indicators** of the Impact Assessment and the Regulation to establish baselines, clear targets based on existing experience of realistic outcomes, select the most appropriate indicators (in consultation with beneficiaries and NCPs) segmented by target audiences and establish an online relational reporting tool which collects quantitative and qualitative data, including data from site visits and feedback surveys.
- Review in anticipation of the next Programme the equity of the **lump sum** approach given the range of costs of living and distances to cover to meet project partners.

Communication/awareness-raising

- Develop **a communication strategy** for activities funded from the Horizontal Action, including those organised centrally and by the NCPs. Include strategies for identifying

potential beneficiaries who could further increase the quality of applications and for making the VALOR platform more user-friendly.

- Consider whether there are **replicable recommendations from the forthcoming evaluation of the Dissemination and Exploitation of Erasmus+ and Creative Europe Results on the VALOR platform** commissioned by DG EAC.
- Consider whether and when there are benefits in **reaching out beyond stakeholders** (including policymakers) to the general public.
- **Improve the understanding of why applications from some countries are consistently more successful**; incorporate the lessons in the communication strategy.
- **Place greater emphasis in the selection process on dissemination of results by beneficiaries and on sustainable outcomes.**

1.2.2. Recommendations for the next programming period

- **Continue the Europe for Citizens programme.**
- **Maintain the general and specific objectives unchanged.**
- **Carry forward any improvements proposed for and implemented in the current programming period** where not overtaken by changes recommended below.
- **Implement any pending improvements proposed for the current programming period and not implemented**, embedding them in a future Regulation where desirable and where not overtaken by changes recommended below.
- **Establish more structured cooperation between EfCP, the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, Creative Europe and Erasmus+** in order to facilitate dialogue on future policy developments affecting the Programme and to maximise the potential for **synergies at central and national level**, including between NCPs, Erasmus+ National Agencies and Creative Europe Desks.
- Recognising the challenges the EU faces which make the Programme arguably more relevant than ever, **increase the budget** in order to reach a larger number of citizens.
- Ensure that projects are clearly situated on **a continuum of past, present and future**, while recognising that civil society organisations specialising in Remembrance tend to be distinct from those specialising in active citizenship.
- **Merge the Town-Twinning and Networks of Towns activities**, permitting Town-Twinning, but giving preference to Networks of three or more towns and projects with plans for sustainability.

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ V

ΕΓΚΡΙΤΙΚΕΣ ΑΠΟΦΑΣΕΙΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΗΣ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΥΠΟΒΛΗΘΕΝΤΑ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ 2014-2019 ΤΟΥ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΗΜΕΙΟΥ ΕΠΑΦΗΣ

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Europe for Citizens

Brussels, 13.6.2014
EACEA.C1

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ
ΑΡΙΘΜ. ΠΡΩΤ: 3103
ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ: 23.6.14
ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ:

HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Ioannis MICHELAKIS
STADIOU 27,

GR - 10183 ATHENS

Subject: **Europe for Citizens Programme – Europe for Citizens Points**
Grant Decision No 2014 - 0496 / 001 - 001

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that following the examination of all action plans received, your application has been selected for receipt of a grant.
Please find enclosed the Framework Grant Decision and the Specific Grant Decision, together with their Annexes stating the general obligations incumbent upon recipients of a European Union grant.

Yours faithfully,

Philippe COVA

Annexes: Decisions and Annexes

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Avenue du Bourget 1 – 1049 Brussels - Belgium
Office: BOUR 01/04A, Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2984843, Fax: (32-2) 2962389

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

ΓΔΟΥΔΥ

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Europe for Citizens

κ. Καρδάνης
19/3

Brussels, 05 MAR 2015
EACEA.C1

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ
ΑΡΙΘΜ. ΠΡΩΤ. 1784/355
ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ 18/3/15
ΑΡΜΟΔΙΟΣ ΓΔΟΑΥ

ΑΝ. 302

HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Nikolaos VOUTSIS
STADIOU 27,
GR - 10183 ATHENS

ΔΟΙΚΑΡΟΓΑ
ΚΤΗ
19/3

Subject: **Europe for Citizens Programme – Europe for Citizens Points**

Grant Decision No 2015 - 0071 / 001 - 001

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that following the examination of all action plans received, your application has been selected for receipt of a grant.

Please find enclosed the Specific Grant Decision, together with its Annexes stating the general obligations incumbent upon recipients of a European Union grant.

Yours faithfully,

Philippe COVA

D. RAFFIER

Annexes: Decisions and Annexes

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Avenue du Bourget 1 – 1049 Brussels - Belgium
Office: BOUR 01/04A, Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2984843. Fax: (32-2) 2962389.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Europe for Citizens

Brussels, 11/03/2016.
EACEA.C1

HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Panos KOUROUMPLIS
STADIOU 27,
GR - 10183 ATHENS

Subject: **Europe for Citizens Programme – Europe for Citizens Points**

Grant Decision No 2016 - 0363 / 001 - 001

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that following the examination of all action plans received, your application has been selected for receipt of a grant.

Please find enclosed the Specific Grant Decision, together with its Annexes stating the general obligations incumbent upon recipients of a European Union grant.

Yours faithfully,

Amaya PEREZ DE ALBENIZ

Annexes: Decisions and Annexes

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Avenue du Bourget 1 – 1049 Brussels - Belgium
Office: BOUR 01/04A, Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2984843, Fax: (32-2) 2962389.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

Θεωρ - Μπερμπέρα

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Europe for Citizens
Head of Unit

Brussels, 28. 03. 2017
EACEA.C1

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ
ΑΡΙΘΜ. ΠΡΩΤ.: 1724
ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΑ: 6-4-17
ΑΡΜΟΔΙΟΣ:

HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Panagiotis SKOURLETIS
STADIOU 27,
GR - 10183 ATHENS

Subject: **Europe for Citizens Programme – Europe for Citizens Points**

Grant Decision No 2017 - 0411 / 001 - 001

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that following the examination of all action plans received, your application has been selected for receipt of a grant.

Please find enclosed the Specific Grant Decision, together with its Annexes stating the general obligations incumbent upon recipients of a European Union grant.

By means of this letter, Art. 3.2 "Communication details of the Agency" of the Framework Partnership Decision is amended as follows:

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Mr Gilles PELAYO
Unit Europe for Citizens
Office: SPA2 3/89
1, Avenue du Bourget
1049 Brussels
Belgium
e-mail: EACEA-C1-CONTACTPOINTS@ec.europa.eu

Yours faithfully,

Gilles PELAYO

Annexes: Decisions and Annexes

Ref. Ares(2017)6348166 - 22/12/2017

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Europe for Citizens
Head of Unit

Brussels, 22 December 2017
EACEA/C1/GP/LR

Hellenic Republic – The Ministry of Interior
Mr. Panagiotis Skourletis
Stadiou, 27
GR – 10183 Athens

Subject: **Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020**
Strand 3: Horizontal Action Valorisation
Measure 3.2 "Information Structures in Member States and Participating Countries" – Selection 2018
Your application No: 595693-CITIZ-1-2018-1-EL-CITIZ-PEC

Dear Mr. Skourletis,

Under the scope of the Framework Partnership 2018-2020 for the Europe for Citizens Contact Points (ECPs), described in the Guidance Note 31/2017 published on the dedicated Website for ECPs, you have submitted the Work Programme for **ECP Greece** for 2018.

The submission deadline was on 15.11.2017 and the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency received **29** applications from member states and participating countries in the Programme. The applications were appraised by an Evaluation Committee against the Award Criteria specified in the Point 9 of the referred Guidance Note.

The Evaluation Committee took note that ECP Greece proposes a Work programme for 2018 in line with current social issues presented in the country, allied with the opportunities offered by the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

I am pleased to inform you that your application has been selected for EU co-funding. The maximum amount of funding to be awarded to your Work Programme is **EUR 25.000.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions at EACEA-CI-CONTACTPOINTS@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Gilles PELAYO

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Avenue du Bourget 1, B-1049 Brussels - Belgium
Office: SPA2 3/89
Telephone: direct line (32-2) 29 84843.
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

Ref. Ares(2019)164912 - 11/01/2019

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Europe for Citizens
Head of Unit

Brussels, 11 January 2019
EACEA/C1

HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Mr. Alexandros CHARITSIS
Mr. Antonios KARVOUNIS
Evangelistrias 2
10563-Athens
Greece
ypsoupos@ypes.gr
akarvounis@ypes.gr

Subject: **Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020 – Strand 3: Horizontal Action Valorisation – Measure 3.2 "Information Structures in Member States and Participating Countries" – Selection 2019**
Your application No: 607098-CITIZ-1-2019-1-EL-CITIZ-PEC

Dear Mr. Alexandros CHARITSIS,
Dear Mr. Antonios KARVOUNIS,

Under the scope of the Framework Partnership 2018-2020 for the Europe for Citizens Contact Points (ECP), described in the Guidance Note 40/2018 published on the dedicated Website for ECPs, you have submitted the Work Programme for **Europe for Citizens Point Greece** for 2019.

The submission deadline was on 29.11.2018 and the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency received **29** applications from member states and participating countries in the Programme. The applications were appraised by an Evaluation Committee against the Award Criteria specified in the Point 9 of the referred Guidance Note.

The Work Programme 2019 of ECP Greece was considered as quite satisfactory. The Evaluation Committee noted the political scope of migration and social-economic inclusion as the umbrella for the communication strategy of the Programme to prospective applicants. Also taken as a positive point was the continuance of past methodology to involve the National Centre for public Administration as a multiplier partner in regions with a lower participatory rate in the Programme.

I am pleased to inform you that your application has been selected for EU co-funding. The maximum amount of funding to be awarded to your Work Programme in 2019 is **EUR 25.000**.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions at EACEA-C1-CONTACTPOINTS@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Gilles PELAYO

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Avenue du Bourget 1, B-1049 Brussels
Office: SPA2 3/89
Telephone: direct line (32-2) 29 84842
Electronic signature: [illegible] in accordance with article 4.2 (validity of electronic documents) of Commission Decision 2004/563
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ VI

ΕΚΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΔΡΑΣΕΩΝ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΗΜΕΙΟΥ ΕΠΑΦΗΣ

Europe for Citizens Programme

ECPs 2014 - Final Report

ANNEX 1

Number of events and participants

In the following table, please insert the number of events and participants on the basis of which the final grant amount will be calculated.

NUMBER OF EVENTS	*MONTH*	*TOWN*	*TYPE OF EVENT* *(meetings, workshops, conferences and training courses)*	*NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS*
1	7 MARCH	ATHENS	PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AT THE 6th EUROPEAN SUMMIT OF REGIONS AND CITIES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS	27
2	13 MARCH	ATHENS	WORKSHOP ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS AND OTHER EU PROGRAMMES	26
3	10 JUNE	ATHENS	WORKSHOP ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS AND OTHER EU PROGRAMMES	30
4	9 JULY	ATHENS	INFO DAY ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2014-2020	49
5	11 SEPTEMBER	ATHENS	WORKSHOP ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS AND OTHER EU PROGRAMMES	15
6	12 SEPTEMBER	KALAMATA	PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AT THE YOUTH ON THE MOVE EVENTS	10
7	8 OCOTBER	ATHENS	WORKSHOP ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS AND OTHER EU PROGRAMMES	26
8	29 OCTOBER	ATHENS	PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AT THE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME ON UNION ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PANTEION	10
9	31 OCTOBER	THESSALONIKI	WORKSHOP ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS AND OTHER EU PROGRAMMES	25
10	7 NOVEMBER	ATHENS	PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AT THE CONFERENCE FOR THE EU PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN	48
11	10 NOVEMBER	PIRAEUS	PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AT THE TRANNATIONAL ESPONontheRoad WORKSHOP entitled "INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LAND AND SEAINTERACTION: DIMENSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE BLUE GROWTH IN GREECE"	41
12	10 DECEMBER	ATHENS	WORKSHOP ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS AND OTHER EU PROGRAMMES	27
			TOTAL	334

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2014-2020- ECP GREECE- EVENTS & PARTICIPANTS 2015

NUMBER OF EVENTS	CITY	REGION	TARGET GROUP	MONTH	ORGANIZERS	MODERATOR	TYPE OF EVENT (meetings, workshops, conferences and training centres)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1	ATHENS	ATTIKI	UNIVERSITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES	17 FEBRUARY	EUROPE DIRECT MEETING/Representation of the European Commission in Greece	KARVOUNIS-FARIOUPOU	MEETING FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME	29
2	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	18 FEBRUARY	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING SESSION ON EU PROGRAMMES	31
3	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES, HOSPITALS	19 FEBRUARY	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING SESSION ON EU PROGRAMMES	18
4	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	16 MARCH	EOTC AMPHICTYONY & REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	MEETING FOR PRESENTATION OF THE NEW EU FUNDING INSTRUMENTS	51
5	ATHENS	ATTIKI	STUDENTS	19 MARCH	PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES/DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	KARVOUNIS	MEETING FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME	14
6	DORIAN	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	27 MARCH	DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATION OF MACEDONIA THRACE	KARVOUNIS	FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE BORDER IN PROJECT	48
7	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	24 APRIL	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING SESSION ON EU PROGRAMMES	25
8	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	6 MAY	EOTC AMPHICTYONY & REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	PRESENTATION OF THE NEW EU PROGRAMMES	35
9	IOANNINA	EPIRUS	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	13 MAY	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING SESSION ON EU PROGRAMMES	27
10	PANORAMA	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	18 MAY	EOTC AMPHICTYONY & REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA	KARVOUNIS	INFO DAY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEW EU PROGRAMMES	91
11	PIRAEUS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	20 MAY	EOTC EFXINI POLI	KARVOUNIS	INFO DAY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEW EU PROGRAMMES	55
12	LARISA	THESSALIA	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	4 JUNE	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING SESSION ON EU PROGRAMMES	28
13	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	11 JUNE	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING SESSION ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS	31
14	MEGARA	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	24 JUNE	MUNICIPALITY OF MEGARA	KARVOUNIS	MEETING FOR PRESENTATION OF THE NEW EU PROGRAMMES	55
15	ELEFSINA	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	25 JUNE	REGIONAL UNIT OF WESTERN ATTICA	KARVOUNIS	MEETING FOR PRESENTATION OF THE NEW EU PROGRAMMES	24
16	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	26 JUNE	EOTC AMPHICTYONY	KARVOUNIS	MEETING FOR THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON EU PROGRAMMES	44
17	SERRES	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	1 JULY	MUNICIPALITY OF SERRES	KARVOUNIS	CONFERENCE "D.O.C.P.I.E."	138
18	IOANNINA	EPIRUS	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	7 JULY	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING SESSION ON EU PROGRAMMES	23

19	KASTORIA	WESTERN MACEDONIA	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	21 JULY	MUNICIPALITY OF KASTORIA	KARVOUNIS	CONFERENCE "LITTLE BIG THINGS IN EUROPE"	110
20	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES, HOSPITALS	30 SEPTEMBER	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINNING SESSION ON EU PROGRAMMES	26
21	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES, HOSPITALS	14 OCTOBER	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINNING SESSION ON EU PROGRAMMES	20
22	KOZANI	WESTERN MACEDONIA	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	19 OCTOBER	CENTRAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES/REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF WESTERN MACEDONIA	KARVOUNIS	INFO DAY ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS AND CREATIVE EUROPE	19
23	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	20 OCTOBER	CENTRAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES/REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA	KARVOUNIS	INFO DAY ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS AND CREATIVE EUROPE	44
24	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, NGOs, PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATIONS	22 OCTOBER	OTS-EXPERTS IN E-GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	INFO DAY ON EU PROGRAMMES	45
25	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	23 NOVEMBER	EOTC AMPHICTYONY & REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	INFO DAY ON TOWN-TWINNINGS	21
26	PATRA	WESTERN GREECE	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES, HOSPITALS	28 NOVEMBER	NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINNING SESSION ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS	27
							TOTAL	1075

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2014-2020- ECP GREECE- EVENTS & PARTICIPANTS 2016

NUMBER OF EVENTS	CITY	REGION	TARGET GROUP	DATE	ORGANISERS	MODERATOR/ECP REPRESENTATIVE	TYPE OF EVENT (meetings, workshops, conferences and training courses)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	1 FEBRUARY	EGTC AMPHICTYONY & REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON THE APPLICATION FORM	37
2	XANTHI	EAST MACEDONIA & THRACE	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, NGOs, CIVIL SOCIETY	18 FEBRUARY	MUNICIPAL RADIO STATION OF XANTHI 89.9 FM - EUROPE DIRECT	KARVOUNIS	RADIO INTERVIEW	100
3	PATRAS	WESTERN GREECE	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	23 FEBRUARY	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE	24
4	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	29 FEBRUARY	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON EU PROGRAMMES	31
5	ATHENS	ATTIKI	UNIVERSITY	17 MARCH	PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE	13
6	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	28 MARCH	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON PLANNING EU PROJECTS	24
7	PANORAMA	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	30 MARCH	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA	KARVOUNIS	INFODAY ON MANAGEMENT CAPACITY	90
8	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	12 APRIL	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	22
9	MYTILINI	NORTH AEGEAN	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES, HOSPITALS	21 APRIL	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON EU PROGRAMMES	29
10	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	5 MAY	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON EU PROGRAMMES	27
11	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	18 MAY	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON IMPLEMENTING A PROPOSAL	19
12	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	20 MAY	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	25
13	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	30 MAY	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON PLANNING EU PROJECTS	26
14	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	2 JUNE	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	20
15	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	6 JUNE	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	24

16	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	22 JUNE	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON IMPLEMENTING A PROPOSAL	16
17	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	27 JUNE	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON MANAGING A GRANT DECISION	24
18	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	4 JULY	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON EU PROGRAMMES	21
19	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	12 JULY	CREATIVE EUROPE CONTACT POINT	KARVOUNIS	INFO DAY ON CULTURAL PROJECTS	91
20	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	14 JULY	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON IMPLEMENTING A PROPOSAL	20
21	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	30 AUGUST	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	21
22	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	5 SEPTEMBER	REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKA	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	17
23	ATHENS	ATTIKI	NATIONAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	11 OCTOBER	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON EUROPEAN CITY NETWORKS	15
24	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES, NGOs	7 NOVEMBER	INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND TRAINING ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS	KARVOUNIS	PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME	58
25	ATHENS	ATTIKI	MINISTRY OF CULTURE	8 NOVEMBER	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	28
26	RHODES	SOUTH AEGEAN	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	14 DECEMBER	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON IMPLEMENTING A PROPOSAL	17
							TOTAL	836

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2014-2020- ECP GREECE- EVENTS & PARTICIPANTS 2017

NUMBER OF EVENTS	CITY	REGION	TARGET GROUP	DATE	ORGANISERS	MODERATOR/ECP REPRESENTATIVE	TYPE OF EVENT (meetings, workshops, conferences and training courses)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	16 FEBRUARY	NATIONAL UNION OF HELLENIC MUNICIPALITIES & THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE	KARVOUNIS	MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE	144
2	ATHENS	ATTIKI	UNIVERSITY	9 MARCH	PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES	KARVOUNIS	TRAINNING COURSE	9
3	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	10 MARCH	MUNICIPALITY OF ELINIKON-ARGYROUPOLI	KARVOUNIS	CONFERENCE-LAUNCH OF THE CITY NETWORK "SUSTAINABLE CITY"	64
4	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	13 MARCH	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	KARVOUNIS	MEETING-LAUNCH OF THE CITY NETWORK OF ANCIENT ASKLEPION	9
5	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	17 MARCH	EGTC AMFIKTYONY	KARVOUNIS	MEETING-GENERAL ASSEMBLY	29
6	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	27 MARCH	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINNING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	29
7	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	30 MARCH	EGTC EFXINI POLI	KARVOUNIS	MEETING-GENERAL ASSEMBLY	31
8	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	3 APRIL	MUNICIPALITY OF PERISTERI	KARVOUNIS	LAUNCH OF A LIFE PROJECT	45
9	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES, CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS	3 APRIL	MINISTRY OF CULTURE	KARVOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON CREATIVE EUROPE	76
10	IOANNINA	IPEIROS	NATIONAL, LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES, NGOs, RESEARCH INSTITUTES	11 MAY	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT	KARVOUNIS	2nd EUSAIR FORUM	555

11	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL&REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	13 MAY	UNION OF GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE MUNICIPALITIES 'KLEISTHENIS'	KARVOUNIS	4TH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS FORUM	50
12	MYTILINI	NORTH AEGEAN	CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS	28 JULY	CREATIVE EUROPE DESK	KARVOUNIS	MEETING OF CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS	97
13	ARGYROUPOLI	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITY	4 OCTOBER	MUNICIPALITY OF ELLINIKO-ARGYROUPOLI	KARVOUNIS	PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME I	15
14	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, UNIVERSITIES	29 NOVEMBER	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	TRAINING COURSE ON SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL	23
							TOTAL	1180

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2014-2020- ECP GREECE- EVENTS & PARTICIPANTS 2018

NUMBER OF EVENTS	CITY	REGION	TARGET GROUP	DATE	ORGANISERS	MODERATOR/ECP REPRESENTATIVE	TYPE OF EVENT (meetings, workshops, conferences and training courses)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	31 JANUARY	EGTC AMPHICTYONI & REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ATTIKI	KARYOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE	27
2	ATHENS	ATTIKI	STUDENTS/RESEARCHERS OF CULTURAL MANAGEMENT	5 MARCH	PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES	KARYOUNIS	MEETING ON EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES	24
3	ATHENS	ATTIKI	STUDENTS/RESEARCHERS OF REGIONAL POLICY	8 MARCH	PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES	KARYOUNIS	MEETING ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS	18
4	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	15 MARCH	STATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOUNDATION (IKY) - NCP ERASMUS+	KARYOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES AND EDUCATION	147
5	PATRAS	WESTERN GREECE	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	16 MARCH	MINISTRY OF CULTURE	KARYOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON CREATIVE EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES	43
6	TAVROS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	26 MARCH	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & SELF GOVERNMENT	KARYOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON SMART CITIES	26
7	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	28 MARCH	EGTC AMPHICTYONI	KARYOUNIS	MEETING ON TERRITORIAL COOPERATION	18
8	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	4 MAY	EGTCs' CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE OF EUROPE DEBATE	KARYOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE	104
9	TRIKALA	THESSALY	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	24 MAY	MINISTRY OF CULTURE	KARYOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON EU PROGRAMMES	51
10	TAVROS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	6 JUNE	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & SELF GOVERNMENT	KARYOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON EU PROGRAMMES	23
11	TAVROS	ATTIKI	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	27 JUNE	MINISTRY OF INTERIOR/ ECP GREECE	KARYOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON EUROPE FOR CITIZENS	66
12	TAVROS	ATTIKI	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	10 JULY	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & SELF GOVERNMENT	KARYOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON EU PROGRAMMES	17
13	SERRES	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	11 SEPTEMBER	MUNICIPALITY OF SERRES	KARYOUNIS	MEETING ON THE 'European Decades' PROJECT	34
14	IRAKLIO-MILOPOTAMOS	CRETE	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	12 OCTOBER	EGTC AMPHICTYONI, REGION OF CRETE & MUNICIPALITY OF MILOPOTAMOS	KARYOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE	39
15	NEAPOLI THESSALONIKIS	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	30 NOVEMBER	EGTC ELICAS	KARYOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE	34
							TOTAL	709

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2014-2020- ECP GREECE- EVENTS & PARTICIPANTS 2019

NUMBER OF EVENTS	CITY	REGION	TARGET GROUP	DATE	ORGANISERS	MODERATOR/ECP REPRESENTATIVE	TYPE OF EVENT (meetings, workshops, conferences and training courses)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1	ATHENS	ATTIKI	STUDENTS OF NATIONAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & SELF GOVERNMENT	8 JANUARY	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & SELF GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT	11
2	ATHENS	ATTIKI	GOVERNMENT, LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	14 JANUARY	NATIONAL CENTRE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & SELF GOVERNMENT	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT	14
3	LIVADEIA	STEREAS ELLADAS	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	27 FEBRUARY	MINISTRY OF CULTURE/CREATIVE EUROPE DESK	KARVOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON CREATIVE EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES	64
4	ATHENS	ATTIKI	STUDENTS	21 MARCH	PANTEION UNIVERSITY	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON EU PROGRAMMES	16
5	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	STUDENTS	23 MARCH	HELLENIC OPEN UNIVERSITY	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON EU PROGRAMMES	17
6	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	29 MARCH	EGTC AMPHICTYONI	KARVOUNIS	MEETING ON TERRITORIAL COOPERATION	13
7	MYTILINI	NORTH AEGEAN	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	16 APRIL	MINISTRY OF CULTURE/CREATIVE EUROPE DESK	KARVOUNIS	CONFERENCE ON CREATIVE EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES	13
8	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	21 JUNE	KLEISTHENIS-UNION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON EU PROGRAMMES	17
9	PIRAEUS	ATTIKI	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	12 JULY	KLEISTHENIS-UNION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON EU PROGRAMMES	19
10	PEFKI	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITY & CSO	7 OCTOBER	MUNICIPALITY OF PEFKI-LIKOVRISI	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON TOWN-TWINNINGS	64
11	ATHENS	ATTIKI	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	27 NOVEMBER	EGTC AMPHICTYONI	KARVOUNIS	MEETING ON TERRITORIAL COOPERATION	48
12	EGALEO	ATTIKI	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	13 DECEMBER	KLEISTHENIS-UNION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON EU PROGRAMMES	33
13	THESSALONIKI	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	LOCAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES & CSO	19 DECEMBER	KLEISTHENIS-UNION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES	KARVOUNIS	WORKSHOP ON TOWN-TWINNINGS & CITY NETWORKS	19
							TOTAL	331

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ VII

ΕΚΘΕΣΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΟΥ ΕΛΕΓΧΟΥ ΣΤΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΕΠΑΦΗΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ 2016

AUDITOR'S FINAL REPORT ON THE ACTION GRANT- EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

MANAGED BY: HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

DECISION NO. 2016-0363/001-001

AUDITED PERIOD:
1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2016

AUDIT FIELDWORK: 11 OCTOBER 2018

5 JUNE 2019

This report was prepared at the request of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

The views expressed herein are those of the auditor and do not represent any official view of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Audit reports are property of the contracting authority and should be treated as confidential information. The contractor should not disclose, directly or indirectly, confidential information or documents to any third parties other than to the audited organisation without the prior written consent of the contracting au

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PART I - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background to the Audit

In connection with the Framework Contract for Financial Audits 2016-AUDFWC-01 M5, dated 8 June 2016, we have audited the financial statements as set out in the table below submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency by Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior (the "Beneficiary"). The audit was carried out on 11 October at the offices of the Beneficiary in Athens, Greece.

Specific Decision	2016-0363/001-001	**Cost claimed**
Period audited	1 January to 31 December 2016	**Euro**
	Total per financial report	€ 25,000.00

We carried out an audit of the Final Financial Report which was submitted by the Beneficiary in respect of those expenses incurred. We further reviewed the extent of compliance of the Beneficiary with the various general and specific conditions of the Specific Decision.

Only those transactions and systems of the Beneficiary relating to the Specific Decision, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016 were subject to audit.

1.1.1 Summary of Executive Agency Funding Instalments

Details of the Executive Agency funding instalments (and/or recovery orders) received by the Beneficiary for the Specific Decision were as follows:

Payment date	Amount
24 March 2016	20,000.00
23 February 2017	5,000.00
Total	**€ 25,000.00**

2. TABLE OF FINAL ELIGIBLE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The amounts claimed by the Beneficiary and the adjustments required to the costs previously and provisionally accepted by the Executive Agency are summarised below:

Specific Decision 2016-0363/001-001 - Europe for Citizens Desk Greece						
Period examined: 1 January to 31 December 2016	Initial Budget (A)	Final Report (B)	Audit Findings (C)	Eligible expenditure identified by the auditor (D) = (B) + (C)	Accepted by Executive Agency (E)	Adjustments arising from audit findings (F) = (D) - (E)
EXPENSES	€	€	€	€	€	€
Lump sum	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
Total	€ 25,000.00	€ 25,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 25,000.00	€ 25,000.00	€ 0.00
	Initial Budget (A)	Final Report (B)	Audit Findings (C)	Eligible expenditure identified by the auditor (D) = (B) + (C)	Accepted by Executive Agency (E)	Adjustments arising from audit findings (F) = (D) - (E)
INCOME	€	€	€	€	€	€
Executive Agency Funding (100%)	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
Total	€ 25,000.00	€ 25,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 25,000.00	€ 25,000.00	€ 0.00

3. AUDIT OPINION

3.1 Financial control

We have audited the Final Financial Report submitted to the Executive Agency by the Beneficiary, in respect of Specific Decision No. 2016-0363/001-001 for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016, totalling € 25,000.00.

Our audit objectives and audit scope are described in section III.6 and 7. The respective responsibilities of the beneficiary and of the auditors are set out in section III.8.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing which concern Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information and in accordance with the basic principles and concepts of the International Framework for Assurance Engagements established by the IFAC for the performance of this audit insofar these standards can be usefully applied in this financial audit and in its specific compliance context. We included such tests and controls as we considered necessary so as to achieve the audit objectives as set out in the Tender Specifications. Our sample resulted in testing of 100 % of the costs claimed for the Specific Decision.

We planned and performed our audit in order to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the expenses claimed by the grant beneficiary were free of any material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraud. For the purpose of determining material misstatement, we have applied a materiality threshold of 2% of the total expenditure amount for the project of € 500.00. The audit included examining evidence on a test basis in support of the expenditure claimed. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. A detailed description of this basis and our audit methodology is set out in section III.9.

In our opinion, expenditure claimed by Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior of € 25,000.00, properly reflects the eligible expenditure for the period and was incurred by the grant beneficiary in accordance with the contractual rules and obligations.

We recommend that the Executive Agency should recover € nil in respect of Specific Decision No. 2016-0363/001-001 as calculated below:

	€
Amount claimed	**€ 25,000.00**
N/A - No Management Audit Findings	(0.00)
Amount considered eligible by Moore Stephens	**€ 25,000.00**
Executive Agency funding contribution (lower of € 0.00 and 100% of total eligible costs)	**€ 25,000.00**
Funding instalments received to date	(25,000.00)
Amount recoverable	**€ 0.00**

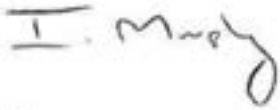
3.2 *Systematic nature of the identified errors and irregularities*

No such errors or irregularities were noted.

3.3 *Management control*

We have tested the management control and contractual compliance systems governing the operation of Decision No. 2016-0363/001-001. Subject to the Management Audit Finding raised, in our opinion the procedures and internal controls set up by Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior provided for adequate financial management of the operating activities, operated satisfactorily and were in agreement with the legal/contractual basis of the activities. They also provided reasonable assurance for the prevention and detection of errors, irregularities and fraud.

Ian Murphy



Partner

5 June 2019

This report was prepared at the request of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

The views expressed herein are those of the independent auditor and do not represent any official view of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

PART II - INTRODUCTION

4. INFORMATION ON THE BENEFICIARY

4.1 Brief description of the beneficiary and the project

The Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior is a public, not-for profit institution based in Athens, Greece. ECP Greece provides the following services:

(a) Dissemination of printed material

A basic tool for the different events were the publications for the dissemination of the programme: leaflets, newsletters, books, posters and booklets, designed in accordance to the standards set by the European Commission, describing in more details the strands of the programme.

(b) Information notes (circulars) on Programme's developments and deadlines

ECP issued two informative notes, providing the potential beneficiaries (mostly Municipalities, Regions, Universities, European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation, National and Regional Unions of local authorities, NGOs) with basic information about the main strands and the recent developments of the programme.

(c) Daily provision of advice and personal networking

Inquiries were received and answered by phone - mostly from municipalities - and hosting meetings and appointments at the Beneficiary premises with potential applicants, in order to clarify technical issues and to identify the proper partners with the aid of the other ECPs.

(d) Presentations of the Programme

The programme was presented during conferences organised, not only by the Beneficiary, but also by other stakeholders (i.e. municipalities, ECPs from other European Programmes) which cover issues such as territorial cohesion, culture, youth, sport and cross-border cooperation.

(e) Regular udpate of the ECP's website

On a daily basis, the material put on the website were updated, especially the sections dedicated to the partner searches, the programme's annual priorities and the schedule of the events in which the ECP takes part.

(f) *Training Sessions*

The training sessions were one of the main tools used to provide the beneficiaries with the necessary technical expertise in order to plan, implement and manage projects co-funded by the Programme. The National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government, the European Groupings of Terriotorial Cooperation and the Regional Unions of Municipalities provide the environment to ensure a balanced geographical distribution of the information and expertise about the Programme. Representatives from municipalities, regions, universities and other bodies from the central government from all parts of Greece compose the main audience of these workshops. Apart from the presentation of the Programme, the participants had the chance to work in groups, plan a project and fill in application forms.

(g) *Co-operation with ECPs of other European Programmes*

A working relationship was maintained with all the ECPs of the other EU Programmes (ERASMUS, Creative Europe, Horizon 2020) which leads to joint participation in info days and trainning seminars.

4.2 *Contact details*

Contact details for the beneficiary are as set out below:

AUDITED ORGANISATION	
Name:	Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior
Acronym:	YPES
Address:	Stadiou 27, 101 83, Athens, Greece
Telephone number (of contact person):	+30 213 1364710
Fax :	+30 213 1364713
Email:	a.karvounis@ypes.gr
Signatory to the Specific Decision	Antonis Karvounis

4.3 *Legal status*

Hellenic Republic Ministry Of Interior is a public entity, not-for profit institution based in Athens, Greece. It is a Ministry and is subject to Greek public law. It was incorporated in 2017 with national registration number 090056250.

5. INFORMATION ON OPERATING ACTIVITIES

5.1 *Duration*

The following tables summarise the key base data relating to the grant subject to audit:

AUDITED SPECIFIC DECISION	
Specific Decision number:	2016-0363/001-001
Programme:	Europe For Citizens
Type of Specific Decision:	Action
Period of entire Specific Decision:	1 January to 31 December 2016
Amendments:	Amendment No. 1 dated 19 December 2016: Alteration of the legal representative to Panagiotis Skourletis.
Reporting requirements:	Final Report to be submitted by 28 February 2017

5.2 *Budget*

The total budget in respect of the operating activities amounted to € 25,000.00 (please see table in the Executive Summary for details). The action grant was a lump sum.

5.3 *Bank Account*

The bank account used to receive the funding instalments from the Executive Agency was Bank of Greece account number GR5801000230000000000200542 and account holder Ministry of Finance, see below:

BANK ACCOUNT	
Nature of account used:	Current account
Interest bearing:	No
Name of bank:	Bank of Greece
Account number:	GR5801000230000000000200542

PART III - AUDIT OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

6. AUDIT OBJECTIVES

In connection with the Framework Contract for Financial Audits 2016-AUDFWC-01 M5, dated 8 June 2016, we have audited the Final Financial Report submitted to the Executive Agency by the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior in respect of the following Specific Decision:

Specific Decision	2016-0363/001-001	Cost claimed
Period audited	1 January to 31 December 2016	Euro
	Total per financial report	€ 25,000.00

The overall objectives of our financial and compliance audit of operating expenditure and income were to:

- verify the eligibility of the costs declared;
- verify the proper recording of any receipts and income;
- verify compliance with the provisions of the contract;
- verify the correct use of Community funds in accordance with the rules under which they were awarded to the beneficiary.

The principle sources of information and guidance to which we have referred to identify the prevailing contracted terms, conditions and their interpretations are:

- Framework partnership decision for action grants No 2014-0496/001-001 dated 13 June 2014;
- Europe For Citizens Programme Guide 2014;
- Specific Decision and annexes dated 11 March 2016; and
- Amendment No. 1 dated 19 December 2016.

No performance assessment objectives are listed in this report, because they are out of the scope of this audit report.

7. AUDIT SCOPE

Our audit examined the Final Financial Report submitted and the relevant supporting documentation. The amounts and percentages of expenditure audited were as follows:

Specific Decision	2016-0363/001-001		
Total expenditure claimed (€)	Reporting period dates (from 1 January to 31 December 2016)		
	Final Report (€)	Amount audited (€)	Audited %
Lump sum	25,000.00	25,000.00	100 %
Total	€ 25,000.00	€ 25,000.00	100 %

8. RESPONSIBILITIES OF BENEFICIARY AND AUDITORS AND BASIS OF OPINION

8.1 Responsibility of the Beneficiary for the Financial Statements

The Beneficiary is responsible for the fair preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Specific Decision and to maintain adequate accounting records and documentation to support and justify the costs reported. The Beneficiary is also responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

8.2 Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion, based on our audit, on the financial statements of the above mentioned Specific Decision only as to whether the costs have been properly incurred and are eligible costs, as defined under the Specific Decision.

8.3 Basis of Opinion

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Agency those matters we are required to state in our auditor's report and for no other purpose. We are thus responsible solely to the Agency for our work and the opinion we have formed. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility and do not accept any liability to anyone other than the Agency who may have access to this report or into whose hands this report may come unless such responsibility has been expressly accepted.

Our work is not designed specifically to identify incidences of fraud. Accordingly, fraud may occur and not be detected. We have nevertheless obtained representations made by the Beneficiary in relation to the authenticity and completeness of the supporting documentation provided to us.

Our audit work in assessing the necessity and relevance of costs incurred for the implementation of a project is limited to verifying, to the extent that we are qualified and able to, that those costs have been incurred solely for the intended purpose of the Specific Decision. This normally implies verifying that specific costs are provided for in the budget proposals sent to the Agency prior to Specific Decision signature (or otherwise reflected and prescribed within the project technical specifications as set out in Annex I to the Specific Decision or authorised by the Agency during the lifetime of the project) and that those costs when actually incurred are processed, validated and approved within an accounting system and related internal control structure of the Beneficiary that would respect the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness ("sound financial management").

Our audit work relating to the certification, that costs are economic, is limited to the extent that we are able and qualified to:

- verify that claimed costs are incurred in line with the usual administrative and management practices of the Beneficiary;
- assess whether these costs, in pure monetary terms, are evidently extravagant or unreasonable as defined within the Specific Decision terms and conditions.

We did not carry out a value for money or performance audit. This assignment scope is in the nature of a contract financial compliance audit.

9. AUDIT METHODOLOGY

We conducted our audit taking into account the provisions of the audited Specific Decision and other relevant documentation as summarised Part III (6) and in accordance with International Standards on Auditing as they are applicable in relation to the scope of this engagement. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit engagement involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances relevant for the scope of this engagement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control as a whole. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used for the preparation of the financial statements as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Our audit comprised assessing whether the amounts of the eligible costs declared in the financial statements comply with the following cumulative conditions:

- they are actual;
- they have been incurred by the Beneficiary during the duration of the project and in the financial periods audited;
- they have been determined in accordance with the usual accounting and management principles and practices of the Beneficiary;
- they have been used for the sole purpose of achieving the objectives of the project and its expected results, in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
- they have been recorded in the accounts of the Beneficiary;
- they are substantiated by supporting documentation;
- they are exclusive of any ineligible costs established in the Specific Decision and/or other governing documentation.

Our audit further comprised:

- assessing that receipts are properly reflected in accordance with the terms of the Specific Decision and/or other governing documentation; and
- assessing whether the total amount of the interest yielded by the pre-financing received from the Agency for the period covered by the financial statements (if applicable), has been accounted for correctly and completely.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient with respect to the objectives relevant for our engagement and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

	Opening Meeting	Closing Meeting
Date	11 October 2018	11 October 2018
Location	27 Stadiou, 101 83, Athens, Greece	
Audit team	Eleni Vasili, Auditor	Eleni Vasili, Auditor
	Dimitris Farantos, Auditor	Dimitris Farantos, Auditor
Beneficiary's Staff	Yiannis Mathioudakis, Manager of EC Affairs	Yiannis Mathioudakis, Manager of EC Affairs
	Antonis Karvounis, Project Manager	Antonis Karvounis, Project Manager

At the audit opening meeting we ascertained the duties of the key staff employed on the project activities and obtained an explanation of the financial procedures in place. We then outlined our objectives in respect of the audit and the work that we would be seeking to complete.

Based on our assessment of financial controls in place, we aimed to substantively test between 70 - 100% of total expenditure claimed. For this Specific Decision, we substantively tested 100% of the total expenditure claimed. We checked compliance with contractual rules and any special or general conditions in the Specific Decision. We checked individual amounts claimed as recorded in the accounting records against original supporting invoices and documentation.

We presented our Financial and Management Audit Findings and explained them to the Beneficiary and to the Executive Agency staff member (when applicable) during the audit, obtaining the beneficiary's comments on these findings at the same time.

PART IV - AUDIT RESULTS

10. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

We set out below a summary of the financial management systems established by the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior to control operating expenditure.

10.1 Accounting System

Accounting system	PSYPPODE
Date of implementation	2015
Accounting basis	Accruals
Reporting currency	EUR
Project/analytical accounting	Yes
Usual accounting practises/conventions	Greek public law

10.2 Filing Procedures

During the course of our audit we were presented with a total of 70 files consisting of all the supporting expenditure documentation, copyright agreements and bank statements.

10.3 Time recording system

Time recording system	Not applicable
Product name	-
Date of implementation	-
Integrated with accounting system	-
Certification by designed officer	-

10.4 Supporting Documentation

All the expenses sampled were supported by invoices or other primary evidence. We were provided with all the documentation required to support the expenses claimed.

10.5 Audit Trail and Accounting

The Final Financial Reports contained detailed supporting schedules which listed out the individual expense items making up the operating expenses being claimed. From these schedules we were able to trace back to the underlying supporting invoices which were ordered in a separate file. In addition, we were able to trace the expenses into the general ledger of the Beneficiary.

The Beneficiary has used the correct exchange rates as required by the contract terms and conditions.

10.6 *Cash and bank management*

The bank accounts used to receive the funding instalments from the Executive Agency were as noted in section 5.3 of this report. Payment of the expenditure claimed in the Final Financial Report was made from these accounts. This bank account was not interest bearing.

10.7 *VAT Status*

Hellenic Republic Ministry Of Interior is VAT registered. VAT is not applicable for lump sum grants.

10.8 *Purchases and Payments*

From our review of project documentation and based upon our discussions with Antonis Karvounis (Project Manager) we ascertained that the following procedures were carried out prior to making a payment.

Purchases are being initiated according to Law 4412/2016 for public procurement contracts. For purchases a service memo or a public invitation is initiated by the Procurement Directorate (uploaded on the Central Electronic Public Procurement Registry (KHMDHS) website, for amounts exceeding 1,000.00 euros). A sponsor is selected who presents valid supporting documents, as required, and the most economically advantageous offer and an application is raised for the approval of the amount. The invoice received is checked for consistency with the application.

In accordance with Joint Ministerial Decision No 134453/2015 (B' 2857), payments of expenditures incurred under the Public Investment Programme - PIP, a competent financial service is designated by the central administration as the manager responsible to make payments. Payments are made on the basis of the required supporting documents being provided. The competent financial service is responsible for validating the expenditure as well as for issuing and executing the payment order.

While the segregation of duties is not limited due to the number of staff employed by the Beneficiary; overall we concluded that the system for managing the payment of operating costs was satisfactory.

10.9 *Indirect Costs Flat Rate*

In accordance with the contractual provisions, the beneficiary was not entitled to recover indirect costs at a fixed flat rate of all direct costs as claimed.

We have verified that the Beneficiary did not claim any indirect costs.

10.10 *Co-Beneficiaries*

No partners/co-beneficiaries were involved in the implementation of the action.

11. SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

No financial audit findings were raised.

PART V - FINANCIAL AUDIT FINDINGS

No financial audit findings were raised.

PART VI - MANAGEMENT AUDIT FINDINGS

No management audit findings were raised.

Annex I

Supporting documents to any financial findings

Not applicable.

Annex II

Analysis of personnel costs

Not applicable

Annex III

Audit certificate(s)

Not applicable

Annex IV

Beneficiary Comments *(Letter of representation)*

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Tuesday, 11 December 2018

Ian Murphy
Partner
International Funding Institutions Team
Moore Stephens LLP
150 Aldersgate Street
London EC1A 4AB
United Kingdom

Subject: Audit project no. 2018-0363/001-001
Ref: Contradictory Procedure – EACEA-BMS 61-01/C1

Draft Auditor's Report – 16 November 2018

Dear Mr. Murphy

Referring to your email on 29 November 2018, I confirm I have read the above-mentioned draft auditor's report and have the following comments:

1. F No. 1: [Final Technical Report' instead of 'Financial Report']

In several sections of the text (pages 3, 5, 10, 11, 15, 16) the report makes reference to 'financial report' instead of 'Final Technical Report', since 'financial report' is not provided by the Grant Decision. As a matter of fact, in Europe for Citizens programme the grants are calculated on the basis of lump sum financing system. So, the term 'financial report' should be replaced by the 'Final Technical Report' in the whole text of the report.

2. F No. 2: [Correction of the title of Table 2]

The right title of the Table 2 (p.4) is as such: 'Specific Decision 2018-0363/001-001 – Europe for Citizens Desk Greece'

3. F No. 3: [Correction of key staff duties]

We hereafter correct in bold the right duties of the key staff of ECP-Greece

	Opening Meeting	Closing Meeting
Date	11 October 2018	11 October 2018

10 December 2018

Location	27 Stadiou, 101 83, Athens, Greece	
Audit team	Eleni Vasili, Auditor	Eleni Vasili, Auditor
	Dimitris Farantos, Auditor	Dimitris Farantos, Auditor
Beneficiary's Staff	Yiannis Mathioudakis, **Head of Independent Department of International and European Relations, Ministry of Interior**	Yiannis Mathioudakis, **Head of Independent Department of International and European Relations, Ministry of Interior**
	Antonis Karvounis, **Project Manager of ECP Expert of Independent Department of International and European Relations, Ministry of Interior**	Antonis Karvounis, **Project Manager of ECP Expert of Independent Department of International and European Relations, Ministry of Interior**

Kind Regards,

Athens, 11 December 2018

I. MATHIOUDAKIS
Head of the Independent Department
Of International and European Relations
Hellenic Republic
Ministry of Interior

Page 2 of 2

Ψηφιακά υπογεγραμμένο από ATHINA PAPANIKOLAOU
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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

Αθήνα,18 Απριλίου 2019
Α.Π. 29688

ΑΥΤΟΤΕΛΕΣ ΤΜΗΜΑ ΔΙΕΘΝΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΣΧΕΣΕΩΝ
Ταχ. Δ/νση : Ευαγγελιστρίας 2
Ταχ. Κώδικας: 10563, Αθήνα
Πληροφορίες: Δρ.Αντώνιος Καρβούνης
Τηλέφωνο: 2131381114
Φαξ: 2131381152
E-mail: a.karvounis@ypes.gr

Προς:
BDO LLP
E-mail: alexander.martins-craig@bdo.co.uk

ΘΕΜΑ: *Προσχέδιο έκθεσης οικονομικού ελέγχου του υπ'αριθ.* **BMS61-07 - 2016-0363** *έργου του Εθνικού Σχεδίου Εταιρίας 'Εκρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2014-2020'*
ΣΧΕΤ: Το από 9-4-2019 ηλεκτρονικό μήνυμα της Εταιρίας Ορκωτών BDO LLP

Σε απάντηση του ανωτέρω ηλεκτρονικού μηνύματος, αναφορικά με το εν θέματι αντικείμενο, σας γνωρίζω ως νόμιμος εκπρόσωπος του δικαιούχου οργανισμού ότι το Ελληνικό Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών δεν ελάβε οποιαδήποτε χρηματοδότηση από άλλο φορέα της Ελληνικής Κυβέρνησης αλλά από άλλο οργανισμό, προκειμένου να υποστηριζει την υλοποίηση των δράσεων που περιγράφηκαν στο Παράρτημα Ι της υπ' αριθ. 2016-0363/001-001 Συμφωνίας Επιδότησης. Αυτό περιλαμβάνει και την εξαίρεση των πραγματικών δαπανών κατά άλλων κατ' αποκοπή συνεισφορών.

Παραμένουμε στη διάθεσή σας για περαιτέρω πληροφορίες και διευκρινίσεις.

Ο ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ ΧΑΡΙΤΣΗΣ

Ψηφιακή μόνιμη 'ΠΕΔΑ' με UID: 5cb8234e8bb20f71ca222dbe8 στις 18/04/19 15:25
1

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
2, Evangelistrias Str., 10563 Athens
Contact: Dr.Antonios Karvounis
Tel: +30 213 136 1114
Fax: +30 213 136 1152
E-mail: a.karvounis@ypes.gr

Athens, 18 April 2019
Prot.Number:29604

To:
BDO LLP
E-mail: alexander.martins-craig@bdo.co.uk

Subject: BMS61-07 - 2016-0363 - draft report for ECP GREECE
Ref: The 9th of April 2019 dated e-mail of BDO LLP

In answer to the above e-mail, regarding the Grant Agreement 2016-0363/001-001, as the legal representative of ECP Greece, I declare that the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Interior did not receive any other sources of funding from neither the Greek Government nor any other organisation, in order to support the implementation of the activities as outlined in Annex I to Grant Agreement 2016-0363/001-001. This includes the reimbursement of the actual costs incurred and/or other lump sum contributions.

We remain at your disposal for any further information and clarifications.

THE MINISTER

ALEXANDROS CHARITSIS

Διαπιστωμένο κείμενο "SPELLA" με UID: 5cb82154a8bb2087ca2228ae6 στις 18/04/19 15:21
2

ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ VIII

ΤΑ ΕΝΤΥΠΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΗΜΕΙΟΥ ΕΠΑΦΗΣ

efc.ypes.gr

ΕΥΡΩΠΗ για τους ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ 2014-2020

Τίτλος: Άννες Θερμάνου

Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΥΓΚΡΟΤΗΣΗΣ

Το έργο συγχρηματοδοτείται από την Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή και το Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών και Διοικητικής Ανασυγκρότησης

ΕΥΡΩΠΗ για τους ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ 2014-2020

✓ Αδελφοποίηση πόλεων

✓ Ευρωπαϊκή μνήμη

✓ Έργα της κοινωνίας των πολιτών

✓ Δίκτυα πόλεων

✓ Δημοκρατική συμμετοχή

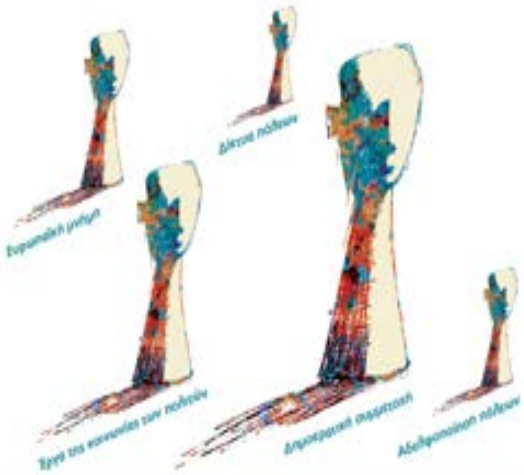
Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή

ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ

2014-2020

ΝΑ ΕΝΕΡΓΟΠΟΙΕΙΣΑΙ

ΕΥΡΩΠΗ για τους ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ 2014-2020



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Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες

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ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΔΙΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗΣ

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ΑΝΤΑΓΩΝΙΣΤΙΚΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΑ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ 2014-2020

Η Διατομεακή Προσέγγιση

Αθήνα 2014

ΑΝΤΑΓΩΝΙΣΤΙΚΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΑ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ 2014-2020 Η Διατομεακή Προσέγγιση

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

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ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ Ι

Οι Αδελφοποιήσεις των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2006-2016

Αθήνα 2016

ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ Ι Οι Αδελφοποιήσεις των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2006-2016

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ ΙΙ

Τα Διεθνή Δίκτυα Πόλεων των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2006-2016

Αντώνης Καρβούνης (επιμ.)

Αθήνα 2017

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ ΙΙ - Τα Διεθνή Δίκτυα Πόλεων των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2006-2016

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ III - Οι Ευρωπαϊκοί Όμιλοι Εδαφικής Συνεργασίας (ΕΟΕΣ) των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2007-2017

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

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ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ III

Οι Ευρωπαϊκοί Όμιλοι Εδαφικής Συνεργασίας (ΕΟΕΣ) των Ελληνικών Δήμων, 2007-2017

Αντώνης Καρβούνης

Αθήνα 2017

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ IV - Η Πολιτιστική Διπλωματία των Διεθνών Δικτύων Πόλεων

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ IV

Η Πολιτιστική Διπλωματία των Διεθνών Δικτύων Πόλεων

Αντώνης Καρβούνης

Αθήνα 2017

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ IV - Η Πολιτιστική Διπλωματία των Διεθνών Δικτύων Πόλεων

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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Η Πολιτιστική Διπλωματία των Διεθνών Δικτύων Πόλεων

Αντώνης Καρβούνης

β΄αναθεωρημένη &
εμπλουτισμένη έκδοση

Αθήνα 2018

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ V - Η Γαλάζια Διπλωματία των Διεθνών Δικτύων Πόλεων

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ V

Η Γαλάζια Διπλωματία των Διεθνών Δικτύων Πόλεων

Αντώνης Καρβούνης

Αθήνα 2017

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ VI – Η Πράσινη Διπλωματία των Διεθνών Δικτύων Πόλεων

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών

ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΕΠΑΦΗΣ
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ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΛΕΩΝ VI

Η Πράσινη Διπλωματία των Διεθνών Δικτύων Πόλεων

Αντώνης Καρβούνης

Αθήνα 2019

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ - ΕΥΡΩΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΣ 2007-2013 - Η Ελληνική Συμμετοχή

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

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Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες, 2007-2013

Η Ελληνική Συμμετοχή
Αντώνης Καρβούνης (επιμ.)

Αθήνα 2017

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΟΙ ΟΜΙΛΟΙ ΕΔΑΦΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ (ΕΟΕΣ) - Θεσμικό Πλαίσιο, Εθνική και Ευρωπαϊκή Εμπειρία

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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Θεσμικό Πλαίσιο, Εθνική και Ευρωπαϊκή Εμπειρία

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Αθήνα 2017

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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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Αντώνης Καρβούνης (επιμ.)

Αθήνα 2017

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ ΔΙΕΘΝΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΑ ΘΕΜΑΤΑ ΤΟΠΙΚΗΣ ΑΥΤΟΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΗΣ ΙΙ

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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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Αντώνης Καρβούνης (επιμ.)

Αθήνα 2017

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Αθήνα 2017

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Αντώνης Καρβούνης (επιμ.)

Αθήνα 2018

Η Ποιότητα της Δημόσιας Διοίκησης

Μια Εργαλειοθήκη για τους Επαγγελματίες της Δημόσιας Διοίκησης

β΄ αναθεωρημένη και εμπλουτισμένη έκδοση

Μετάφραση-Επιμέλεια Κειμένου: **Αντώνης Καρβούνης**

Η Ποιότητα της Δημόσιας Διοίκησης

Μια Εργαλειοθήκη για τους Επαγγελματίες της Δημόσιας Διοίκησης

Επιμέλεια Κειμένου-Συντονιστής Μεταφραστικής Ομάδας: **Αντώνης Καρβούνης**

Με την υποστήριξη του **Διοικητικού Επιμελητηρίου-Ομίλου Διοικητικών Επιστημόνων**

Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες

Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση του Ευρωπαϊκού Προγράμματος "Ευρώπη για τους Πολίτες"