

The project «Communities Driving Change» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"

Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

Preparatory activities: the activities involved 9 participants.

Location / Dates: Online, on the 26-05-2021 and the 10-06-2021.

Short description: Initial project preparation and needed adjustments considering the covid-19 situation. Preparatory Meeting on the 26-05-2021 and Start Up Meeting 10-06-2021 involving members from all 4 Partner Organizations (Contextos - Cooperativa para o Desenvolvimento e Coesão Social, CRL - PORTUGAL; United Societies of Balkans - GREECE; Asociacija Aktyvus Jaunimas - LITHUANIA; Asociatia Centrul Pentru Strategii de Dezvoltare a Tineretului - ROMANIA). Topics: Project timeline and implementation plan; Project communication and dissemination; Activities planning; Activities Agreement; DEOR Workshop; Mechanisms for Participation. Approaches & Methods: E-mail communication; Google DRIVE and Docs for repository and collaboration tools.

Events:

5 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1 - LAUNCHING EVENTS

Participation: The event involved 62 citizens, including 14 participants from the city of Faro (**Portugal**), 17 participants from the city of Kaunas (**Lithuania**), 13 participants from the city of Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and 18 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Faro (**Portugal**), Kaunas (**Lithuania**), Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and Timisoara (**Romania**), from 28/06/2021 to 29/09/2021. Additional project presentations in Oradea - Romania, and Italy, involved 27 participants more.

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and bring visibility to the project and to involve MEPs, citizens, representatives, media, and other relevant stakeholders, inviting them to participate in the project's activities.

Approaches & Methods: Non-formal education; Presentation of the project and participation mechanisms; Discussion about Participation, mechanisms, and the EU -Conversation Café, Focus Group, Roundtable, Participatory Gallery.

Event 2 – DEMOCRACY LABS

Participation: The event involved 317 citizens, including 106 participants from the city of Faro (**Portugal**), 71 participants from the city of Kaunas (**Lithuania**), 70 participants from the city of Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and 70 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Faro (**Portugal**), Kaunas (**Lithuania**), Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and Timisoara (**Romania**), from 19/08/2021 to 08/03/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to provide opportunity for citizens to learn more about the existing mechanisms for citizen participation and to present, share and debate their participation experiences at local, national and EU levels.

Approaches & Methods: Non-formal education; Privilege Walk; Every vote count; Presentation, sharing and discussing experiences of Participation and mechanisms at local/national/EU level - World Café, Focus group, Thematic tables, Participatory Video, Educational board game about Europe.

PUBLICATION: Toolkit "Why Does Participation Matter? A Guide to Citizen Engagement" - zenodo.org/record/7565586

Event 3 - INTERMEDIATE MEETING NR 1 + GATHERING OF OPINIONS & PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- INTERMEDIATE MEETING NR 1

Intermediate Meeting Nr 1 of the project Consortium. Online, on the 21/12/2021, involved 4 participants. Project progress evaluation; Planning next activities.

- GATHERING OF OPINIONS & PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Participation: The event involved 452 citizens, including 128 participants from the city of Faro (**Portugal**), 143 participants from the city of Kaunas (**Lithuania**), 105 participants from the city of Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and 109 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Faro (**Portugal**), Kaunas (**Lithuania**), Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and Timisoara (**Romania**), from 27/10/2021 to 21/12/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to listen and gather the opinions of citizens, and to promote the development of themes and action plans proposals.

Approaches & Methods: Presentation; Issues Mapping; Brainstorm; Ideas Generator; 5W2H; Image Theatre; Solution Tree; Discussion using Jamboard; Discussion tables; World Café; Online Focus Group; Survey; Action Plans; Letters to local policymakers.

Event 4 - DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC CAUSES + INTERMEDIATE MEETING NR2 + INFO SESSIONS

- DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC CAUSES

Treatment and analysis of the public causes and recommendations gathered during the previous events.

Approaches & Methods: Quantitative and qualitative treatment and analysis; Translation to English; Areas categorization.

PUBLICATION: "Communities Causes&Recommendations" - zenodo.org/record/7837914

National Versions were disseminated by each Partner.

- INTERMEDIATE MEETING NR2

Intermediate Meeting Nr 2 of the project Consortium. Online, on the 24/11/2022, involved 6 participants. Project progress evaluation; Planning next activities.

- INFO SESSIONS

Participation: The event involved 171 citizens, including 85 participants from the city of Faro (**Portugal**), 25+18* participants from the city of Kaunas (**Lithuania**), 28 participants from the city of Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and 33 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**). (*Note: statistics missing).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Faro (**Portugal**), Kaunas (**Lithuania**), Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and Timisoara (**Romania**), from 09/09/2022 to 31/03/2023.

Short description: The aim of the event was to present the results to local communities, stakeholders, and decision makers, and promote dialogue, contributing to increase civic participation in decision-making processes.

Approaches & Methods: Presentation of results; Debate and ideas for the future; Participatory video; Meetings with stakeholders and e-mails.

Event 5 - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE + FINAL MEETING

- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Participation: The event involved 52 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Faro (**Portugal**), 4 participants from the city of Kaunas (**Lithuania**), 41 participants from the city of Thessaloniki (**Greece**), and 4 participants from the city of Timisoara (**Romania**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Thessaloniki (**Greece**) on the 21/03/2023.

Short description: The aim of the event was to present the results, share ideas, and discuss the outcomes and ideas for the future.

Approaches & Methods: Study Visits; Thessaloniki's City Hall - Presentation of the project results; World Café Participation mechanisms in different countries /obstacles and opportunities for Participation /digital and in-person mechanisms pros and cons; Workshops; Talks; Networking questions.

- FINAL MEETING

Final Evaluation Meeting of the project Consortium, in Thessaloniki, Greece, on the 22/03/2023, involved 6 participants. Evaluation; Impact Assessment; Increasing dissemination; Sustainability; Future projects ideas.