

The project « EASY TOWNS 2.0 – Europe for Citizens, Democratic Engagement and Civic participation, Sub-action N/A, Project number 600964-CITIZ-1-2018-1-BE-CITIZ-NT, Grant Decision 20181312, Europe for Citizens 2.0 » 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"

5 International events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 41 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy), 4 participants from the city of Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium), 4 participants from the city of Pula (Croatia), 4 participants from the city of Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), 4 participants from the city of Arad (Romania), 3 participants from the city of Niepolomice (Poland), 3 participants from the city of L'Alfas del Pi, (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Rijeka (Croatia), 4 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Pforzheim (Germany), 4 participants from the city of Sentjur (Slovenia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in La Valetta, Malta, from 27/11/2018 to 30/11/2018.

Short description: The aim of the event was to focus on inclusion in the widest way. To explore how cultural heritage can contribute to inclusion in the debate and the policy-making process regarding diversity. Visiting Specialized Schools within the network of schools within the Schools of Art, Music and Drama (Malta and Gozo) offered a showcase to the kick-off of this project. Believing that the visual and performing arts are a good medium/tool to bring people together and create inclusive communities in the Maltese and Gozitan schools.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 45 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium), 4 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy), 4 participants from the city of La Valetta (Malta), 4 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Niepolomice (Poland), 4 participants from the city of L'Alfas del Pi (Spain), 8 participants from the city of Pula (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Arad (Romania), 2 participants from the city of Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), 4 participants of the city of Pforzheim (Germany), 4 participants of the city of Sentjur (Slovenia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Rijeka (Croatia) from 02/05/2019 to 05/05/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to pay a pre- "Rijeka 2020 European Capital of culture" visit to Rijeka. The whole program focused on a first taste of the festivities planned in "Rijeka 2020".

Like "Never mind the mainstream: surviving censorship, police repression (punk, graffiti), "Art in the public space: contemporary art installations, a new oasis of peace in the urban space of Rijeka), a place of meditation, prayer, introspection, open to everyone regardless of religion", "exhibitions", "Festival of foreign and Croatian music, experimental music, performance and art projects", "Festival of the European short story", "Festival of world music and gastronomy", "Communication workshops- panel on youth and independent publishing" (Antifascism, then and now", Concert of Partisan and Anti-fascist songs", "Cooking for the community"

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 33 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of La Valetta (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Pula (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), 3 participants from the city of Arad (Romania), 3 participants from the city of Niepolomice (Poland), 3 participants from the city of L'Alfas del Pi (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Rijeka (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 3 participants from Pforzheim (Germany), 3 participants from the city of Sentjur (Slovenia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Vicenza (Italy), from 24/10/2019 to 26/10/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to get to know each other in team building activities, to make a point and check what has been done so far in the framework of Easy Towns, to hold a public round table with local authorities, students and stakeholders on how to insert inclusion policies into cultural heritage preservation policies, to learn from a workshop on youth communication and languages, to be guided on a tour in Vicenza city center by local students and discover new paths in the city center by local associations

Event 4:

Participation: The 4th International Meeting / event should have been organized by Banska Bystrica (Slovakia) but this happened to be impossible. So, Niepolomice (Poland) took over. The total number of participants should have been 33 but because of the beginning of the war in Ukraine some partners did not feel like travelling. So 4 delegations took part with 12 participants in all. The event involved 13 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium), 2 participants from the city of La Valetta (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy), and 3 participants from the city of Sentjur (Slovenia).

UNESCO World Heritage List Dinner was taken in the old Jewish ghetto. And, of course, a deeply touching visit was paid to Auschwitz- Birkenau to confront young people with the fatal r

Event 5 FINAL MEETING:

Participation: The 5th and final meeting of EASY TOWNS involved 32 citizens, including: 4 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of La Valetta (Malta), 4 participants from the city of L'Alfas del Pi (Spain), 2 participants from the city of Rijeka (Croatia), 2 participants from the city of Sentjur (Slovenia), 3 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 3 participants from the city of Niepolomice (Poland), 3 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy), 1 participant from the city of Banska Bystrica (Slovakia) 2 participants from the city of Pforzheim (Germany) and 3 participants from the city of Pula (Croatia).

Location & Dates: The final event took place in Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium) from 25/09/2022 to 28/09/2022.

Short description: This final meeting was intended to present the "best practices and experiences" by the Easy Towns partners. The first day was devoted to "Arrival of the guests and Welcome". The second day was a day full of "Cultural heritage" in the course of which local activities and examples of inclusion were planned as well: a visit to the "multicultural" local market, a lunch at a school for vocational local school (GO! Atheneum) also offering dual training. A walk along cultural highlights and new accomplishments of Heist-op-den-Berg (all realized after a process of participation and focusing on inclusion, (open to everyone): the Sports Center, the new Swimming Pool, the recently restored Hnita Jazz Club, the Hof van Riemen (the oldest civic building in Heist), the new Academy of Arts and other local heritage highlights such as the Church Square, The Saint-Lambert's Church, The Town Hall, the famous "hill" of Heist-op-den-Berg. Ending with a multicultural dinner! And for those who were not too tired the film "Flee" the extraordinary journey of a child refugee from Afghanistan, Amin Nawabi. The third day was planned as "The day of Youth, Discrimination and Inclusion, Human Rights" starting with a workshop on art heritage and inclusion, a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Dossin Kazerne in Mechelen, a guided tour, a "human rights" walk around the former concentration camp "the National Memorial of the Fortress of Breendonk" A visit to an icecream atelier made in Heide Atelier" or children, work to young people with a brain damage. An interesting tour along initiatives for children and youth: Biekorfstraat, Averegeten, Hobbeldonk, Skatepark, Bio park... All built after a long participation circuit and open to all. Ending it all with an official reception at the town hall, with all politicians and administrators, collaborators in the project Easy Towns, ngo and school members, leaders of a gym club for handicapped, hosting families... The last project day was "A Day of Evaluation and General Conclusion".