

The project « European Union: common past, present and future for you» 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 Activity – EUCom4U Kick off meeting

Participation: The event involved **7 participants**, including

- 1 participant from the city of Potsdam (**Germany**),
- 1 participant from the city of Porto (**Portugal**),
- 1 participant from the city of Madrid (**Spain**),
- 1 participant from the city of Vilnius (**Lithuania**),
- 1 participant from the city of Rome (**Italy**),
- 2 participants from the city of Veliko Tarnovo (**Bulgaria**)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Sofia, Bulgaria**, from **06/11/2019 to 08/11/2019**.

Short description:

The aim of the preparatory activity was to gather representatives of all partners to exchange ideas, divide responsibilities and set a detailed project timeline. The target groups and events per partner countries were specified and reconfirmed. Additionally, proper research tools, the methodology were discussed and the programmes for the international events drafted. The partners drew up the lay-out of the project website & FB page, specified the impact indicators and agreed on the project ethical code and dissemination plan. The partners discussed and agreed on the accompanying events for each countries and discussed the preparation needed to be done. The partners also agreed the project logo, drafted by young person from Spain. At the end of the meeting, all partners (experienced and newcomers) achieved to clearly understand the transparent logistic of the activities to be implemented in the frame of the EUCom4U project. The budget regulation was thoroughly explained by the coordinator and partnership agreements were signed between EIC and each partner. The project evaluation strategy and working methods for the national teams were also approved.

6 international events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved **26 citizens**, including

- 4 participants from the city of Veliko Tarnovo (**Bulgaria**)
- 2 participants from the city of Rome (**Italy**)
- 3 participants from the city of Porto (**Portugal**)
- 17 participants from the city of Potsdam (**Germany**)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Potsdam, Germany**, from **09/09/2020 to 11/09/2020**.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to provide a space for open debate and sharing knowledge, analysis, and case studies to the participants for the major relevance in the dynamic 1989-1990. The 1990 German reunification and its importance for the UNITY in Europe was in the core of the discussion. The aim was also to give an open space for overcoming the national perceptions of the democratic revolutions of 80s by fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding of the historic facts from European perspective. University students, representatives of NGOs, stakeholders and journalists shared their finding on the fall of the Berlin wall and the German reunification. Oral story-telling and eye- witness story sharing were part of the event. On the second day all international and local participants walked along the Wall and heard the shared memories of two witnesses living on the two sides of the Wall at that time – Eastern and Western Germany. The event enhanced participants' knowledge of the EU history, common values and shared destinies.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved **50** citizens, including

- 2 participants from the city of Rome (**Italy**),
- 3 participants from the city of Potsdam (**Germany**)
- 4 participants from the city of Veliko Tarnovo (**Bulgaria**)
- 41 participants from the city of Porto (**Portugal**)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Porto, Portugal** from **17/09/2020** to **19/09/2020**

Short description:

The aim of the event was to raise awareness on the role of the EP nowadays and its functions and to share research on the political trends and tendencies in EP elections through the years and search for explanation of Europe today.

The International workshop marked the first direct EP elections in 1979 and its significance for the unity. Participants of 4 countries shared views, analysis and policy expectations related to the EP new role after Lisbon Treaty. On the ground of 1979'EP Elections and the changes that the elections brought to the Union and to the citizens, tendencies and trends of the voters' participation during the years were explored as well as the "informed" voter behavior importance was discussed. The special spirit of participation was explored within the models of encouraging youth in public life, based on the electoral EP history. Raising the knowledge of the great importance of the first direct EP elections on the future development of the Union was important for the open debate environment and active youth debate on our common future. On the second day, the international participants had a history hunt in the city of Porto. A youth session was held (due to sanitary restrictions of group gatherings) to broaden the event topic discussion and to deepen the understanding of young people for active participation in Unity life and the importance of the voting.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved **79** citizens, including

- 3 participants from the city of Potsdam (**Germany**),
- 3 participants from the city of Madrid (**Spain**)
- 2 participants from the city of Athens (**Greece**)
- 1 participants from the city of Bologna (**Italy**)
- 4 participants from the city of Porto (**Portugal**)
- 3 participants from the city of Craiova (**Romania**)
- 63 participants from the city of Veliko Tarnovo and surrounding (**Bulgaria**)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Arbanassi and Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria**, from **21/10/2020** to **23/10/2020**.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to increase the knowledge on the logistical steps that brought the birth of the EU Charter on Fundamental rights, presentation of the other significant years explored within the project and of sharing citizens' attitudes, concerns and threats on the Europe's future. The international conference summarized analysis, comparative research, raised questions and shared answers on the topics on European history, past, nowadays and future. The international participants together with politicians, policy makers, business stakeholders and civil society leaders commented on the Fundamental founding values and their vitality in our everyday life; the responsibilities and duties as well as the rights. The event went into two phases due to the sanitary restrictions for group limits for public gatherings. Youth workshop and simulation game took place on the EU Charter on Fundamental rights. The young people drafted Youth EU charter on Fundamental rights that had been discussed and presented during the plenary session. A plenary session with international and local participants discussed the EU Charter in the context of the Debate on the Future of Europe. During the second day a history hunt was organized. The participants visited the Historical building where the first Bulgarian democratic constitution was adopted as well as other sites of democracy path. Active European citizenship and the importance of citizens' activism, rebirth of the citizens' perceptions on the values were the core of the event.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved **27** citizens, including

- 2 participants from the city of Veliko Tarnovo (**Bulgaria**),
- 2 participants from the city of Potsdam (**Germany**)
- 5 participants from the city of Madrid (**Spain**)
- 2 participant from the city of Porto (**Portugal**)
- 1 participant from **Slovakia**
- 1 participant from **Sweden**
- 14 participants from the city of Rome (**Italy**)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Rome, Italy**, from **20/10/2021** to **22/10/2021**.

Short description:

The aim of the event was enriching knowledge on the economic and monetary union and their future

developments as EC sees it based on sharing knowledge and study visit on the beginning of the Economic union. During the public forum a data was provided on the expectations of the people at the time and also the dreams and expectations of the 60s how far the Union would go were explored. The historic re-reading of the facts, compared with the existed surveys and data from the period, was a rich ground for discussion of the different aspects of integration nowadays and allowed the participants to mark the developments. The forum raised the understanding of the contemporary economic policy by getting to know the values at the beginning and the time of the Founding Treaties. A study visit to the Palazzo dei Conservatori (Campidoglio) (where the Rome Treaty establishing the European Economic Community was signed) took place. During the two days event a photo exhibition on the Investment Plan was opened for the general public with 28 photographs of funded projects under the Investment fund, marking the future of the Union.

Event 5

Participation: The event involved **110 citizens**, including

- 1 participant from the city of Veliko Tarnovo (**Bulgaria**),
- 4 participants from the city of Rome (**Italy**)
- 1 participant from the city of Potsdam (**Germany**)
- 1 participant from the city of Porto (**Portugal**)
- 103 participants from the city of Madrid and surroundings (**Spain**)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Madrid, Spain**, from **17/11/2021 to 19/11/2021**.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to raise awareness and to improve knowledge on the historic period that marked the beginning of the Union, its causes and course as to know about the Union founding fathers and their dreams for Unity. The international event celebrated the first steps of European integration, starting with the Hague congress in 1948, marking the Robert Schuman Declaration as a remarkable cornerstone for the European integration. Young students, researchers, citizens gathered and discussed these early steps of the philosophy of European integration, that led to UNITY and PEACE after the WWII. The event enforced better understanding of the realities, interventions and challenges after the WWII and understanding the UNITY idea of Hague and the Peace as an European value as EU role of today.

Event 6

Participation: The event involved **57 citizens**, including

- 2 participants from the city of Veliko Tarnovo (**Bulgaria**),
- 2 participants from the city of Potsdam (**Germany**)
- 2 participant from the city of Rome (**Italy**)
- 51 participants from the city of Vilnius and Marijampole (**Lithuania**)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Vilnius, Lithuania**, from **24/02/2022 to 26/02/2022**.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to enhance understanding and knowledge on the EU enlargement process, enriching the knowledge of the participants on the history of the enlargement of the different MS and its influence on the follow up of MS integration process. The deep and emotional discussion was provoked by the fact that on the date of arrival, Lithuania declared state of emergency due to the aggression of Russia to Ukraine. Thus the main topics were the peace, the moral duty of each European to protect it. Many debates raised the plenary lecture on the road from fifth to the sixth enlargement and the possibility Ukraine to start accession negotiation. The discussion provided not only an overview of the accession process and the influence of EU on the process of democratization and europeanization on the countries of accession, the role of the civil actors but also the role of average European citizen to act and to contribute to peace and its protection. PEACE was the core of the event. A historical rally took place visiting the benchmarking cases of Lithuanian advantages within the European accession. A youth discussion took place on "What Europe makes for me" and it enhanced the understanding of the participants not only on the EU enlargement process but also for the role of active citizens to contribute to the Union developments and achievements.