

**The project « Tolerance and solidarity as core values for the future of Europe » 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"**

**6 events have been carried out within this project:**

**Event 1**

**Participation:** The event involved 182 citizens, including: 6 participants from the city of Bienvenida (Spain), 5 participants from the city of Bievre (Belgium), 8 participants from the city of Bucine (Italy), 7 participants from the city of Cisse (France), 6 participants from the city of Desborough (United Kingdom), 8 participants from the city of Esch (The Netherlands), 6 participants from the city of Hepstedt (Germany), 8 participants from the city of Ibanesti (Romania), 8 participants from the city of Kandava (Latvia), 8 participants from the city of Kannus (Finland), 8 participants from the city of Lasseo (Austria), 8 participants from the city of Lefkara (Cyprus), 8 participants from the city of Medzev (Slovakia), 8 participants from the city of Moravce (Slovenia), 8 participants from the city of Nadur (Malta), 8 participants from the city of Naestved (Denmark), 8 participants from the city of Nagycenk (Hungary), 8 participants from the city of Ockelbo (Sweden), 8 participants from the city of Polva (Estonia), 9 participants from the city of Stary Poddvorov (Czech Republic), 8 participants from the city of Strzyzow (Poland), 7 participants from the city of Tisno (Croatia), 8 participants from the city of Troisvierges (Luxembourg) and 8 participants from the city of Zagare (Lithuania).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Kannus (Finland), from 06/07/2017 to 10/07/2017.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was:

- Conference on "Cultural diversity – the meaning of mutual understanding and willingness to compromise" which hosted five speeches: Terttu Korte (Mayor of Kannus), Sanna Forslund (Head of Early Childhood education), Leena Kivijakola (Head of Education services), Jarmo Matintalo (Adult education manager, Kpedu) and Mari Äijälä (Agent, Business services). They gave the local perspective to the topic and presented new directions of the development of the municipality of Kannus within the areas of business and education. The change in the perception and attitude of inhabitants of Kannus towards EU membership since the year 1995 consisted the part of the presentation as well.
- Comprehensive workshop with participants who represented point of view of their municipalities on the conference topic and the topic "Tolerance and Solidarity as core values for the Future of Europe". Participants were asked questions about cultural or ethnic diversity in their municipalities, age of starting teaching of foreign language to little children, gender influence on studying and career possibilities, possibilities of studying languages in their municipalities, activation of foreign workers, importance of cultural skills as key competence in the future, the aspect of working abroad. The answers were collected and compared using "Kahoot" programme. Participants had a chance to compare and discuss them.
- Art workshops. Participants were asked to present the theme "Cultural diversity – the meaning of mutual understanding and willingness to compromise" in a artistic way.
- Additional activities: a holy mass, parade to the opening ceremony at Kitinvapari (sports field) with welcoming speeches started by the President of the Charter Mr. Karl Grammanitsch and Terttu Korte - the mayor of Kannus, the visit to Mäkiraonmäki - culture centre of Kannus and village tour by bus, the European culinary evening with all delegations represented by traditional dishes and costumes, Finnish baseball game at the baseball field of Kitinvapari (sports centre) and the visit to the Kalajoki Sand Dunes with various group activities around the area.

## **Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 53 citizens, including 1 participant from the city of Cisse (France), 2 participants from the city of Desborough (United Kingdom), 2 participants from the city of Hepstedt (Germany), 4 participants from the city of Ibanesti (Romania), 20 participants from the city of Lasseo (Austria), 4 participants from the city of Medzev (Slovakia), 4 participants from the city of Moravce (Slovenia), 4 participants from the city of Nagycenk (Hungary), 4 participants from the city of Polva (Estonia), 4 participants from the city of Strzyzow (Poland), 4 participants from the city of Zagare (Lithuania).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Lasseo (Austria), from 14/09/2017 to 17/09/2017.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was:

- workshop on tolerance and combating negative aspects of intolerance. The topic of the event was "Cultural diversity – Tolerance. Reasons and results coming from intolerance. Combating negative stereotypes and narrow-minded attitudes". The workshop was moderated by the priest from Lasseo, dr. Ikenna Okafur who also shared his personal experience of confronting intolerance. Participants were randomly divided into several groups. Each group consisted of participants from different countries, their task was to describe stereotypes about each nationality participated in this meeting. The final part of this activity was the presentation of these stereotypes, confronting and discussing them. During the second part of the workshops participants were taken deeper into the question of identifying prejudice using the activity "When life hands you a lemon...peel it". The main aim of this task was to provide a visual representation of the similarities between people. Another important part of the workshops was the projection of the film about stereotypes "All That We Share" which provoked debate about tendency to create barriers and divisions. The most important results of this workshop are: better awareness and understanding of other cultures and countries by fostering mutual understanding; participants learnt how to use intercultural dialogue as a tool in combating intolerance towards other cultures, religions and nationalities; exploration of European values such as human rights, active citizenship, participation and good practices as a common base for future cooperation within the "Charter of European Rural Communities", exchange of experiences in promoting intercultural understanding and tolerance; gaining new knowledge about methods of avoiding attitudes based on prejudice, intolerance and negative stereotypes.

## **Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 61 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Bucine (Italy), 4 participants from the city of Esch (The Netherlands), 4 participants from the city of Kandava (Latvia), 2 participants from the city of Lasseo (Austria), 31 participants from the city of Naestved (Denmark), 4 participants from the city of Nagycenk (Hungary), 4 participants from the city of Ockelbo (Sweden), 4 participants from the city of Stary Poddvorov (Czech Republic), 2 participants from the city of Strzyzow (Poland) and 4 participants from the city of Troisvierges (Luxembourg),

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Naestved (Denmark), from 22/03/2018 to 25/03/2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was:

- workshop on "Tolerance, Discrimination and Human Rights". During this event participants exchanged their own national experience using the method "speed dating" which which was a quick way for the participants to get to know each other. Thanks to a Danish model of a creative learning - the "Future workshop", participants shared their experiences of discrimination in the past and at the present time. They also presented expectations of the future. Involving local experience local volunteers from Naestved described their methods to involve new citizens in the local labor market, in the local sports association and local friend-ship associations with members having roots in other European countries. There was provided visit to local business company with more than 100 years experience of employing new citizens, mostly from the European countries. And finally self evaluation: at the end of the event "write a letter to yourself and tell, what you in 3 month will achieve related to the topic". After the meeting, participants received their own letters by post from Naestved. The results of the workshops are: the output of the "Future workshop" handed over to participants of the next events, by sharing knowledge of the topic the participants learnt more of each other strengthening the network of the European partners. Inviting local families to participate in the European evening was a base for a dialog of similarities and differences in daily life, local traditions and sharing opinions and experiences in the field of solidarity and tolerance.

## Event 4

**Participation:** The event involved 213 citizens, including 6 participants from the city of Bienvenida (Spain), 6 participants from the city of Bievre (Belgium), 6 participants from the city of Bucine (Italy), 6 participants from the city of Cashel (Ireland), 8 participants from the city of Cisse (France), 8 participants from the city of Desborough (United Kingdom), 8 participants from the city of Esch (The Netherlands), 8 participants from the city of Hepstedt (Germany), 8 participants from the city of Ibanesti (Romania), 8 participants from the city of Kandava (Latvia), 8 participants from the city of Kannus (Finland), 2 participants from the city of Kolindros (Greece), 8 participants from the city of Lasseo (Austria), 6 participants from the city of Lefkara (Cyprus), 8 participants from the city of Medzev (Slovakia), 8 participants from the city of Moravce (Slovenia), 23 participants from the city of Nadur (Malta), 8 participants from the city of Naestved (Denmark), 8 participants from the city of Nagycenk (Hungary), 8 participants from the city of Ockelbo (Sweden), 12 participants from the city of Polva (Estonia), 7 participants from the city of Samuel (Portugal), 8 participants from the city of Stary Poddvorov (Czech Republic), 5 participants from the city of Strzyzow (Poland), 6 participants from the city of Tisno (Croatia), 8 participants from the city of Troisvierges (Luxembourg), 8 participants from the city of Zagare (Lithuania).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Nadur (Malta), from 19/07/2018 to 23/07/2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was:

- conference on "Solidarity. Realization of the idea of solidarity in times of crisis. Responsibility in the context of common challenges faced by Europe". The aim of the event was to gather delegations from EU member states participating in this Annual Meeting of the European Charter of Rural Communities, at the municipality of Nadur and to discuss the official theme of the meeting. The group was divided into smaller groups to discuss different topics, after which presentations were made followed by further generic discussions. The workshops were held separately for Adults and Youths (18-30 years old) in order to be able to discuss the theme from a different perspective. The organisers also ensured that the discussions are held in small groups, and different topics were discussed. The theme related to "Solidarity. Realisation of the idea of solidarity in times of crisis. Responsibility in the context of common challenges faced by Europe" and following pre-discussions with the experts, the organising team selected four topics to be discussed during the workshops: Demographic Challenges and Brain Drain, Economic Growth and Divide, Participation and Citizenship, as well as Migration and Extremism/Populism. Topics were discussed by different small, international groups during the workshops, all in relation to Solidarity and Tolerance. All delegates were advised in advance about the topic they will be discussing to ensure preparedness, and the organising team ensured that participants of same delegations discuss all topics. The moderator for the Adult discussions was Professor Andrew Azzopardi – Dean of the Faculty of Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta, while the Youth Discussions were led by Mr. Joseph Bruno Vella – an expert in European Public Policy and Public Policy and Management and works as Chief of Staff at one of the Government Ministries. The aims of the workshops were to have a mixture of ideas and views, discuss the current situation in the different countries and rural towns, assess how the problems and realities are affecting people and towns, and to discuss how the EU may come up with solutions. The discussions were very fruitful and went into detail especially from a rural town perspective, solidarity was given as the main answer to current European challenges. International dialogue, exchange of experiences and opinions during the debate led to increase of the mutual understanding between members of European Charter of Rural Communities.

- additional activities: parade to the opening ceremony, the official opening ceremony including ceremonial speeches by the Minister for Gozo, V18 Chairman, Mayor and President of the Charter and performances of local dancing groups, second parade followed along Nadur streets towards Kenuna Botanical Garden for the inauguration of the commemorative monument made by a local mosaic artist represented the rurality and agriculture of Nadur, Mayor's meeting at the Municipality and sports activities for the youths at Ramla Bay, as well as Culinary and Traditional Produce Visit at Magro Brothers Factory and Xewkija Rotunda; European Culinary Night held at Council Garden where each country had its own traditional food and drinks stand and local families were invited to participate; historical and cultural visit around Gozo where the group was given the opportunity to visit three UNESCO heritage sites being the Temples of Ggantija, the Cittadella and Dwejra Bay; Roman Catholic Mass Service at the Basilica of Nadur.

## **Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 42 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Bienvenida (Spain), 2 participants from the city of Bievre (Belgium), 2 participants from the city of Cashel (Ireland), 1 participant from the city of Esch (The Netherlands), 1 participant from the city of Hepstedt (Germany), 4 participants from the city of Kannus (Finland), 4 participants from the city of Lassees (Austria), 4 participants from the city of Nadur (Malta), 4 participants from the city of Naestved (Denmark), 6 participants from the city of Stary Poddvorov (Czech Republic), 5 participants from the city of Strzyzow (Poland) and 5 participants from the city of Tisno (Croatia).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Stary Poddvorov (Czech Republic), from 13/09/2018 to 16/09/2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was:

- workshops on the topic "Solidarity. Realization of the idea of solidarity on local and European level - presentation of good practice by Stary Poddvorov and project partners, including cooperation and mutual, local and international solidarity". The municipality of Stary Poddvorov presented the practical aspect of local and national solidarity. Markéta Jurásková and Michaela Klepáčová, professionals helping persons with mental illness shared their idea of the importance of cooperation and mutual understanding. Within this event participants attended also the presentation about the activities supporting the integration of foreigners on the territory of the South Moravian Region. In addition participants visited the local company - "Sonnentor" as an example of international cooperation and finally took part in a flag parade with inhabitants who presented their traditional costumes. The results of the workshops and presentations are: perceiving social and cultural citizen engagement in cooperation and voluntary on local, national and European level as key value of European Union, gaining new knowledge about practical actions of local and European partnerships which help people from different disadvantaged groups, such as ethnic minorities, migrants, isolated people, people with mental disabilities, etc.

## **Event 6**

**Participation:** The event involved 62 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Bienvenida (Spain), 2 participants from the city of Bievre (Belgium), 2 participants from the city of Cashel (Ireland), 1 participant from the city of Cisse (France), 2 participants from the city of Desborough (United Kingdom), 2 participants from the city of Esch (The Netherlands), 2 participants from the city of Hepstedt (Germany), 2 participants from the city of Ibanesti (Romania), 2 participants from the city of Kandava (Latvia), 1 participant from the city of Kannus (Finland), 2 participants from the city of Lassees (Austria), 2 participants from the city of Medzev (Slovakia), 2 participants from the city of Nadur (Malta), 2 participants from the city of Naestved (Denmark), 2 participants from the city of Nagycenk (Hungary), 1 participant from the city of Ockelbo (Sweden), 2 participants from the city of Polva (Estonia), 3 participants from the city of Stary Poddvorov (Czech Republic), 22 participants from the city of Strzyzow (Poland), 2 participants from the city of Tisno (Croatia), 2 participants from the city of Troisvierges (Luxembourg), 2 participants from the city of Zagare (Lithuania).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Strzyzow (Poland), from 19/10/2018 to 22/10/2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was:

- conference on "Debate on the Future of Europe – importance of the idea of solidarity and tolerance. Cooperation and building up partnerships – summary of all previous meetings and projects. Proposals for the future work within European dimension". The conference was provided in a "open-space" form with elements of workshops and interviews. The conference was attended by all invited participants, students and local inhabitants. The "open-space" debate was led by Aleksandra Chodasz, trainer and supervisor, president of the local NGO. Conference was divided into 3 main thematic sessions: solidarity and tolerance in the contemporary Europe, difficulties and challenges within project implementation and action plans for the future. Interviews with motto "How solidarity affected my life..." were given by 3 persons, one of them was Tadeusz Lutak - one of the last survivors of the defensive war in September 1939. The main results of the conference and workshops are: proposals for the next common projects and exchange of ideas about solidarity in the history of Europe and ways for future integration. Project "Tolerance and solidarity as core values for the future of Europe" was also summarized, including all events' results, aspects causing the project effective, e.g. strong cooperation between participating organizations and comprehension of different expectations and needs. The participation of local inhabitants in the conference improved the visibility to the project and provided numerous chances to exchange opinions and ideas about solidarity and tolerance on local, national and international levels.