

WELCOME Project

"Welcoming Network for Migrant' Rights and European Citizenship"

Reference Program:

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS' PROGRAMME 2014/20

Strand2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

2.2: Network of Towns

Thematic Networking of Twinned Towns

Partnership:

- **Unione dei Comuni del Comprensorio di Naxos e Taormina- Italy**
- **Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture Centre International de Séjour - France**
- **WalkTogether- Bulgaria**
- **Municipality of A Bana – Spain**
- **Latvijas Pasvaldibu Savieniba - Latvia**
- **A.N.O.L.F. Associazione Nazionale oltre le Frontiere - Italy**
- **Adefis Juventud Internacional - Spain**
- **Association of Estonian Cities - Estonia**
- **Municipality of Birgu - Malta**
- **One Terrene International - Cyprus**
- **Municipality of Iasi - Romania**
- **Municipality of Bátka - Slovakia**
- **Municipality of Holloko - Hungary**
- **Penthesileia – Greece**

Summary

The project aimed to create a thematic Network of Towns for raising awareness about actual matters linked to Migration, Human Rights and Active Citizenship. The project wanted to strengthen a strong, long lasting and fruitful towns cooperation network between partner from IT, EE, ES, CY, ML, RO, SK, HU, BG, EL, LV and FR, more of them are countries where the Migration is an open debate and a problem to face on.

The wider partnership represented a platform for dialogue on 2015 European Year of development. Citizens have been encouraged to reflect on the kind of Europe they want and how to create a more democratic EU, stimulating new forms of civic participation whilst reinforcing and improving the existing. In Project's overall objectives were focused on the promotion among citizens of a sense of belonging to the EU and a better understanding of EU Citizenship in different way.

The main objective of the project was to involve Municipalities and local realities, stakeholders, experts and CSO, Association of Human rights defense, ONG, citizens and young people, in order to increase the awareness on the policies of Integration, Human Rights, Asylum, participation and political rights, intercultural communication and cultural mediator, minors, women and gender perspective, services to immigrants, and advocate policy.

The Project attended to 5 Itinerant Events around Europe.

The meetings have been scheduled with debates, diffusion of best practices, comparison of experiences, Kick off, case studies, interactive workshops, true stories interview and documentary, itinerant exhibition, solemn commemoration of sea victims. The project was an opportunity for communication, exchange of innovative methodologies, interaction in order to have relations of cooperation in sustainable perspective. To ensure the widest possible public impact have been organized following event of dissemination outputs and results, as moment of learning experience and a strategic plane of communication.

Short Program of the Meeting

I Event - Italy - Giardini Naxos - from 9 to 12 October 2015

The first event, held in Giardini Naxos, was conducted through conferences, workshops, panel discussions, case studies, interviews and testimonies, storytellings and integration, exchange of best practices, interaction between participants, moments of planning for future project ideas, an itinerant exhibition of pictures on the life paths of Migrants, public reflections on the value of multiculturalism and integration of European citizenship and culture, meeting with NGOs and projections of documentaries that show the drama of Immigrants.

Session dedicated to Right of citizenship to migrants

1st Session: Kick Off + European Round Table: "Welcoming Network for Migrant' Rights and European Citizenship" + Presentation of the Project

2nd Session: Meeting/Discussion: "Europe protagonist in the Mediterranean Sea: from Mare Nostrum to Triton"

3rd Session: Workshop: European Funds for immigration ": FSE - EU program" Rights and Citizenship "- The Asylum and Migration Fund - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

4th Session: European Conference "Unaccompanied foreign minors: the experiences of family homes and centers of Reception" + Town Twinning Ceremony

All participants were actively involved in the development of a constructive dialogue on the issue, creating open debates and discussions through moments of question time and non-formal activities. It was kept in constant consideration the principle of non-discrimination, with particular attention to the inclusion of difficult groups. The activities were aimed to reflect the needs and requirements of the participants, in line with the specific objectives of the program and the project, to promote new strategies in immigration policies and protection of human rights, cultural diversity, citizen participation in the democratic process, employment and social cohesion.

II Event - Spain - A Bana - from 12 to 15 January 2016

The second event, held in Santiago de Compostela (ES) was conducted through conferences, workshops, panel discussions, case studies, interviews and testimonies, life stories and integration, exchange of best practices, interaction between participants, moments of planning for future project ideas, an itinerant exhibition of pictures on the life paths of Migrants, public reflections on the value of multiculturalism and integration of European citizenship and culture, meeting with NGOs and projections of documentaries that show the drama of Immigrants.

Session dedicated to Right of citizenship to migrants

1st Session - European Round Table: "European Regions, Immigration and Fundamental Rights"

2nd Session – European Conference: "Immigration and Labour Market"

3rd Session - Workshop: "From clandestine to citizens of the European Union"

4th Session - Workshop: "Mediation and intercultural communication"

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III Event - Malta - Birgu – from 6 to 9 May 2016

The third event, held in Birgu (MT) was conducted through conferences, workshops, panel discussions, case studies, interviews and testimonies, life stories and integration, exchange of best practices, interaction between participants, moments of planning for future project ideas, an itinerant exhibition of pictures on the life paths of Migrants, public reflections on the value of multiculturalism and integration of European citizenship and culture, meeting with NGOs and projections of documentaries that show the drama of Immigrants.

Session dedicated to Right of citizenship to migrants.

1st Session - Conference: "Traffic of Migrants and Human Beings – Actions to Fight"

2nd Session – Workshop: "Free Circulation and Asylum Right"

3rd Session - Workshop: "Immigration and Health"

4th Session - Round Table: "Migration and Human Rights at EU Borders"

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IV Event - Riga - Latvia – from 21 to 24 September 2016

The fourth event, held in Riga (LV) was conducted through conferences, workshops, panel discussions, case studies, interviews and testimonies, life stories and integration, exchange of best practices, interaction between participants, moments of planning for future project ideas, an itinerant exhibition of pictures on the life paths of Migrants, public reflections on the value of multiculturalism and integration of European citizenship and culture, meeting with NGOs and projections of documentaries that show the drama of Immigrants.

Session dedicated to Right of citizenship to migrants

1st Session Workshop: "Participation and political rights - Right to Vote and Citizenship Law"

2nd Session European Conference: "New Citizenship"
3rd Session European Round Table: "Immigration and Citizenship"
4th Session Workshop: "The Migrants Rights are Human Rights"

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V Event - Holloko and Budapest - Hungary – from 26 to 29 October 2016

The fifth event, held in Holloko/Budapest (HU) was conducted through conferences, workshops, panel discussions, case studies, interviews and testimonies, life stories and integration, exchange of best practices, interaction between participants, moments of planning for future project ideas, an itinerant exhibition of pictures on the life paths of Migrants, public reflections on the value of multiculturalism and integration of European citizenship and culture, meeting with NGOs and projections of documentaries that show the drama of Immigrants.

Session dedicated to Right of citizenship to migrants

1st Session Workshop: "Multicultural Societies and Integration Policies"
2nd Session European Conference "The Intercultural table of the people"
3rd Session Workshop: "Immigration, Racism and xenofobia"
4th Session Round Table: "Immigration Women – Gender Perspectives"

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