

CAPE-AB

**Network for co-operation and democratic participation of
citizens in the Adria-Balkan-Region**



Collection of good practice projects



March 2017



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Introduction:

The involvement and participation of citizens in the democratic processes within the European societies on local, regional, national and European level is a core value of the European Union and is one of the most crucial factors for the European integration and future development. Only if it is possible to engage citizens and involve them in the journey towards the European Union future, this future will be a common one. Current developments show very clearly that if citizens are left behind the European integration and reform process, they lose their connection to Europe and are finally not anymore supporting these important developments.

Out of this reason and in front of the considerable future challenges for the European integration process, the European Commission has clearly recognised the involvement and democratic participation as one of the most important strategies. This involvement is of course possible on several levels from political level on local, regional, national and European level to all the participation possibilities in civil society and through volunteering. In any case the responsible actors and authorities are clearly asked to provide participation possibilities and foster civil engagement of citizens. Municipalities are playing a crucial role in this process as they create the link between policy and political decision making and single citizens. Out of this reason the possibilities and capacities of municipalities to offer active participation and co-operation need to be supported and strengthened.

On one hand this refers to financial support for municipalities to be able to offer broad discussion and involvement processes and provide civil participation possibilities, on the other hand the also refers to capacity building on the level of new ideas for participation, new tools, new networks, co-operation and internationalisation.

This collection of good practice examples of democratic and civil participation as well as co-operation and internationalisation of municipalities should be seen as idea source for municipalities and civil society institutions looking for new ideas and approaches to improve participation and engagement of citizens. The good practices are collected in the frame of the European for Citizens Network Project CAPE AB by all project partners from AT, IT, HU, HR, SI, BiH and RS and are presented in a similar format to be able to compare approaches and draw own conclusions and deductions. The good practice collection is also available online on the project website www.cape-ab.eu

The partners of the CAPE-AB project.

Austria, March 2017

Good practices from BiH

Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	European Network of the Civil Resource Centers - ECRC
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: Action 1 - Active Citizens for Europe Measure 2 – Citizens' projects and support measures
Duration (dates)	05.01.2014. – 25.12.2014.
Budget (in Euros)	SERDA budget: 7.000,00
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: International Development Alliance (IDA); office@idanetwork.eu Project Website: http://ecrc-eu.com/ Project facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/395558877207342/?fref=ts Other contact: /
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of 5 new resource centres in Non-EU countries and dissemination of the goals, priorities and mechanisms of the EFC program among the citizens of FYROM, HR, ME, RS, BiH. • Development and increase of the activities of the created in the first phase of the project centres through the inclusion of new services-hot lines providing information and consultation on the Program; online services and trainings with regards to the planning and strategic management of the project cycle of the EFC Program; • Creation of a wide European network of civil resource centers (old and new centers) that will provide information on European questions with stress on the EFC Program, and 	



facilitate the partnership-building processes to ensure the realization of campaigns of mutual interest.

- Development of long-terms partnerships among the different stakeholders (NGOs, LAs, research centers) and enhancement of their knowledge of their importance as active civil moderators for the Program.

What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?

- Training for civil moderators (new partners);
- Creation of 5 new national centers;
- New activities of the old centers: research, hot line, online chat;
- Local workshops under EFC Programme (old and new centres);
- Open info days;

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

The goal of the project was to foster the development of a stimulating environment for increased civil participation on national and European level by building a wide European network of civil resource centers, which will provide additional information about the opportunities and the mechanisms that the “Europe for citizens” program offers.

Through the project European Network of the Civil Resource Centers - ECRC were successfully created a civilian resource centers in non-member countries of the EU, which contributed to the networking and exchange of good practice between the EU Member States partners and non EU Member States partners. It is particularly important that the project involved the Western Balkan countries, which are in the process of joining the European Union. The human and material resources in this way strengthened and created a strong network of partners that participated in the implementation of other activities.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

Based on the experiences of the Project which SERDA and its partners together implemented, we recommend that municipalities, civil society organizations involve as many local partners, in order to influence the same to develop their capacity to implement projects. As the result of these, the latter actors will turn their own ideas into projects and implement them. By actively participating in the activities within the projects, both domestic and foreign participants are contributing to connecting and creating a network of partnerships, which is one of the preconditions for quality implementation of the projects.



Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	CAP ABC - Capacity Building programme for municipality co-operation in the Adria-Balkan countries under the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects × Other: please specify: Active citizens for Europe, CITIZENSHIP EACEA, Measure 2 Citizens' project and support measures
Duration (dates)	1/01/2014 - 31/12/2014
Budget (in Euros)	124.574,00 EUR
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: Larisa Križan Breljak ; larisa.krizan@vzz.hr Project Website: www.varazdinska-zupanija.hr Project facebook page: - Other contact: georg.muellner@auxilium.co.at
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
A special regional focus was on the regions of the Adriatic and Western Balkan countries, with the aim to inform potential applicants about Europe for citizens Programme 2014-2020. The main aims and objectives of the Project were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Training workshops for municipalities about the Europe for Citizens Programme , especially meetings of citizens and thematic networks of twinned towns including concrete information about the development of applications and documents- Multiplier seminars to reach sustainable effects and support of municipalities in the project regions	



- Networking of municipalities from partner regions

What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?

- Training workshops for municipalities about Europe for Citizens Programme in partner regions
- In 7 partner regions, workshops about Europe for Citizens Programme and the application procedure was explained to potential applicants
- 33 participants were included in the workshop organized in the partner region (Varazdin County). Since one of the partner organizations was Akademie Graz, the hosting partner region (Varazdin County), organized also the presentations of Creative Europe (in cooperation with the Ministry of culture)

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

- Exchange of experience
- Exchange of information and informing the public and potential applicants about good practice examples from town and municipalities from Varazdin County, which have experience in projects in Europe for citizens programme

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

- Include and spread information to all potential applicants from the project region
- Try to include other institutions (management bodies responsible for Europe for citizens, but also combine authorities for other EU Programmes
- Try to get advice from counselling body (RDA, municipality, town) how to apply for the project (call for proposals)
- Be active in community, listen to the needs of civil society associations, public bodies, etc.
- Include, at least, neighbouring regions to participate in information workshops/seminars



Good practices from HR:

Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	ACTive Communities for INclusion – ACT IN
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _____
Duration (dates)	1.7.2015.-1.9.2016.
Budget (in Euros)	82.500,00
Contact information:	<u>Name and Email of co-ordinator:</u> Applicant Organisation: Municipality of Cestica Gabriela Kos opcina@cestica.hr Associated partner Varazdin county Department of Economy, Regional Development and European Integration Co-ordinator: Petra Martak petra.martak@vzz.hr List of Partner Organisations: Gemeinde Heiningen (Germany), municipality of Ruma (Serbia), municipality od Cirkulane (Slovenia), Varaždin county (Croatia) and Autonomni centar (Croatia) Project Website: -



	<p>Project facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F531083080428248%2F</p> <p>Youtube link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6NdW6mXyZp2GaE_d78ZyIA</p> <p>Other contact: -</p>
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Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project?

The overall aim was to improve societal engagement in implementing Union policies & measures focusing on the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the elderly in local actions. The specific aims were: 1) to demonstrate to citizens how to effectively implement programs promoting social inclusion of disabled persons and the elderly; 2) to increase citizen awareness about daily challenges faced by persons with disabilities and the elderly and how EU policies positively impact citizens' lives. Local non-profits providing services to disabled persons & the elderly found that current programs and individual services need to be adjusted in order to improve their inclusion in civic activities. Apart from this, it was found that the majority of residents regionally in Croatia are unaware of the issues facing persons with disabilities & the elderly; making it difficult to foster support for new initiatives. In this project, Cestica & its partners were exchanging knowledge/best practices to improve current systems designed to enhance inclusion of persons with disabilities & the elderly in civic activities. This was done by demonstrating innovative methods, presentations, public awareness activities & exchanges at 4 events. Professionals in public institutions & associations gain know-how required to establish effective civic initiatives for the inclusion of disabled persons and the elderly at the local level, and new proposals will be drafted.

What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?

During the events, the partners share their best practices on how they have organized initiatives for the social inclusion of disabled persons and the elderly locally, and incorporated the inputs of citizens, public bodies and CSOs into strategies & actions. In this way, citizens, local officials, representatives of schools, social work centres, and associations gained knowledge about how EU policies function and the action encourage citizens to take an active role in social inclusion initiatives.

Public bodies and civil society stakeholders from the EU partner countries also demonstrate how they have organized programmes and facilities that reflect the needs of disabled persons and the elderly and foster inclusive society. In that way, the project contributes to building citizens' understanding about how EU policy processes contribute to improving civil society and contribute to social inclusion. Additionally, project partners emphasize how volunteering in non-profit activities has contributed to building social inclusion and improving the quality of life. By promoting volunteering at events, the project encourages citizens to take part in the development processes at the local/regional level. Moreover, dissemination activities promote the benefits of citizen involvement in social inclusion initiatives and the importance of their participation in local and

regional development actions.

The representatives of the partners exchange know-how about how to best organize activities for elderly persons, encourage volunteering and learn how culture serves as means to improve social inclusion locally. The tours of facilities show participants first hand how EU policy helps to facilitate volunteering and inclusive society.

The site visits and presentations demonstrate how EU policies can be adopted locally. The press was invited to cover the event so that the public is fully informed of the project & its positive impact. The video report are posted (partners' sites, social media) ensuring that the public is informed of the impact of the project & EU policies.

The cooperation agreement is prepared and signed in order to account for issues facing persons with disabilities and elderly in the local community via the workshops. Participants and citizens are made aware of the positive impact that social entrepreneurship, volunteering and social inclusion measures have on the quality of life.

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

Cestica & its partners have experience in organizing/implementing various public events; including demonstration activities, sporting events, festivals, training, etc. and regularly supports CSOs (civil society organizations) & public bodies that implement actions promoting social inclusion. Partners works closely with the staff & volunteers at the facilities to ensure that programmes/services are in place ensuring elderly residents are able to participate in community actions.

The project partners have implemented projects in their regions focusing on social inclusion. Specific project themes include providing assisted services to seniors and the disabled, adjusting public spaces, organizing education programs, social entrepreneurship actions, & public events geared toward building awareness. To enhance citizen engagement in local initiatives and build awareness on the issues affecting the disabled and elderly, partner representatives presented their best practices and share experiences with participants. This ensure that the project aims are achieved. Partners provided their inputs for this application and are familiar with the needs & capacities of each other. Moreover, partners actively engaged in managing the action, have been assigned duties and apply their expertise. With this project, the experience of the partners is further increased.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

The project includes participants from Serbia (EU accession country) and Croatia (New member state). Within these regions, there is still considerable doubt among citizens as to whether or not EU policies have a positive social impact due to a lack of accurate information on EU values, policies and agendas.

We recommend to everyone that the implementation of projects becomes a constant practice thus constantly increase their knowledge, increase network partners and accumulating a bunch of



experience in different areas.

Through the presentations, site visits, demonstrations, etc. participants as well as the wider public can see first-hand how EU policies and values contribute to inclusive communities, and thus, improve the quality of life.

Good practices from HU:

Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	Active citizens for the Future and Values of the EU
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _____
Duration (dates)	from 21/08/2015 to 23/08/2015
Budget (in Euros)	25.000,00 EUR
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: András Attila Kiss, kiss.andras@janoshaza.hu Project Website: www.janoshaza.hu Project facebook page: Other contact:
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project?	
<p>The project involved 1180 citizens, notably 60 participants from the city of Lendava (Slovenia), 60 participants from the city of Tourismusregionalverband Oststeiermark - Grosswilfersdorf (Austria), 60 participants from the city of Strba (Slovakia), 60 participants from Hunedoara County (Romania) and 1000 participants from the city of Jánosháza (Hungary). The main aim of the project was to promote the cooperation in fields of culture, sport and economy.</p>	
What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?	
<p>Before farewell the partnership evaluated the event and analysed its organizing in a workshop. They listed all the plans and participant-expectations they met so far during their operation, which could be realized together in the future. So the plan of more partnership events and activities were outlined, which could be organized in the countries of the partners. This would support a stronger, more comprehensive cooperation, which would handle civil activities as a priority, and which already has a positive effect on the strengthening of the current partnership.</p>	



What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project?

The participants could get acquainted with each other's good practices in fields of culture, sport and economy, introduced to each other good examples of their work. Long-term relationships were developed between social organizations, which were followed by several connecting.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

No particular recommendations.



Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	E-COOP DIGITAL COOPERATIVES
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _INTERREG IVC_____
Duration (dates)	01/01/2012-31/12/2014 (36 months)
Budget (in Euros)	2 286 192,15 EUR
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: Delinke Bejczy, delinke.bejczy@westpannon.hu Project Website: www.ecoopproject.eu Project facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ecoopproject/ Other contact:
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
European citizens do not participate equally in the Information society: in fact, the digital gap is moving down from infrastructures to uses. Based on this observation, local authorities in Europe have developed Digital Public Spaces (DPS) promoting e-inclusion. These facilities, mostly localized in libraries or social centres, provide users with training on current use of Internet tools and activities to ease their participation in the Information society. But nowadays, as always more people use digital technologies, there is a deep need for DPS to evolve, to renew and increase their audiences and offer more innovative and collaborative services. DPS could benefit from a network-based organization, both active IRL (“In real Life”) and online, in order to be identified by all types of populations and potential users as useful resource centres in the digital era and a qualified birthplace for local digital projects.	
What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?	



The project produced a certain amount of knowledge transfer materials, such as brochures and methodological guides, dealing with concrete aspects of defining and bringing into life an E-coop. Partners tested the defined methodological framework validity through concrete micro-implementations of "e-Coop" parameters at the territorial level. The final results will consist in

-Better awareness of ICT policy makers about the users' needs and expectations concerning the DPS mediators;

-Good practices transfers on mediation to new uses;

-Direct impact on public policies aimed at reducing the digital gap;

-Enhancing local innovation through citizens' participation thanks to ICT and digital uses.

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

The partnership gathered 13 partners from all over Europe, mainly representing local authorities or having a direct link to local authorities (e.g. municipalities). The collaboration could be qualified as medium intensity also because the partners were planning to develop a joint methodological guide identifying the concept of an E-coop and recommending the measures to be taken in order to implement it in an efficient and sustainable way. All the partners benefited from and actively participated in all the activities.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

In general, in order to achieve this type of cooperation, a rather restricted partnership was preferred, although the LP received a very important number of candidacies of potential partners. The 13 participating entities have already engaged some efforts in the field tackled by the project. It is assured that the project is not starting from the 'scratch' and was able to quickly provide all interested parties with quality content. They have also been selected on the basis of their capacities to mobilise available, quickly reacting and subject competent staff. Working in a smaller group and even dividing the thematic work into thematic workgroups guaranteed efficient participation of all and fruitful content production.

Good practices from IT:

Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	SMARTBORDERS 2020
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: INTERREG IV Italien-Österreich
Duration (dates)	30.09.2009 - 31/12/2012
Budget (in Euros)	760.000 Euro
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: Patrizia Gridel patrizia.gridel@carnia.utifvg.it Project Website: http://www.simfvg.it/attivita/susplan/ Project facebook page: Other contact:
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
<p>The Susplan project satisfied a need which a former interreg project called CONSPACE had indicated, that is that better transnational planning require a better and more available geographical information.</p> <p>The project aimed at promoting economical, social and environmental development of the cross-border regions of Carinthia and Friuli Venezia Giulia (especially the mountainous part, which means around 40% of the regional area).</p> <p>So, the main objective was to build cross-border development strategies coherent with the needs of the people that live on the two sides of the borders and more effective cooperation projects, by sharing language and instruments of geographical information management.</p>	
What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?	



The main outputs were:

- various maps describing: natural resources, forests, population, housing, tourist enterprises, farmers and wood enterprises, soil use restrictions, cultural and territorial values ...,
- more than 40 targeted people have been interviewed,
- nearly 100 organizations (public and private) involved in the process.

The main outcomes were:

- a common geographical information system (that respects the standards of the ISO 19150) is used in spatial planning, with the possibility for both parts (of the border) to query the common database,
- some relevant geographical information are available for everyone through the internet via web-gis,
- cross-border long term strategies are aligned in terms of language used .

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

As a organization focused on local development in this specific time, we have learnt that it's important to take into the right consideration the governance of the network both at the vertical and at the horizontal level. We couldn't have achieved the same results without having a multilevel partnership (Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Veneto Region, Carinthia Region and all local mountain communities) and a convinced approach towards bottom-up participation

Second, we learnt the importance of capitalizing what has been done before. Each partner had the possibility to work on the results of previous projects and to share partners' experiences.

At the end, we had the privilege to work on long-term strategies and to define the frame that makes it easier to identify future cooperation projects.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

If it's possible, invest some time in building the cooperation frame: mutual knowledge of the people and the institutions responsible for the project implementation, procedures, glossary, basic geographical information. It could have a high return on the medium long term period and it makes it easier to identify cooperation projects.

In the local development, use the level of participation which is consistent with your needs and with the effort you can put. The cost of enlarging participation could be well paid back (in terms of effectiveness of the projects) if you can guarantee to maintain the process and the relations alive.



Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	SUSPLAN
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: INTERREG IV Italien-Österreich
Duration (dates)	30.09.2009 – 31.12.2012
Budget (in Euros)	760.000 Euro
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: Patrizia Gridel patrizia.gridel@carnia.utifvg.it Project Website: http://www.simfvg.it/attivita/susplan/ Project facebook page: Other contact:
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
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Good practices from AT:

Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	PINE-D Participation approaches for mentally disabled persons in the democratic life of the European Union: discussion, involvement, engagement
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _____
Duration (dates)	01.01.2015 – 30.06.2016
Budget (in Euros)	137.500€
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: Robert Schuen, robert.schuen@jaw.or.at Project Website: http://pine-d.eu Project facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/project.pined.at Twitter: https://twitter.com/pine_d_project
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
<p>The Europe for Citizens project PINE-D engaged with people with intellectual and complex disabilities to understand how they can become more involved in European democratic processes, and therefore play a more active role in society. By signing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the EU and all its member countries are committed to creating a barrier-free Europe. One of the eight core pillars in the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 is participation in democratic life and full active European citizenship. However at present real participation is little more than a wish, and is therefore an issue that needs urgent attention.</p> <p>The project addresses the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People with intellectual and complex disabilities 	



- People in the surrounding of people with disabilities: supporter, parents, relatives, neighbours etc.
- Organisations that represent and support people with intellectual disabilities
- Political decision and policy makers at the local, regional, national and European levels

What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?

The main outcomes of the projects have been:

- Local discussion and debate events in Austria, Denmark, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom
- Discussion campaigns via social media
- Final conference in Graz-Austria
- Development of European Petition

With the support of up-to-date forms of non-verbal communication (Augmentative and Alternative Communication – AAC), the project partners from four European countries (Austria, Denmark, Italy, Poland) implemented local discussion and debate events in all partner countries with both representatives of the target group as well as representatives at the policy level.

The following three guiding questions were discussed among the target group and other stakeholders:

1. How can Europe better communicate European issues and values to the target group?
2. What are the opinions of target group members towards the current European challenges and concerns?
3. What are the needs of the target group for improved conditions of democratic participation in Europe?

The petition, developed throughout the project events, contains all the identified needs, ideas and suggestions for the European Commission in terms of the participation of people with intellectual disabilities. The document was forwarded to the Petition Commission of the European Parliament, thus lifting the opinions and needs identified in the course of the project onto a European policy-making level and communicating the expressed needs and opinions of people with intellectual and complex disabilities.

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

The project brought up the challenges of involvement of people with disabilities in a European discussion and participation process. However, it did also show very clearly the possibilities and support instruments available to reach people with intellectual disabilities with the European thoughts and ideas. Finally the project did also show the direct way of opinions and ideas from the single citizen (with or without disability) to the European decision making process. The petition raised after the final conference of the project which was sent to the petition committee of the European Parliament has finally been accepted by the European parliament and lead into a discussion and further development process with the European Commission. This was unique experience for all participants.



What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

The most important recommendation we can give is to largely involve decision makers into the whole participation process. There is no reason to be shy to contact political decision makers even on European level with opinions and ideas, only if that happens and is supported, participation will be possible.



Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	DEPART
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _____
Duration (dates)	1.1.2016 – 31.12.2017
Budget (in Euros)	120.000
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: Markus P. Mandl mm@european-neighbours.net Project Website: http://www.depart-project.com/ Project facebook page: https://m.facebook.com/departconferences/ Other contact: Mag. ^a Claudia Sachs-Lorbeck, Bürgermeisteramt www.graz.at
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ? (7-10 lines)	
<p>DEPART project will focus on the issue of integration of Roma and traveller citizens into the local communities which is still a crucial, difficult and important issue. During a series of events and workshops different aspects of integration from housing, education, social affairs, employment etc. will be analysed and good practices from partner organisations will be exchanged and transferred together with newest and broadest social research results. Working methods include presentations, discussions, excursions, good practice exchange as well as larger public and social events. Moreover the co-operation of municipalities as responsible local authorities with the local and regional civil society organisations will be put in the focus of the project since this appears to be one of the most crucial issues for successful integration. The project will be co-ordinated by the municipality of Graz (AT) which is the only certified Capital of Human Rights in whole Europe where integration of minorities has a top priority. Other partners are municipalities from HR, SI, SK, RO, IT, HU who are all deeply concerned by the common thematic focus.</p> <p>The European Commission has asked all European members states to provide plans for the</p>	



integration of Roma citizens and municipalities are the core element of these strategies. This network project will be a considerable contribution to this process on local and communal level. The direct involvement of representatives of the target groups - local authorities, civil society organisations, the Roma community itself, and citizens in general - into the discussions is also an important task of the project. Finally a network should be developed that consists of municipalities that are discussing, exchanging experience and good practices and mutually learn from each other at regular basis and related to different topics. All activities during the project duration and those planned for the future are well directly embedded in the local context.

What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)? (7-10 lines)

The project will produce tangible outputs beside the four main events (summary, folder, website, policy recommendation) that will support a wider use and impact effect of the project. The outcomes of the thematic events will be directly communicated to the policy making level by directly involving policy makers as well as multipliers on local, regional and national level. With this strategy of broad involvement we can ensure that the results can enfold impact on the level of the participating municipalities as well as beyond. However, most impact will be visible at communal level.

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ? (7-10 lines)

The municipality of Graz has vast and long lasting experiences in the organisation and implementation of transnational co-operation events and projects. Especially within the field of European funded co-operation projects Graz has gained experiences during the last years from a number of co-operation projects implemented in the fields of environment, health, education, political debates and economic development. On a political dimension Graz as capital city of the region of Styria (AT) has huge public visibility and impact and will use its potentials for ensuring broad public visibility of the project events and activities. Above all Graz has been awarded with the title City of Human Rights and is the only municipality in whole Europe to date, that is carrying this honour. Especially regarding the topic of the thematic network concerned with this project this fact additionally supports the public visibility and quality of the project implementation.



What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences? (7-10 lines)

Our selected activities and methods as presentations, analysis, discussions and transfers of good practice approaches between the network partners are able to support the achievement of the objectives. Moreover the methods have an interactive character, involve members of the target groups and also have the potential to support public visibility and discussion about the topic beyond the direct audience of the individual events. The integration and participation of Roma / traveller citizens is also a European challenge and requires a European approach. The European Commission has asked all European members states to provide plans for the integration of Roma citizens and municipalities are the core element of these strategies.

Good practices from RS:

Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	Women's Network for Future of Europe - WONET
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _____
Duration (dates)	14 months (September 2015 – November 2016)
Budget (in Euros)	77.500 EUR
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: Bojan Milosavljević, info@wonet.eu Project Website: www.wonet.eu Project facebook page: WONET Other contact:
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
<p>The project overall objective was to contribute to reducing gender inequality in the region and the promotion of gender equality as one of the fundamental values of European citizens.</p> <p>Project specific objectives was to build gender solidarity of women at the local, regional and European level by connecting and networking, and to increase the capacities of women for political articulation of gender equality. Political articulation implied a capability of solving social problems through creating the political policy proposals.</p>	
What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?	
<p>Within the project 4 seminars covering different teams and an international conference are realized. After each seminar, the participants continued their work on developing study cases in teams. Exhibitions of 15 photo boards (0.7x1m in size, containing reportage with photos and 1000 characters text summary) were organised in different public spaces: community health centers, libraries, elderly homes, galleries, parks and</p>	

schools. Photo reportages through case study present a certain social phenomenon in the gender perspective. They are actually an attempt of communication on gender policies in a way suitable to the average citizens, in order to change their consciousness and political culture. Also, the publication of 110 pages with photos and full text of reportages (10000 characters) was printed in 500 copies in English and it was proportionally distributed to all project partners.

As a result, the awareness of the local communities and the general public in project partner countries on gender equality issues are raised. In addition, partner organizations have made a network, changed experiences and ideas, and increased their capacities for advocacy of gender policies.

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

Based on the analysis of the questionnaires filled in by participants after each seminar, it is evident that the project helped them to better understand their gender identity and European policies, to meet other cultures from the gender's perspective, to empathize with other women regionally and locally. Majority of participants answered that they would participate again in such a seminar. The participants were only women.

The states of partner organizations on the project have different experiences with gender equality and European policies which represented the base for the exchange of good practices. Even though in all Member states and in the Balkans a good legislation exists in the area of gender equality, it's not adequately applied everywhere due to the resistance is given by patriarchal and authoritative political culture. Experience is that legislation isn't enough to change the social culture. Creative educative programs are needed, formal and informal, to support this gender legislation.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

Recommendation that we could give to others is to select participants from different generations, professions and from different socio-cultural backgrounds in order to achieve sharing of experience and fruitful socio-political dialogue.

Participants of WONET project were women of different generations, ages ranging from 20 to 80, and with different education and professions. The intercultural dialogue flowed not only between different states, but also between different generations, as well as rural and urban areas. In questionnaire which the participants fulfilled after every seminar, that kind of diversity was marked as strongest part of project.



Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	Thematic Town Twinning for Community Organizing – TwinCom
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _____
Duration (dates)	02/10/2015 – 04/10/2015
Budget (in Euros)	24,000.00
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: nadj.miklos@gmail.com Project Website: http://efcmol.blogspot.rs/p/a-projektrol.html Project facebook page: Other contact:
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
<p>The general aim of the project was to elaborate a practical methodology for the citizens to participate in decision making processes in their local communities. Community organizing is a process where people who live in proximity to each other come together into an organization that acts in their shared self-interest. This idea is strongly connected to the idea of active European citizenship, and directly to democratic participation.</p>	
What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?	
<p>International three-day meeting with a conference was held with around 250 participants from all 6 partner countries. The focus was on community organizing and its impact to the local development. The participants are familiarized with the methodology and practices used in different countries. As a result common methodology for community organizing is elaborated and promoted in partner countries. A project webpage was developed and is used as a communication tool for promoting project results together with other promotional activities (media reports, flyers, poster).</p> <p>The project participants' knowledge on benefits and methodologies of the community organising is raised and will influence the improvement of the decision making in their hometowns. This</p>	



process will be supported with the raised awareness of the local citizens achieved through promotional activities. The established channels of communication between the project partners will foster the exchange of experiences and future cooperation.

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

The main experiences gained from transnational cooperation are that there are similar issues that affect communities regardless of state borders. Civil participation in the decision making processes is an essential need of various groups that have an interest in getting their views across. Meeting with counterparts from other countries helped the participants of the project to exchange experience and to learn from examples of good practice.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

We encourage other municipalities and civil society organization to participate in the Europe for Citizens Programme but to plan enough time to gather the PIC numbers from the potential project partners. It is also advisable not to wait for the last day to submit the application. It is also favourable to include participants from at least 4 other countries that are eligible.

Good practices from SI:

Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	EU – an obstacle or a common opportunity
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance ★ Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _____
Duration (dates)	1.7.2016 – 1.9.2016
Budget (in Euros)	<u>10.000 €</u>
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: Klara Šibanc Korošec, Občina Slovenske Konjice, klara.sibanc@slovenskekonjice.si Project Website: http://www.slovenskekonjice.si/objava/37407 Project facebook page: / Other contact: info@slovenskekonjice.si
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
<p>The main focus was on discovering advantages of EU or disappointments about its results. The project pursued the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy, contributed to the achievements of the European Agenda for Culture and its Work Plan for Culture and Sport. The discussion during the project contributed to convincing Eurosceptics about the benefits of EU membership.</p>	
What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?	
<p>Municipality of Slovenske Konjice has submitted this project with project partners, who are twin or friendly towns from EU or countries of Western Balkans, with whom Slovenske Konjice cooperates on various fields of interest - local government, tourism, culture, sports, business, youth and stimulating participation of underprivileged groups of society in local decision making. Slovenske Konjice hosted 145 participants from friendly towns coming from 6 different countries: Slovenske Konjice, Slovenia; Hranice, Czech Republic; Gornja Stubica, Croatia; Sveti Petar</p>	

Orehovec, Croatia; Biograd na Moru, Croatia; Tolfa, Italy; Hlohovec, Slovakia; Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the project, the present cooperation and integration participating municipalities was upgraded with a three-day long educational seminar in Slovenske Konjice at the beginning of July 2016:

- Event no. 1, dated 07.01.2016: arrival and accommodation of partners and presentation of activities and events, partner presentation, networking and learning about project partners.
- Event no. 2, dated 01.07.2016: devoted to the importance of the protection and preservation of cultural heritage, cultural event with the presentation of the monography at the 870 th anniversary of the first written mention of Slovenian Konjice and presentation of choirs and learning about mutual programs.
- Event no. 3, dated 07.02.2016: dedicated to understanding and debate on euro-skepticism.
- Event no. 4, dated 07.02.2016: devoted to strengthening intercultural, interpersonal and social competencies, cultural awareness and the acquisition of new skills.
- Event no. 5, dated 03.07.2016: dedicated to the dissemination of project results, exchange of contacts and departure of the delegations of friendly cities.

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

The participants actively participated in five events and clearly expressed their views, opinions, critiques, and challenges related to current European issues – Euroscepticism in discussions and workshops. The topics have reached citizens in their daily lives. Participants were given a direct transfer of best practices, exchange of experience, know-how between twinned towns, especially in the area of obtaining EU funds for cultural heritage projects and search for the appropriate resources (financial and human) for its reconstruction, restoration and maintenance. Through the project the ties between participating towns were tightened and other joint activities of the participating cities, as well as long-term cooperation between them were agreed on.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

Projects Europe for citizens is a very good opportunity to establish or strengthen links between local authorities, associations and organizations, in particular, on the basis of meetings and events in order to find joint projects on issues that are common to the project partners. From this point of view, and because the application process which is relatively easy, we recommend the use of available calls within Europe for the citizens program.



Good practices presentation Europe for Citizens Projects	
Name of the project	From YU to EU
Funding Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Town Twinning <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Networks of Twinned Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Europe for Citizens – Civil Society Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify: _____
Duration (dates)	1.1.2013 – 30.6.2014
Budget (in Euros)	23.000 €
Contact information:	Name and Email of co-ordinator: dr. Martina Rauter; Martina.RAUTER@maribor.si Project Website: http://www.projekti-maribor.si/mobile/index.php/o-nas/novice-in-obvestila/337-projekt-evropa-za-drzavljane-from-yu-to-eu Project facebook page: / Other contact: /
Please describe the main aims and objectives of the co-operation project ?	
<p>In the framework of "European Youth Capital 2013", which was hosted by Municipality of Maribor in 2013, the Municipality applied the project "From YU to EU" as part of the "Europe for Citizens« program". The idea was to strengthen the bonds between twinned towns and other Balkan countries, by long-term and productive cooperation in the field of employment.</p> <p>The YU2EU project established a policy network between towns to design an innovate a model to develop successful mechanisms for youth and those involved in youth employment policy. With this project the project partners integrated regional faculties and schools, NGOs, linking artisans and the establishment of closer relations among young job seekers and employers.</p> <p>120 citizens from partnership countries: Slovenia, Bosnia & Hercegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Sweden participated on the project.</p>	
What were the main outcomes and outputs of the project (tangible and non-tangible)?	



Within the project “From YU to EU” three events took place on the basis of networking and collaboration among cities on the theme of youth employment. Each event took place for 5 days. The following events were conducted:

Event 1: Europe employment and European citizenship

Event 2: Employment in Si, EU and partner countries

Event 3: Completion and strategy for Future

All events took place in the city of Maribor, Slovenia. They were implemented according to the application and successfully finalized. The events were organized with the aim of integration of non-governmental organizations, public institutions / organizations and local citizens. The program was facilitated by professionals and consisted of lectures from representatives of public institutions and organizations, as well as professionals from the field of cultural activities in the city.

During the project life also a web page, a [brochure](#) and a [video](#) were created.

What are the main experiences gained from transnational co-operation in this project ?

During the presentations of partner countries the participants learned about local analyses in the field of youth employment and about cultural heritage of partner cities. During the course of all three events several workshops for participants took place through which they conquered new knowledge and examples of good practice and thus established guidelines and interests for future cooperation and project planning.

What are the recommendations you could give to others (municipalities, civil society organisations etc.) from your project implementation experiences?

Europe for citizen programme is very useful for getting to know new partners and encourage people to start sharing new ideas. Compared to other EU programmes it is easier to manage and to report, therefore we would strongly recommend it for beginners in EU projects. We recommend taking pictures and videos for sustainable memories.