

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

Democratic engagement and civic participation sub-programme

FINAL REPORT form

Programme	EUROPE FOR CITIZENS
Sub-Programme	Democratic engagement and civic participation
Action	Town Twinning
Sub-Action	N/A
Call for Proposal	EACEA-51-2018
Project number	609453-CITIZ-1-2019-1-BG-CITIZ-TT
Agreement/decision number	20191435
Project Title	Prospects of young people in Europe after the EU- election 2019: positive thinking and debate about Euroscepticism
Language used to complete the form	

Contractual Data

Dates and Beneficiaries

Dates

Project Start: 15/08/2019 Project End: 20/04/2020

Activities Start: 15/09/2019 Activities End: 18/09/2019

Project Duration(months): 0

Beneficiary Data

Role	PIC	Name	Country
Coordinating Organization / Beneficiary	899173996	OBSHTINA POMORIE	Bulgaria
Management Contact Person	899173996	OBSHTINA POMORIE	Bulgaria

Legal Representative

Organisation Legal Address

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Post Code: 8200 City: POMORIE

Country: Bulgaria

Department

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Country: Bulgaria

Local Address: Internet site:

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Implemented Activities

Short description of the project's results in English, French or German

English - 1

The town twinning meeting took place in the City Aheloy, belonging to Obshtina Pomorie (Bulgaria), on 15-19 September 2019, with the participation of 74 local people, and 56 invited persons from three partner cities, namely Farkaslaka/Lupeni (Romania), Cieszanów (Poland), and Ajak (Hungary). The project reached about 200 indirect participants. The main challenge of the project was to successfully involve young people in joint discussions on EU issues, and to bring together groups from four countries to express their views on the future. A conference with invited lecturers was held on current EU issues: trends and prospects for youth in Eastern European partner countries. Furthermore, a workshop was held for the young people's groups to discuss five thematic themes: EU achievements to date; lessons from history; arguments and actions to enhance European consciousness; benefits of the EU; the challenge of Euroscepticism; development of a democratic Union. The discussion resulted in the development of a joint resolution (Memorandum) entitled 'A Europe of young people'. This material summarizes, in 19 points, the visions and expectations that the European Union must have for young people. Young people were clearly in favour of EU membership, rejecting Eurosceptic approaches and outlining an optimistic picture of a peaceful, humane union in which Eastern European countries also participate as equal members. Young people formulated their motto: 'If you are not united, then remain alone'

Description

Impact and Citizen Involvement

The main challenge of the project was to successfully involve young people in joint discussions on EU issues, and to bring together groups from four countries to express their views on the future. It was remarkable to see how harmoniously the young people of the four countries worked together on the five selected EU topics and there was a high degree of agreement among the representatives of the countries. We consider it successful that the 76 young participants have become active in the EU-related subjects, and it can be expected that by returning to their cities, they make the events of the Aheloy meeting a topic of discussion in their own school/institutional environment, thus helping to raise the interest of other young people. The project work program was organized around thematic issues and these issues were in direct line with the program priorities. The approach of the chosen priority 'Debating the Future of Europe and Challenging Euroscepticism' was carried out in five topics: EU achievements to date; lessons from history; arguments and actions to enhance European consciousness; benefits of the EU; the challenge of Euroscepticism; development of a democratic Union. The young people worked on the topics through group work, presented the conclusions in a joint workshop, discussed each other's views, and finally formulated a Memorandum as a common position. The topics covered also included the specific objectives of the Program, namely 'Raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values, and the Union's aim that is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples' using the methods of 'stimulating debates, reflection and development networks'. The overall objective of the program, 'To contribute to the understanding of the Union, its history and diversity', is also consistent with the activities carried out by the project. Historical past and diversity (cultural, linguistic, religious, ideological, etc) are always emerging issues between nations living in close proximity to each other, and their knowledge is an important element in the development of community thinking and understanding of the Union. - The meeting reinforced the useful and valuable nature of the town-twinning partnership, providing support for local policy-making aimed at developing similar partnerships. Participation of young people in social processes is essential, especially with regard to the ongoing changes in information technology, which are constantly shaping and transforming the socio-economic life. Involving young people in decision-making processes, at least at the opinionforming level, is essential for municipalities and regional bodies. In the European dimension, the Youth Memorandum contains several clauses that could have an impact on the development of EU policies:

The power possessed by the young people means the real power for the future of Europe.
The unique capabilities and advantages of the less developed countries should obtain support in order to reach the market of the more developed countries.

- The co-operation of the Eastern countries -like Visegrad Group- should be recognised and their activities need more attention.

The relations between the four settlements have a history of many years, and the cooperation is intensive. This meeting was an important step in strengthening the partnership and reinforcing the European character of the network by making EU issues central. The involvement of municipal leaders and delegations strengthened the personal relationships. The recent twin-city network has a territorial coverage in Eastern Europe, but there is a need for further expansion to the wider Europe. The best way to do this would be to implement another project in the Network of Towns Program.

Direct testimonies/stories from participants collected during the events.

- i) In Aheloy, in our twin city, young people from Ajak and three other countries took part in a project called the 'Future of Youth in the European Union'. We gained information and told our opinions about the European Union. In a very good atmosphere we worked in small groups and tried to draw up our common views in connection with each topic. This project was a great opportunity to get to know each other and make friends. After hard work, we could get to know Aheloy and Nessebar and bathing in the sea was not missed. Thank you for participating in this common project with the young people of Aheloy (Bulgaria), Farkaslaka (Romania) and Cieszanów (Poland). On behalf of team of Ajak City: NK (a young school girl of Ajak)
- ii) The impressions and feeling I experienced were the new friendships and the people I met. Also the communication and the programme helped young people to meet and think together about the actual questions in our common living space in the EU. We hope that our getting together will spark new possibilities, opportunities to meet and exchange views again. IG (a young man of Aheloy)
- iii) My general impression of this project is definitely positive. It proved to be a great chance to broaden my horizons, remain open-minded as far as the cultural differences are concerned. What is the most important, though, is that I had an opportunity to learn more about European Union, debate a topics that were not only related to the union exclusively, but they actually touched upon my generation's view about EU. Finally, I believe that it was a great chance to meet new people and enjoy the very beautiful environment. I am glad that I took part in it. H. (a university student lady from Cieszanow)
- iv) First of all, we had the opportunity to travel with a Polish group. We crossed Romania together, so we have had enough time to make new friendships. The thematic programs started after breakfast. Every country's group chose a topic about the EU, and had to discuss it, and write a summary. When the discussion time was over, one member of each group had to present their work in front of the audience, where the others could ask questions or debate about it. There were really useful and mind-opening conversations. We listened every person who was talking thoughtfully and tried to understand why did he or she chose that topic and what is its purpose. In every topic there was something in common, which we have talked about before. Everyone could say one single fact, which was always the point, so this was thoughtful for us, and we could see more easily that in the EU there is equality, despite of living in different countries. We did not disturb anyone because of his speech. There was an English teacher, there was a girl with a master of English, but besides this, there also was an engineer, who's English was not the best, but he was really friendly. There were also students from every age group: there were general school students, students from high school, university students, and workers, too, with a family at home. So the diversity was quite big, but the fun we had together was bigger. Everyone was kind and friendly, there didn't matter the age or the nationality: you were friends, and that's all. At one night the Bulgarians had a great traditional dance performance, so we could learn some difficult steps, too. We really enjoyed it. On our last day we made an unforgettable party and a night swimming near the pool area. We were talking with the main project organizer about this trip and about the whole program. In my opinion this is a great opportunity to make new friends and to gain a lot of experiences in different countries, discovering their cultures, traditions and local people. CB(young manFarkasla

Key message(s) of citizens involved in the project

The groups of young people attending the meeting were led by responsible persons: teachers and municipal leaders, and thus had a balanced, controlled activity in the chosen topics. The multi-stage analysis, argumentation and summation which was carried out by the young people eventually resulted in a joint resolution entitled 'A Europe of Young People Memorandum'. This material summarizes, in 19 points, the visions and expectations that the European Union must have for young people. Young people were clearly in favour of EU membership, rejecting Eurosceptic approaches and outlining an optimistic picture of a peaceful, humane union in which Eastern European countries also participate as equal members. Young people formulated their motto: 'If you are not united, then remain alone'.

There is a close link between the historical past and the current socio-economic life of the partner countries, and town-twinning offers a concrete local expression of cooperation between citizens. This base allows for mutual information on European processes, projecting them in the context of each country or municipality. Many changes have taken place in the EU in recent years, and socio-economic changes are affecting the citizens too. People are eager to listen to their friends from other countries and get to know their experiences. Following the 2019 EU Parliamentary elections, EU bodies and societies will have to answer important and challenging questions. The message of the citizens involved in the project is that we need to get to know each other at the human level, give young people the opportunity to look out for, and build effective relationships between NGOs and municipalities. Inter-municipal relations provide the basis for interregional relations, which help to live in Europe and to understand the perspective of the EU.

Description of implemented activities

The Polish group (17 people) travelled through Romania and picked up Romanian travellers in Farkaslaka/Lupeni (20). Traveling together provided an extra experience and strengthened the sense of belonging together in Europe, giving the opportunity for them and their adult leaders to tune in to the EU dimension of the event. Likewise, a shared trip home, providing an opportunity for a shared experience. The Hungarian group (19) met the other participants in Aheloy and the young people quickly formed a friendly atmosphere, which had already been established by previous inter-municipal co-operation, and throughout the program of the meeting was characterized by a liberated but creative mood. The groups were led by teachers and leading officials. Each day had specific European programs. - On the first day (16 September) a small group from Hungary took part in solemn opening ceremony of Hristo Botev Elementary School in Aheloy, followed by a discussion and exchange of views on the impact of EU programs and integration processes in Eastern European countries, with the participation of Mayor of Aheloy, Deputy Mayor of Pomorie Municipality, Heads of the School and the Kindergarten. - On the second day, a conference was held on current EU issues: trends and prospects for youth in Eastern European partner countries, discussing also the current issues of the life of young Bulgarian people in the EU, and the new situation following the 2019 EU Parliamentary elections. Topics were the positive thinking of young people and Euroscepticism. Lecturers: MP Asya Peeva - Member of the Committee on Education and Culture in the National Assembly, MP Galya Zhelyazkova - Member of the Commission for Youth and Sport in the National Assembly, Yancho Iliev - Deputy Mayor of Pomorie Municipality, Ivan Georgiev - Mayor of Aheloy, Lehel Kovacs - Mayor of Farkaslaka/Lupeni. Conversation with participants. (English-Bulgarian-Polish-Hungarian translation for each group.) - Group participation in the 'grubbing-up' ceremony to launch a new building section of the Occal Temenuga' Nursery, welcoming speeches from superiors. - On the third day, the session of youth program started with mutual introduction and joint exchange of experiences of local and foreign young people on European issues affecting young people. Young people from the participating municipalities and their accompanying teachers presented their views. The third day a workshop was held in form of an open-stage program for young lecturers, led by a moderator (Miklós Marián, Hungary). Each city group showed its pre-prepared thematic materials: presentation and evaluation of answers to defined questions. Topics: EU achievements to date; lessons from history; arguments and actions to strengthen European consciousness; benefits of the EU; the challenge of Euroscepticism; development of a democratic Union. Presentation of visual demonstration assemblies (ppt) on the aims and ideas of young people in each city. The discussion resulted in the development of a joint resolution (Memorandum) entitled 'A Europe of young people". Theme leaders were: Zsuzsanna Ragány téacher (Ajak), Anna Pajaczkowska teacher (Cieszanow), Bertalan Csaba project manager (Farkaslaka/Lupeni), Ivan Georgiev jun. (Aheloy). Supervisors: Mayor Ivan Georgiev (Aheloy) and Mayor Lehel Kovács (Farkaslaka/Lupeni). - Additional common activities: communal dinner followed by a cultural program: young girls from the Aheloy school and from the city of Ajak presented their pompom costume dance; followed by a joint music night program, informal conversation. Organized common group trip to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Nessebar. Visiting the tourist attractions of the region with a tour guide.

Changes in relation of the original application

The program was basically implemented according to the original work plan. However, the date of the meeting had to be slightly modified in order to be appropriate for the municipalities of all four countries. Aheloy's choice of date was influenced by the nearby municipal election, while Cieszanow's participation was influenced by the constraints of other programs. According to the original program, the day of arrival was September 15, and the day of departure was September 18, meaning that the active program days were scheduled for September 16-17. Finally, a Hungarian group (3 people) arrived on September 15th and participated in the September 16th program. Most of the foreigners arrived on September 16, and accordingly the main programs took place on September 17-18. The participants travelled home on 19 September. The change of date was announced in advance by the Mayor of Aheloy to the EACEA in a letter dated 10 September 2019.

The application had been initiated by using the PIC number 938260437 of Kmetsvo Aheloy, but owing to the administrative dependency, it had to be linked to the PIC No 899173996 of Obshtina POMORIE, assigning LSIGN/FSIGN for the Mayor of Aheloy at the same time.

Dissemination and visibility of your project

Town of Aheloy, with about 3000 inhabitants, belongs to the administrative center of Obshtina Pomorie. The main event of the month September was the start of the local school life, which coincided with the project meeting. Building on this, the mayor connected the school's inaugural ceremony to the project's events, giving it space to raise awareness among the general public about the EU project and its topic. During the rest of the meeting, the local school's students actively participated in the programs, working with young people from abroad, especially with a group of primary school pupils from the city Ajak. The new kindergarten facility investment, launched with the mayor's opening speech, also provided an opportunity to publicize the project by attending and speaking at the ceremony with prominent speakers of the project conference, as well as the foreign participants. The visibility of the project was helped by the distribution of 80 labelled T-shirts made by the municipality of Aheloy to the participating local and foreign students, which the young people were proud to wear. Each participant also received a document folder supplied with a logo.

The visibility of the project was provided by social media channels at the local and regional levels at the following websites: www.dariknews.bg , www.uniconbg.com , www.flagman.bg , www.radiomilena.com , and www.pomorie.bg . Text information and a visual compilation of the meeting's events were published with the following 5 direct web

1) https://dariknews.bg/regioni/burgas/v-aheloj-se-provede-mezhdunarodna-sreshta-po-programata-evropa-zagrazhdanite-2188324; 2) https://uniconbg.com/post/27562-v-aheloi-se-provede-mejdunarodna-sreshta-poprogramata-evropa-za-

.grajdanite.html?fbclid=lwAR2DJHmGDnOgNU0Q0fXik7MBlbzTlj29rap2LpOvurfAakWR1_xqJtcGNkM; 3) https://www.flagman.bg/article/196800, 4)

http://radiomilena.com/2013/59180/%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b5%d0%b4%d0%b5-%d1%81%d0%b5-

%d0%bc%d0%b5%d0%b6%d0%b4%d1%83%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%80%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%80%d0%b5%d1%89%d0%b0-%d0%bf%d0%be-%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%be%d0%b3/;5) https://www.pomorie.bg/53469/v-aheloy-se-provede-mezhdunarodna-sreshta-po-programata-vevropa-zagrazhdanitev/.

The project results have been shared through ppt presentations prepared by the young people from the four participating municipalities, following the discussion of five topics and presenting their goals and ideas in English. The ppt materials will be shared with schoolmates and can be used in local school practice to discuss EU issues. As a result of the joint thinking of the young people, a joint resolution called Memorandum, entitled 'EUROPE OF YOUNG PEOPLE' was drawn up. This material gives an honest picture of the views and ideas of young people in the participating countries in the current EU context. The memorandum will also be posted on the municipal website. The prepared ppt materials and the Memorandum are to be shared by the young people in their circles through their Facebook, youtube and mobile networking connections. As the four settlements have been in regular contact for many years, the ideas and products of this project may serve as a basis for further events. Accompanying teachers, who are actively involved in the project, as well as municipal leaders and officials, can help this process.

Visibility of the Europe for Citizens Programme

At the public events of the town-twinning meeting, the EU flag was displayed each time, along with the country flags of the partner municipalities. The EU flag was also displayed at the school ceremony. Media coverage of the event also featured the EU flag, and in the text there is a reference to the meeting being sponsored by the Europe for Citizen Program. The output documents produced by the project activities in connection with the meeting include a reference to the EU flag and program support.

EU flag was shown in the following website information: i) https://uniconbg.com/post/27562-v-aheloi-se-provede-mejdunarodna-sreshta-po-programata-evropa-za-grajdanite.html?fbclid=lwAR2DJHmGDnOgNU0Q0fXik7MBIbzTlj29rap2LpOvurfAakWR1_xqJtcGNkM; ii) https://www.flagman.bg/article/196800, iii)

http://radiomilena.com/2013/59180/%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b5%d0%b4%d0%b5-%d1%81%d0%b5-

%d1%81%d1%80%d0%b5%d1%89%d0%b0-%d0%bf%d0%be-%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%be%d0%b3/; iv) https://www.pomorie.bg/53469/v-aheloy-se-provede-mezhdunarodna-sreshta-po-programata-vevropa-zagrazhdanitev/

Documents prepared, displaying the EU flag and acknowledging the support received within the Programme:

- ppt presentations (4) of the four city groups, discussing various EU topics.
- Memorandum, which is a common concluding document of the discussions carried out by the young participants.

Additional information

In general, we think that the freedom of the themes which can be chosen for the Town Twinning applications must be as wide as possible since the variability could make this program more interesting and attractive for the different populations in the EU. Undoubtedly the future of Europe is the most relevant topic, especially its aspects for the young generation.

STATISTICS

Direct Participants

Name of Organization/pounicipality	Country	Participants by target group			Disadvantaged	\A/	N4	Total
Name of Organisation/municipality	Country	below 30	30-65	above 65	participants	Women	Men	Total
OBSHTINA POMORIE	Bulgaria	45	27	2	2	38	36	74
Comuna Lupeni	Romania	13	7	0	0	12	8	20
URZAD MIASTA I GMINY CIESZANOW	Poland	7	10	0	0	9	8	17
AJAK VAROS ONKORMANYZATA	Hungary	11	6	0	0	13	6	19
		76	50	2	2	72	58	130

Indirect Participants

Indirect Participants

Number of indirect participants	200

Other information

Activities of the project

Project start date	15/09/2019
Project end date	19/09/2019

Venues of the activities

Venue of the activities

Country	City
Bulgaria	Aheloy

Information template

information.

Direct link to the webpage of the municipality where the duly filled out information template is located/published.
Reminder: acceptance of the Final Report is conditioned upon the publication of the information template with project-related

 $www.pomorie.bg www.primarialupenihr.ro www.cieszanow.pl www.ajak.hu , \\http://www.ajak.hu/index.php/hu/$

Citizens' understanding of the EU

To which extent have the project's activities increased citizens' understanding of the EU?

Good			

Please give an example

There have been partnerships between the four participating settlements for years (3-8 years), which are manifested through regular and mutual group visits. The municipalities have already participated in several EU-funded twinning projects. The cooperation is based on the principle of mutual benefit, which covers the exploration of countries of different past and character, as well as the possibility to discover other types of landscapes and tourist destinations. The participating municipalities have a small population and are less central in their own country. International co-operation is therefore of increasing importance to these communities, and it is precisely the town-twinning programs that provide the opportunity to gain a broader perspective on the EU and on the European stage. Citizens' and official contacts through partnerships also increase EU knowledge, and this is particularly true for projects that specifically address the functioning of the EU, which is the case with this project. Participation in the joint program is particularly beneficial for Aheloy, as Bulgaria is less integrated into the EU than partner countries. The primary target group of this project was young people, and it was a particularly important opportunity for the elementary school age group to take part in an international project and deal with EU issues, with expert guidance. Through the students, of course, the project reaches a wider audience, partly a wider circle of schoolmates, partly the parents, and other friends at home. This view is also supported by the feedback summaries given by the participating groups, as shown already in the sections presented in section 3.2.2 above. From the group feedback of Farkaslaka/Lupeni we quote the following: "This excursion was a life experience for everyone: we made new relationships, spent quality time together, want to sightseeing, spent time on the beach, and of course, we also assisted in lot of interesting programs with the topic of the EU. - There were really useful and mind-o

Short description check



I hereby confirm that the information provided under the "Short description of the project's results" is written in EN, DE or FR and clearly indicates the main results/achievements of the project, topics covered, countries involved; number of direct/indirect participants.

I am aware that this information can be used for publication purposes.

Duty to keep documents/obligation to provide information check



I hereby confirm that I'm aware about contractual obligations set out in the Articles n° 27.2 & n° 27.3 of General Conditions to keep all original documents for a period of 3 years starting from the date of payment of the balance. Therefore, the evidences of the project implementation(e.g. participants lists and/or photos and/or catering & travelling invoices and/or boarding passes and/or any other proves) have been kept and will be provided upon request in the context of checks and audits.

Financial Sheet

Final Grant Requested

Item	Contractual	Declared
Executive Agency - EACEA	10 080,00	10 080,00
Total:	10 080,00	10 080,00



Attachments

Type of File	Name of the File	
Declaration on Honour	Declaration-PRO-EU_Aheloy.pdf	
Financial Final Report - Grant calculation sheet	Aheloy_final_budget_calculation_sheet_tt_en_2018.xlsx	
Project's pictures (if you could summarize the project in 3 pictures what those would be?). Please note that these pictures might be used for publication purposes - picture 1	Photo 1 Conference on EU themes.pdf	
picture 2	Photo 2 School program in Aheloy.pdf	
picture 3	Photo 3 Workshop Debate of young people.pdf	

