



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	Programme Guide 2018
Project number	601569-CITIZ-1-2018-1-SI-CITIZ-TT
Agreement/decision number	20182052
Project Title	United in variety
Language used to complete the form	English

Contractual data

Dates and Beneficiaries

Dates

Project Start: 31/08/2018	Project End: 20/04/2019
Activities Start: 24/10/2018	Activities End: 26/10/2018
Project Duration(months): 0	

Beneficiary Data

Role	PIC	Name	Country
Coordinating Organization / Beneficiary	908198294	DRUSTVO ZA VAROVANJE MATERNEGA JEZIKA, NARAVNE IN KULTURNE DEDISCINE MAKS PLETERSNIK PISECE	Slovenia
Management Contact Person	908198294	DRUSTVO ZA VAROVANJE MATERNEGA JEZIKA, NARAVNE IN KULTURNE DEDISCINE MAKS PLETERSNIK PISECE	Slovenia

Legal Representative

Organisation Legal Address

Name: DRUSTVO ZA VAROVANJE MATERNEGA JEZIKA, NARAVNE IN KULTURNE DEDISCINE MAKS PLETERSNIK PISECE	
Street: PISECE 4	
Post Code: 8255	City: PISECE
Country: Slovenia	

Department

Name:	
Street: Pisece 4	
Post Code: 8255	City: PISECE
Country: Slovenia	
Local Address:	
Internet site: http://www.pisece.si/category/drustvo-pletersnikova-domacija/	

Contact

Title: Mr	Function: president
Name: Martin	Last Name: DUSIC
Phone Number 1: +386 7 45 200 80	Phone Number 2:
Fax Number:	Mobile Number:
Email: martin.dusic@siol.net	

Contact Person

Organisation Legal Address

Name: DRUSTVO ZA VAROVANJE MATERNEGA JEZIKA, NARAVNE IN KULTURNE DEDISCINE MAKS PLETERSNIK PISECE	
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Implemented Activities

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

English - 1	<p>During the three-day event in Slovenia (town of Pišece and Brežice) the participants strengthened intercultural bonds, celebrated the European Year of Cultural Heritage, experienced cultural diversity, and empowered their belonging to European citizenship through workshops and presentations. The participants got to know tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the village of Pišece and the town of Brežice. The event marked the memory of the life path and the work of the lexicographer Max Pleteršnik, who lived in the 19th century and created a very important European heritage - a bilingual Slovene –German dictionary. Through the Living Dictionary workshops, the participants learned linguistic diversity and strengthened the love of the written word through learning of different writings (Gothic, Cyrillic) and created beautifully written Live dictionary- phrases and messages in different languages written on blue chairs. The event was also dedicated to the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament and the importance of civic engagement and the work of MEPs, which was addressed by honorary guest member of the European Parliament from Slovenia, Mr. Franc Bogovič. An important part of the event was dedicated to the exhibition of the 50 best art works gathered through visual arts competition for young people "My home is a part of Europe", which directly involved over 400 young people from the participating municipalities. The international event ended with a festive celebration where the participants signed twinning documents, thus laying the foundations for future cooperation. Altogether the project directly involved 741 participants. The three-day program was attended by 341 citizens from 8 municipalities of 5 countries: 27 from municipality Shlierbach (Austria), 37 from municipality Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 30 from municipality Novi Marof (Croatia), 32 from municipality Niš (Serbia), 30 from municipality Ruma (Serbia), 35 from municipality Vršac (Serbia) and 150 Slovenian participants from municipalities Novo mesto and Brežice</p>
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Description

Impact and Citizen Involvement

The most important achievement of the project is the integration and intergenerational cooperation of people from countries within the EU and abroad (BiH, Serbia) and establishment of new connections in the field of culture. We have contributed to the stronger sense of EU identity among the youth with our themed contest "My home is also a part of Europe, which had a wider impact as anticipated. Around 400 hundred youth from 20 schools and other org. participated in the art contest and were encouraged to think about the Europe as a common denominator. The exposition is permanently placed in the Pleteršnik homestead to be viewed by the visitors during the upcoming year. We have achieved involvement of part. through all stages of the project. They prepared their presentations of the countries and towns, and implemented cultural activity's (singing, dancing, making their own culinary dishes). They created together Live dictionary- phrases and messages in different languages written on blue chairs and got to know linguistic diversity and strengthened the love of the written word through learning of different writings (Gothic, Cyrillic) through the workshops. They engaged in interviews, because they were tasked with giving statements and also interviewing. All the org. was successful with the engaging of the part. that prior to the project weren't involved. One of the goals was to achieve the interaction between part. It wasn't easy task to achieve because of the linguistic barriers and the fact that the most of the part. didn't know each other before hand. The lesson learned for future projects is that we should include more bonding activity's such as teambuilding, role-plays in order to break the ice. Also we had trouble to involve the municipal repr. from Serbian towns after a great effort from our side they have recognized the value of such events and have attended the event. The priority to foster intercul. dialogue and combat stigmatization of migrants&minorities was addressed through Live dictionary event. Part. choose the words that best described their opinion on minority&migrants and put them down in writing on the blue chairs. It made positive impact on part. and contributed to the sense of common EU values such as tolerance and acceptance. Prior to the main event the part. expressed their views on the topic of migrants&minorities some of them themselves being a part of the minority on their FB profiles. The priority of EU year of cult. heritage 2018 was tackled through experiencing the cult. heritage which was delivered by the part. for the part. and wider audience. All part. got to know the cult. heritage of the town Pišce and Brežice and the work of lexicographer Max Pleteršnik. The importance of EU year of cult. heritage was stressed by the speakers on the events specially by the guest speaker MEP Franc Bogovič. The specific aim to encourage civic participation at EU level was achieved by encouraging the citizens to participate in the upcoming elections in the EU parliament through the presentation and open dialogue with the MEP Franc Bogovič. The event had a very good attendance and was very well received. The part. seized the opportunity for direct interaction and address the MEP with the variety of questions. As the result of the event the future cooperation has crystalized in few areas. Plans were made for the return visit to the Schlierbach GMBH in Austria, cooperation with the LAG PRI ZAG from Croatia, when applying for a joint project in the framework of border cooperation in the field of culture and implementation of youth language camps (summer course of Slovene and Croatian lang.). With the NGOs from BiH and Serbia, we see the possibility of further cooperation in the area of volu

Direct testimonies/stories from participants collected during the events.

Direct testimonies of the participants were collected in the form of video interview and are placed in the FB profile of the lead association (FB Maks Pleteršnik). In the texts under we are including transcriptions with parts of the statements that were given.

Participant from the municipality Ruma-Serbia:

»This is the first EU project that I participated in and it was a great experience because I got to know group of people with different ideas and different backgrounds. I hope that in the future more countries will join the United in variety project.

Participant from the municipality Vršac-Serbia:

»This is the first EU project that our ngo participated in and it was a great experience meeting so many different people from our and other countries. The networking was very good. We think that all people should get the opportunity to participate in an event like this. Through all the activates we participated in workshops and dancing we got a very good impression of other cultures. We have established the connection with all participating organization and we will think in the future about the next idea to realize.

Participant from the municipality Banja Luka (Bosnia and Hercegovina):

This is the first time I participated in EU funded project ant it was a very valuable experience. For me it was excellent opportunity to see different cultures, because we are also a cultural association that organizes different cultural events, issuing many books or organizing different performances, so I think this event was really something that you can get experience from and you can get in contact with different people different organizations and you can always learn from someone especially if they have experience in such projects. We are opened for future cooperation especially if it means a cooperation between people from different countries.

Participant from municipality Brežice:

I have enjoyed very much this experience which was very enriching in the sense of cultural diversity but also gave me an insight why we should be more engaged and have more interest in the European Union and what is happening in current political situation.

Key message(s) of citizens involved in the project

All the citizens should have the opportunity to participate at least once in international projects. Working together side by side and exploring the cultural diversity is creating stronger connections between people. European institutions and its representatives should be more accessible for common people.

Description of implemented activities

1. Social media activity (FB): org. promoted the project by posting information, invitations, videos and photography's through their fb profiles before, during and after the event.

2. Intern. youth contest "My home is also a part of Europe". Methods: open contest- literary, photographic, audio-visual. In the contest were involved over 40 schools and ngos from partner countries. Over 400 youngsters participated with their works (art, photo, video), through the first selection 50 of art works 32 photography's and 7 videos entered the contest, through the second selection 50 of best artworks were chosen for the main event exhibition.

3. main event preparation

Preparing the cult. heritage presentations and cult. performances. Method: group work. Each org. prepared & compiled materials & choose methods of presentation of communities & cult. heritage.

Implementation of action Youth for youth: Method: skype, phone, e-mails, individual meetings with local families/youth: purpose of the action was to enhance the multicultural experience and bonding by local youth hosting the youth from invited mun. in their homes. As a result, 10 young people were hosted in local homes.

Event implementation

1. Day. Methods: exposition, PP presentations, speeches, audio & video clips, cult. expressions (dance, songs, intangible cultural heritage). After the welcomes speeches from the repr. of municipality's and ngos the cultural event started with the EU anthem and continued with the presentations of communities & countrys & cult. heritage through cultural expressions. A part of the exposition of the young authors was put on display in the Cult. centre in Pišece.

2. Day. Methods: workshops, open dialogue, lectures, literally expression, award ceremony, guided tour:

The event started in Sports Hall in Brežice with the official opening of the youth exposition and the award ceremony for the best works. The part. implemented language workshops (content: Serbian lang. with Cyrillic script; German lang. with the gothic script). In the continuation the Live dictionary event was implemented: writing of words and thoughts related to minorities & migrants in the languages and scripts with yellow colour on blue chairs (collaboration of local UNESCO schools). Music & folklore & culinary workshops were implemented. At the workshops local public and other part. learned songs and dances and how to prepare traditional dishes from Croatia, BIH, Serbia, Austria, Slovenia. All countries were presented to the wider audience with a well-organized display. The event was well received and the hall with capacity of over 500 seats for the audience was full. Guests of honour (MEP, Mayor, ...) and partner org. were awarded with the blue chairs.

Event continued with the visit to the cult. points of interest in the town of Brežice. After that part. attended the open dialogue and presentation of MEP Franc Bogovič. They got to know the work of EU parliament and the current issues it is dealing with Brexit, migration, and others. MEP highlighted all the efforts to make improvements in agriculture and rural areas, and presented projects of European Smart Village and Youth alliance. The MEPs staff presented the House of EU and info brochures on the functioning of the EU institutions were disseminated among the part. The event concluded with literary evening with Slo. writer Rudi Mlinar with a lecture on European paths of renown Slovenian linguist Maks Pleteršnik.

3. Day Methods: guided tour, group reflection, video

After the visit of cult. heritage sites of Village Pišece, closing meeting was held with evaluation of the project as a whole, impact on the part. and planning of joint projects for the year 2019. Part. gathered video statements from each other. Twining oats were signed.

Changes in relation of the original application

In the initial application we planned for participation of citizens only from three Serbian municipality's as positive result of engagement from the participating organizations from Serbia we have included more citizens from 7 other Serbian municipalities (municipality of Sremska Mitrovica, Irig, and Vrdnik, Bela Palanka, Babušnica, Vranje, Novi Sad). In the project were included also other participants from Skopje Macedonia. This means that our project had a wider geographical impact as originally planned.

In the original application we have stated that the project was due to begin on the 24.10 till 26.10 2018. We had changed the dates to 25.10 till 27.10 due to the request from partner organizations.

In initial application we have stated that we will have "EU INFO desk on the spot: personnel from Info centre of EU house will be available for part. & visitors focusing on promotion of opportunities for youth" Due to the unresponsiveness of the staff of the EU info centre this was not possible instead the staff of MEP Franc Bogovič presented the EU House in Ljubljana and disseminated the informational brochures on the functioning of EU institutions to the participants

Dissemination and visibility of your project

Partner organizations and other institutions (schools and local ngos) had ensured the visibility of the project with the strong presence in the social media, especially Facebook, blogs, youtube and their websites. Project compendium, video clips, ect. are permanently available online on a visible place on the partner's websites. In order to reach the citizens, the project compendium was translated from English language to the native languages. Partners which are member organizations informed their members about the project and project results through meetings, emails and regular post.

The project highlights and information template was published on 10 websites of participating organizations (official websites of municipalities and ngos which were representing municipality's in the project). The links to all project partners website and social media publications are gathered on the website of the lead partner Društvo Pleteršnikova domačija Pišece-SI http://www.pletersnikova-domacija.si/united_in_variety.html;
MEP Franc Bogovič published an article about the project on his official website and shared the event on his FB profile (5645 followers).
<http://bogovic.eu/pametni-ljudje-za-pametne-vasi-in-pametno-evropo/>
<https://www.facebook.com/FrancBogovic.SLS/>

Media

Each partner organization had to implement their communication plan, as a result the project had a good media coverage before, during and after the event. Before the event partner organizations were announcing the upcoming event in numerous local events. A week before the event a media conference was announced by a lead partner and all the media regional, local and national received a project info card. The project was announced on the live air when the project manager was a guest in the studio of regional radio Sraka.

Media reach in Slovenia and Croatia

Regional radio Sraka

RADIO KRKA NOVO MESTO radiokrka.si/clanek/novice/foto-zdruzeni-v-razlicnosti-na-etr-brezice-667952

Regional newspaper for south east Slovenia DOLENJSKI LIST, article was published in online newspaper and in written version (reach of printed newspaper is 45.000 subscribers)

<http://novice.najdi.si/predogled/novica/20d3429347c11a5f25f642e198316a77/Dolenjski-list/Dolenjska-in-Posavje/Zdruzeni-v-razlicnosti>

Online media MOJA SLOVENIJA - newspaper SLOVENC.I.SI

<http://www.slovinci.si/zakljucek-projekta-zdruzeni-v-razlicnosti/>

online media ePosavje

<http://www.eposavje.com/on/sola-posavje/35112-zdruzeni-v-razlicnosti-eu-projekt-etr-brezice.html>

regional newspaper POSAVSKI OBZORNIK <https://www.posavskiobzornik.si/kultura/na-pletersnikovem-dnevu-predstavili-roman-o-maksu-pletersniku>

Online media »PREBERI.SI«

<https://www.preberi.si/content/view/20964308-EU-Projekt-»Zdruzeni-v-razlicnosti«-na-Ekonomski-in-trgovski-soli-Brezice.html>

Regional online media Prigorski CRO: <http://prigorski.hr/foto-projekt-ujedinjeni-razlicitosti-opcine-kalnik-sveti-petar-orehovec-gornja-rijeka-zajedno-europskom-programu/>

local Radio Zlatar-CRO : <http://www.radio-zlatar.hr/go.php?go=novosti&ID=21458&vrsta=V>

online media Portal Novosti CRO : <https://www.portalnovosti.com/ujedinjeni-u-razlicitosti>

The project and youth contest had a wide dissemination with the help of project partners, 20 unesco schools in Slovenia and participating countries and 20 other organizations dealing with youth. The overall estimate is that around 400 young people from all participated in the contest. As the project result the gathered art work was put on display in the homestead of Max Pleteršnik in Pišece, which is a cultural monument with a resume of 20 years and has at least 1000 visitors on a yearly base. The exposition will remain in the place throughout the year 2019.

Visibility of the Europe for Citizens Programme

In all the communications within the partnership we have used the EFC logotypes with the text funded under Europe for citizen's program. We have used the EFC logotype in all external communications, in written invitations to participants and other organizations, and in the communications with media. On all the partner websites under the project description EFC logotype is displayed with the statement that the project is funded under the EFC programme. All the events were held under the EU flag, including the artistic, photo and video competition which was thematically and visually coloured with colours symbolizing the EU. Before each activity we have address the participant and wider public with a statement s that the project is funded under EFC programme. On the visible place during all the activities the project banner with the EFC logo, name of the project and project partners was placed.

Additional information

We think that the informational service/help desk offered at House of Europe could be more flexible in order to attend the event and be like this more actively involved with presentations or informational kiosk. It would be reasonable that this kind of services would work more hand in hand with the projects funded under the EFC programme.

Statistics

Direct Participants

Name of Organisation/municipality	Country	Participants by target group			Disadvantaged participants	Women	Men	Total
		below 30	30-65	above 65				
DRUSTVO ZA VAROVANJE MATERNEGA JEZIKA, NARAVNE IN KULTURNE DEDISCINE MAKS PLETERSNIK PISECE	Slovenia	30	60	10	20	60	40	100
SPES GMBH	Austria	12	13	2	5	22	5	27
LOKALNA AKCIJSKA GRUPA PRIGORJE-ZAGORJE	Croatia	5	23	2	6	17	13	30
Udruzenje Slovenaca Triglav	Bosnia and Herzegovina	24	11	2	5	24	13	37
Udruzenje Slovenaca 'Kula' u Vrscu	Serbia	19	15	1	6	24	11	35
DRUSTVO ZA RAZVIJANJE PROSTOVOLJNEGA DELA NOVO MESTO	Slovenia	15	28	7	10	35	15	50
Društvo slovenacko srpskog prijateljstva Zdravica	Serbia	10	19	3	5	20	12	32
OPSTINA RUMA	Serbia	14	14	2	5	19	11	30
		129	183	29	62	221	120	341

Indirect Participants

Indirect Participants

Number of indirect participants	2 400
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Other information

Activities of the project

Project start date	25/10/2018
Project end date	27/10/2018

Venues of the activities

Venue of the activities	
Country	City
Slovenia	Brežice, Pišece

WebSite Address

Website address

<https://www.brezice.si/objave/zanimivo/2018111508502920/POVZETEK%20PROJEKTA%20TOWN%20TWINNING%20-%20ZDRU%C5%BDENI%20V%20RAZLI%C4%8CNOSTI%20/>

Citizens' understanding of the EU

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

Very good

Please give an example

Activities of the project have increased the awareness of the people on the purpose and meaning of EU especially the universal rights and values that it stands for and defends. People got a better understanding of what it means being a citizen of Europe. Through the direct contact with the Slovenian MEP Franc Bogovič participants got first hand information's and direct feedback on what is the role of MEPS and impact of their work. They got to know how the decisions are made and what is the role of European Parliament in comparison with other decision making bodies of European Union. Most of the participants never had the opportunity to speak to MEP and were feeling distant or indifferent to the European policy making. The positive expanse of opinions and questions asked during the presentation of Slovenian MEP Franc Bogovič showed that people were keen on getting more involved and showed more interest based on the fact that could talk face to face with the member of European Parliament. We can say with confidence that our event contributed to that some part of the participants have formed their opinion and will give their voice at the EU Parliament election 2019. (based on the feedback from participants). The project has increased the citizens understanding of EU above the common perceptions of common monetary value, free travel of goods and people, act.

People are very well aware of the importance of the EU for their lives and feel they belong to European citizenship. All of the main events of the Town Twinning project - United in Variety - started with the European anthem. The stage scene was significant with European siblings. Workshop Live Dictionary was held in the European spirit, with passwords and slogans on the theme "Together in Europe for a Better World", in all languages and different fonts. European interculturalism has come to its full effect. The International Youth Contest under the title " my home is part of Europe" has contributed to raising the awareness of young people for the sense of belonging to European citizenship. At the meeting with the European Member of the European Parliament, Franc Bogovic, the conversation with him also showed that people from all partner countries want to live in the Europe, which connects them.

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.

Financial Sheet

Final Grant Requested

Item	Contractual	Declared
Executive Agency - EACEA	25 000,00	25 000,00
Total:	25 000,00	25 000,00

Attachments

Type of File	Name of the File
Declaration on Honour	declaration anex (1).pdf
Financial Final Report - Grant calculation sheet	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	cultural heritage presentation.jpg
picture 2	Exposition EU is my home.jpg
picture 3	Event for wider public in Auditorium.jpg