

JOINT SUMMARY DOCUMENTS OF PROJECT KEYtoEU

Title of the project:

Solidarity - key to solving social problems and supporting the evolution of Europe in future

Acronym: KEYtoEU

Programme: Europe for Citizens Programme_ Networks of Towns

Grant Decision Nr 621894

Implementation period: 2020-2022

Partner organizations	Country	Logo
Partnerschaftsverein Alsbach-Hähnlein (PVAH) – Lead Partner	Germany	
Municipality of City Massamagrell	Spain	
Municipality of City Diósd	Hungary	
Municipality of City Prague-9	Czech Republic	
Municipality of City Sulmona	Italy	
Municipality of City Lokroi/Atalantí	Greece	
Municipality of City Lubaczów	Poland	
Municipality of City Kozloduy	Bulgaria	
Association of Albanian Municipalities (Tirana)	Albania	

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Host partner: Association of Albanian Municipalities

“Social solidarity situation in Albania, main issues, methods and networking on embracing European values and approaching solidarity”

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Visit to the Museum BunkArt in the centre of Tirana

6-PROJECT CLOSING SESSION**7- Multifunctional community center “Nishtulla”****8- CLOSING REMARKS OF THE PROJECT**

by Hans Herrmann President of PVAH and Agron Haxhimali Executive Director of AAM, and Acceptance of a Common Declaration (Memorandum of Understanding) by Partners

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demonstrating the activities of the project partner meetings

- **In addition, the original presentations (in ppt format, supplied with photos) can be seen in the APPENDIX, in form of pdf files.**
- **The documents are grouped according to the project partner meetings (M), numbering from M1 to M9.**

PROJECT PARTNER MEETING No. M1

City Alsbach-Hähnlein, Germany, 30 September-03 October 2021

Host partner: Partnerschaftsverein Alsbach-Hähnlein (PVAH)

Introduction of the Partnership Association Alsbach-Hähnlein e.V.

About the Association

- Motivated by the experience of an EU project 2012/13
- Many contacts based on this project “Building Solidarity in Communities” like Diósd, Lokrous, and Sulmona
- Foundation of the association end of 2014.
- 41 members today
- **Goals**
- Supporting our community in maintaining and developing the contractually registered partnerships.
- Developing new partnerships with other communities and cities inside and outside of Europe.

Activities

- The association promotes international thinking and tolerance at all levels of culture and the thought of international understanding by personal and institutional contacts, among others by cultural, scientific and sportive encounters. In doing so
- the association is active through initiatives, consulting and promotions
- Promoting/mentoring of scholar and youth meetings, cultural and sports events,
- Organizing encounters with the citizens of the twin communities
- Creating educational events on the occasion of which culture and history of the communities and their geographical areas are being taught and/or the European thought is encouraged,
- Introducing the community to other twin communities,
- Arranging for contacts to and encounters between institutions, organizations and associations of the twin communities.

Europe between Visions and Politics: Why Do We Need Perspectives?

Keynote Speech

by Prof. Dr. Joachim-Felix Leonhard

It is my great pleasure, as former Secretary General of the International Goethe Institut and later as State Secretary for Science and Arts in the Federal State of Hesse, as a convinced European citizen and citizen from Alsbach-Hähnlein, to share some thoughts and suggestions with you: concerning Europe between visions and daily politics as position paper at the beginning of an international meeting to which European citizens have come for issues of a European citizenship and its development showing solidarity. Thus, I am glad that you have travelled to our community and I

would like to thank the organizers for the initiative and organization of this first project meeting, primarily the partnership association of Alsbach-Hähnlein with their President Hans Herrmann. In the following, I would like to say some words concerning the range of topics between visions and practice of European politics. Yes, we do need visions in politics, when political planning for the future of Europe in a multilateral and global environment of worldwide political developments and relationships is concerned. Moreover, immediately the question comes up when for the last time such a vision had been presented. This was almost exactly four years ago on September 26, 2017, when the French State President, Emmanuel Macron, had made proposals for the renewal – more precisely: for a new foundation of the European Union at the Sorbonne in Paris – with the aim to react to multilateral, geopolitical shifting and to strengthen Europe in a sovereign, democratic way showing solidarity against nationalism, protectionism and tendencies towards isolation. To him it had been important to highlight the unity in diversity in its joint democratic basic values and giving better emphasis in future to European politics with respect to economy but also to culture. Here, somebody had been talking in the sense of the approximately 65 years old tradition of important Europeans such as Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer and Alcide de Gasperi – and had strong reasons to ask for the political future of Europe: a Europe in which we should always make sure where we originally come from and where we wish to go to. What does Europe represent historically and politically and which kind of Europe do we wish to have in future? Which is its political position in the context of globalization? Are we citizens of Europe or „only“ citizens of Euroland? These are enough questions now in order to have a brief look on Europe’s historical and political development.

1. Europe – Where Do We Come From, Where Are We Right Now?

Already the name „Europe“ is ambiguous: Europe, the Phoenician princess had been kidnapped by the Greek Father of Gods, Zeus, in shape of a huge bull at today’s Lebanon bringing her to Crete. Again and again it had been the mythical source for artistic and literary representation up to modern age: thus, e.g. during the years of Cold War, Johannes Grützke, the painting artist from Berlin, had Europe balance on the bull on the Berlin Wall, as if it were during the Cold War between East and West or between Warsaw Pact and NATO. Artists and art as interpreters of history and politics. This implies a lot without any words, however, not everything.

Europe as Janus head, where both faces are not seldom looking away from each other and from time to time are even gazing to North America while the other face is scarcely looking in the direction of Russia and China, but also in the direction of Africa, which in the era of multilateralism and of globalization seems to be necessary, not only for economical reasons. Thus, more is at stake than single projects such as a Euro-Russian gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea or a new Silk Road from China to the West, but finally for Europe– as is shown by the migrations of our time – an active and European cooperation with respect to development in solidarity with African countries is at stake. All these exemplary tasks and their accomplishment should be characterized by pragmatism in daily politics, however, above all by a European Idea. Less bureaucracy and centralism are needed in the European Community. As the discussion on again upcoming nationalism in countries of the EC shows, especially a discussion on values is needed for a Society of European Citizens, because: we all are citizens of Europe with differing mentalities, histories, religions and cultures, but with liberal democratic values, subjected to a joint understanding, a building of communities and of solidarity – for a unit of variety. It is good that nowadays representatives of several European cities have come together at Alsbach in order to discuss just these issues and possibilities of a Society of European Citizens.

2. The European Idea: Society of Values and of Historical and Political Education

A European idea, based on the spirit of European intellectual and cultural history, especially on the enlightenment of the 18th century and its laws on humanity, tolerance and respect, in spite of all recent centrifugal endeavours, is of central importance in order to contribute to peace and understanding of peoples, freedom and democracy. This is the historical lesson learnt from World War II. Reminding of this are the liberty movements of the years ninety in Eastern Europe and the collapse of the communist Eastern Block, but also the replacement of dictatorships in Greece, Spain and Portugal in the years between 1960 and 1970. Especially in school lessons you should be reminded of these liberty movements, but where shall the enthusiasm for Europe come from when the curricula for the schools

scarcely include „Europe“ and its historical and political development as integral element of education? At least in Germany lessons mainly focus on subjects of usefulness (STAM). For the up growing generation such a policy to remind during school lessons of the European history and of liberty movements, but also of suppression of liberty, makes a lot of sense, because it prepares for future developments.

3. Europe's Role in the Internal Relationship and in World Politics

If everything said up to now is valid in view of the so-called „European values“ within the community, the following thoughts shall turn to issues of the interior structure as well as to the role of Europe in world politics. This just has become important at present: more than 25 years after the collapse of the East Block not only in Middle Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe new states came into being, but also new attempts for self-government in European regions such as Basque Country, Scotland because of Brexit, and in Catalonia. They concern the respective relationship between centrality and decentrality in the strained conditions between the European Community and the individual member states, respectively their governments, but, at one level below also between single nations and there between single regions. An issue already playing a role in the early times of European political formation, when central structures of the United States of Europe were concerned as federal system against a Europe of Mother Countries (Charles de Gaulle). This discussion is now strengthened again: thus differing Europes have been talked about in the plural, as well as about a Europe of differing speeds, about a division between the North and the South and last, but not least, out of political practice about a voting procedure within the European Community where the principle of unanimity should be replaced by a principle of majority.

It goes without saying that to these inner European discussions also concerning the relationship between the European Commission and the European Parliament, external effects add up, more precisely: the historically grown predominance of the executive against the legislative power, these external effects were the protectionism of Donald Trump's „America First“, softened since Joe Biden, but still effective today, and the new largely dimensioned rivalry for power and influence in this world and in space between the USA and the People's Republic of China. In view of such intensive shifting of world political coordinates we have to pay attention in Europe that we will not get between the large power blocks USA and People's Republic of China. Europe in this case plays the role of union, but the European Community must be more in future than the sum of single parts in its political planning and acting.

4. United in Diversity: Inside and Outside of Education and Culture

One element so far has been punishably neglected in the development towards the European Union. What is meant is the European task to have a look to the respective identities with their cultural, linguistic indicators and educational factors giving them support. Everywhere the most significant, occidental culture is talked about as the foundation of Europe, however, without having this followed by a commitment to cultural education as future task and providing for a sufficient budget item in the household of the European Community. European politics should concentrate on supporting the interest for politics respectively on reducing disenchantment with politics by culture political subjects and conceptions in the frame of overall European understanding as e.g. promoting youth exchange. Youth exchange has continuously diminished e.g. between France and Germany and as a matter of fact has never really developed in the direction of Middle Eastern European countries. However, who believes that European friendship can do without knowing a second foreign language (Macron) and deems English sufficient as a basis for communication for all, is wrong, because via the language much more is conveyed than only the capability of understanding other people: via language you will automatically learn about history, culture, arts – as part of a diverse Europe.

In higher education the so-called Bologna process and the subsequent support of studies, research and education at universities in the European foreign countries was well intended, because the European Community by the Lisbon Strategy as of the year 2000 defined education as raw material in a Europe otherwise poor in raw materials, but the whole thing was organized in a very technocratic way. While it is true that in 1999 in Bologna 29 Secretaries of Education had pleaded in favour of mobility of students within Europe and had agreed upon the mutual acceptance of performance, examinations and degrees, the interest of young people to change to foreign universities has slacked down considerably.

The reasons for this are complex, but granting award points was followed by a considerable schoolification of the originally free studies: the contents of the studies played a lesser role than the number of points to be reached. Therefore, it will be necessary to increase the exchange of young people within Europe again.

5. The European Union: Structure, Organization and Necessary Reforms

After the thoughts on the European Idea and the role of Europe in world politics now some observations on structure and organization of the European Community will follow which are of democratic interest to the Society of European Citizens. Not only Emmanuel Macron threw a critical view on the dominance of a Commission of the European Union over the European Parliament which had been established late in the history of the European Union: shall the executive also in future have predominance over the legislative in a European House, as Michail Gorbatschow once described his vision of a future Europe, and which House should this be? Which model do we need, if also (more) parliamentary control of an almost overpowering centralism of commission and red tapism is concerned which citizens also watch increasingly critical? The fact that it developed this way over the years comes from the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community in the year 1951 as a useful network which in 1958 with the same member states Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxemburg and Netherlands led to the European Economic Community (EEC) and in the following years up to 2013 was extended to 22 countries.

Due to the new entries the wheel rotated at too high speed, the increasing exterior crises in world politics and in world markets compounded the situation and partially had a centrifugal effect on many fields of European politics. In order to pause for a moment and to re-orient oneself, Emmanuel Macron analysed the question, if something like a Core Europe could exist to be derived from the Foundation States of the Coal and Steel Community respectively the EEC, or a Two Speed Europe. It goes without saying that this would impair the up to now principal equality of all Member States in the sense of a European Idea, however, would not have to be mandatory. Much rather the principle of unanimity should finally give way, which due to the growing number of members has become more and more paralyzing to a system of parliamentary building of majority as it is usual in democracies.

A further issue, namely the question of exit by one of the member states came up for the first time in case of Greek's financial problems, which was perhaps only postponed by a grant of billions by the European Community, until Brexit followed as actual exit after the British referendum. Also the question of sanctions vis-à-vis single member countries up to expulsion procedures because of disregarding European treaties and European political basic understandings has more recently come into focus as well as during almost weekly debates and should soon have to be regulated so that citizens do not show fatigue instead of the necessary enthusiasm.

If remarks concern some basic issues, also reforms should be done with respect to an over boarding executive: therefore, it had been courageous that Macron claimed several reforms: the European model is capable as no other model, but it should not continue like nowadays refusing the discussion on Europe and continuously re-nominating a 30 heads counting European Commission without considering if a 15 people head count could not also work well. Instead of the prevailing tendency that each country should be represented in the management of commissions, you should consider to concentrate responsibilities instead of splitting them up. Moreover, this would also correspond to the number of State Secretaries and the working practice in the respective cabinets in Europe.

6. Europe und Migration

For a long time and not only in view of the flow of refugees of the last six years the task has come up with respect to humanity and solidarity to set up a genuine migratory programme together with the corresponding laws in Europe. In this respect not only short time technical solutions are necessary, but also those which will have a sustainable effect according to European Laws on Asylum. An approach had been made by the Convention of Dublin of June 15, 1990, which should guarantee to each refugee coming from abroad an asylum procedure in the nominated member state. It had definitely been morally correct that Chancellor Merkel decided in August 2015 not to close the frontier between Austria and Germany, which was approached by many refugees on foot along the highway. Since then six years have, however, gone by without the „European Solution“ mentioned by Chancellor Merkel again and again. The issues continue to exist; the steps taken up to now changed

little and rather give the impression of standstill of constitutional action with respect to migration. Still, Italy, Greece and Spain have been left more or less alone with the issue of migration by the EC states north of the Alps, and had it not been for the „deal“ with Turkey which now will have to be renewed, the already precarious situation would have worsened considerably. Yes, this not yet solved issue has been leading increasingly to attacks by right wing people using racist and undemocratic wording, and is interfering with European solidarity. More than ever defined political concepts are needed with a recognizable time line: having said for a long time „we will manage!“ has not been sufficient any more, if this will not be supplemented by a constitutional “how”. This means a challenge to everybody.

Where do We Go to? - a Few Thoughts at the End

As long as European politics presently are interpreted as prevalingly bureaucratic, technological and centralistic, nobody should be astonished if the national regional horizon comes closer again in thinking and feeling. All this has just not to do anything with well meant, but technocratic endeavours and conceptions of politics, but increasingly with emotional attitudes, which awake new nationalism and religiousness, and lets populists shout nationalistic slogans, because trust evidently seems to be diminishing. This had been the occasion for Emmanuel Macron and his ideas, visions and proposals. We will have to pay attention to the values, which characterize a Society of European Citizens, a society not only shaped by economy and the Euro, but also by culture and education. Europe needs more than tackling with daily topical issues and their repair: it needs a vision beyond a useful economic community, understanding joint history in its diversity: in this way by recognizing diversity, a Society of European Citizens can emerge. In solidarity, for the future, in perpetuity.

GOOD EXAMPLES OF SOLIDARITY:

Advisory Board for Climate Protection and Sustainability

by Dr. Andreas Brockmeyer

Tasks:

- Founded in 2021 on behalf of the Communal Council
- Topics: sustainability, climate and environmental protection
- 7 Members
- Expert board with members from Agriculture, Traffic, Industry, Academia and Environmental Groups
- Consulting communal administration and communal council
- Right of own initiatives and proposals
- Supports roll out of local Climate Action Plan

ASYL Association of Alsbach-Hähnlein e.V.

Not only because of social problems, but because of wars, persecution and existential poverty/ millions of people fled from their home country to Europe, looking for a safe future for themselves and their children and hoping for a life without fear.

In 2015 approximately 1.1 million people came to Germany, almost five hundred thousand of whom applied for asylum, 135 % more than during the previous year.

In 2016 there was again an increase by 63.5 %/ with more than seven hundred thousand applications for asylum.

Politicians, especially administrative bodies were unable to cope with this crisis. Where to put all these people? Into which dwellings? What do these people need?

– A lot of questions, many problems, and it had not always been easy to find an answer or a solution. All of you most probably know the statement of our Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel “We will make it!” – to which I partially agree.

However, this was only possible by the indefatigable assistance of many volunteers to whom the destiny of the people escaping to Germany went near to their hearts.

Because these volunteers showed solidarity with the refugees and assisted them in solving their multiple problems.

Catering for these people had to be guaranteed. Camps from tents, containers and in gyms were erected for the refugees. Accommodation during winter was an issue (picture of Bensheim).

At Alsbach-Hähnlein approximately 200 asylum seekers were housed at the collective accommodation at Sandwiesen Street (Foto). A full-time social worker cared for these people. Especially working for the care of refugees is very time consuming so that not all could similarly well be cared for.

Among the people seeking asylum at Alsbach-Hähnlein there were many people from Somalia, Syria, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Different nations, cultures and religions met and did not only share the same fate, but a small room, a joint kitchen and a joint bathroom. Extremely difficult, because most of the time there was no woman to clean, cook and do the washing.

A foreign country, a foreign language, foreign food, a foreign culture and a lot of bureaucracy – that was Germany. Was this the promised land?

A lot of sorrows and needs distressed the people. Sorrows for the left behind, the children, women, fathers, mothers who still had to keep on living in war zones. The trauma of war experienced by the one or other person or the trauma experienced during the escape led to by far larger problems than politicians had supposed in the beginning.

Moreover, there was the sorrow, if people were allowed to stay in Germany, the need to send money to the family who did not have enough for their own living. And also the obligation to pay the people smugglers. Therefore, instead of learning the language, which has been time consuming, many refugees concentrated on making money which led to a modern kind of slavery.

From the circle of ASYL volunteers in February 2016 the association ASYL Alsbach-Hähnlein was founded in order to be able to assist the approximately 200 local asylum seekers. In comparison to other local associations, ASYL is small with only approximately 40 members. Everybody helps where they can. A great many elder people commit themselves and try to make coming to Germany easier for the refugees. We subdivided ourselves into special teams with specific tasks:

- the welcome team welcomed the new arrivals offering preliminary assistance
- One team procured intern ships, training and work, however, had to overcome many obstacles like finding an employer who would give a hiring commitment, which would then be used as the basis to apply for a working permit at the foreigners' department. This process has always lasted for a very long time.
- A team to find accommodation, which was very difficult, as there were not enough living quarters available and many property owners had reservations against asylum seekers, even if rent payments had been secure.
- A bicycle repair shop, as the bicycle is the most important means of mobility. Some people, however, first had to learn how to ride a bicycle and to learn the traffic rules.
- Of special value and also quite challenging is the individual mentoring, a long term sponsorship between asylum seeker and volunteer. This had been very successful. For example, a young woman from Syria thus learnt German very quickly due to the indefatigable assistance by her volunteer and even managed to receive the certificate of secondary education.

Or, a young man from Eritrea whom I met in 2016 and who absolutely wanted to start an apprenticeship. At first he was very disappointed when I informed him that he needed to learn more German.

After several German courses and having found a place of apprenticeship himself, in only four and a half years he reached his goal. He is a trained coachbuilder, has a full time employment at a work shop at Alsbach, passed his driver's licence, bought a car, lives in an own flat and finally his wife also arrived in Germany.

Now, he wants to give something in return, became member to the neighbourhood assistance association, and member to the management of the ASYL association.

Unfortunately, the collective accommodation had been closed in 2019/2020. Many asylum seekers were allotted to collective accommodations at surrounding communities. Thus, our contacts had been cut. Only a few accepted refugees had been allowed to stay at the collective accommodation.

Due to the corona pandemic we unfortunately have not yet personally met the few new asylum seekers who had come to Alsbach-Hähnlein and who live at private dwellings. I hope that this will change soon.

During lock down many mentors intensively cared for the children and assisted them in their homework or in home schooling. To this purpose, it had been necessary to provide the children with laptops and to familiarize them with the technique. We could assist a very few with a loan in order to have them pay for a driver's licence or to rent a flat.

Once a month we had offered a meeting between refugees and volunteers in order to discuss certain subjects. Unfortunately, we had to stop these meetings for the protection of all. For 2022 new meetings have been planned and we hope to meet also the new refugees and new people.

Thank you very much for your kind attention

Discussion with representatives of the youth organizations of the parties represented in the local parliament

On Saturday, October 2nd, 2021, as part of the project, representatives of the youth organizations of the 4 parties elected to the municipal parliament were invited to discuss the topic with each other but also with the project participants present. *Jakob Hamalega, deputy chairman of the Young Socialists (JUSOS / SPD) in Hesse* and *Paul Weiske for the Young Liberals Bergstrasse (JULIS / FDP)* accepted the invitation. The promise of a representative of the greenhorns (Die GRÜNEN) was withdrawn on the morning of the event due to illness. In the first round, both of them introduced themselves personally to the project participants.

They then explained their respective positions on the importance that Europe in general and solidarity as a value in connection with the further development of Europe have for them. It turned out that both - but also the organizations they spoke for - are big supporters of the European idea and the values that underlie it.

Both were of the opinion that solidarity was indeed a key to the future development of Europe.

However, they all criticized the lack of transparency in the processes and decisions at European level. This leads to young people in particular not paying much attention to Europe, as it seems too complex to them.

They therefore called for much more direct participation, above all an upgrading of the EU Parliament. Since it is directly elected by the European citizens, this should be the decisive body, similar to that at the national level. There, the laws and projects should be discussed, passed with a majority of votes and put into motion. The constellation with the EU Parliament, the European Council and the EU Commission is cumbersome and difficult to understand for young people.

The discussion with younger participants, especially from the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, then showed that the interest in Europe in these countries leaves much to be desired, mainly because one has to deal with much more fundamental matters on site. Young people are particularly interested in high youth unemployment, low incomes, economic hardship and fears for the future. In addition, the rights of minorities are sometimes disregarded and corruption is very high in some of the countries. Some thought that there was a lot to do in your own country before you could deal more intensively with Europe.

European Institute for Labour and Industrial Relations

www.eiab.de

lecture by Nils Andreas, Deputy Alsbach

Organization

- We are organizing public events on sustainability
- We are working together with companies in the field of corporate sustainability
- We recently published a book on sustainability of SME in our region
- We are publishing columns on sustainability topics in newspapers
- Mission in general
- From the beginning we worked in the field of industrial relations, which means topics in the relationship between companies and its employees, trade unions and state
- Key topic is the European Social Dialogue policy
- Since 2019 we take part as “Private Public Body” in an European Erasmus+ Project on “Smart (Digital) Society”
- Sustainability
- As a main topic since more than 10 years we deal mainly with **Sustainability**
- We took part in several European projects on Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), which means the responsibility of companies for climate, environment and social concerns
- Since 2003 we did train employees of small and medium sized enterprises (SME) to “Corporate Sustainable Managers”
- We are organizing public events on sustainability
- We are working together with companies in the field of corporate sustainability
- We recently published a book on sustainability of SME in our region
- We are publishing columns on sustainability topics in newspapers

Medical First Responder Alsbach a.d.B

by Johannes Krafczyk

The activities of the German Red Cross – Local Medical Service Unit Alsbach has been presented by concrete data and information accompanied with pictorial demonstration

Neighbourhood Help Alsbach-Hähnlein e.V.

by Dr. Egon Hartmann

www.nachbarschaftshilfe-ahs.de

Our Credo :

Helping people who cannot help themselves or who don't find help by others

Personal situations of our „clients“ (examples):

- People who have suddenly lost their partner/friend/neighbour or their partner's care
- People who moved shortly before to our municipality without knowing somebody
- Lonesome, shy, handicapped, poor, „difficult“ people

Our goal is to help citizens in everyday life situations

- which arise suddenly or can be foreseen
- where help is limited in time or transitional
- which can be done by our members
- in which it is difficult to get professional help

Where we can offer our help

- Attendance to the doctor or to public authorities
- Go shopping and help in the household or garden
- Talking with lonesome people
- Assisting in using electronic media, internet, smartphones
- Attendance at walks or to cinema or theatre

How we work

- No office
- Emergency No. 5008-700 (mailbox)
- Daily check of calls on base of a weekly plan
- Person responsible :
 - First evaluation
 - Direct order or E-mail circle
 - Assign to overtake case responsibility
- **Our basic principles**
- Our help is free of charge
- Generally our help is no financial help (exceptions)
- We won't compete with professional services like
 - craftsmen or care / nursing services
- If we can't help we try to find help elsewhere or to give the person information which are helpful
- **Our Organisation : The Neighbourhood Help of Alsbach-Hähnlein**
- Charity association
- Founded in 2014 on base of activities of the Alsbach- Hähnlein Seniorenbeirat (Seniors Council)
- More than 75 members (active and passive)
- Yearly fee 8 €
- Donations
- Insurance by Land Hessen
- **Some more activities – own initiatives**
- “SINT”-program: Online Courses for Internet help
- Digitalization for better participation in daily life
- “Come together”- events
- For finding friends for common activities
- Support in infrastructure : giving donations for “seniors fitness trimmers”

And finally our work has shown us

Even in a good neighbourhood and a good welfare infrastructure

people need and estimate solidarity

A good motivation to continue our work

Action of the Fire brigade Alsbach-Haehnlein in Greece

A picture compilation shows the large-scale action when the fire brigade from Alsbach went with its own vehicles to help control a huge fire in Greece.

WORKSHOP THEMATICS

0 - 15' (Minutes): Introduction:

- European project: what does it mean?
- Europe for citizens Programme
- General and specific objectives
- Priorities
- General features of the programme
- Consistency of the project KEYtoEU with the programme objectives

15-30' Feedback:

- Participants summarizes what they have understood about the Europe for citizens Programme and KEYtoEU
- **30 – 90’ Solidarity**
- Find other words with similar meanings
- Say examples on solidarity in your life
- List activities and words that have a meaning contrary to solidarity
- Pro and contra argues of behaving with solidarity
- Activities which can erect from being solidarity – examples (in family, between friends, schoolmates, social contacts)
- Solidarity at higher dimensions: societal, national, international level: what does it includes and relates to
- Form of European solidarity: volunteering, donations, charities, crowdfunding, civil society organisations , etc.
- World level issues of solidarity: migration, poverty, vulnerability, exploitation,
- Issues related to general problems at world level: climate change, overpopulation, lack of drinking water, others....
- **90 – 120’ Summarizing** why you feel important to be in solidarity
- fields, themes, actions, effects, impacts, problems, consequences

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – RESULTS OF WORKSHOP

(0-90 minutes)

Forming a strategy plan how to manage the issues of solidarity in the frame of the recent project

- Objectives
- Themes
- Main activities
- Methods to be elaborated applied by all partners
- **Forms of cooperation** between the partner groups, feedbacks after the meetings
- Outputs
- Dissemination

PROJECT PARTNER MEETING No. M2
City Massamagrell, Spain, 24-27 February, 2022
Host partner: Municipality of City Massamagrell

Presentation of the topic of solidarity from the point of view of the Spanish partner

During the days the need of regional solidarity was emphasized and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia was very present

During the days from February 24 to 27 Massamagrell received the second event of the project KEYtoEU which aims at involving the young people in initiatives of the European Union.

The community takes part together with Alsbach-Hähnlein (Germany), Elbasan (Albania), Kozloduy (Bulgaria), Prague (Czech Republic), Massamagrell (Spain), Atalanti (Greece), Diósd (Hungary), Sulmona (Italy) and Lubaczów (Poland), and each of the sessions will take place at one of these places. On this occasion the participating persons arrived at Massamagrell on Thursday, February 24 and until Sunday, February 27 various activities were carried out.

On Thursday, the delegations were welcomed at the municipal paella locations where a dinner took place with the performance of the “Unión Musical” of Massamagrell before returning to the hotel.

On Friday, March 25 in the morning, the project started officially with the speeches held by Mr. Paco Gómez, Mayor of Massamagrell, by Mr. Bartolomé Nofuentes, Council to the Steering Committee of the Autonomous Government of Valencia Province, concerning Projects and European Funds, Mr. Hans Herrmann, Chairman of PVAH (Germany) and Mr. Miklos Marian, Coordinator of the Projects KEYtoEU. The convention started with the speech of Mr. Nofuentes, “Examples of solidarity and development of European Projects in Quart de Poblet”, a session summing up the conclusions of the morning with Mr. Miklós Marián and a discussion with young people on the inclusion of immigrants. From this session the interaction with the young people is emphasized, who showed a great degree of engagement. The concern about the conflict in Ukraine and the need for solidarity in this respect were also continuously present.

These meetings were completed by a guided tour through Massamagrell, a visit to “Marjal de Rafael y Vistabella” (note of the translator, one of the last swamps, 102,92 ha large which lie in the North of river Turia extending from Alboraya to Sagunto, which are fed by subterranean waters and remainders of irrigation), as well as among further entertaining activities, by a common lunch and dinner by the performance of people on stilts.

On Saturday, March 26, the day was concentrated on workshops and presentations, among which the examples of good practices of local solidarity were outstanding in which the IES Massamagrell participated with a project initiated by the pupils of the 1st ESO “Minerals de Sang”.

In the same way the group Scouts San Joan participated explaining their tasks which they realize in favour of the integration, carrying out a workshop on solidarity with the participants of the event.

In the afternoon the group went to the “Consell Valencià de la Joventut” where the project “Joves en Marxa” was presented and the present problems of the young people in Spain were analysed. After this, a guided visit to the old part of the town of Valencia took place.

Before the good-bye dinner “la Colla de Tabaleters i Dolçainers de l’Horta Nord” made a performance to end this day.

“Moments such as we presently live in, need compromise and solidarity by the citizens. Very interesting days passed by during which not only common points of view were shared but where the participants learned about our customs and roots” Mr. Paco Gómez, Mayor of Massamagrell pointed out.

After some days during which compromise, local solidarity and hope were emphasized, the meeting came to an end on Sunday by the return of all participating persons to their respective countries.

PROJECT PARTNER MEETING No. M3
City Diósd, Hungary, 8-11 March, 2022
Host partner: Municipality of City Diósd

Diósd the inclusive settlement

Diósd, the settlement of the Swabians: historical review and analysis

lecture by Lajos Dózsa

Already in prehistoric times, people settled in the area of today's Diósd. In addition to the artefacts found, the so-called beehive stones also evoke this era. In ancient times, the eastern border of the province of Pannonia in the Roman Empire stretched here. The remains of the former military road, the stone sarcophagus of a high-ranking soldier and the watchtower that currently forms the basis of the Dog Castle belonging to Érdliget testify to the inhabited nature of the landscape.

Among the written memoirs of the Hungarian Middle Ages, the Ungarorum of Anonymus Gesta preserves the memory of Diósd in recalling the martyrdom of Bishop St. Gellert. The owners of the settlement near Buda were royal people, esteemed nobles who ruled the estate until the Turkish conquest. In Hungary, which was divided into three parts, the territory of Diósd became a wilderness. After the expulsion of the Turks, the population of the country was replaced by internal migration, immigration and resettlement. In 1699, under the leadership of Patriarch Arpén of Chernivtsi, a significant number of Serbian ethnic groups settled in the interior of the country (Ráckeve, Szentendre, etc.), including Érd and presumably Diósd. The most significant population growth was achieved by Maria Theresa and II. It was the result of Joseph's settlement movement. Initially, mainly Catholic German-speaking subjects were encouraged to settle in Hungary with discounts. In Ulm, the port area where the embarkation took place is still a memorial. The multi-month trip was made in "boxes" by the couple's travellers. The new inhabitants were engaged in agriculture, preserving their customs and language, but were already participating in large numbers in the War of Independence of 1848/49. The names on the World War I and World War II monuments testify to their heroism. A chapel was built in the settlement even in the 18th century, and a hundred years later the village became a church. The fire brigade association, Ant Cooperative and theater group established in the settlement. After the Second World War, the deportation also reached the Swabians in Diósd. 60 people had to leave their homeland overnight. The state moved Hungarians expelled from the highlands into the emptied houses. The inclusion was not smooth, but working together, the similar social situation accelerated the process.

The military factory built in Diósd during the war became a bearing factory. The majority of the population worked here and in the factories in Budapest. The plots were cultivated in the afternoons and on weekends. The tea-making escaped Diósd. Even between the two world wars, the population lived more civilian than peasant life. This was also evident in wear (dressing) and entertainment (acting circle, cinema). Church holidays were also held.

The construction of the housing estate brought in more settlers, mostly MTV staff moving out of the capital. During the period of regime change, political and cultural effervescence began. Groups of friends, traditional associations, choirs and dance groups were formed in the village. An ornamental well was handed over in memory of the deportees, the country house established as a local history base and the building of the former elementary school also became the site of cultural and cultural programs.

German Tradition Association - Diósd

Textual part of the lecture/presentation of László Bogó, President of the German Association for the Preservation of Traditions - Diósd

Formation of an association;

What was the intention-

2. picture: It is necessary to know that the population of the settlements around Budapest started to grow rapidly from 1989 to 1990. 300-400 people moved in every year. In 2022, our number is over 11,000.

With the democratic transformation of the 1990s, changes also took place in local government. The members of the democratically elected Local Board of Representatives were locals, living here whose families had lived here before.

At that time, the locals did not consider it necessary to establish a separate Nationality Self-Government.

The members of the Swabian families, Wagner, Albitz, Natta, Hermann, Ring, Spéth, sat there on the board.

With the growth of the population and the election every 4 years, fewer and fewer people were represented, so to speak, the natives.

This was more and more a topic in the circle of friends, and in the 2002 Municipal Elections, partisanship also appeared more strongly in the board. So far, this has not left its mark on local politicking.

From then on, the view developed among the old Diósdians that Swabian traditions and memories could only be represented and dealt with by an organization that organized for this purpose.

In the 2006 elections, the German Nationality Municipality of Diósd was formed with 3 members.

The Municipality alone is not able to achieve the goal for which it was formed, so we created the German Association for the Preservation of Traditions.

It should be mentioned that here in Diósd many non-governmental organizations formed quite slowly in the settlement. There were 3 choirs, a football club, 2 basket clubs, handball, but there is a chess circle, running club, social circle, retirement club. There is also a Tradition Preservation Club, which is not really organized to nurture Swabian traditions, but to local and to cherish his recent memories.

As they did not deal with Swabian traditions, the establishment of a Swabian German nationality association was formulated.

The formation was established on February 2, 2008, because our first president heard it tragically shortly after the inaugural session, so the court could no longer register him, because it was 1-2-3 months here before he received the official permission - it was then.

4. picture: **The purpose of the Association**

The primary goal of the Association is to search for, preserve and pass on German national (Swabian) traditions to young generations; maintaining national consciousness and belonging, preserving identity.

The organization does not engage in direct political activity, its organization is independent of political parties and does not provide them with financial support. / Civil tv. Section 34 (1) point d). Within this, the preservation of the local traditions of the German (Swabian) people living in Diósd, the organization and support of local events and programs, and the support of the organization and implementation of such events and programs.

Collection, preservation and archiving of material and cultural relics in Diósd.

Nurturing and preserving the German language.

To this end, the Association operates in cooperation with the local German self-government.

5. picture: **What are we doing? Well, that's our goal**

-collection and archiving of material memories to be preserved,

- cultivating old Swabian customs

-introduction of traditions to the new inhabitants of Diósd,

-for children, schoolchildren- presentation of traditions to German classes,

club members according to the needs of the members of the association

Let the pictures speak...

What we do in a year

- 6. pictures: **Pig market** - we do, organize and help a lot of programs with the German and city municipalities. People are welcome to come.

- 7. picture: - **At the time of the carnival**, donut baking was a tradition in every house, but today it is declining due to the demanding time. We also baked donuts for 30-400 children in front of COVID this year - during the carnival every week at the Country House

- 8. picture: **Easter customs**- Egg tree, watering- it's also slowly going out of fashion- they forget.
- We used to hold and revive it together with the local folk dance association

9. picture: **May 1 is the day of work and the celebration of EU accession** - we are baking a flame here. The brass band usually gives a morning alarm clock. Let's listen to the music.

10-11. pictures: **Lord's Day - Scattering of Flowers** - We help this Church celebration because it was part of it and we hope it will continue to be a part of community life. It is important that more and more of your child is involved. This is now made possible by inviting students from German classes- German Yourself. organizes.

12. **The Country House**, which will slowly be 15 years old, will preserve the material memories of viticulture and the furniture and equipment received from the German flats. Unfortunately, the space is small, so we can't put everything there. It is maintained by the City Council. The pictures were taken on the occasion of Country House Day. But this is not the only time you can visit the Country House.

13. picture: - a new initiative - but we are participating in this together with non-governmental organizations - **Walnut festival**. Encounters with Dió in Hungarian and Hungarian settlements across the border. The walnut rolls on to another settlement each year. In 2017, it was our turn 2x.

14. picture: More than 30 years ago, during the change of regime, a **twinning relationship was established with the German Alsbach-Hailein**. At that time there was no separate German Municipality, nor were we a city. Since then, meetings and contacts have been regular. The association is also involved with other NGOs together coordinated by the city government.

15 - 16 pictures: For a long time, the livelihood of the nuts was cultivated — viticulture was the first to be destroyed by phylloxera — then there was no spray. Then came the cultivation of peaches. This meant a livelihood for the residents. We remember this every year. Today, it is growing into a multi-day event with the support and organization of the German Municipality.

17. picture: Within the framework of **St. Gellert's Days**, the German Municipality will provide a German-Swabian program to the residents as part of an afternoon. It is also part of the must tasting that the association does. They used to do a horse parade in Diósd here, they celebrated the results of the whole year's work.

18. picture: - To give the children a picture of the harvest, what it was, what their predecessors did. 4-5 years ago, the association made a program presentation from the tools of grape cultivation to harvesting and making must. The children took part in this last year and enjoyed it. This is what we do with the title Peaches from Growing to the Market.

19. picture: The members of the association-now approx. Our association has 80 members. we hold regular club afternoons. Now we meet again every 2 weeks after COVID. Of course not yet full. There is also listening to music, talking in German, singing and learning Swabian dance. We will go on a trip next to the club, we will celebrate the most famous holidays, carnival, Easter, Christmas. Catherine Ball.

20. picture: - but not least, the members of the association include Antal Natta and János, who have been researching the family tree of Diósd and since the end of the 1700s, when our Swabian settlers, our predecessors, settled. In addition, there is a photo archive of more than 3,000 images. They received an award for their work for Diósd.
Let's take a look at the website.

20. picture: - Finally, in summary, I repeat that our association cares for, preserves and transmits **Swabian traditions**, which we do with great love.

The creation of the **European Union** is good because different peoples and nationalities have finally understood why **European diversity** is good, and it can not only separate but also connect peoples.

The life of the German minority in Diósd today

Changes in the number of Germans in Hungary

- In the **middle of the 18th century**, a large number of **German families were resettled throughout Hungary** (including Diósd) to replace the Hungarian population that perished during the Turkish occupation and wars.
- **After the Second World War, a part of the Swabian population in Hungary was forcibly relocated to Germany.**
- According to the 2011 census, German is the second largest minority in Hungary.
- Based on census data *:
- 30,824 people in 1990,
- 62,105 people in 2001,
- and **at the 2011 census, 131,951 people declared himself to be of German nationality.** **
- Based on the above data, it can be clearly seen that members of the German nationality have become more and more aware of their membership of the German minority in recent years, and at the same time **the willingness to account for their German identity in censuses has increased.** .

Diósd settlement

Diósd is a garden-town settlement with a **population of 12,000**, in the immediate vicinity of Budapest. Part of the population has German ancestry, so Diósd's name can also be read in Swabian - **Orasch**. (origin of the name: German walnut word)

The 3 main pillars of Swabian tradition in Diósd

- Municipality of Diósd
- German Nationality Local Government of Diósd
- German Association for the Preservation of Traditions

Local Government of Diósd

- Organization of German traditional and cultural events
- Support for ethnic self-government and non-governmental organizations
- German twinning town Alsbach-Hähnlein since 1989: close contact, minimum 1-1 program per year in both towns

German National Government of Diósd (DNNÖ)

- The first 5-member German self-government was formed in Diósd in January 2007 after the 2006 elections.

The main objectives of the DNNÖ from the very beginning are the followings:

- preserving and nurturing the German 'mother tongue' and, to that end, supporting the teaching of the German language in local kindergartens and local schools,
- preservation and promotion of intellectual heritage, local traditions, German culture (music and dance), German identity in Hungary,
- and in the field of international relations, fostering exchanges **in Germany through partnerships and programs.**

German Association for the Preservation of Traditions

The primary goal of the Association is to search for, preserve and pass on German national (Swabian) traditions to young generations; maintaining national consciousness and belonging, preserving identity.

Activities:

- collection and archiving of material memories to be preserved,
- cultivating old Swabian customs
- presentation of the traditions to the new residents of Diósd, to the inhabitants of the city,
- for children, schoolchildren - presentation of traditions to German classes,

- club life based on the needs of association members

The German minority in Diósd today

- According to the latest 2011 census data, 266 people in Diósd declared themselves to be of German nationality. Unfortunately, we do not have more recent data due to the lack of the 2021 census, but we assume that due to the sharp increase in the population of the settlement belonging to the Budapest agglomeration in the last 10 years, this number has not decreased despite the deaths in the meantime.
- Today, the community of German nationality in Diósd is no longer as homogeneous a community as it once was. Its members include not only the descendants of the old Diósdians, but also Swabians who have moved here from different parts of the country (surrounding Swabian settlements: Nagytétény, Törökbálint, Budaörs, etc., and from other parts of the country, e.g. Baranya county).

The use of the German language in Diósd

- Although some of the Swabian languages used by the old Swabians in Diósd are still known and used by the descendants of the Swabians in Diósd, it can be said that the Swabians of the younger generation who speak German no longer in the old Swabian dialect but in the 1980s and, thanks to the German language teaching in schools in the 1990s, literary German studied at the school is spoken.
- Thanks to the teaching of German in kindergartens in the settlement and the teaching of German in the local German national primary school, which has been operating since 2014, the number of children and schoolchildren learning and speaking German has increased significantly in recent years.

Preschool German education

- "The nation lives in its language," said Count István Széchenyi, and this is at least as true for the minority. As a few elderly Swabians spoke almost no German at the time of the establishment of the German self-government, the protection of the German language has been a priority for the German self-government since its inception.
- To this end, one of the first tasks of the German Nationality of Diósd, with the support of the kindergarten management, was to start teaching German in the kindergarten. Since October 2007, he has provided 21 children with the opportunity to learn German in kindergarten.
- Kindergarten German language teaching continues to be funded by DNNÖ. In kindergarten, 1 kindergarten group currently learns German for 1 hour a week.

German Nationality School in Diósd

- Upper secondary school children have the opportunity to receive a German student for a few days during a school year or to travel to the host family for a few days during a school year as part of a student exchange program with the school in Alsbach-Hähnlein, Germany's sister city.

Preservation of local traditions

- Due to the meanwhile urbanization of the settlement, unfortunately not all old traditions have been preserved for posterity. With the cessation of backyard farming and animal husbandry, customs such as feather plucking and corn stripping have become obsolete.
- However, the settlement has managed to maintain such important traditions as:
 - the swabian pig killing feast
 - the Lord's Day procession (local Swabians belong to the Catholic denomination)
 - the pilgrimage of Diósd (St. Gellért Days)
- New event: Swabian Days in Diósd

Pilgrimage of Diósd

- As part of the St. Gellért Days, the German Nationality Council of Diósd has the opportunity to compile a two-hour Swabian program for the public every year at the request of the city government.
- In addition to the traditional groups, DNNÖ places great emphasis on introducing as many students of the school's German education to the city as possible, in order to involve them with their parents in public life, thus strengthening our ethnic community and its future.

Swabian days in Diósd

Community building gatherings for local Swabians

Preservation of Swabian identity and local traditions

- From the very beginning, DNNÖ considered it an important task to nurture, revive and pass on the Swabian customs and traditions that still exist in the settlement to the younger generations, thus preserving what is still left of the cultural heritage of the Swabian ancestors of Diósd.
- One of the very important means of this was to support family tree research and to process old pictures, as well as to organize exhibitions on the subject for the residents of the settlement and other interested parties.

Our Swabian built heritage

- There were many wine cellars in the settlement due to viticulture. Today's Country House was built from the most beautiful of them.
- Today, the Country House functions as a charming local history museum, where visitors can get acquainted with the furnishing and use of our Swabian predecessors.
- In addition to this traditional task, the Country House is often the venue for various city and family events.

School program in the Diósd Eötvös József German Nationality Primary School

March 9, 2022 (Wednesday)

Workshop

10:00-11:00 Problems and needs of intergenerational solidarity in modern Europe. Playful program for elementary school students with adults

The students held a **brain storming** on the topic and decided to be able to present solidarity between the generations with scenes in the most creative way.

The schoolchildren **plaid various situations** in English as examples from the everyday life and the scenes were videotaped (titled: Eating, Lego, Football, Make-up, Virtual, one minute each). Furthermore, the **'water glass situational game'** exercised by the participants in common was a perfect example of the importance of solidarity, of community, that it is not an individual person but the group of people needs to work together to complete a task successfully. The game was also very enjoyed by the youth and the adult members of the international delegation.

A short video titled **'Generation gap'** was also shown from the Internet (2:10 minutes), illustrating different social situations in pictures:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJVtuUwHHKk>

11:10-11:50 German nationality education in our school, a short presentation of the exchange relationship between schools

Presentations by Pavel Pospíšek

GOOD PRACTICES OF INTEGRATION I

Whole world in one day

Barevná Devítka

- *“Prague 9 Colourful”*
- *festival taking place annually in August in Prague 9 area*
- *ISSUE: multicultural environment in Prague 9 district*
- *IDEA: use the diversity to gathering festival to introduce various cultures, food, music etc. to local inhabitation and especially children*
- *2022: 18 years of the festival this August*
- *Stakeholders involved: Prague 9 Municipality, Integration centre Prague the capital, NGOs and local communities, inhabitation*

presentations of year 2022:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7liwzFGJylg> (video)
- <https://www.facebook.com/BarevnaDevitka/videos/310935436359115> (video)
- <https://barevnadevitka.cz/> (Photo gallery)

GOOD PRACTICES OF INTEGRATION II

Participatory Approach through Social Governance

Community Garden “Paletka”

- *Bottom-up participation to integrate vulnerable groups since 2017*
- *PROBLEM: integration of participatory approach into decision-making process*
- *IDEA: establish a meeting point with the support of EU funds*
- *Gathering primarily single mothers with children*
- *2022: Whole new community emerged from the neighbourhood*
- *Stakeholders involved: Community garden Paletka, Primary school Pod Krocínkou*

Community Garden “Paletka” – presentation

GOOD PRACTICES OF INTEGRATION III

Re-Integration of Unemployed and Homeless back into Society

Homeless Blues

- *Unique approach to homelessness since 2014*
- *PROBLEM: Garbage and waste in hard-to-use land within the district*
- *IDEA: include the homeless living in the dumps*
- *“Crisis Cross” (creating home - disposing the mess)*
- *2022: 26 unimobile homes, approx. 60 homeless people*
- *Stakeholders involved: Salvation Army, Prague (the Capital City hall), Social services and Healthcare centre*

GOOD PRACTICE OF INTEGRATION OF FOREIGN PEOPLE IN ALBANIA

Report made by the Albanian project partner AAM during the project meeting in Prague-9.

GENERAL INFO REGARDING FOREIGNERS IN ALBANIA

- **At the end of 2020, the number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania resulted 13,609 inhabitants, by increasing with 0.8 % compared to 2019.**
- The reason for employment is the main reason for the residence permits of foreigners in Albania in 2020, with 47.5 %.
- Resident foreigners originating from Iran, Italy and Turkey constitute the largest number of foreigners with residence permits in Albania in 2020, respectively with 2,610, 2,067 and 1,597 inhabitants.
- Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers assisted by Caritas Albania: the persons come mostly from Syria (293), Morocco (133), Afghanistan (107), Iraq (84), Pakistan (78), Egypt (32) and Algeria (21).

FACTS

- **Albania currently has one of the world's highest emigration rates**, relative to its population, at -3.3 migrants per 1,000 people
- Despite the serious and ongoing problem of political corruption, **as an EU-candidate country, Albania has put much effort into aligning its policies on migration and asylum to international standards.**
- As of September 2021, **Albania hosts 115 refugees and 1,528 persons at risk of statelessness.** Since 2017 Albania has witnessed a stark increase in the number of refugees and migrants arriving in mixed movements. An estimated 9,000 individuals arrived at the border from January to October 2021.
- Foreigners residing in Albania include **economic immigrants, students, family members, employees in humanitarian and religious activities, refugees, and asylum seekers.** Immigrants have settled mainly in Tirana (67 percent) and other big cities such as Durrës (15 percent), Shkodër (8 percent), and Vlorë (5 percent). Many are employed in construction, trade, and other services.

EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

- **Albania will have to focus its policies and actions on immigration, where the main focus should be on the integration policies of foreigners in our country. This is also a condition and obligation to be realized in the framework of the European integration process.**
- Low taxes and simplified procedures have made Albania a very attractive country for foreign investors, especially those in the automotive field. (Italian investors mostly)
- **Permanent residence, labor market and anti-discrimination policies are assessed as semi-favorable.** (The period of stay in Albania before the foreigner has the right to apply for a residence permit is a minimum of 5 years)
- With regard to anti-discrimination policies, although there is a good law and authority specifically for the fight against discrimination such as the Commissioner for Anti-Discrimination, **the law does not specifically provide for protection against discrimination on the grounds of nationality or nationality, only on ethnicity, religion and race.**
- **Education is assessed as somewhat unfavorable**, where the biggest problems are especially the access of foreigners to higher education and the lack of support for schools to be open to include foreign children.

GOOD PRACTICE – AFGANS IN ALBANIA

- ***Mustafa:** Now, in addition to housework, food care, we also have a paid job. But it does not matter the money, but **the hospitality that Albanians have given us as refugees.** Our grief is great, I lost my father, the Taliban killed him, while the family remained in Afghanistan.*

- *Negib: I would stay in Albania because I have my job here on what I studied. Maybe in the USA I would not work in the profession and I do not like that. I love my job and Albania is making it possible for me.*
- *CEO: Somehow, when we emigrated we were more or less like them, left to the mercy of fate. I was convinced from the beginning when I saw the news that when they were coming, giving them an opportunity. I have done neither more nor less than what others have done for me when I was an immigrant 30 years ago.*

INTEGRATION OF FOREIGN PEOPLE IN ALSBACH-HÄHNLEIN (GERMANY)

Report made by the German project partner PVAH during the project meeting in Prague-9.

1. Individual travellers

- Report to the city/municipality or LKR (= county)
- If they can live with acquaintances or friends → register at EMA (= registration office)
- If no accommodation → accommodation by city/municipality
- → Registration EMA/Online registration for immigration authorities
- If benefits (medical certificate, accommodation costs, cash benefits) are necessary, apply for benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG) online or at the Darmstadt District Office (immigration and refugees) (in Ukrainian) → Delivery of sickness certificate, payment of benefits in cash or to a domestic account
- Immigration authorities make an appointment → order a residence permit for one year including a work permit and issue a certificate with a photo (account opening is therefore possible); Residence requirement is entered

Accompanying children:

- 6 – 10 years → Registration at the responsible elementary school → Schooling in the regular class, possibly preliminary course
- From 11 years (Sek I) Admissions Advice Center (ABZ) at the State Education Office Contact
- From the age of 16 attending a class at a vocational school (via education center)

Accompanying children without parents:

- Information to the youth welfare office by the city or municipality

2. Assigned via HEAE (=Hessian initial reception facility)

- Allocation list comes to the county
- Starting with week 14 weekly assignments of 120 people

First accommodation by county:

- Either in a large facility in the district
- Or in consultation with the city/municipality in a private apartment (e.g. people over 65 (vulnerable group/corona))
- Gradually, if possible, in apartments
- Registration with EMA
- Application for benefits from the district (immigration and refugees) is organized directly by MA → Health insurance certificate can be issued, cash benefits or transfer to a domestic account
- As long as accommodation and meals are provided, they only receive pocket money
- Registration with the immigration authorities takes place via an allocation list
- See 1.

CONTENT SUMMARY

OF THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE “KEYTOEU” PROJECT HELD IN SULMONA (IT) ON 21/24 April 2022

During the 3 days meeting in Sulmona, all the representatives participated. In total came to Sulmona 24 people from the 8 partner countries.

Municipality of Sulmona organized a pick up service from Ciampino and Fiumicino airport by giving the service to a local transport company. Delegations arrived in Sulmona between 5 Pm and 9 PM. Participants was been accompanied firstly to the accommodations and later in a central restaurant to have the first social dinner at “San Filippo 63” Restaurant, in Garibaldi Square.

On 22nd of April, the meeting officially started at the local Parliament Chamber for institutional greetings from politicians and the project manager, Mr Marian Miklos as well.

After a brief coffee break, at around 11:00 AM, delegations have been bring to visit “Campo 78” site, historical example of local solidarity, for what it means for the territory during the world wars of the past century.

The visit lasted about 1 hour and 45 minutes, with interventions of historical experts and local activists, during which participants asked questions and was very involved in the storytelling.

Around 1 PM delegations had lunch at “Stella Restaurant” in the heart of city center of Sulmona. Immediately after lunch, at 2:00 PM, they was accompanied to a touristic visit through the beauties of the city, with a particular attention to the Church of SS Annunziata, Medieval Aqueduct, XX September Square. Each of these visited places was told by stories of solidarity that was happened there in the past.

The first day kept on visiting ANFFASS Association, at 3:00 PM. This association is active on the territory for helping the disabled children; the visit was been around 1 hour and 50 minutes long.

At 5:00 PM delegations were brought to visit CARITAS Charity Community, active for helping the poors, refugees, homeless, giving them food and places to sleep, thanks to solidarity of faithfuls and common people as well (around 1 hour and 15 minutes).

After a couple of hours for resting, participants came to the second dinner at “Clemente” Restaurant.

The second day opened at 9:00 o’clock AM in the local parliament Chamber by several testimonials from local associations, bank and social cooperative. They told all the efforts to enhance the local economy by solidarity and by supporting people in trouble, such as unemployed, disabled and poors. After a debate between the participants, at 10:45 AM, they had a coffee break before going out to attend the show organized by the schools at XX September Square. There was a very impressive show with a great number of students involved in a flash mob. All the delegations were asked to read publicly a passage from Ovid poetry translated into their mother tongue. It was a sort of party of solidarity, together with a great number of citizens from Sulmona, walking through the city center during a very clean and sunny Saturday morning.

The guests had the possibility to interact with the local population and between them thanks to the students, and that was very emotional for everyone in the square.

After the lunch at “Hotel Stella”, at around 2:00 PM, participants were accompanied to have a visit to the Municipal Theatre, a jewel full of story and wonders.

At 3:00 PM, participants were taken to the local Sports Hall to attend the presentation of local Social protection system. During 1 hour and 45 minutes, it was shown to the delegations how the system works and was done an exercise with all the volunteers operating in the system.

After a brief rest, around 6:15PM the schools organized for the international guests a choreutic and music show in the name of solidarity. The play and dance European anthem and others song for peace and brotherhood.

The last dinner was held in Garibaldi Square, under the stars. Delegations was invited by the local Association "Giostra Cavalleresca" during a traditional event of Fire Show, that involved since years lots of citizens, families and youths.

The third day was for a final briefing and goodbye. Delegations was brought back to both Rome airports by the bus service made available to guests.

HeART: the inclusive power of Art

The FANTACADABRA Social Cooperative, in collaboration with the HORIZON SERVICE Social Cooperative, is carrying out the **HeART** project, a laboratory that identifies privileged tools in **artistic languages** (expressive and manipulative) to promote the integration of people with disabilities.

As part of the HeART project, a group of young people with disabilities, accompanied by educators and guided by experts, meet their peers to:

- engage in expressive activities;
- design and create artistic and playful artifacts with recycled material;
- propose moments of playful animation

In the proposed activities, the main goal is integration, which can be reached through the so called "**doing well together**":

- it is a **real doing** because it takes concrete form in concrete final products;
- it is a **motivating and involving doing** in which everyone finds himself before their talents and their limits so that they can realize what they don't know, what they need, and discover, research, learn, broaden their horizons.
- it is a **socializing doing**, because it is a "place" for exchange, inclusion and participation

TARGETS of this project are:

- promote a path of authentic integration;
to experiment with latent abilities;
- favor the creation of place where people with disabilities can socialize;
- propose courses about integration;

Learning at CPIA L'Aquila: a second chance for new skills and qualifications

by Prof.ssa Emiliana Pizzoferrato

Administrative office: L'Aquila. Local centres (meeting the needs of the population):

- Avezzano
- Castel di Sangro
- L'Aquila
- Sulmona

PERSONNEL:

- Director of Schools –

Claudia Scipioni

- Administration
- School assistants
- Primary school teachers
- Middle school teachers (Italian – History - Geography, Maths – Natural Sciences, English and Technology)

DELIVERABLES:

- we offer courses of study up to diploma level for teenagers (over 16) and adults who have not previously completed their education. It is also possible to learn new skills and get qualifications useful in the workplace.

TIMING OF LESSONS:

- ❖ in the morning
- ❖ in the afternoon

FIRST LEVEL COURSES

- ✓ Primo periodo

(previously Licenza media)

- ✓ Secondo periodo

(aimed at the certification of the five core subjects taught in all Italian Secondary Schools – first two years only)

ITALIAN FOR FOREIGNERS

- ✓ Italian Language courses in line with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The aim is for all students to achieve A2 level or higher

EXTRA EDUCATIONAL SYLLABUS

- ✓ English courses - Cambridge and Trinity Certifications
- ✓ Other European Language courses
- ✓ Basic computer courses. AICA Test center for ICDL
- ✓ CILS Certifications – University for Foreigners in Siena

Our goal is "Lifelong Learning" for all.

For further information, please visit our website: www.cpialaquila.edu.it

Presentation of Association ANFFAS – Sulmona

Activities and experiences was told to the partners of KeyToEU Project' 5th Meeting, held in Sulmona from 21th to 24th April 2022, during their visit on site on 22th April 2022.

What is ANFFAS?

ANFFAS is an organization which deals with people with disabilities. In particular, its acronym means national association of families with some disabilities. Its origins can be placed in Rome on 28th March 1958 thanks to the strength of will of a mother, Maria Luisa Menegotto, who knew how difficult could be the existence of someone with disabilities: in that period this condition meant being marginalized and excluded from society.

Eager to change this situation, she involved a lot of families in what can be defined as a huge revolution: her aim was to include people with disabilities, and their families, in Italian society, as de facto members.

From then on, ANFFAS has perfected its action and now it is the biggest association dealing with disabilities: it has 165 local communities and 50 branded entities, with the purpose to ensure assistance and care.

In its aims it follows the statements which have been elaborated by the UN convention that can be summarized in a few points:

- absence of discrimination
- a bigger consciousness about disability
- the protection of the freedom of choice
- participation and inclusion in every field of society.

There are several ways in which we follow these principles. From a practical point of view, there are day care centers, information points and training courses destined to our operators; on the other hand, from a scientific side, we can cite projects and studies based on a double idea.

First of all, it's essential to improve the quality of life and then a concept which can be summarized by a unique word: person. The idea that everyone must be considered a person, in their totality, without considering only their disabilities, like an outdated perspective used to do.

What does it mean? Everyone must have the opportunity to find a job, to have interpersonal relationships, to continue their studies even after their compulsory years and, last but not least, to decide with whom to live. why not, even to live alone, if that is their desire.

Obviously, it depends on how inclusive their living context is: the more comprehensive it is, the more they will be able to reach their goals. Furthermore, people with disabilities must understand that they have the right to decide for themselves, they must be educated to recognize and express their needs: in this way, they can get their own place in society.

ANFFAS SULMONA

ANFFAS Sulmona was founded about 50 years ago. In 2005 it became a no-profit organization; since 2010 it has managed a day care centre dedicated to those people with disabilities who have finished their compulsory education. It is well known how can be difficult for them to find their setting. every morning, from Monday to Friday, there are several activities, each of which has a peculiar aim: we want them to gain practical abilities, to acquire useful competences useful for a correct participation in the job market, and, not less important, to develop personal and social awareness. We'd like to underline the presence of workshops in which we develop the concept of easy to read. with this expression we indicate a language able to break cultural barriers: in practical terms, everyday texts are translated in order to be easily understandable.

Furthermore, we organize trips, both cultural or pleasure ones, workshops based on contact with nature and even social events, such as the annual lunch which celebrates our birthday, on 28th March.

Our most significant projects are:

Lavoro ergo sum - work as a chance to be – we realize handmade gifts related to Sulmona's most famous symbol, its sugared almond. in this way, collaborating with a local product as internationally famous as our sugared almonds are (i confetti di sulmona are a worldwide brand), we are able to involve profit companies and our organization, in a constant effort to improve even our territory's name.

Secondly, there is the relative project – an ambitious project which aims to realize a proper brand of t-shirts, bags and other objects. The word relative expresses the idea that each object, realized by one of our boys and girls, is a unique piece; so the image of equality is relative and apparent, for both people and things.

The third project- heart collaborations – is inspired by the idea that it is crucial for our members to gain a general credibility about their possibilities and capacities. We have involved several local companies, in order to reach a mutual cooperation.

The fourth project is called temporary – we open, in predetermined periods of the year, a shop where our products are exposed and sold. In this way people have the opportunity to know our members, who are employed in these occasions as salespersons: they are supposed to receive crucial and practical knowledge related to money management and accounting. Obviously, it's easy to understand how these learnings can improve their self-consciousness.

We'd like to emphasise that the money we receive, in terms of donations, is used to organize our trips and events, often chosen by our kids. This idea brings with it the concept that they must learn how to manage themselves and their relationships, how to express their needs in a satisfactory way. The next project – free to choose where and with whom to live- has been proposed by our national entity and we have eagerly agreed because we believe in its importance. It is dedicated to adult individuals who have the desire to live alone, or with friends, in contrast to the general idea that they should live in public institutions. This plan wants to help both families, that can have troubles in dealing with people with disabilities when they are adults, and those people too, giving them the dignity they deserve. We have realized eleven plans, each of them based on matrix software. This software has been developed through an international plan which has involved Luigi Croce, one of the most important members of ANFFAS ITALY, and it can analyse people's attitude and characteristics, in order to provide the most suitable solution for each of them.

Our co-housing project, in Sulmona, involves a flat which is being completed, destined to 5 people in an experimental study.

People with disabilities can be full members of our society, as long as it considers them in the right way. It doesn't matter what disability they have, they must be considered just as individuals. The only acceptable way of looking at disability is considering it as a starting point for realising what we really can be.

Presentation of the Caritas Sulmona activities

The host visited their site on 22th April 2022. Caritas Italiana is the pastoral organization of the CEI (Italian Episcopal Conference) for the promotion of charity. It is intended to promote «the witness of charity in the Italian ecclesial community, in forms in keeping with times and needs, with a view to the integral development of man, social justice and peace, with particular attention to the least and with a predominant pedagogical function» (art.1 of the Statute). It was born in 1971, at the behest of Paul VI, in the spirit of the renewal initiated by the Second Vatican Council.

The three fundamental "places" are: THE LISTENING CENTER where you enter into a relationship with the other; THE OBSERVATORY OF POOR AND RESOURCES where the characteristics of social phenomena are observed; CARITAS PROMOTION LABORATORY for a widespread animation activity in the area. In our diocese the already existing Caritas was reorganized in 2008. The Bishop is the president and legally represents Caritas. Director, appointed by the Bishop, is currently the deacon Giovanni Cruciani who directs the ordinary activity of the office. There is a social cooperative that collaborates in the organization and management of services, with operators and volunteers. The diocesan Caritas works in a network with all the parishes of the diocese, trying to cover the needs of a territory that extends into the provinces of L'Aquila, Chieti and Pescara. We have 12 structured parish listening centers (the diocesan listening center and 11 parish ones) for a total of about 1000 received. Each parish Caritas listens to and helps the people of that territory and tries to sensitize the whole community to the theme of charity, with initiatives such as collecting food, visiting the elderly, helping children and families in difficulty.

"Casa Zaccheo" is a work-sign (concrete sign, type "structure", "reception house", "emporium"...) of the Diocesan Caritas of Sulmona-Valva. Inaugurated in November 2018, it has been realized with the contribution of Caritas Italiana, with the contribution 8x1000 of the Italian Episcopal Conference (funds derived from those who in their tax return freely decide to allocate a percentage of the IRPEF fee to the Catholic Church) and with offers received from parishes, private companies and individuals.

The name comes to life from the biblical icon of Zacchaeus, the publican to whom Jesus addresses the invitation "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today". He hurried down and welcomed him full of joy.

Zacchaeus hurries to do to others what Jesus did to him: to give without measure and beyond our possibilities. This is the spirit with which daily workers and volunteers try to respond to the requests of those who, in need and poverty, knock at the door of Casa Zaccheo.

EMPORIUM: Addressed to the families of the diocesan territory in conditions of work, economic and / or social difficulty. Especially families with children. Through a point card issued by Caritas Diocesana, families can independently manage their shopping, thus having the dignity of choosing products as if they were in a normal supermarket and at the same time educating them to manage the resources they have in the best possible way. The products come from food collections and donations. It has a specific sector for clothing, with new clothing still labeled. Open twice a week, currently 10 families use it for a total of about 40 people.

SHOWER SERVICE: Available to those who have a precarious home that does not allow hot water at home or to homeless people passing through. We provide disposable soap and towels. Clean clothing is also provided for a change. Open every morning, it is currently used about twice a week.

LAUNDRY: We provide a washing machine and a dryer, with the possibility of ironing, for families who do not have this possibility in the house. Open every morning, used about twice a week.

DORMITORY: A welcome service for night hospitality. It is accessed after interview between 19 and 20. We provide a disposable kit of bed linen and towels. The dorm has 12 beds with single, double and triple rooms each with en-suite bathroom.

CHAPEL: Made entirely of recycled material, it is the heart of the house. It is the place of prayer and silence that guards the Holy Eucharist. The operators meet daily for prayer at the end of the day. A Caritas worker is distinguished from those who give charity or are committed to solidarity for the faith they profess. Service is lived as a call from God to see who suffers as a brother and to love others as he loves us. Periodically we also organize moments of prayer with the people we welcome, such as the recitation of the Holy Rosary on the occasion of the World Day of the Poor.

LISTENING CENTER: The first thing we try to do is listen to the people who come to us, to share their story and try together to understand what their real need and difficulty is. Each service is accessed, therefore, with a listen. The ISEE is required as documentation, an indicator that evaluates the economic situation of the family unit. The listening moment is managed in pairs between operators and volunteers. The presence of the figure of the nun is important, who certainly manages to inspire trust in people and manages to give meaningful answers to the questions that people ask themselves in times of difficulty. The biggest problems in our area are certainly the lack of work and also the difficulty of making it to the end of the month despite having a job. Open three mornings a week.

CANTEEN: Every day of the year, even on holidays, at 12:30 the canteen hosts about 15 people for lunch. Lunch is prepared by the cooks of the retirement home adjacent to Casa Zaccheo. One of our volunteers daily shares this moment with the people welcomed.

An important moment of the year is the World Day of the Poor, which is celebrated on the second Sunday of November. It was established by Pope Francis in 2017 at the end of the Jubilee of mercy, in the apostolic letter “Misericordia et misera” precisely as a moment of specific attention to the least.

Social activities of the Cooperative Credit Bank of Pratola Peligna

by Mrs. M.A. Rossi

That is an extract of intervention by Mrs Maria Assunta Rossi, held on Saturday 23 of April 2022 by president of Local Bank “Banca di Credito Cooperativo”, Sulmona, during the 5th Meeting of KeyToEu project.

I am honoured to be the President of the Cooperative Credit Bank of Pratola Peligna, which is more than 100 years old and it is a true point of reference for our local economy.

Our Bank works for the territory and does so by working with local associations to promote its fundamental principles, which are cooperation, mutuality and its closeness to local communities.

Indeed, we help them in different fields, such as production, sports, health and culture.

I also wish to underline that our priority is to give continuity to our Bank and mostly to hold safe the money that our clients entrusted us with. We therefore want to pursue both our mutualistic scope, that is focused on our partners, but also to maintain a sound and prudent management of credits and risk. Given the current situation, right now it is not an easy task.

We aim at supporting entrepreneurship, the one based on the good work of our firms and families. During the pandemic, our Banks has immediately shown its support to all of those who were mostly unsolved.

Even before the governmental decree was issued, we decided to help all those who hold a VAT number by suspending the payment of their mortgages. We also helped those who did not have the requirements by suspending their mortgages too, for an amount of 72 Millions Euros.

We also helped local hospitals, bought ultrasound machines, bought more than 10k masks for the Municipalities where our branches are found. We also bought COVID swabs for local health associations.

We also support and encourage charitable causes; we wish to reward merit by giving financial aid to students, supporting local firms and helping our partners’ family.

We are also involved in organising festivities, and sport events, helping cultural associations and school initiatives.

Lastly, last Wednesday we decided to take a further step in taking care of our partners health.

Indeed, they will be able to take diagnostic exams all for free.

Social Co-Operatives

The *Social Co-Operatives* are made up of two different types known as:

- Type A and Type B Co-Operatives

The S.A.T.I.C. Social Co-Op a.r.l. Society is known as a Type B Co-Op founded in 2006 with the aim of achieving the community’s interest in human promotion and the Social & Professional integration to those categories with subjects of “difficult employability”.

With this expression, it refers to those individuals affected with a “disability” and that are of “disadvantage” with such physical impairments, mental & sensory disabilities and also former patients of psychiatric institutions.

In addition to the traditional forms of hardship, so to speak, the above subjects also includes all those

individuals that have experienced new forms of hardship deriving from changes of social and economic level such as unemployment over fifty years of age, or belonging to single-income families as a result of loss of work from some components of the family unit.

The Type A Social Co-Op's aim on the other hand, pursues the Community's general interest not across the social inclusion of disadvantaged subjects in the employment world as mentioned above, but through a creation of services for the community such as assisting in the running of community centers for the elderly, family homes etc.

In particular, the Type B Social Co-Op carries out its activities based on Principles of Mutuality and therefore are Non-Profit making, this implies the prohibition of dividend distribution to shareholders to a greater amount than those established by Law. Furthermore, regarding the management structure & its workers of the same, by Law, it is necessary that at least 30% is made up of those particular categories mentioned above.

SATIC therefore promotes employment & work placement to individuals who are socially disadvantaged and difficult or most excluded from the Labour market.

In fact, to note, in the field of assistance to disadvantaged citizens, SATIC has always sustained all the initiatives to facilitate and reduce any barriers to their minimum that oppose them.

Over the years, this objective has been pursued by the expansion of the type of services taken on board allowing the greatest number of individuals with a disability to be able to find employment, and taking up, consequently, manual jobs such as the ordinary maintenance and management of public parks to more enhanced and technical jobs such as Administrative to even Accounting and IT for Public Administrations.

In conclusion, SATIC pursues a mission to raising awareness on these issues, and has also been involved in financing projects for Public Utilities such as in this case, financing for the purchase for Public Transport for people with a disability (PMG GUARANTEED MOBILITY)

PROJECT PARTNER MEETING No. M6
Atalanti, Greece, 12-15 May 2022
Host partner: Municipality of City Lokroi

Social structures and services Municipality of Lokroi

by Elena Kyriakou and Anna Papanagiotou

Contents

- Implementation of social policy
- Services provided to vulnerable groups of population as well as to other citizens

Who exercises Social Policy

- The Legal Entity for Social Protection and Solidarity

Kindergardens, Open Elderly Care Centers, Social Grocery, Social Pharmacy

- The four programs "Help at Home": Atalanti, Malesina, Livanates, Martino

Home care for the elderly and disabled

- The Directorate of Social Protection, Education and Culture and the Community Center with Roma Branch

Employees - Psychologist, Social Workers Administrative - Economist - Roma Ombudsman

What do they do

- Provide poverty, disability, disability, birth, etc. benefits to vulnerable groups of the population
- Psychological Counseling Programs for individuals, families, schools - students - teachers
- Discuss psychosocial issues with parents
- Actions related to COVID 19 (conducting rapid tests, online updates and sessions)
- Social investigations following a Prosecutorial Order in cases of suspected neglect or abuse of minors, people with disabilities, etc.
- Public Benefit Work, possibility of convicted citizens to work in the Municipality instead of serving their sentence
- Cooperate with the Center for Addicted Persons and the Counseling Center of Lamia (for abused women)
- Implement lifelong Learning - Adult Education programs
- Furthermore the Municipality of Lokroi is member of the Inter - Municipal Network of Health Cities (EDDYPPY) and Operates the KEP Health - Citizens' Service Center for health issues that informs about specific current diseases

Roma population

- Roma population @ Municipality of Lokroi: 232 people (51 men, 60 women, 121 children)
- We are addressing the difficulties and improving the quality of life of the **Roma** population
- A necessary goal to be achieved is the adequate compulsory **school attendance** of the **Roma** children

This goal can be achieved by:

- Psychological support and update of **Roma** and especially mothers
- Implementing supporting actions for **Roma** with the contribution of the trainers of the Creative Employment Centers
- Providing necessary school equipment to **Roma students**
- Planning supportive teaching activities and free study in extracurricular activities (eg music, dance)
- Cooperating with the school that Roma children attend

Main objectives of optimizing **Roma** living are:

- Social and working integration (occasional commercial, agricultural work and participation in cleaning programs in the Municipality)
- Financial support by providing a monthly allowance "Minimum Guaranteed Income" and a card for food
- Providing food from the Social Grocery and medicine from the Social Pharmacy
- Improving their living conditions on their privately owned plots
- Supporting them to start creating private homes

Conclusion

Social solidarity, support for generalized crises, alleviation of individual or group problems, social integration etc. of local communities constitute a large part of the Social Services of the Municipality. We hope for the improvement of Local, National and Transnational Solidarity and for the implementation of measures and policies to support local communities for a "Europe of Solidarity" from the EU and not only.

Atalanti_Volunteers and Friends of Arkitsa Village

by Papadimitriou Katerina

The team “Volunteers and Friends of Arkitsa Village” is an initiative of some residents of Arkitsa village.

It all began on the 5th of June 2020, the World Environment Day

Everyone who wants to help can participate in our team, from 5 to 105 years old!

Volunteering is an action of good will and every member of our team works selfless to do the best for our municipality

Our team organizes almost every weekend an action

- We clean our beaches...
- our playgrounds and fields...
- and any other place we want to make it look better!
- We also try to contribute to our society by giving donations to the welfare service
- We even combine cleaning with entertainment sometimes!
- Although the last 2 years we paused our actions due to the pandemic, we are back again, ready to work together, always in collaboration with the Municipality of Lokroi
- because through volunteering, we develop ecological and social consciousness and most of all, we protect our home!

Elite Team Special Missions of Lokroi Municipality

by Maria Tzanakaki

In July 2018, a catastrophic fire that killed 103 people took place at Attica Greece, only 160km from our municipality.

That was the reason that pushed some friends to establish a team that could offer help to similar events. After a research, we found the general team called EPOMEA GREECE and we joined it as EPOMEA LOKRON.

Now our team has more than 40 members.

The purpose of our team is to protect life and health of the citizens, but also to educate them about First Aid

Examples of activities:

- Education
- Training at lokron fire service
- Training by the sea
- Training for a rescue operation in the forest
- Basic Life Support
- Cooperation with schools and local companies
- Assisting during Atalanti wildfire in 2020.
- Wildfire in Theologos and Malesina in 2021
- Voluntary coverage during social events
-

Social Cooperative Enterprise of Martino Village VOUMELITEA

by Dimitra Karvouni

Social Cooperative Enterprise of Martino Village is a partnership with social character and started 7 years ago. It operates as legislation 4430/2016.

Basic goals

- Social profit through the production of goods
- Use of the profits to grow employment and develop the Cooperative
- Promotion of the individual and work versus capital

The cooperative has 22 members, of both sexes, of every age, willing to work together

We want to

- Protect the environment
- Protect and promote the local products. Eggs, milk, flour and all the agricultural products we use are from local producers

What we do

We make traditional pasta named «hilopites» and a cheese named «mizithra»

- We make marmalade from seasonal fruits
- We make pies as our grandmothers did and preserve their recipes.
- We merchandise local products, such as olives, olive oil, wine and tsipouro.
- We collect worts from our fields, like mountain tea, rosemary and thyme
- We take part in exhibitions in order to promote our local products and our cooperation
- We make crafts as decorations

We started by using our pots and pans but with hard work and effort we managed to create a whole workshop of local traditional products, that schools and other associations could visit, in order to promote and preserve the Mediterranean diet

In a central building at Martino village, granded from the Municipality of Lokris, is our workshop and this is where we sell our products.

We also have a website and e-shop.

We collaborate with other social, commercial, artisan societies and unions that have the same goals.

We also organize actions to protect the environment and preserve the traditions of our village.

Our future goals are:

- The creation of a museum, where we could present professions from the past, like weavers, resin collector, cheese maker, and other daily activities.
- The organisation of events for the revival of local traditions

Social Cooperative Enterprise of Martino Village «VOUMELITEA» will continue to support the community, by promoting the local products and by creating more working positions and opportunities for our citizens

We continue strongly and with more appetite for work, not expecting financial benefits. We continue to build on the partnership that leads to a solidarity economy.

Our dear guests, enjoy during your short stay the fine goods of our region.

Keep in mind the colors, perfumes and flavors and everything we try to keep alive and highlight them.

FORUM: SHARING BEST PRACTICE ABOUT INTEGRATION OF FOREIGNERS

INTERVENTION ON PROJECT'S TOPIC BY ITALIAN DELEGATION

by Nicola Trinchini

Sulmona has a long tradition of hospitality and solidarity, as some of you physically saw during our fifth meeting. The social policy office where I work is operating on behalf of 17 municipalities in the area, with the aim to guarantee the necessary assistance to people in need. Social assistance expenditure amounts to around 4 million euros each year.

With respect to the problem of war refugees, during the war in Ukraine we set up a coordinated system between the municipality, the health institutions and the local police department to register, provide treatment or vaccinations and understand and satisfy any housing needs, even thanks to the local social network made by privates and association.

In April we had about 100 Ukrainian refugees in the city, most of whom were staying in the homes of their Ukrainian relatives who have already lived in our community for some time.

To date, the number of refugees has halved, as many of them decide to move to other parts of Europe, or in many cases to return home to Ukraine.

In addition to Ukrainians, our service is aimed at African or Afghan citizens, who represent a decent community in the city.

In recent weeks we have requested access to European funding from the PNRR (national reconstruction and resilience plan) which, in addition to the crisis due to the covid, have also been moved to the crisis due to the war in Ukraine.

Using these funds, the municipality intends to establish a housing system on a larger scale, also providing refugees with support in bureaucratic procedures, language courses, support for families in difficulty and specific accompaniment to minors for their entry to school.

We are awaiting the positive response, but we are confident in a good response from Europe and our national government.

The aim is to strengthen our system of welcoming and supporting people in conditions of fragility, in the name of a peace that we all hope will return to our Europe and to the whole world.

PROJECT PARTNER MEETING No. M7
Lubaczów, Poland, 9-12 June 2022
Host partner: Municipality of City Lubaczów

Solidarity in Poland - Summary of the visit in Lubaczów Municipality

The 7th meeting as part of the project implementation was held in the Lubaczów Municipality on 7-9 June.

We were visited by delegations from 5 partner countries of the project.

In Poland, we talked about solidarity in two dimensions - the present and the one related to our cultural heritage, which was initiated by today's solidarity in Europe

On the first day, the participants of the project talked about European solidarity in relation to the ongoing war conflict in Ukraine and, above all, the related humanitarian problem.

A very important element of the program was a meeting with students of the Tadeusz Kościuszko in Lubaczów. Students talked about their activities related to building European integration, incl. student exchanges with German Tostedt, about the school's activities related to accepting refugees from Ukraine. However, the workshop where young people and participants of the project wrote and talked about what solidarity, society, integration and community mean for them were the most emotional and positive energy.

Then the participants of the project visited the border crossing Budomierz-Hruszew and the former reception point for refugees in Krowica Sama. Both Border Guards, representatives of non-governmental organizations and aid coordinators talked about how our local government and services functioned over the last few months and how representatives of other European countries came to us.

On the second day, the participants of the project got to know our local cultural heritage, which is based on the coexistence of many nations. The material and immaterial heritage of German, Ukrainian, Jewish and Polish cultures in this area testifies to the fact that centuries ago in this place nations lived in peace with each other and built the foundations of solidarity on which the European Union later grew. Our history teaches us that we can live with each other in accordance with the solidarity of interests and needs, while having different cultures and faiths.

We would like to thank all participants for taking part in the meeting in Poland, it was a great pleasure to get to know your point of view.

After the meeting, the Lubaczów Municipality continued the ideas of the KEYtoEU project, passing on knowledge about it and European integration to primary school students of the Lubaczów Municipality.

These meetings met with a lively interest of young people. From the new school year, they will explore ideas that build the union.

Summary of the 7th meeting in Lubaczów Municipality in realization project “Solidarity – Key to solving social problems and supporting the evolution of Europe in future (KEYtoEU)”

Short agenda

FIRST DAY

The importance of European solidarity in the face of global conflicts on the example of helping refugees from Ukraine

Solidarity through the eyes of the school community of the High School in Lubaczów:

European solidarity built for several decades - Student exchange with Tostedt / Germany

Solidarity beyond the borders of the European Union - building ties between students from Poland and Ukraine

Aid for refugees from Ukraine by the school community

Meaning of solidarity - workshops with the participation of a delegations of project partners and high school students

Activities of public services, local government, organizations and institutions in the face of the refugee crisis caused by the war conflict

SECOND DAY

Traces of the common heritage of material and non-material culture as examples of solidarity and integration from the past. Visit in: St. Paraskevi Church in Radruż, Cultural and Educational Center Pastorówka- Podlesie, theme village Kresowa Osada

PROJECT PARTNER MEETING No. M8
Kozloduy, Bulgaria, 23-26 June 2022
Host partner: Municipality of City Kozloduy

REPORT on the meeting in Kozloduy

This report is based on:

- All documents produced during the reception at Kozloduy Municipality, Republic of Bulgaria
- Completed feedback from the participants in the 8th meeting
- The impressions of the team in Kozloduy Municipality: Ivo Ivanov, Lilyana Rashkova, Anita Opitsova, Zlatina Ivanova, Valeri Valeriev, Galina Rupchanska.

*(The information text in **blue letters** refer to documents/presentations/videos shown during the meeting and can be seen in the attachment or on the project website <https://key-to-eu.eu/>)*

The Bulgarian reception started with an opening meeting where the Mayor of Kozloduy Municipality, Mrs. Marinela Nikolova, welcomed the guests personally. In a short presentation we talked about our community and its specifics. [WELCOME TO KOZLODUY](#)

Before the beginning of the actual part of the meeting the delegates had the opportunity to see in practice what is a Bulgarian community center — this is a unique institution for the whole world, in which the Bulgarian spirit, culture and traditions are preserved. For a short time, the delegates were presented with the activities of the Chitalishte Hristo Botev — 1879 (cultural heritage monument of immense significance), Kozloduy, and the same day after lunch they were able to see in practice one of the preserved Bulgarian customs “Kalush”, which was recreated through the amateurs in the Chitalishte “Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov-1927”, Harlets.

Policy to support minority groups (Roma minority)

Our work programme started on the topic of the largest minority in Bulgaria and in particular what policies the Municipality of Kozloduy uses for successful integration. We chose this topic because Roma are also the largest minority in the municipality, although according to official data they do not recognise themselves as such. We preferred to start by presenting good practices, discussion and then seeing how one of our schools works with Roma children.

The presentation on the topic acquainted our delegates with the main policies (educational, health, cultural, social, residential) that we conduct in the field of integration. The municipality has seven kindergartens, in which about 820 children up to the age of 7 are educated. In six municipal and one public school, about 2,200 students are trained. In every kindergarten and school, Roma children are educated and trained. The hall was attended by educational and health mediators who shared personal impressions of the work with the communities. “Children who are at school are checked daily and those who have no good reason to be absent are searched directly at the places where they live. We go to the neighbourhood and look for them to bring them to school”, said Ivanka Stoyanova — a mediator in elementary school. “Parents are the key. We are looking for a daily relationship with them because their support is important for the change of their children”, said Biserka Dimitrova — school principal.

[POLICIES TO SUPPORT MINORITY GROUPS \(ROMA\) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KOZLODUY](#)

During the discussion, the experience of Hungary and Germany was discussed. Of course, the main challenge is to educate Roma communities and minorities in general, speak the language of their country of residence, and each country pursues different policies in this direction. One thing is certain — common action at European Union level is not advisable, as each country has specific laws, rules and procedures. And in each country there are specific models and approaches that are applicable to the Roma community there.

In Kozloduy, for example, good results are given by events that unite communities — celebrations of the culture of the Roma, the Bulgarians, the Serbian settlers, the Wallachians are intertwined. Such events Kozloduy Municipality plans and realises year-round, precisely in order to get to know and unite the different communities. Children, parents, teachers often gather during holidays, discussions, round tables, seminars organised by the municipality for this purpose.

The discussion before lunch ended with a presentation of an idea for creating a community, managed and implemented by SERAW (our host for the discussions) in support of an eco-initiative for the Danube. With this clip [1.4 --- Danube - I'Life.mp4](#) children from Kozloduy won the first prize in one of the three categories of a European competition, among thousands of children from all over Europe. Jointly organised by the Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the Danube Art Master international competition encourages teenagers to take a closer look at the river and think about the possibilities for its protection by creating original artworks.

Informal talks with the representatives of the Roma community and our delegates continued after the official completion of the first part of the work programme.

“Solidarity in action” — visit to the high school “St. st. Cyril and Methodius”.

The delegates had the opportunity to visit a school in our municipality, which actively implements integration policies.

A short presentation with photos from the school can be found here: [HIGH SCHOOL „ST. ST. CYRIL AND METHODIUS“ BUTAN VILLAGE](#)

Over 30 children, teachers and parents participated in the five workshops, the main goal of which was to demonstrate how together we can achieve common goals. Including people who didn't know each other and had no common activities before that day. We had five joint workshops in the school, the list is enclosed: [Workshop_List.JPG](#)

1. Workshop “Herbalist” — here the participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the herbs typical for this region of Bulgaria and their healing properties. With the help of students and teachers, delegates from Germany and the Czech Republic knit a wreath of herbs that is placed on the head. They learned about the Bulgarian customs during Enyovden — a holiday that this year was celebrated on 24 June — the date on which the event took place. Gabriela from the Czech Republic, in her feedback, shares her impressions from the herbal workshop: “And of course, our herbal workshop was great and it was also nice to see Bulgarian traditions”.

2. Workshop “Living Library”, in which eighteen children interacted with participants from three different countries. Some of the students and employees of the school spontaneously provided translation into Greek, Russian & Italian, which further facilitated communication in the school. During the personal conversations in the workshop many interesting experiences and knowledge were shared, which we believe is a treasure for the children, and the delegates were given another point of view at the Roma community.

3. In the “Solidarity in Action” workshop, we could demonstrate our solidarity with small actions. Participants from Germany and Hungary together with children, teachers and the mayor of the village of Butan knit small flags of the participating countries. At the end of the meeting, each delegate received the flag of their own country as a gift.

4. Delegates from Albania and Italy participated in the workshop “Bulgarian Folk Dances”. A teacher showed our participants dances, which they demonstrated to all the other guests of the event. Finally, all together — guests and hosts took part in a common horo — so characteristic of Bulgaria and the Balkan countries. Klea from Albania, says: “Wearing Bulgarian traditional costumes and learning traditional dance is the most impressive thing”.

5. In the workshop “Grandma’s Kitchen” delegates from Italy and Poland had the opportunity to knead and prepare cakes, banitsa, yogurt — traditional snacks in Bulgaria. Some of the prepared dishes were tasted by the rest of the participants during the coffee break.

All workshops were interesting to the participants. Everywhere there was joint work, exchange of knowledge, mood. Proof that we have chosen a suitable method of working with the children in the school is the feedback given in the completed questionnaire from the participants after the end of the 8th meeting of the project. From the polls conducted, 70 % of the participants referred to the experience at the school in Butan as a memory they would retain forever. “I will never forget the visit and workshops at school in Butan,” says Evelina from Poland.

Miklos Marian refers to the “Solidarity in action” — visit to the high school “St. st. Cyril and Methodius”, as well as visit to the village of Harlets — Wallachian customs and traditions — rite “Kalush” as the memory he will keep in his heart.

Wallachian customs and traditions — rite “Kalush”

The village of Harlets, inhabited mainly by Wallachians, is known for the preservation of authentic folklore at national and international level. A great role is played by the local community center, which preserves the specificity and traditions of the locals.

The custom of Kalush is very characteristic of this region of Bulgaria. In the village of Harlets it has been performed for more than 80 years. In 2008 it was recorded as part of the Intangible Heritage of UNESCO. According to popular beliefs, only the Kalushars can cure the bad disease caused by the evil spirit “Kalush”, which roams the fields, villages and forests. Details can be found here:

[KALUSHA](#)

Especially for the people in the village, Kozloduy Municipality organises once a year Kalushara Festival. In this way the municipality helps to preserve and spread the custom Kalush, by welcoming thousands of guests from all over the country through the popularisation of the festival in the village. In the village of Harlets our guests were greeted personally by Mayor Ognemir Simov. He is a dancer in the Kalushari group. His father was a dancer, and his grandfather was also a dancer. Delegates saw the custom of Kalush, after which each of them received a special gift. The towel that is placed on the shoulder symbolises a wish for health and protection. Our guests had the opportunity to participate in another custom typical of the years before the liberation of Bulgaria. It's very characteristic for the

Wallachians to donate. On every wedding towels must be donated and play the attractive Bulgarian horo Pelenitsa — with a towel they playfully invite a girl or boy and hug in the center of the dance. We wanted our guests to feel the atmosphere of a traditional Bulgarian house. To hear live music played by musicians, to taste dishes that are not prepared in other parts of Bulgaria. That is why in the program we envisaged a visit to the village of Harlets — our participants to get acquainted with another part of the minority groups — Wallachians, and to feel the first settlers on our territory, to get acquainted with their customs and traditions, which are still alive to this day.

Volunteer initiatives — children from Youth Parliament at the Municipality of Kozloduy

On the second day of the visit we started with a discussion about the youth policies implemented on the territory of Kozloduy Municipality. We are proud that 25 % of the population of the municipality is of young people. It is through them that some of the community policies are implemented to support minorities, to include minorities, to work together.

Several young people — part of the currently working parliament — took part in the work of the youth parliament. They had a discussion with the delegates, presenting their activities for the last few years. It is a voluntary structure that brings together young people from all schools. The Youth Parliament works together with the municipality of Kozloduy, as well as with other youth NGOs and groups. The local government annually invests in the Youth Calendar, as the activities in the calendar are initiated and implemented by the young people and cover various topics — training, educational, entertainment, informational, charitable. The municipality, in addition to financial support, provides for free use a room for young people — Youth Club. [MUNICIPAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PARLIAMENT](#)

Young people in the community are active, hardworking and dedicated. That is why we chose to present the Youth Parliament to the Municipality of Kozloduy, as they do their best to benefit society through their civic position and thus participate successfully in the development of the municipality itself. [MCYP VIDEO.mp4](#)

Border Police — experience with refugees

At several of the previous meetings, the topic of refugees was discussed. The experience of the other countries was given. Kozloduy is a city that has a water border with Romania and we chose very briefly with a presentation, without discussion, to present the work of the border police.

Our guest was Ivan Venkov — Head of Border Police, who summarised the data on refugees and the work of the institution. Details here: [BORDER POLICE](#)

Visit to the park in the Turlak neighborhood – a story of Bosilegrad (Serbian) migrants and the story of the Hungarian millers

[Turlak quarters.pdf](#)

The Bosilegrad Serbs are specific to Kozloduy community. We would not call them a minority, because over the years they have successfully integrated and have common symbols, traditions and customs with the local population. After all, there are some customs that they keep to this day. There is a whole neighbourhood in Kozloduy, where the descendants of Serbian settlers of Bulgarian origin live. It was in the park of this neighbourhood that we welcomed our guests. Here we were told the story of their coming in the presence of descendants who remember the stories of their parents and ancestors.

Every year in March, large fires are lit and flaming rods are spun in dance. This scares evil spirits and sees winter off. This is called “oratnitsa” - a specific recalling that winter is going away and a tradition that is still observed to day - Kozloduy Municipality holds a big holiday precisely in the park in the neighbourhood to encourage and preserve the tradition. A partnership with the municipality of Bosilegrad, Serbia has been implemented, thus meetings with the families of Bulgaria and Serbia are held.

During the visit of the park in the Turlaska neighbourhood we had the opportunity to get acquainted with another kin who moved to Kozloduy, and namely the Sabados family — millers from Hungary. The presence of Venelin Sabadoshev and his story about the milling family was a surprise for both the guests and us, the hosts from Kozloduy Municipality. We believe that the story was interesting not only for the Hungarian delegates, but also for all the other participants. The day to celebrate the Bulgarian-Hungarian friendship is 19. October.

See the story here: [Sabados - the Hungarian millers.pdf](#)

Meeting with retirement clubs and viewing the fish dishes of the Festival of the fish

The Fish Festival is a holiday that gathers thousands of residents and guests of Kozloduy Municipality. It is held for the fifth consecutive year and somehow unintentionally unites the cultures of the Wallachians, Roma and Serbian settlers. The preparation of the fish dishes includes seven retirement clubs, of which citizens from the listed communities are members. The dishes are specific, the music that sounds is unifying, and meetings and conversations about the past and the future are an integral part of the holiday. Fishing is a livelihood that twenty years ago fed dozens of fishermen in Kozloduy. In the present, for one reason or another, there are no fishermen in the municipality who live on fishing, but there are 50 people who practice fishing as a hobby. Fishing competition, culinary contest, eco-competition and eco-initiative were part of the events that took place in parallel in Botev Park, and our participants managed to feel the spirit and mood of the event.

We chose to visit the fish festival because to see how the activities that bring the communities closer together and we sincerely believe that our guests managed to feel this.

Sailing on the National Steamship Museum “Radetzky” with a talk about the ship and Hristo Botev — national hero

On the banks of the Danube River, in Kozloduy is the only floating museum on the Balkans. It is an honour for us to be able to show this national wealth to our guests, so we also conducted an hour sailing along the river. And the Danube is a unifying river of 14 European countries, it is an occasion for a number of partnerships, talks, common policies.

“Solidarity in the policy of the European institutions” meeting with Andrey Novakov, Bulgarian representative in the European Parliament

At the end of all discussions, in our opinion, it was important for delegates to be able to comment with a representative of the European Parliament the summary closing the meeting on the topics of the project. That is why we, as hosts, chose to invite Andrey Novakov — one of the seventeen Bulgarian representatives to the European Parliament, for a discussion on all current topics about Europe and the Union. Andrey Novakov is a member of the European Parliament for a second consecutive term. For the past five years, he has been part of the European Parliament’s negotiating team for the annual budgets of the European Union. In addition to his work on the General Regulation on the management of EU funds, he is the REACT-EU rapporteur on measures to address the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. Novakov is the EPP coordinator in the Committee on Regional Development (REGI) and participates in three other parliamentary committees — the Committee on Budgets (BUDG), the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT).

The discussion was really fruitful. Questions were raised related to the lifting of Bulgaria’s veto towards North Macedonia, the possibility of making an operational decision in the EU, cohesion policy, etc. The system for decision-making in response to crises in the EU is cumbersome and lazy. We saw this with COVID, now we see it in the situation of the measures imposed on Russia. We need an effective, adequate and fast crisis decision-making system", said the Bulgarian representative in the European Parliament — Andrey Novakov. “It is important that the EU preserves the Cohesion Policy, because every euro brings benefits and added value,” Novakov said. He gave as an example infrastructure in Bulgaria that generates gross domestic product, including for countries in other parts of the Union. The current challenges facing Europe were discussed, of course the situations in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. Participants expressed concerns and concerns about whether the Union’s policies will withstand the pressure of economic indicators, the situation in Ukraine, the Union’s expansion. Other topical topics were commented, and the main conclusion was that as long as we respect the principles of peace, solidarity and mutual assistance, we will be a strong Union and we will overcome all obstacles in our way.

The four days of the Bulgarian reception passed in dynamics and were very exciting because the guests in Kozloduy felt the Bulgarian spirit, culture and traditions. For us as hosts it was very important to summarise feedback from the participants. By the date of submission of the report, 50 % of the participants had completed a written survey, clearly showing that 90 % of the respondents confirmed the activities we had planned and carried out in Kozloduy correspond with the topics of the project and meet the originally set goals.

In conclusion, the participants from the Bulgarian municipality of Kozloduy are on the opinion that such international joint activities are extremely useful for creating partnerships, bringing us together, exchanging experience, ideas and knowledge.

A brochure on the most famous facts about Bulgaria can be found here: [BG_facts.pdf](#)

PROJECT PARTNER MEETING No. M9
Tirana, Albania, 7-10 July 2022
Host partner: Association of Albanian Municipalities

“Social solidarity situation in Albania, main issues, methods and networking on embracing European values and approaching solidarity”

Activities:

1- Europa House

Date: 08.07.2022

Venue: Europa House

Number of participants: 32

Type of program: **Presentation by Betim Dibrani of the activities of Europa House**

Europe House as a project funded by the European Union, provides information on the European Union, its institutions and policies, the relations between Albania and the EU, Albania's integration process and its implications for the country aiming at bringing all information on the EU and integration process closer to the Albanian citizens through a wide range of activities such as information sessions, trainings, round tables, workshops, cultural and sport events etc.

Europe House general approach is to increase the level of information and public awareness about the European Union in the Republic of Albania, as well as about the country accession process ensuring that comprehensive information is responding to the major demand for information especially after the country gained the status of candidate-country for EU membership.

2- Tirana European Youth Capital 2022

Date: 08.07.2022

Venue: Europa House

Number of participants: 32

Type of program: **Presentation by Irena Topalli for the activities of Tirana Youth Capital 2022**

Tirana becomes the European Youth Capital for 2022. The title was awarded in Amiens, France. Tirana officially receives the baton as the European Youth Capital for 2022, in Klaipeda, Lithuania, during the closing ceremony of EYC 2021. A year full of activities and events for youth, and with youth, takes place.

More than a title and an award to Tirana as the European Youth Capital for 2022, this opportunity presents a new way forward for the city, Albania and its youth. It is a new way of collaborating, rethinking, designing, stimulating and empowering the city, with and for youth.

More than 40,000 young people participating in TEYC activities.

3- National Youth Congress

Date: 08.07.2022

Venue: Europa House

Number of participants: 32

Type of program: **Presentation by Irena Topalli for the activities of National Youth Congress**

National Youth Congress (NYC) is a youth umbrella organization – a union of youth organizations, informal groups, youth forums of political parties, with the aim of exchanging information, highlighting youth issues, lobbying and advocating for solving these issues and the provision of capacity building for all entities involved in the network. NYC was established in March 2013 in Tirana, in the presence of over 30 organizations at the national level. This network was initiated with the initiative of two foreign foundations: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Olof Palme International.

National Youth Congress brings together various organizations from national and regional levels, rural and urban areas, student organizations, branches of international organizations, youth political forums and other types of associations. The Congress represents the interests of young people in Albania, regardless of their socio-economic position, gender, race, ethnic and cultural background, political and religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other form of difference.

4-National Youth Agency

Date: 08.07.2022

Venue: Europa House

Number of participants: 32

Type of program: **Presentation by Krisi Kllapi for the activities of National Youth Agency**

The National Youth Agency (AKR) is an institution that guarantees and promotes the rights of young people through support for informal education, the interaction of youth activation and the financing of youth activities, based on and for the implementation of state policies in the field of youth. The activity of AKR extends throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania, organizing the functional responsibilities in order to ensure the conditions for the support and promotion of youth activities, the development of structured dialogue to realize the strengthening of the position of young people in society, the creation of mechanisms for promoting youth policies as well as making professional, qualitative and independent decisions in the selection of programs and projects that focus on Albanian youth and the importance of the latter in society.

5-Bunk'ART

Visit to the Museum BunkArt in the centre of Tirana

Beginning from April 2016, "Bunk'Art" is open to the public permanently.

In June 1978, the dictator Enver Hoxha inaugurated the anti-nuclear bunker built by the then communist government. It is a 5 floors underground building with 106 rooms and a congress hall, now transformed into a historical-artistic center called "Bunk'Art".

"Bunk'Art" contains: The Historical Exhibition, the Museum Exhibition and Artistic Installations. The historical exhibition reflects: 1) Italy's landing period in Albania, the resistance of the Albanian people and the capitulation of Italy. (1939-1943), 2) Diplomacy during the War (1941-1945), 3) German invasion and the Albanian resistance, the struggle for power and liberation of Albania (September 1943 - November 1944), 4) After the War: Hope and Disappointment 1945 - 1947), 5) Red Albania 1945-1990.

The museum exhibition includes: 1) Enver Hoxha's Chamber, 2) Mehmet Shehu's Chamber, 3) Military Liaison Museum, 4) Supporting Battalion Museum, 5) Officer's Room, 6) Headquarters Staff Room, 7) Museum of Telecommunication.

6-Project Closing Session

Date: 08.07.2022

Venue: AS Tirana Hotel

Number of participants: 28

In the end of the day a wrap-up of the activities of the whole project were made by the Project Manager Mr. Marian Miklos and was discussed for the follow-up steps which leads to the deadline of the report and the financing.

Also, during the meeting was discussed about the Memorandum of Cooperation between partners, let to be signed for the next day of the Project Meeting in Albania.

7- Multifunctional community center "Nishtulla"

Date: 09.07.2022

Venue: Nishtulla

Number of participants: 29

The Multifunctional Community Center - Nishtulla, is a new center, which opened its doors for groups in need, in November 2013, in the area of Nishtulles-Durres.

Built with the vision of being a model of providing essential services for the community, this center aims to improve the access of the Roma and Egyptian community to social services through civil registration, community policing, involvement in professional courses and placement and strengthening the networks of Roma mediators in the field of health, education, child protection.

Thanks to local government-donor cooperation, this center is an investment made with the support of the United Nations Program - For the Empowerment of Local Communities in Need (FKLN), which has been implemented by UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNV, in partnership with Durrës municipality.

8- Closing remarks by Hans Herrmann President of PVAH and the Agron Haxhimali Executive Director of AAM, and Acceptance of a Common Declaration (Memorandum of Understanding) by Partners

Date: 09.07.2022

Venue: Palace Hotel

Number of participants: 28

Official signings of the Memorandum by Partners from Germany, Albania, Hungary, Greece and Czech Republic. Yet to be finalized by the signatures of the partners from Bulgaria, Poland, Spain and Italy.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The undersigned, the leaders of the partner organizations of the project entitled '*Solidarity - key to solving social problems and supporting the evolution of Europe in future*' (acronym: *KEYtoEU*), a project implemented with the participation of nine countries in the framework of the Europe for Citizens/Network of Towns Program in the period 2020-2022 (No. 621894-CITIZ -1-2020-1-DE-CITIZ-NT) we make the following statement as a summary of the results.

The European Union and the continent as a whole must face many issues in the present and in the foreseeable future, which require the cooperation of the European peoples to overcome the difficulties. The work carried out in the framework of the project, which focused on examining how solidarity helps to overcome social problems, gave us the opportunity to get to know each other's opinions and practices at the level of the partner communities, and the personal meetings provided an opportunity to inform and influence the communities in order to rethink the possibilities of Europe's future development in a spirit of solidarity.

The concrete experiences and good practices of the partner communities provided a way to gain insight into real problems in a number of topics. For example, the issue of the integration of social groups of various types of minorities, including historically existing groups, as well as the situation of new migration groups, was of particular importance. Knowing and taking into account the opinions of young people, including those of school age, is of particular importance, and we treated them as such, trusting that learning about the ideology of solidarity will help them form a positive vision of the future. But this requires much more information about Europe and its benefits especially for young people. Many of them don't see that their future has to do with Europe. This project helped to partly change the view on this matter.

Among the partners who came from different areas of Europe - mainly Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the Mediterranean region were represented - there was complete harmony regarding the need for social development based on solidarity. With the documents to be published at the end of the project, we would like to present our common opinion, which was also expressed in the title of our project: *The Europe of the future cannot live without the certainty of mutual and multifaceted solidarity in dealing with social and many other issues.*

Signed on 9 July 2022 by the leaders of the partner organisations of the Project KEYtoEU
