

Europe for Citizens

KEYtoEU

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

Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

Published by
Municipalities of Lokroi (Greece)
and Alsbach-Hähnlein (Germany)
on behalf of the contribution of the Project partners



Foreword

by Mr. Hans Herrmann,
President of the Partnerschaftsverein Alsbach-Haehnlein (PVAH), Lead Partner

Our project, titled "Solidarity - key to solving social problems and supporting the evolution of Europe in future" was successfully implemented.

Nine project meetings of 4 days each were held by nine project partners during the period between September 2021 and July 2022. The originally planned start of the project in September 2020 had to be postponed because of the pandemic situation all over Europe. In spite of the pressure that had arisen and the fact that before the second meeting Russia's War against Ukraine started, the project was successfully realized in less than half a year thanks to the determination and discipline of all participants.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, young people were not able to be included into the project to the same extent as originally planned. Nevertheless, the project succeeded in involving the youth appropriately, also to discuss their questions, desires and hopes related to Europe in detail.

Many of the questions raised in the project description were discussed, particularly those concerning the commitment and the expectations of Europe. The main arguments of young people related to a lack of commitment to Europe because they feel very far from Europe and the fact that the subject Europe is insufficiently dealt with national school systems. Nevertheless, the interest in Europe is great, especially those who already benefited from the one or other of the European programmes speak very positively about Europe! And this comes precisely from the young people who had also been involved in this project.

Very encouraging with regard to solidarity as key to the future of Europe are the numerous voluntary civic initiatives. People do not wait for the state, district government or local government to act, but tackle the things that have been lying around for far too long. Thus, the participants to the project got to know numerous examples where citizens - and among them also many young people – are being engaged: from getting involved in cleaning up beaches to fighting fires together across national borders. You will find many examples of best practice of these activities in this brochure.

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About the Project

Solidarity in Europe is a leading principle in the EU. Key of Cohesion in Europe is Solidarity. Not just since the Treaty of Lisbon (in particular article 2 Treaty on European Union and Chapter IV of the Charta of Fundamental Rights of the European Union) solidarity is a load bearing principle in the European Union.

> *"Solidarity mechanisms are not based on pure generosity, but on enlightened self-interest"*
> Jacques Delors, former president of the European Commission.

Beside the legal aspect, solidarity is an essential value in the daily coexistence of human beings. Differing structures of municipalities create differing kinds of solidarity.

This common value has also and perhaps foremost to be considered before the background of different cultures existing in the 27 member states in Europe as well as in the candidate countries. Even within the states different cultures and consequently practiced solidarity shows big differences. So the project gave an overview on lived solidarity in the participating municipalities in different regions in the countries involved.

Because of the complexity of the term "solidarity" as such the main focus of the project KEYtoEU lay on the interpretation of the understanding of solidarity by the younger generation. This generation is the guarantor for a positive development of Europe and the project was supposed to find out how this generation understands solidarity in Europe in general but in particular what practical approaches of solidarity on municipality level exist. As the nine stays were of short duration the participants only could get a survey on the activities. As a general result we can ascertain that in all participating municipalities we found very different and remarkable approaches of lived solidarity in the younger generation.

So far the project gave an overview of those activities. All participants had been informed on the different aspects of solidarity, and had the possibility to discuss across generations the intercultural challenges solidarity shows across Europe.

The following pages summarize the visits which took place between 10.06.2021 (Kick off meeting - online) and 10.7.2022.

Meetings took place at the participating municipalities (in alphabetic order):

- Alsbach-Hähnlein, Germany (30.09.-03.10.2021)
- Atalanti,Greece (12-15.05.2022)
- Diósd, Hungary (08-11.03.2022)
- Kozloduy, Bulgaria (23-26.06.2022)
- Lubaczów, Poland (09-12.06.2022)
- Massamagrell, Spain (24-27.02.2022)
- Prague 9, Czech Republic (24-27.03.2022)
- Sulmona. Italy (21-24.04.2022)
- Tirana, Albania (07-10.07.2022)

All municipalities were hosts to citizens of the other participating municipalities. Due to the pandemic some reorganization became necessary and due to the Ukraine War and Corona cases the number of guests varied at every location.

The brochure gives an overview of the different approaches following the key purpose of the project: how does solidarity function in the municipalities in Europe and what are the expectations of the younger generations towards Europe.

More information can be found on the homepage of KEYtoEU https://key-to-eu.eu.

KEYtoEU at a glance

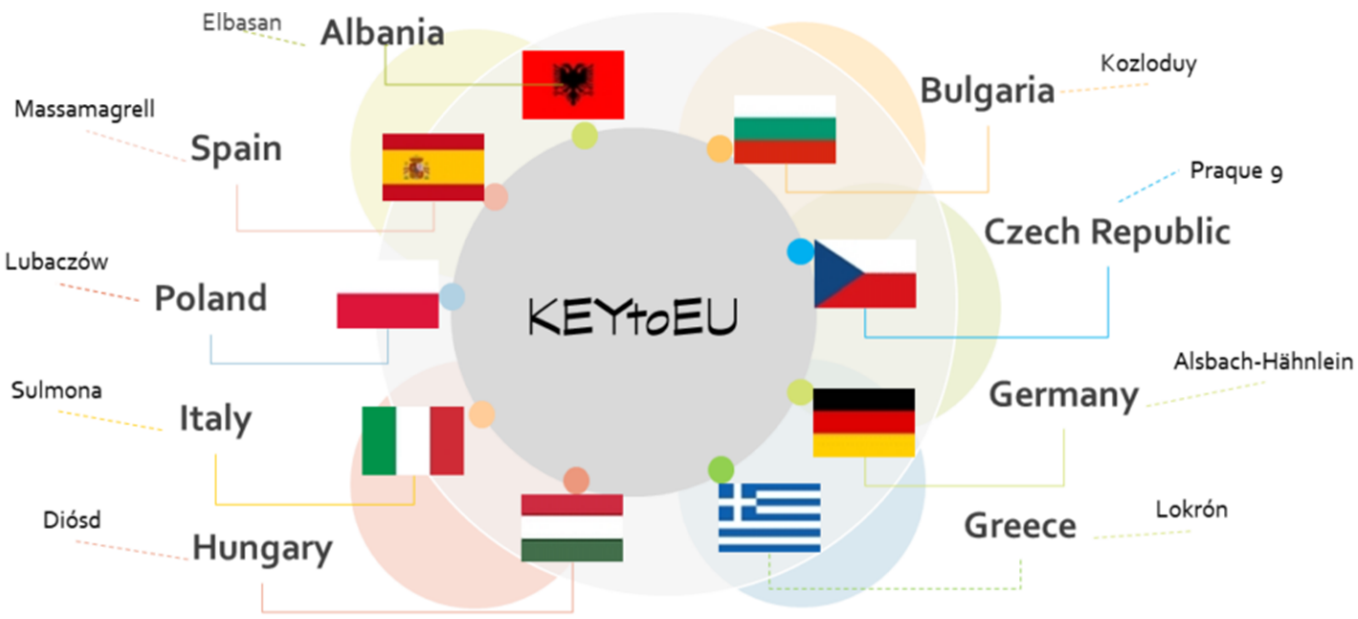
KEYtoEU

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

is part of the EU programme Europe for Citizens

Action 2.2: Networks of towns
Ref. Call for Proposals: EACEA-52-2019-1
Identifier: 621894-CITIZ-1-2020-1-DE-CITIZ-NT

Partners



- 148.860 Euro Budget
- 12 Partners
- 9 Countries
- 612 People involved
- 23 Best practices shared

Purpose

The basic question of the project is what role plays solidarity in the EU and why solidarity against the background of a common value base across all generations and all cultures is interpreted and lived differently. We are particularly interested in the question of the understanding and the role of the younger generation in this context. Scientific investigations show that solidarity and humanity are important issues of the competitive societies, which need to be managed properly. The project used appropriate methodology for testing the opinion of people involved, and to draw conclusions from the common activities of the project. The participating people will be prepared for understanding the subject and questions as concerns the solidarity mechanisms in Europe, and as a result of their project work, specific outputs will be created which will help to manage this subject in wider public.

12 partners, representing 9 countries (8 EU-member and 1 non-EU-member countries) form the partnership, and nine partner meetings will be organized in the following settlements: Alsbach-Haehlein (DE), Sulmona (IT), Lubaczów (PL), Massamagrell (ES), Lokroi (GR), Elbasan (AL), Kozloduy (BG), Diósd (HU) and Prague District 9. The majority of the partner organizations represent local governments, but the lead partner Partnership Association of Alsbach-Haehlein is a very committed civil organization, functioning also as the Twinning Committee of the Municipality of Alsbach-Haehlein. The meetings were visited directly by about 450 participants, and the effects reached a wider population of about 12.000 people.

Modern tools of the social media were used for intensifying the cooperation and supporting the effective dissemination.



Meetings

1. Alsbach- Hähnlein / Germany

30.09-03.10.2021

2. Massamagrell / Spain

24-27.02.2022

3. Diósd / Hungary

08-11.03.2022

4. Praque 9 / Czech Republic

24-27.03.2022

5. Sulmona / Italy

21-24.04.2022

6. Municipality of Lokroi /Greece

12-15.05.2022

MUNICIPALITY OF LOKROI
ΔΗΜΟΣ ΛΟΚΡΩΝ

7. Lubaczów / Poland

09-12.06.2022

8. Kozloduy / Bulgaria

23-26.06.2022

9. Tirana / Albania

07-10.07.2022



Project Stories

Alsbach- Hähnlein GERMANY

30 Sept.- 3 Oct. 2021



Alsbach- Hähnlein Town

- Parts of the village:
  Alsbach and its part Sandwiese united with Hähnlein in 1977
- Alsbach first mentioned in 773 (Lorsch Codex)
  Hähnlein first mentioned in 1333 (Monastery Lorsch)
- 9.300 inhabitants
- 4 Political parties, Mayor: Sebastian Bubenzer
- Small/Medium business
- Still some agriculture (aspergus/strawberries)
- Municipality of residence with good transport connections





Alsbach- Hähnlein Community

- 48 associations
  - ◊ Sports (soccer, tennis, gymnastics, cycling, horse riding, ..)
  - ◊ Volunteer fire-department and red cross
  - ◊ Carnival
  - ◊ Art/Literature/Music (Choirs)
  - ◊ Neighborhood help
  - ◊ Partnership association, the initiator of this project
- 2 Youth centers
- 5 Kindergartens
- 1 Museum
- Seniors residence, day care

Alsbach-Hähnlein Partnership Association

- Founded in 2014
- Members: 41
- Goals
  - ◊ Supporting the community of Alsbach-Hähnlein in maintaining and developing the contractually registered partnerships of our community.
  - ◊ Developing new partnerships with other communities and cities inside and outside of Europe
- Participant in an EU project 2012 – 2013
- Contacts to: Livanátes / Ataláti (Greece), Sulmona (Italy), Capestang (France)
- City twinning with Diósd (Hungary) since 1989





Voluntary Commitment to the Community



Alsbach- Hähnlein GERMANY

30 Sept.- 3 Oct. 2021

PVAH
Partnerschaftsverein Alsbach-Hähnlein e.V.

In August 2021, 170 firefighters with 38 extinguishing, rescue and supply vehicles from southern Hesse made their way to Greece to help extinguish the devastating forest fires. Triggered by a request from Greece, the state of Hesse organized this operation. The volunteer fire brigade from Alsbach-Hähnlein was also involved. The journey via Bolzano, Bologna, Ancona, Patras to Lalas near ancient Olympia took three days. It was the first foreign assignment of this magnitude.

German fire brigades help with the forest fires on the Peloponnese



“Solidarity across borders”

The Hessian helpers on the Peloponnese peninsula were to monitor an area of around 8,000 square meters that had fallen victim to the devastating forest fires just over a week earlier. Under the leadership of the Greek fire brigade, post-extinguishing work was carried out in the forests to prevent the fires from flaring up. Another task was a fire station at ancient Olympia.

The gratitude of the Greek people was impressive. During the crossing with the ferry from Ancona to Patras, the emergency services were thanked by Greek people for this kind of solidarity. On site in the Peloponnese, the people were extremely helpful: they warmly welcomed the helpers and provided them with food and drinks, although the units were largely self-sufficient with their diverse material. People said they felt safer with the presence of the additional fire departments.

Even though the fire brigade from Alsbach-Hähnlein was no longer used in the large fires, the presence on site alone was perceived as a strong sign of helpfulness across borders and should not be underestimated in its wake-up. Reliability and helpfulness are basic elements of solidarity.

Alsbach- Hähnlein GERMANY

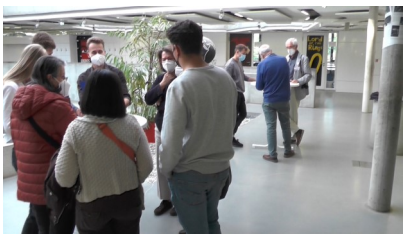
30 Sept.- 3 Oct. 2021

PVAH
Partnerschaftsverein Alsbach-Hähnlein e.V.

Courage for the Future

What young people at a European School expect from Europe"

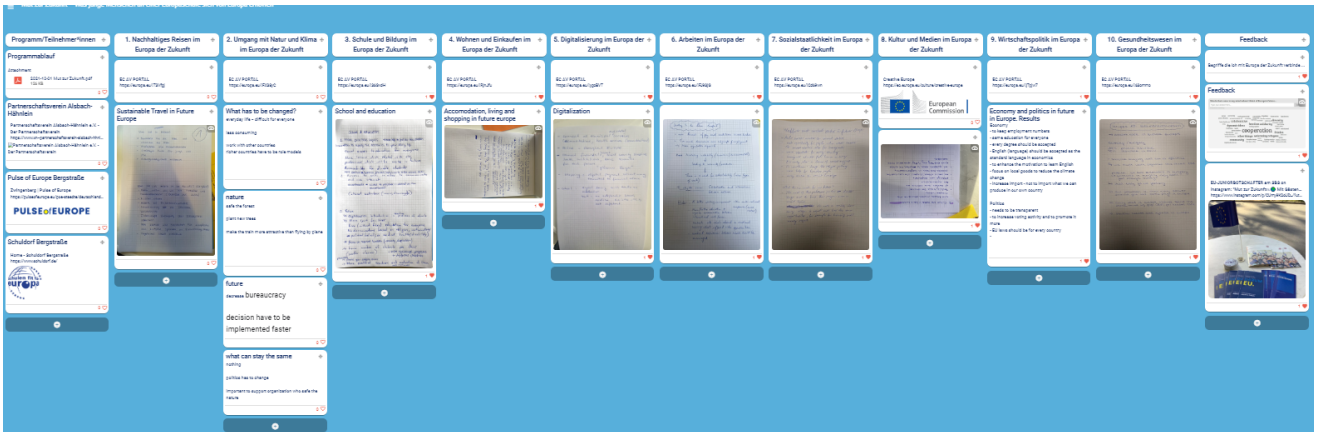
Schuldorf Bergstraße



"Courage for the future - what young people at a European School expect from Europe" - this was the subject of a workshop at Schuldorf Bergstraße, organized by the school itself, the association "Pulse of Europe" and the PVAH. The participants were students of the high school, members of the association, members of the PVAH and members of the guest and host delegations. The workshop was divided into 10 working groups with the following subjects related to the future of Europe:

1. Sustainable Travel
2. Nature and climate
3. School and education
4. Accommodation , living and shopping
5. Digitalization
6. Working
7. Welfare and social state
8. Culture and media
9. Economy and politics
10. Health care

The results are presented in the picture below. More details can be found at the link: https://www.taskcards.de/#/dashboards/e61bae5d-b877-4283-b8eb-24b5c610c7db?token=b4a8a41a-cc57-41f3-b7a2-7d7cab30a5bd







The Role of Solidarity in Europe

Alsbach- Hähnlein
GERMANY

30 Sept.- 3 Oct. 2021

PVAH
Partnerschaftsverein
Alsbach-Hähnlein e.V.



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.

Then, they explained their respective positions on the importance of 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 its underlying values.

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 decision making at European level. This leads to, young people in particular, not paying much attention to Europe, as it seems too complex to them.

Discussion with the youth organisations of the political parties about about the role of solidarity in Europe





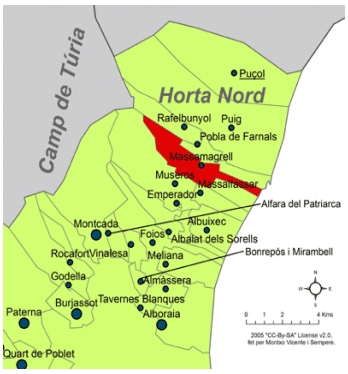
They therefore called for more direct participation and above all an upgrading of the EU Parliament. Since it is directly elected by the European citizens, this should be the decisive body, similar to that at the national level. There, the laws and projects should be discussed, passed with a majority 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 Southeastern 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 locally. Young people are particularly interested in reasons for 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 their own country before you could deal more intensively with Europe.

Massamagrell
SPAIN

24 - 27 Feb. 2022





Massamagrell is a municipality in the Valencian Community region that has a population of approximately 15,574 inhabitants.

It participates in different European projects, and are open to cooperate throughout Europe.

It is committed to play an active role throughout the execution of the project. Currently Massamagrell has become a municipality of neighbors very involved with local activities. The municipality and its neighbors have witnessed the passing of the years and the events of history that in many cases have been reflected in the architecture, structure and customs of Massamagrell.





Solidarity with Disabled People



Massamagrell
SPAIN

24 - 27 Feb. 2022

Participants made researches from their phones to know how much media and users comments affects the integration of migrants while communicating by these resources. Participants afterwards through different cardboards created a bridge where the positive inputs and negative consequences on social media where shown. Participants worked jointly in order to achieve potential solutions to promote social inclusion and tolerance of migrants. All participants (european and locals, specially youth) shared the conclusions and made common points through their personal stories in order to find potential solutions to combat the negative image of migrants

Participants could learn how to use media in order to spread positive messages of unity, equality and tolerance and also to tackle those attitudes that exclude and confront people from other social backgrounds and cultures.

Open debate with youth through the topic: “inclusion of migrants through social media (Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, etc)



The secondary school “IES Massamagrell” presented their initiative “Blood Minerals”. During the presentation the students of secondary’s first year from IES Massamagrell, shared the whole process of work and research they have done within the Scientific field accompanied and directed by the teachers of Maths and Biology.

In this project, the students analysed what types of minerals are needed to manufacture smartphones and other electronic devices and they found out that minerals such as coltan, cassiterite, gold and quartz are present in these mobile devices.

The city council of Massamagrell itself has collaborated and has helped students to open this campaign among the entire population, encouraging them to participate by depositing smartphones that are no longer in use at any of the collection points that have been set up such the cultural center and the town hall of Massamagrell.

Blood Minerals



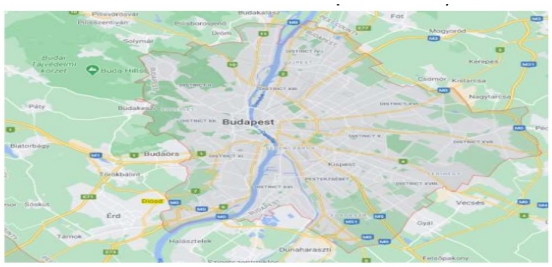
The initiative #JovesenMarxa of valencian youth council the covers topics such as: solidarity, sexual affectivity and equality (feminism). Youth from the Valencia area, are implementing proposals to make awareness about the importance of teaching in equality and solidarity in order to ensure safe spaces for migrants and those social groups more vulnerable.

Initiative #JovesenMarxa



Diósd
HUNGARY

08 - 11 March 2022



Diósd is located 16 km from Budapest in Pest county, between the 22nd district of Budapest and city of Érd


Chapel of holy Geller


Statue of holy Geller


Mayor's office


Ex stone pit


School building I.


The new kindergarten


Nursery


Singing local choir


Project Building Solidarity in Communities




Visit in Alsbach-Hähnlein

The name of Diósd can be tracked back to the walnut

- ~900 years registered history
- City since 2013
- Mixed population: Hungarian majority with German (Swabian), Serbian, Polish and other minorities
- 12,000 inhabitants, with growing population

Advantages

- Very good location, close to the capital city with good transport connections
- Surrounded by greenery
- Very friendly local people
- Lots of local events

- Education
  - ◊ Diósdi Eötvös József German Nationality Primary School and Primary Art School in 2 building
  - ◊ International Christian School of Budapest: Private, Christian, co-educational international school in Diósd since 1994
- 3 kindergartens
- 1 nursery
- More than 30 associations
  - ◊ Sports (soccer, basketball, handball, judo, gymnastic for elderly people..)
  - ◊ 2 choirs
  - ◊ Bands (different style of music)
- Preservation of traditions, folks etc

- Diósd has active twin-town network, takes part in mutual experience exchange programmes and twinning meetings usually dealing with actual European social topics
  - ◊ Europe for Citizens / Network of towns: 2 projects implemented in 2011-12 and 2014-15, res. (incl. 8-9 countries and events)

- Town twinnings
  - ◊ Alsbach-Hähnlein(Germany) - 1989
  - ◊ Cieszanów (Poland) - 2004
  - ◊ Marosvecs / Brâncovenesti (Transylvania, Romania) - 2006
  - ◊ Nagygejok (Transcarpathia, Ukraine) - 2014
  - ◊ Ersekkety (Highlands, Slovakia) - 2016
  - ∗ Friendly relation with Lubaczów (Poland)

The inclusive Settlement

Cohabitation between nationalities

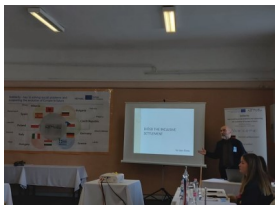
Diósd
HUNGARY

08 - 11 March 2022

The history, the changing life conditions, the way of integration and the positive example of harmonious coexistence between people in the City Diósd is a manifestation of solidarity in today's life in regard of the local people of German origin - called Swabians. – These phenomena were presented in three lectures made by the experts of three organizations: German Nationality Municipality of Diósd, German Association for the Preservation of Traditions, and the Local Government of City Diósd. It has been made more visual by a photo exhibition about the Swabians in Diósd. The German twinning relationship with the City Alsbach-Hähnlein confirmed the national relationship.

The presentation was followed by many questions from the guests and an interesting discussion between the participants.

Integration of German origin population into the community of Diósd







The students of the E.J. German Nationality Primary School of Diósd 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 examples were from everyday life and the scenes were videotaped. The water glass situational game was a perfect example of the importance of solidarity in and of the community, it is not the individual but groups which have to work together in order to complete a task successfully. The game was very much welcomed by the kids and the adult members of the international delegation

German nationality education in Eötvös József German Nationality Primary School of Diósd



Prague 9
CZECH REPUBLIC

24 - 27 March 2022



Prague 9 Municipality

The district of Prague 9 was established by the Act no. 418/1990 Coll., on the capital of Prague, being effective since November Vysočany (except for the Balkán), smaller part of Libeň (east of the railway line Prague --Turnov), Prosek, a greater part of Střížkov, nearly the whole territory of Hrdlořezy, a smaller part of Hloubětín (west of the streets Průmyslová and Kbelská) and a slight part of Malešice. On December 31, 2014 the district of Prague 9 had the population of 55,569 inhabitants.

The aforementioned city quarters were originally agricultural settlements. Thanks to favourable location on the main railway lines, industrial production quickly broke through into Vysočany and Libeň in the 19th century. At the beginning of 20th century, other quarters gradually turned into residential areas with houses; in the second half of 20th century, great housing estate, designed for nearly 30 thousand people, was built in Prosek. In the 90's of the last century, industry in Libeň and Vysočany disappeared; and nowadays, large housing estates are built there mainly while urban greenery is created responsibly.

The district of Prague 9 is adjacent to the districts of Prague 10, Prague 3, Prague 8, Prague 18 (Letňany), Prague 19 (Kbely) and Prague 14 (Kyje).





- Northwestern part of Prague
- approx. 56k inhabitants (rapid growth, est. 70k in 10yrs)
- formerly industrial area -> high percentage of brownfields
- revitalisation / redevelopment over last 20 yrs
- turning into residential district
- 5 elementary, 10 primary schools
- experiences in EU project management (E4C, Interreg, Urbact, H2020...)

Solidarity Helps the Integration of Foreign People

Prague 9
CZECH REPUBLIC

24 - 27 March 2022

Simulation of European Parliament for young students in Prague 9

The simulation of the European Parliament took place on March 24 and 25, 2022 during the KeyToEU project transnational conference.

The aim of the event was to bring the institutional framework of the functioning of the European Union closer to the students' understanding of the EU's legislative process and decision-making. In the introduction, students learned more information about the functioning processes of the European Parliament and its specific powers with the help of lecturers provided by NGO “Youth Democrats” that specializes themselves into such projects.

During the course, the participants tried their abilities in one of the parliamentary committees (e.g. Economy and Currency, Foreign Affairs), where they could get a chance to actively participate in the debate and come up with amendments of their own interest. They managed to try their best at diplomacy in simulated political groups, negotiating with each other to push through their proposals. At the end, the students would defend their positions in a plenary session with short speeches and vote on legislative proposals.



On Day 2 of the simulation, the students had the opportunity to debate with the invited MEPs about their work in the European Parliament and the challenges of current European politics. Several of the most successful students were awarded books and trips to the European Parliament in Strasbourg or Brussels, consisting of:

- tours of the European Parliament and a briefing on its work and role,
- discussion with an MEP and watching the proceedings of the plenary session of the European Parliament from the visitor's stand,
- visits to the Parlamentarium and, in the case of Brussels, the House of European History,
- tours of the historic center of Strasbourg/Brussels

Congratulations to all of the participating students, based on how the simulation went on, we see the future of Europe is in good hands and we strongly recommend organisation of such events for youth in all partner countries.

Sulmona ITALY

21 - 24 April 2022





Sulmona Town





- Sulmona is the biggest town in Peligna Valley with 25.000 inhabitants
- The ancient writers, including Ovidio and Silio Italico, agree on the remote origin of Sulmona, which can be linked to the destruction of Troy. In fact, the name of the city derives from Solimo, one of the companions of Aeneas, more or less 2.000 b.c.
- Small business in the tertiary sector: 'market services', such as commerce, public businesses, transport, communications, credit, insurance, real estate services and to businesses, research, private healthcare, services.
- Quality agriculture and precious biodiversity
- Municipality with no good transport connections



Sulmona Community







- 75 associations
  - ◊ Sports (soccer, tennis, gymnastics, cycling, horse riding, ..)
  - ◊ Art, Cinema, theatre, music
  - ◊ Cultural and religious associations
  - ◊ Volunteer for civil protection
- 1 Youth center
- 1 municipal Kindergarten and 3 privates
- Home for the elderly, day care and several elderly centers where they play cards, dance and make theatre



Sulmona Partnership Association

- Founded in 2016
- Members: 3
- Goals
  - ◊ Supporting the community of Sulmona in maintaining and developing the contractually registered partnerships of our community.
  - ◊ Developing new partnerships with other communities and cities inside and outside of Europe
- Participant in an EU project 2016 – 2018
- Contacts to: Livanates / Atalanti (Greece), Alsbach-Hähnlein (Germany), Capestang (France)
- Town twinning with: Sumperk (Czech Republic), Constanța (Romania); Serravalle (Saint Marino Republic)

“Solidarity with Disabled People”



Sulmona
ITALY

21 - 24 April 2022

“Solidarity”

The program concerning the leading topic “Solidarity” was focused on two organizations ANFFAS (Associacione Nationale Famigliedi Persone con Disabilita Intelettiva) Sulmona and **s.a.t.i.c. (Societa' Cooperativa Sociale Per La Procurazione Il L Avoro Ed I Servizi).**

ANFFASS is an association, active on the territory for helping the disabled children. The organisation was presented to the guests followed by an intensive discussion on the aims and the work of ANFAAASS



CARITAS Charity Community, active for helping the poor, refugees, homeless, giving them food and places to sleep, thanks to solidarity of faithful and common people as well. The interesting presentation was followed by a vital discussion with the guests.

Local associations, bank and social cooperative presented their activities on the field in support of people in trouble, such as unemployed, disabled and poors. They told all the efforts to enhance the local economy by solidarity and by supporting people in trouble, such as unemployed, disabled and poor. Also here a lot of questions had been asked and there was a vivid debate with the guests.

Finally the delegation was invited by the local Association “Giostra Cavalleresca” during a traditional event (a Fire Show) which is popular since years for citizens, families and young people.

MUNICIPALITY OF LOKROI
ΔΗΜΟΣ ΛΟΚΡΩΝ

Dimos Lokron
GREECE

12 - 15 May 2022





Lokroi is a municipality in the Region of Fthiotida part of Central Greece Region.

The municipality of Lokroi was established in 2011 following the implementation of the Kallikratis Program that reformed local administrations, by merging the former municipalities of Atalanti, Dafnousia, Malesina and Opountia. The new municipal unit has an area of 614.761 km^2 and 19,623 inhabitants (Census 2011).

The seat of the municipality is the town of Atalanti. Atalanti is built at the foot of the Roda Mountain. It is a commercial, agricultural and industrial centre of the province of Lokrida. It is located 78.5 km from Lamia and 146 km from Athens.



Welfare Services

Implementation of social policy and services provided to vulnerable groups of population as well as to other citizens

Actions



Social Cooperative Enterprise of Martino Village "Voumelitea"

- Social profit through the production of goods made from local products
- Use of the profits to grow employment



Elite Team Special Missions of Lokroi Municipality

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



"Volunteers and Friends" of Arkitsa Village

Voluntary team. Cleaning beaches, playgrounds and fields etc. Contributing to our society by giving donations to the welfare service

Solidarity Helps the Integration of Foreign People & Minorities

Dimos Lokron
GREECE

12 - 15 May 2022

The title of the program is: "Solidarity – Key to solving social problems and supporting the evolution of Europe in future" (KEYtoEU) and the title of the three-day conference in the Municipality of Lokroi was: "Solidarity Helps The Integration Of Foreign People & Minorities". The Conference was opened by the Deputy Mayor of Social Policy, Protection, Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Mrs. Elena Kyriakou, who spoke about the measures taken by the Municipality of Lokroi regarding the integration of the socially weak, the minorities and the marginalized groups in the local community. In this context, we constantly carry out actions for the integration of Roma children into society. We try to help them in every way. Especially the children who are our future. We are here to eliminate racism and take solidarity one step further…





The basic aim is the socialization of young Roma in the context of their integration. We target children and promote policies to reduce the phenomena of discrimination, whether racial or class.

Solidarity will bring global peace

The Community Center Roma Branch and the Municipality of Lokroi aim with dedication, perseverance and patience, having solidarity, equality, peace and unity as their guiding principle in the gradual integration of the Roma.

Achievements

- To have the opportunity to exchange opinions and strategies concerning integration
- To work out solutions for spreading solidarity
- To be given ideas that helps the local societies

Challenges

- To adopt new practices that are working with success in other European Municipalities
- To influence new generations into solidarity and its meaning

Impact

The project succeeded to gather different mentalities from different local societies in the field of Solidarity and show them how to get there. It's very important to unite 9 counties and create a data base that has the same goal. European Union is making great efforts the last years on integration and KEYtoEU meetings have been very helpful into this target. Each municipality has now the feedback to understand and work on social matters that are global.

Lubaczów POLAND

09 - 12 June 2022



Population: 9,366 inhabitants (31-12-2020 r.)
Area: 202,86 km²
Organization: 23 small administrative units (villages)
Main office: Lubaczow City



Border crossing point Budomierz-Hruszew

Lubaczów Community

48 associations:

- Rural Housewives' Circles, Seniors' Clubs, Volunteer Fire Brigades, Country Sports Clubs…
- Social Welfare Home for chronically mentally ill
- 5 primary schools
- 6 Kindergartens, 1 Nursery





Local Business:

- Investment plots
- 270 local companies

History & Culture

Local tradition and history- influenced by Polish, Ukrainian, Jewish and German heritage, both material and immaterial, centuries-old legacy of the Borderlands

- Educational and Cultural Center "Pastorówka", Borderland Heritage Festival





Degraded areas after revitalization

- Kresowa Osada, railway station – local railway gallery, astronomical observatory, local memorial building



Nature & Tourism



- Natural monuments and unique creations of nature
- Sanctuaries and natural landscape parks
- Clear air
- Geographic land Roztocze
- Well-planned and signposted system of bike routers





The Importance of European Solidarity in the Face of Global Conflicts on the Example of Helping Refugees from Ukraine

Lubaczów
POLAND

09 - 12 June 2022

Building ties between students from Poland and Ukraine

One of the elements of the meeting in the Lubaczów Commune was the visit of a delegation from partner countries to the high school in Lubaczów. An important point of the program was the look through the eyes of young people from this school on solidarity in the European context, which nowadays becomes more important, becomes a challenge for everyday life, in the context of helping refugees from Ukraine or fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building ties between students from Poland and Ukraine at this school began as early as 2014, when the facility accepted the first students from Ukraine. They also participated in the meeting with delegations from partner countries and shared their observations on the subject of their ties with their colleagues from Poland.

The next stage of building solidarity between students from Poland and Ukraine was dictated, unfortunately, by sad events in the history of Europe - the war in Ukraine was associated with helping refugees by the entire school community. A refugee shelter for war refugees was created in the sports hall, where they could spend the night, eat a hot meal, and were provided with the necessary necessities. It was a beautiful picture of the solidarity of the entire school community with the needy inhabitants of neighboring Ukraine



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

The last point of the meeting in the general secondary school was a workshop with the participation of a delegation of project partners and high school students entitled: "The importance of solidarity". Students and members of the delegation worked in four groups. Each of them graphically presented the effects of their work - that is, what they associate with the words: solidarity, integration, acceptance, and community. It was certainly a unique and interesting event for them, mainly due to the opportunity to meet people of different cultures and nationalities.

After the completion of the project "KEYtoEU ..." in the commune of Lubaczów, its main assumptions are continued through classes with young people conducted in all schools in the commune. They deal with the issue of solidarity in the European context. In addition, students learn about the structure of the EU and how it works.



Kozloduy
BULGARIA

23– 26 June 2022



The town of Kozloduy is located 200 km.from the capital of Bulgaria – Sofia.

The Municipality of Kozloduy is located in the eastern part of Northwestern Bulgaria, in the Danube Lowlands on the banks of the Danube, with an altitude of 33 meters. It is located 7 km from the mouth of the Ogosta River, in the fertile granary of Bulgaria, called "Zlatia" by the Ancient Bulgarians

The region has traditions in agriculture and, of course, the production of electricity. It has a well-developed infrastructure and communications, highly qualified workforce

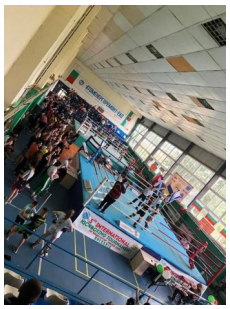
The town is known as the Atomic Capital of Bulgaria. The Kozloduy nuclear power plant has been operating for over 45 years and employs nearly four thousand specialists.



State enterprise radioactive waste - SE RAW employs over 1,000 people







Facts

- ◊ In 1969 Kozloduy was declared a town
- ◊ The municipality includes five settlements:
  1 town – Kozloduy and 4 villages
  - Harlets
  - Glozhene
  - Butan and
  - Kriva bara
- ◊ The territory of the municipality is 285 sq. km., and the land is predominantly agricultural plane
- ◊ Population: ~ 20,000. Approx. 25%of them are children under 18 years of age
- ◊ 7 kindergartens, which nurture about 820 children up to 7 years of age
- ◊ 6 municipal and 1 state school, with about 2,200 students altogether
- ◊ 13 sports clubs . More than 400 athletes play in them, most of them children and teenagers
- ◊ Rich cultural and historical heritage. Organizes some of the largest festivals in the region:
  - Fish Festival in June
  - Festival of Arts and Crafts in September
  - 3 national folklore festivals

Solidarity in Action - Policy to Support Minority Groups

Kozloduy
BULGARIA

23– 26 June 2022

Municipal children's and Youth Parliament

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 in the average amount of 25 000 euros p.a., provides for free use a room for young people — the Youth Club. With the annual budget, training activities, meetings on common interesting topics and events are organized. Travel expenses to participate in national and regional youth meetings are covered by the budget as well.

The youth parliament consists of 21 young people – the same number as the town councillors. Members represent all schools in the municipality, and they are aged from 13 to 18 years old. The Youth Parliament works together with the municipality of Kozloduy, as well as with other youth NGOs and groups. Young people regularly take part in projects, national youth meetings and conferences. This year, representatives of the Youth Parliament had the opportunity to present their ideas to the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

"What is the drive of the young people in this parliament to come together and to work together?"

There is one goal - DEVELOPMENT. Encouraging members to be clear and to formulate problems they are interested in, to develop their critical thinking and to develop and test solutions.

We believe that young people are an important source of ideas and perspectives which are revealed when they have the possibility and an environment to create them. We believe that "goodness is contagious" and "pass it on" are not just expressions, but things we need to turn to reality. We believe that for a good future for our country and Europe, there must be young people, who are politically sensible and educated, well intentioned, active, helpful, and proactive.



"What do we dream about?"

Young people in parliament should be elected by their peers.

To have more and more members who engage in diverse activities. To create a self-regulating youth structure with participants aged between 14-29 who could engage in even more local politics.



"What are we additionally proud of?"

Five consecutive editions of the youth festival "The sound of the river" are held - aimed at partnerships, sports and healthy lifestyle.

Two years in a row we collect funds for a dog shelter in Kozloduy – the donated amount is over 1,000 Euro. For two years in a row, we have been collecting funds for families injured in road traffic accidents and for single-living elderly residents of Kozloduy municipality – the donated amount is over 700 Euro. Four consecutive editions of an event related to Valentine's Day - "Love with guarantee', aimed at youth health culture and safe sex.



ASSOCIATION OF ALBANIAN MUNICIPALITIES

Tirana ALBANIA

07– 10 July 2022





Tirana is the capital and largest city of Albania. It is located in the centre of the country, enclosed by mountains and hills with Dajti rising to the east and a slight valley to the northwest overlooking the Adriatic Sea in the distance. Due to its location at the Plain of Tirana and the close proximity to the Mediterranean Sea, the city is particularly influenced by a Mediterranean seasonal climate. It is among the wettest and sunniest cities in Europe, with 2,544 hours of sun per year.

Tirana was founded as a city in 1614 by the Ottoman Albanian general Sylejman Pasha Bargjini and flourished by then around the Old Mosque and the türbe. The area that today corresponds to the city's territory has been continuously inhabited since the Iron Age. It was inhabited by Illyrians, and was most likely the core of the Illyrian Kingdom of the Taulantii, which in Classical Antiquity was centred in the hinterland of Epidamnus. Following the Illyrian Wars it was annexed by Rome and became an integral part of the Roman Empire. The heritage of that period is still evident and represented by the Mosaics of Tirana. Later, in the 5th and 6th centuries, an Early Christian basilica was built around this site.

After the Roman Empire split into East and West in the 4th century, its successor the Byzantine Empire took control over most of Albania, and built the Petrelë Castle in the reign of Justinian I. The city was fairly unimportant until the 20th century, when the Congress of Lushnjë proclaimed it as Albania's capital, after the Albanian Declaration of Independence in 1912.

Classified as a gamma-world-city, Tirana is the most important economic, financial, political and trade centre in Albania due to its significant location in the centre of the country and its modern air, maritime, rail and road transportation. It is the seat of power of the Government of Albania, with the official residences of the President and Prime Minister of Albania, and the Parliament of Albania. The city was announced as the European Youth Capital for 2022.







Methods and networking on embracing European values and approaching solidarity







Tirana
ALBANIA

07– 10 July 2022

National Youth Congress of Albania

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.

Currently the National Youth Congress cooperates with three German Foundations, in three dimensions related to youth. Together with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, as well as Swiss Embassy, NYC focuses on Institutional Dialogue and Cooperation, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung project focuses on research, monitoring and evaluation, and the collaboration with the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung is focused on political education and capacity building. NYC has developed a strong bond with 5 other National youth structures in Western Balkan region through Cooperation and Development Institute and Western Balkan Youth Cooperation Platform. Nowadays, NYC represents 112 youth entities located in 12 regions of Albania. One of the remarkable achievements of 2019 is the endorsement with the title Tirana Youth Capital2022, given by European Youth Forum, that NYC jointly with Municipality of Tirana insured.

During the Partner's meeting in Albania, on behalf of Key2Eu Project, Mrs. Irena Topalli expained to the participants about what is NYCA and its aim .

Tirana European Youth Capital 2022

The European Youth Capital is a title given by European Youth Forum EYF, created to empower young people, to incite participation of young people in society and to strengthen the European identity.

Every year, a european city is given the chance to express their ideas, projects and innovative activities that aim to empower the young voices and bring e new youth perspective in each and every aspect of the city life.

In 2018, after several months of reflecting and concerting meetings, National Youth Congress decided to reach the Municipality of Tirana as the responsible institution for local governance of Tirana to build a cooperation bridge in order to apply for this title.

The National Youth Congress is an umbrella type of organization for organizations, informal groups, partisan youth forums, with representative group of more than 120 entities, with the goal of information exchange, youth matters concerns and their unfolding, advocating and lobbying in order to resolve these matters and to grow capacities for each and every entity that is part of this network.

After a journey that lasted more than a year, the work group of National Youth Congress, in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana, was able to build a fully detailed and highly ambitious project-program, which was valued by the jury of EYF as the winning application, enabling this way the title given to Tirana as a European Youth Capital for 2022.

The common work of National Youth Congress and the Municipality of Tirana was awarded due to the focus on the youth and the program that aims to bring a youth perspective in every aspect of the city life.

Tirana was announced European Youth Capital in 2019, in Amiens, France, and the official relay of this title was received in 17 December 2021 in Klaipeda, Lithuania during the closing ceremony of Klaipeda - European Youth Capital 2021.

KEYtoEU

Co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union

Memorandum of Understanding

We, 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) 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 July 9th 022

Mr. Hans Herrmann
Chairman
Partnership Association Alsbach-Hähnlein eV,
Germany

Mr.Géza Spéth
Mayor
Municipality of Diósd, Hungary

Mr. Agron Haxhimali
Executive Director
Association of Municipalities, Albania

Ms. Marinela Georgieva Nikolova
Mayor
Municipality of Kozloduy, Bulgaria

Mr. Athanasios Zekentes
Mayor
Municipality of Lokroi (Atalanti), Greece

Mr. Wiesław Kapel
Mayor
Commune of Lubaczów, Poland

Mr. Francisco Gómez Laserna
Mayor
Municipality of Massamagrell, Spain

Ing. Zdenek Davidek
Councilor
Municipality Prague 9, Czech Republic

Dott. Gianfranco Di Piero
Mayor
Commune of Sulmona, Italy

Epilogue

After the end of the project it seems necessary to draw a short final contemplation. Despite the Covid pandemic all planned visits took place, which was not easy but we succeeded.

All host municipalities made an effort to meet the best practise defaults which were given in the project.

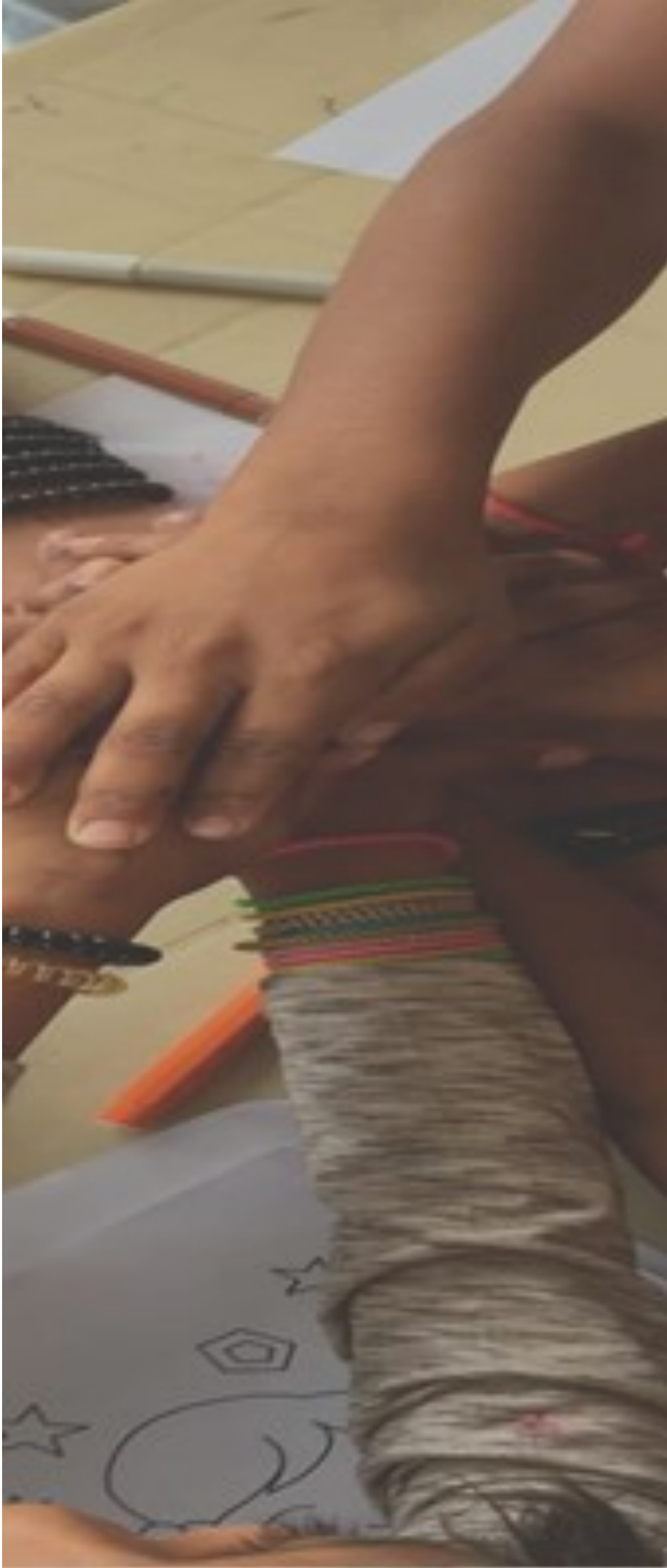
Many guests from all other municipalities visited the hosts so that the aim of the project to incorporate people from all nine municipalities is fulfilled. All host municipalities did prepare interesting examples following the KEYtoEU topic Solidarity in communities and what do young people expect from Europe.

Noteworthy was the fact, that there were not only presentations but vivid discussions on the topics.

Last but not least the tourist and societal part of the visits has to be mentioned, which gave the guests an overview “where they were”.

Survey among the participants showed, that they were very happy with the visits.

Finally, we all would like to thank the European Commission for its support.



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.