

The project ACT IN “ACTIVE Communities for Inclusion” was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme “Europe for Citizens”

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"
Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects" Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

Four (4) events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 90 citizens, including 25 participants from the Municipality of Cestica (Croatia), 6 participants from Varaždin County (Croatia), 5 participants from ACT – Autonomous Centre Čakovec (Croatia), 14 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia), 10 participants from the Municipality of Cirkulane (Slovenia) and 30 participants from the Municipality of Heiningen, Germany, which hosted the event.

Location / Dates: The event took place in the Municipality of Heiningen, Germany from 16/10/2015 to 18/10/2015

Short description: The aim of the event was to introduce the project to the public and provide local government representatives, CSOs, representatives of public bodies, and citizens included as participants the opportunity to interact, and become acquainted with each other's activities, experiences and best practices regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the elderly in local community actions. The event included site visits to best practice organizations, presentations, workshop and formal discussions. This event served as an initial step in building links and cooperation between the partners and the target groups.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 93 citizens, including 20 participants from the Municipality of Cestica (Croatia), 6 participants from Varaždin County (Croatia), 3 participants from ACT – Autonomous Centre Čakovec (Croatia), 2 participants from the Municipality of Heiningen (Germany), 17 participants from the Municipality of Cirkulane (Slovenia), and 45 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia), which hosted the event.

Location / Dates: The event took place in the Municipality of Ruma and the Municipality of Stara Pazova (Serbia) from 21/04/2016 to 23/04/2016

Short description: The aim of the event was to demonstrate to citizens how to promote social inclusion in the wider community. The event included presentations, a workshop, site visits and demonstration actions. The main organizations that were visited were the Day Care Centre for Persons with Disabilities in Ruma, the Elementary School for Children with Special Needs "Anton Skala" in Stara Pazova and the Gerontology Center of Ruma. At each site, staff and volunteers from the organizations presented their EU projects, daily activities, methods of providing proper care, described how they promote the inclusion of the elderly and persons with disabilities in regional actions, and clearly showed how they encourage interaction, volunteering and active citizenship via demonstration activities. The presentations and workshop were also organized to ensure that citizens understand how EU programmes function, how to apply EU projects, and discuss fields of cooperation.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 88 citizens, including 14 participants from the Municipality of Cestica (Croatia), 5 participants from Varaždin County, 5 participants from ACT - Autonomous Centre Čakovec (Croatia), 13 participants from the Municipality of Heiningen (Germany), 16 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia) and 35 participants from the Municipality of Cirkulane (Slovenia),

Location / Dates: The event took place in Municipality of Cirkulane, Municipality of Ptuj and the Municipality of Dornova in Slovenia from 25/05/2016 to 27/05/2016

Short description: The aim of the event was to demonstrate to participants how public authorities and CSOs cooperate and implement actions to address issues facing elderly and disabled persons. The presentations, site visits and interactive discussions served as a means to show participants how CSOs and local authorities encourage citizens to volunteer and be actively involved in local development activities. The activities were also designed in a way so that know-how & views regarding European integration were exchanged (esp. on the impact of EU policies). The main facilities that were visited during the event were Retirement Home Ptuj, the Foundation for Children with Special Needs in Dornova, Slovenia and the kindergarten and elementary school in Cirkulane, Slovenia.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 121 citizens, including 39 participants from the Municipality of Cestica (Croatia), 22 participants from Varaždin County (Croatia), 6 participants from ACT - Autonomous Centre Čakovec (Croatia), 12 participants from the Municipality of Heiningen (Germany), 17 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia) and 25 participants from the Municipality of Cirkulane (Slovenia),

Location / Dates: The event took place in Municipality of Cestica, City of Varaždin and the City of Čakovec in Croatia from 15/09/2016 to 17/09/2016

Short description: The aim of the final event was to finalize the cooperation agreement between the partners and present representatives of public bodies, municipal/regional governments, schools, CSOs and citizens participating at the event the systems, methods, challenges and successes that Croatian organizations have faced in promoting the inclusion of the elderly and persons with disabilities in the local community. The event included the presentations, a workshop, site visits and interactive discussions. They were used to show participants how CSOs and local authorities encourage volunteering and active citizenship in local development activities, and were designed in a way so that know-how & views regarding European integration were exchanged. The main facilities that were visited during the event were the Kindergarten "Zeko" and elderly home "Dom Novi Život" in Cestica, Centre for Education and Upbringing "Tomislav Spoljar" and the Centre for Seniors and the Disabled Varaždin in Varaždin, and the social entrepreneur "Humana Nova" in Čakovec. The cooperation agreement was signed at the final conference, ensuring that the partners continue to work together in promoting social inclusion regionally.