

The project «ROUND-TRIP: a Citizens Participation journey between Local and European levels» 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"

5 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1 – Coordination Meeting

Participation: the event brought together 10 participants coming from 5 project partner countries (Portugal, Germany, Lithuania, Slovenia and Poland responsible for implementing the project)

Location / Dates: Rybnik, Poland 12/02/2015 to 13/02/2015.

Short description: the coordination meeting has been dedicated to the alignment of expectations of the different partners about the project **and its activities, division of tasks and responsibilities**, definition of the project timetable and deadlines.

Event 2 – Launching Events

Participation: the events happened in all countries between the months of April 2015 and May 2015 and brought together 149 citizens from the 5 project partner countries.

Location / Dates: Loulé (Portugal), Koper (Slovenia), Vilnius (Lithuania), Rybnik (Poland) and Cologne (Germany) between April and May 2015.

Short description: These events contributed to present the project to local stakeholders and media, to promote a first meeting between local authorities, local civil society organizations and non-organized citizens and to begin discussing the main issues around citizens participation, namely the most used mechanisms for citizens participation in public life and public policies and to discuss the access of citizens to decision-making at different levels (local, national and european).

Event 3 – Local seminars

Participation: local seminars took place between September 2015 and November 2015 and brought together 208 participants from all project partner countries.

Location / Dates: Loulé (Portugal), Koper (Slovenia), Vilnius (Lithuania), Rybnik (Poland), Cologne & Berlin (Germany) **between** September and November 2015.

Short description: These events contributed to provided citizens with the opportunity to reflect about their their own participation (necessary conditions, obstacles and opportunities) as well as on the various existing mechanisms and the different levels of participation promoted. The local seminars also worked as information sessions that allowed citizens, together with local authorities and local organisations to better understand the functioning, the goals and limits of the different mechanisms of citizen participation at the local, national and European (petitions, public consultations, referendum, parish assemblies, online applications for participation, participatory budgeting, etc.)

Event – International Conference

Participation: the international conference was held in the city of Loulé, Portugal, and gathered 66 participants from the 5 partner countries of the project.

Location / Dates: Loulé, Portugal, 25-27 November 2015

Short description: The conference promoted 3 full days of debate among citizens, civil society organizations and local authorities from the 5 european countries partners in the project. During the conference participants could find common problems they face to foster the development of a participatory and democratic culture within their institutions and counties, could also share some initiatives and projects recognized as good practices in areas such as education for political participation, involvement of young people in decision-making, inclusion of illiterate adults and migrants in democratic life in Europe and, finally, all participants could reflect on the age of e-democracy and e-governance and its challenges and opportunities.

Event – Evaluation Meeting

Participation: the evaluation meeting was held in Faro, Portugal and gathered 6 team members who were responsible for the project implementation

Location / Dates: Faro, Portugal, 28 November 2015

Short description: These meetings allowed those responsible for the implementation of the project to evaluate its results and impact, to reflect about the main difficulties encountered and the various elements to improve in the future. Improvements in coordination, communication, visibility, dissemination, division of tasks, content, etc. were discussed. The meeting also allowed partners to work on a follow-up project.

