



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



EVENT 6. REPORT

CLOSING CONFERENCE

STRYZÓW, POLAND

**PROJECT: *Tolerance and Solidarity as core values
for the Future of Europe***



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE MEETING

PROJECT:	Co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union Strand 2 - Measure 2.2 Networks of Towns Decision No 2017 - 1310 / 001 - 001 Project for the period 2017 - 2018 Event Number 6
PROJECT'S THEME:	<i>Tolerance and Solidarity as core values for the future of Europe</i>
EVENTS'S THEME:	<i>Debate on the future of Europe – importance of the idea of solidarity and tolerance. cooperation and building up partnerships – summary of all previous meetings and projects. proposals for the future work within European dimension.</i>
START:	19/10/2018
END:	22/10/2018
PARTICIPANTS:	62



The event involved **62** citizens, including:

- 2 participants from **Bienvenida** (Spain),
- 2 participants from **Bievre** (Belgium),
- 2 participants from **Cashel** (Ireland),
- 1 participant from **Cisse** (France),
- 2 participants from **Desborough** (United Kingdom),
- 2 participants from **Esch** (The Netherlands),
- 2 participants from **Hepstedt** (Germany),
- 2 participants from **Ibanesti** (Romania),
- 2 participants from **Kandava** (Latvia),
- 1 participant from **Kannus** (Finland),
- 2 participants from **Lasseer** (Austria),
- 2 participants from **Medzev** (Slovakia),
- 2 participants from **Nadur** (Malta),
- 2 participants from **Naestved** (Denmark),
- 2 participants from **Nagyecenk** (Hungary),
- 1 participant from **Ockelbo** (Sweden),
- 2 participants from **Polva** (Estonia),
- 3 participants from **Stary Poddvorov** (Czech Republic),
- 22 participants from **Strzyżow** (Poland),
- 2 participants from **Tisno** (Croatia),
- 2 participants from **Troisvierges** (Luxembourg),
- 2 participants from **Zagare** (Lithuania).



The theme of the meeting:

Debate on the Future of Europe – importance of the idea of solidarity and tolerance. Cooperation and building up partnership – summary of all, previous meetings and projects. Proposals for the future work within European dimension.

Methods and the form of the meeting:

- conference on "Debate on the Future of Europe – importance of the idea of solidarity and tolerance. Cooperation and building up partnerships – summary of all previous meetings and projects. Proposals for the future work within European dimension". The conference was provided in a "open-space" form with elements of workshops and interviews. The conference was attended by all invited participants, students and local inhabitants. The "open-space" debate was led by Aleksandra Chodasz, trainer and supervisor, president of the local NGO. Conference was divided into 3 main thematic sessions: solidarity and tolerance in the contemporary Europe, difficulties and challenges within project implementation and action plans for the future. During the first part participants answered the question what do terms solidarity and tolerance mean to them and to EU citizens, they answered the question when people become more or less tolerant and finally they discussed the necessary changes that must take place to enhance tolerance and a wider sense of common responsibility and European identity.

During the second part participants summarized and concluded the current project "Tolerance and solidarity as core values for the future of Europe" and its results, preparing at the same time materials which can be widely used for general public, municipalities and different types of European organizations and authorities. Thank to the active participation of all members during the conference and their summary of the project it was possible to gather all information in one document "Information Brochure" which was distributed on DVDs to all Project Partners and is free to download on the Charter and municipality of Strzyżów websites. Participants concluding and summarizing all events provided information for the final report as well.

The additional but very important aspects of the conference were interviews with the motto "How



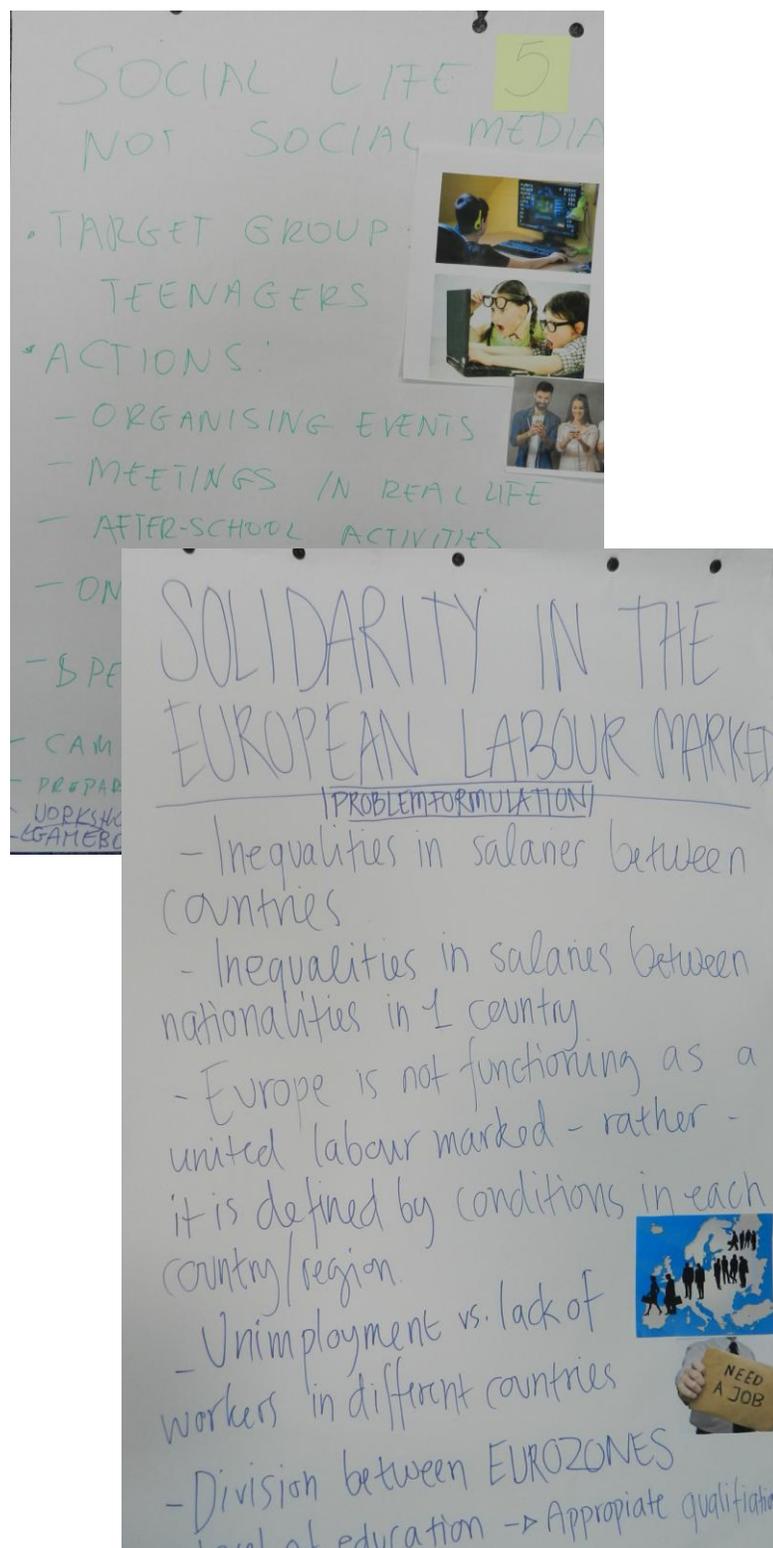
solidarity affected my life..." Interviews were given by 3 persons. One of them was Tadeusz Lutak - one of the last survivors of the defensive war in September 1939 who shared his experiences with solidarity and tolerance as well.





Results achieved

The main results of the conference and workshops are: proposals for the next common projects and exchange of ideas about solidarity in the history of Europe and ways for future integration. Project "Tolerance and solidarity as core values for the future of Europe " was also summarized, including all events' results, aspects causing the project effective, e.g. strong cooperation between participating organizations and comprehension of different expectations and needs. The participation of local inhabitants in the conference improved the visibility to the project and provided numerous chances to exchange opinions and ideas about solidarity and tolerance on local, national and international levels. The interviews under the motto "How solidarity affected my life..." provided better understanding of EU, its history and diversity.





Additional activities

Recreational activities were intertwined. During the recreational visits, the informal dialogues on the above mentioned continued, adding wealth to the acquaintance of cultural and linguistic differences and acceptance through which the strong sense of European belonging is created and maintained. The main additional activities included a holy mass; the culinary event with all delegations, host families and participants; a local visit of Strzyżów including Town square, Museum in Strzyżów, Town Gallery and Shelter Tunnels. The history of solidarity in Strzyżów historical and cultural trips to Rzeszów and Łańcut. Trips provided participants with unique learning experiences and increased interest in one or multiple content areas, especially tolerance and solidarity. evaluation of the meeting and project and the closing "Goodbye" breakfast.





Why Evaluation matters ...

During the project we collected many personal testimonies, stories and experiences. At the meetings in Neastved (Denmark), Nadur (Malta) and Sary Poddvorv (Czech Republic) Project Coordinator used also questionnaires as the evaluation tool. Questionnaires were anonymous, participants just wrote the municipality and country they represent for statistics and evaluation reasons

During the final meeting in Strzyżów (Poland) we presented the results and discussed the importance the process of evaluation within the project.

Participants claimed that evaluation e.g. ensures that objectives are met, helps to check if the Project was successful, identifying problems and weakness provides information for further development, is the evidence of the benefits and impacts the project, helps in identifying development needs, guides future plans, develops guidelines which may be useful for other beneficiaries, etc

