

The project « Cooperation between five Small Towns in Europe » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.1 "Town-Twinning"

Participation: The project involved 92 citizens, notably 21 participants from the city of Xghajra (**Malta**), 18 participants from the city of Colletorto (Italy), 18 participants from the city of Demir Kapija (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), 17 participants from the city of Alsonemedi (Hungary), 18 participants from the city of Pelplin (Poland).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Xghajra (**Malta**), from 09/10/2016 to 14/09/2016

Short description:

The day of 09/10/2016 was dedicated to the welcoming of the delegations

The day of 10/10/2016 was dedicated to the following activities:

Event 1A: - The Mayor of the Xghajra Local Council delivered a welcome speech to the participants. - The representatives of each organisation have delivered a 15 minute presentation about their organisation and the town which they come from. - Panel discussion between the representatives of the organisations about the topics which were being tackled during the activities.

Event 1B: Participants discussed on the challenges and opportunities of the respective towns. The representatives from each participant organisation asked questions in order to foster debate and discussion. The topics were: 1. Small towns - What are the challenges and opportunities? 2. Is urban development sustainable? 3. What can be done to improve the lives of citizens living in small towns?

Event 1C: Followed the discussion by the participants, the representatives from each involved organisation discussed in a panel about the challenges and the opportunities of small towns in particular their home towns.

The day of 11/10/2016 was dedicated to the following activities:

Event 2A: Workshop about the measures that may be implemented by the Local authorities of every town in order to target the challenges that are being faced by our localities. The participants were divided into small groups of 5 people and discussed the subject between themselves and wrote a number of suggestions about the topic.

Event 2B: During this activity, a representative from each workshop group delivered a brief presentation about the suggestions that were made by his/her group and how these suggestions could target the challenges of their small towns. Following the presentations by each group, the participants were engaged in a discussion about the presented suggestions and how they think that these proposals can be implemented in practice.

Event 2C: The second discussion was more focused and targeted the topic of regional disparities and how this has an effect on the employment opportunities in small towns. The talk was made by Ms. Joan Agius.

Event 2D: - Talk by the Commission Representative of Malta about the Guiding Principles for active ageing Mr. Brian Buhagiar. - The representatives from each organisation will hold a panel debate about the important issues that were raised by the Commission Representative. - The citizens had the opportunity to discuss the Guiding Principles that have been pointed out earlier by the Commission Representative.

Event 2E: This project contained two evaluation sessions. During the first evaluation session participants discussed the activities which were taken place up to this day. The representatives from the participating organisations monitored this session.

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The day of 12/10/2016 was dedicated to the following activities:

Event 3A During the first activity of the third day the participants focused specifically on the employment opportunities offered within their small towns and how is it possible to attract more businesses to small localities not just in their countries but in Europe in general.

Event 3B Talk by a spokesperson, Mr. Robert Portelli and Dorothy Scicluna, from the Malta Sports and Health about the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. - Following the talk there was a discussion on the importance of physical activity and how the EU is targeting the problem of lack of physical activity amongst Europeans by means of this Platform.

Event 3C During this activity a number of Maltese sport organisations were invited to present themselves to the participants.

The day of 13/10/2016 was dedicated to the following activities:

Event 4A A spokesman from the Ministry of Finance Mr David Sammut discussed the Brexit and the future of Europe.

Event 4B Panel discussion about possible town twinning agreements and the impacts.

Event 4C The last activity for this project was an evaluation session and the closing remarks.

The day of 14/10/2016 was dedicated to the departure of the delegations