



Sufinancira Europska
unija u okviru programa
Europa za građane

EURODEM CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

„ With the support of the Europe for Citizens
Programme of the European Union „

Workshop 1: ENHANCEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIL PARTICIPATION THROUGH FUTURE EU PROJECTS

FRAME OF DISCUSSION

- ▶ Equal access
- ▶ Transnationality and local dimension
- ▶ Intercultural dialogue
- ▶ Volunteering - expression of active European citizenship

CHALLENGE

- ▶ Different levels of experience of democratic involvement in different European countries > different level of engagement >>>>>
- ▶ **HOW TO ENCHANCE THE LEVEL OF BOTH UNDERSTANDING OF DEMOCRATIC AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING?**

PROPOSITIONS

- ▶ **Education for democratic society**
- ▶ **Raising the level of transparency**

1. EDUCATION

INTERGENERATIONAL APPROACH

Goals:

- ▶ To teach responsibility through experience
- ▶ To identify common moral values
- ▶ To reach mutual respect

Means: Formal and informal education:

- ▶ School - importance of exchange between the countries, early start of education for democratic society
- ▶ Family - open mindedness
- ▶ Work
- ▶ Friends - motivation
- ▶ Leisure (eg. Sport, music)
- ▶ Finance (sponsorship)
- ▶ Travel
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ NGO

Related activities:

- ▶ Encouragement (show the pleasure of participation, meeting other people and learn)
- ▶ Volunteering (local, international)
- ▶ Note: project potential



2. TRANSPARENCY

Challenge:

- ▶ Ethical
- ▶ Technical

Goal:

- ▶ To improve transparency

Means:

- ▶ Institutional level: law
- ▶ Organizational level: development of organizational capacities
- ▶ Individual level: education, personal engagement
- ▶ **Related activities:**
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Money, funding

WORKSHOP 2: FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTNER TOWNS IN AREA OF DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

COOPERATION WITH PARTNER TOWNS TWINS is not utilized enough of their experience. Therefore, in order to exchange experiences we suggest to learn from each other experiences by training and exchanging best practice examples and dissemination to citizens through active participation:

- Round tables,
- Conferences,
- Exhibitions.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

- Legal regulations lead direct specify the services to be open to civil society organizations, for example, so that their governing councils include representatives of civil society
- In order to recognizable and respectable civil society organization in the local community should establish:

CIVIL SOCIETY COUNCIL

as an advisory body to the City Council, in order to active involvement of civil society in public life as it is for example in Dubrovnik already done.

Activities covering civic participation, focusing in particular on European Union policies.

Initiatives developing opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural learning, solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at EU level

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION COUNCIL

Vision

Achieving welfare and sustainable development of Trogir through partnership of public, business and civil society while respecting the traditional values of the city, the diversity and the needs of their residents.

Mission

- ▶ Council must promote contribution of the civil society to sustainable development of the community, encourage active participation of citizens, create a favorable environment for the work of civil society organizations working with the City Council, the governing bodies of the City of Trogir, representatives of civil society and the business sector.
- ▶ - Partnership, teamwork and inter-sector cooperation

Values

- ▶ - responsibility, respect and fairness of those representing Council,
 - ▶ - respect for human rights, tolerance and respect for diversity,
 - ▶ - social sensitivity and social responsibility,
 - ▶ - community service,
 - ▶ - networking, information, transparency and public action,
 - ▶ - volunteering and raising public awareness towards the value of volunteering in the community,
 - ▶ - professionalism,
 - ▶ - Europe of the citizens.
- ### ▶ OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL
- ▶ - Developing and enhancing the cooperation of the Council of Civil Society with the City Council
 - ▶ - Establishing cooperation and maintaining regular communication of the Council of Civil Society with the City Council

The strand includes three specific measures:

- ▶ 1. Town twinning - supporting projects bringing together citizens from twinned towns. By mobilising citizens at local and EU levels to debate on concrete issues from the European political agenda, this measure will seek to promote civic participation in the EU policy making process and develop opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at EU level
- ▶ 2. Networks of towns - providing funding to municipalities and associations working together on a common theme in a long term perspective, and wishing to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation more sustainable
- ▶ 3. Civil society projects - supporting projects gathering citizens in activities directly linked to EU policies, providing an opportunity for direct participation in the policy making process. Funded activities may include: promotion of societal engagement and solidarity, gathering of opinions, volunteering

MOTO OF THE WORKSHOP

**FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTNER TOWNS IN AREA OF DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT
AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL GOVERNEMENT

MUST BE:

- ▶ **TRANSPARENT**
- ▶ **WITHOUT POLITICS**

WORKSHOP 3: IMPORTANCE AND CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

QUESTIONS:

1. Who? - everybody in society
- 2 .Why? - important issues
3. How? a) find space (material and virtual) to come together
b) work - the joy of doing/helping
c) catastrophe (motivation) it brings people together

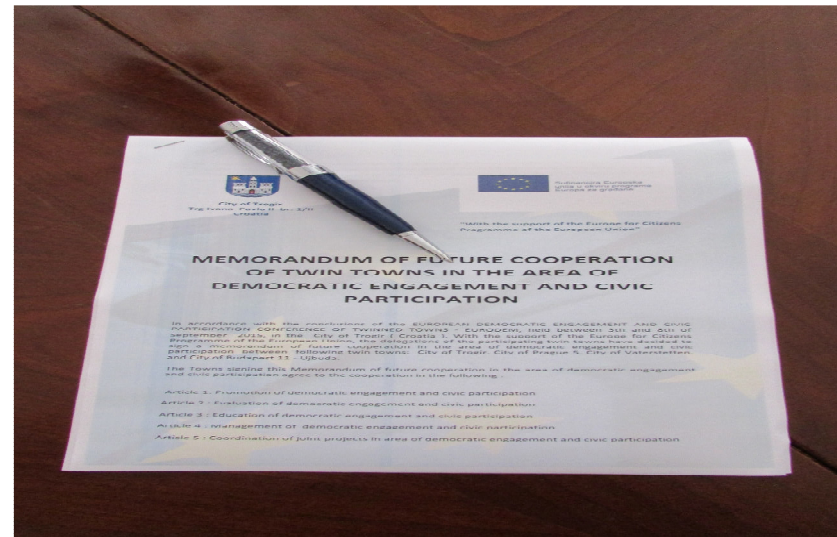
IMPORTANCE:

1. To form visions of possibilites, priorities, minorities, immigrants
2. Put decision making closer to citizens
3. Togetherness

CHALLENGES

- 1 Understanding immigrant flows, causes, results
- 2 Time and civil courage
- 3 Couch potatoe(s)





WORKSHOP 4: MANAGEMENT OF CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

The inclusion of citizens from the beginning of the policy process can increase the sense of their responsibility and understanding of complex issues; can be an important mechanism for clarifying the values, needs and preferences of citizens; can help decision makers to make better decisions; allow politicians to share responsibility for the controversial decision; and increase the legitimacy of public decision-making.



Methods of citizens participation that are often used when creating concrete policy or in different situations in local Community:

- 1) Motivating citizens to include into the community decision-making process (informing - personal, through boards etc.)
- 2) Invitation of citizens to participate at public discussions

- ▶ Advocating toward public institutions (city, municipality)
- ▶ Adopting citizens proposal
- ▶ Finances issues
- ▶ General debate on the project investments
- ▶ Tender
- ▶ **FINALY SUCCESSFUL PROJECT AND COOPERATION BETWEEN CITIZENS ANDPUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

WORKSHOP 5. DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION AS PLATFORM OF DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

Key elements for development of European citizenship are:

- ▶ democratic engagement and civic participation,
- ▶ dealing with common issues and topics,
- ▶ including direct forms of cooperation between citizens-like twin towns cooperation.



WORKSHOP 6: ANIMATION OF CITIZENS AND ACTIVITIES IN AREA OF DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

CONCLUSIONS:

Budapest 11:

- ▶ Cooperation and communication with local council
 - ▶ Cultural heritage
 - ▶ Support the families with children with special needs
 - ▶ Critical mass
- ▶ Cross generational project
 - ▶ Sport
 - ▶ Church
 - ▶ Common ethnical origin related projects
 - ▶ Music
 - ▶ Courses
 - ▶ Outdoor activities
 - ▶ Project with people with less opportunities

Prague 5:

- ▶ Council - opening of municipal "meetings" for publics
- ▶ Organizing events for the children, the handicapped persons and the homeless persons
- ▶ ad hoc initiatives (acting when personally touched by events)
- ▶ On line watching media - dissemination of information - call to action
- ▶ counter balance to municipal newsletters

Vaterstetten and Grafing:

- ▶ Protection of nature and environment
- ▶ Music and playing education
- ▶ Towns partnerships in Europe and Africa
- ▶ Accomodation of foreign refugees

WORKSHOP 7: PROMOTION OF DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

CONCLUSIONS OF WORKGROUP

-WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH PROMOTION OF DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN YOUR CITY?

Work in Cultural Centre. NGO and local authorities often have got different priorities.

There are different programmes i.g. Programme 60+, equal chance programm, chance for people with special needs, enviromental protection, sport, education, camp for children.

-WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE THE RESULTS ON THIS MATTER?

Support from local goverment, continuous dialoque.

Business minded - the lack o fit on part of NGO and local goverment,

Involving the youth, project development assistants, organizational reform s of local goverment

More civic forums, motivation of individuals, volunteering

► WITH WHAT DIFFICULTIES DO YOU MEET AT WORK?

Different objectives and priorities of Local government and NGO

Financing problem in civic sphere. For NGOs difficult to get financial resources. Within NGOs some members are passive. Demotivation, passivity of elderly people although we offer them i.g. 60+ programme, lots of changes in law regulations.

► HOW TO ENGAGE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THESE MATTERS?

To create youth attractive programmes. To target them through educational programmes. Motivation through community service in early age.

► HOW TO IMPROVE COOPERATION BETWEEN ASSOCIATIONS AND GOVERNMENT?

More discussion between the deputies, civiv organisations and inhabitants. To create web sites for civic info.

More specialists in law participation, use of international experiences.

