

Projekt 'Male općine protiv euroskepticizma' započeo je s provedbom 1. rujna 2017. godine. Osnovni cilj mu je razumijevanje i debatiranje euroskepticizma. Kroz 19 mjeseci organizirano je 6 događaja od kojih su 4 javne debate na temu euroskepticizma. Tijekom debata građani su međusobno izmjenjivali svoja iskustva i mišljenja o Europskoj uniji, politikama i zakonima te budućnosti Europe. Iznijeli su dobre i loše aspekte EU te ideje za njeno poboljšanje.

Prvi event održao se u Hrvatskoj 11. i 12. studenog 2017. godine. Tad su se okupili predstavnici iz svih partnerskih institucija i predstavili organizacije iz kojih dolaze. Održana je konferencija na kojoj su sudjelovali predstavnici lokalnih vlasti, građani te drugi gosti.

Drugi event održan je u Portugalu 28. veljače i 1. ožujka 2018. godine. Od ukupnog broja sudionika, većina je bila iz Portugala. Na ovome eventu održana je i prva debata s građanima te su razmijenjena iskustva na temu euroskepticizma. Uz goste predavače, došli smo do faktora koji utječu na razvoj euroskepticizma te načeli neke nedostatke EU.

Treći event održan je u Rumunjskoj 6. i 7. lipnja 2018. godine. Druga po redu debata nastavila je s diskusijama na temu faktora koji utječu na euroskepticizam. Uz goste predavače, navedene su pozitivne strane članstva u EU. Ovaj event uključio je najveći broj mladih osoba koji provode vrijedne projekte u lokalnoj zajednici.

Četvrti event održan je u Makedoniji 19. i 20. rujna 2018. godine. Treća po redu debata fokusirala se na zemlje koje nisu članice u EU (Srbija i Makedonija). Radionice i diskusije vodile su se na temu pozitivnih i negativnih aspekata pristupanja EU te razmišljanja građana koji još čekaju pristupanje Uniji. Uz goste predavače, podijeljena su razna iskustva o procesu pristupanja EU te projekata koji se provode uz pomoć drugih izvora financiranja.

Peti event održan je u Sloveniji 7. i 8. prosinca 2018. godine. Četvrta, i posljednja debata objedinila je sve zaključke diskusija koje su održane na prijašnjim eventima. Definirani su razlozi za nastanak euroskepticizma te način na koji utječe na društvo. Dane su ideje za poboljšanje trenutnog stanja i izrađena posebna kampanja za poticanje eurooptimizma. Uz goste predavače, predstavljeni su i primjeri dobre prakse.

Šesti, i zadnji event održan je u Hrvatskoj 8. i 9. ožujka 2019. godine. Kako je ovo posljednji događaj, zaključeni su i prezentirani svi rezultati prikupljeni SMUG EU projektom. Održana je konferencija s gostima koji su iznijeli pozitivne primjere provođenja projekata. Događaj su posjetili i učenici Srednje škole Novi Marof kako bi se upoznali s projektom i potaknuli na razmišljanje.

Priča o euroskepticizmu počiva na temeljnoj ideji da je to složen politički koncept koji nije dovoljno približen građanima. S druge strane, vlada nedovoljna uključenost građana u demokratske procese. Kako bi se smanjio taj jaz, obje strane trebale bi uložiti više truda i surađivati. Sve aktivnosti i detaljne rezultate dobivene na projektu SMUG možete pronaći u brošuri na sljedećem linku: <https://www.smug-eu.eu/project-results-published/>

The project 'Small municipalities against euroscepticism' started on 1 September 2017. The main goal was to understand and debate euroscepticism. Through 19 months 6 events were organized, from which were 4 public debates. During the debates, citizens exchanged their thoughts and experiences about the EU, policies, laws and future. They stated good and bad aspects of the EU and gave ideas for improvement.

The **first event** was held in Croatia on the 11th and 12th November 2017. Representatives from all partner countries gathered and presented their organizations. A conference was held for the local public. The project and its goals were introduced.

The **second event** was held in Portugal on the 28th February and 1st March 2018. The majority of participants was from Portugal. This time the first debate was held where citizens exchanged their thoughts related to euroscepticism. With guests and their lectures, we set some main factors that lead to euroscepticism and the side effects of EU membership.

The **third event** was held in Romania on the 6th and 7th June 2018. The second debate continued with discussions on factors that cause euroscepticism. Together with guest and their lectures, positive sides of the EU membership were outlined. This event hosted a majority of young people who actively implement projects in the local community.

The **fourth event** was held in Macedonia on the 19th and 20th September 2018. The third debate focused on countries that are still in the process of entering the EU (Serbia and Macedonia). Citizens shared positive and negative aspects of EU membership. With guest lectures, various experiences were shared on the process of entering the EU and projects that are implemented with other funds.

The **fifth event** was held in Slovenia on the 7th and 8th December 2018. The fourth, and last debate, summarized all conclusions from previous events. Defined were factors that cause euroscepticism and how it influences the community. Also, ideas were given on how this situation can be improved and a special campaign was established for fostering eurooptimism. Together with guests and their lectures, good examples of practices were presented.

The **sixth and last event** was held in Croatia on the 8th and 9th March 2019. On this last event, conclusions of the project were presented to the public. A conference was held and guest came to present positive examples of project implementation. Students from the High school Novi Marof visited to hear about the project and raise their awareness about the EU.

The whole story about Euroscepticism centers on the fact how it is a complex political concept, unfortunately, not close enough to citizens. On the other side, there is also the lack of citizen involvement in democratic processes. For this gap to get smaller, both sides should put more effort into cooperation. All activities and detailed results of the SMUG EU project can be found in the project brochure on this link:

<https://www.smug-eu.eu/project-results-published/>