

**The project « Small municipalities against euroscepticism » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

## **Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"**

**6 events have been carried out within this project:**

### **Event 1**

**Participation:** The event involved 48 citizens, including 24 participants from the Local action group Prigorje-Zagorje, 1 participant from the Municipality of Breznički Hum, 3 participants from the Municipality of Gornja Rijeka and 3 participants from Mladi za Marof (Croatia). Furthermore, 2 participants from Municipality of Bistrita (Romania), 2 participants from Municipality of Kameno (Bulgaria), 2 participants from Municipality of Dagda (Latvia), 1 participant from Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 1 participant from Municipality of Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 2 participants from Municipality of Torres Novas (Portugal), 3 participants from Municipality of Sopronkovesd (Hungary), 1 participant from Municipality of Sremski Karlovci (Serbia), 1 participant from Danube1245 (Serbia) and 2 participants from Municipality of Krivogashtani/LAG AGRO LIDER (Macedonia).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Novi Marof (Croatia), from 11/11/2017 to 12/11/2017.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to gather all partners and inform the public about our joint project. Through 2 days, international project coordinators got to know each other and set aims for the upcoming months of the project. A press conference was held where the project idea was presented and a first insight was brought into euroscepticism – definition and factors. Also, the results of a small research were presented, that each partner conducted on their local areas. With this, coordinators were able to see the first thoughts of people about the EU. At last, a network was established with the goal to share project progress and experience.

### **Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 77 citizens, including 5 participants from the Local action group Prigorje-Zagorje and 1 participant from the Municipality of Breznički Hum (Croatia), 3 participants from Municipality of Bistrita (Romania), 3 participants from Municipality of Kameno (Bulgaria), 3 participants from Municipality of Dagda (Latvia), 1 participant from Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 2 participants from Municipality of Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 50 participants from Municipality of Torres Novas (Portugal), 3 participants from Municipality of Sopronkovesd (Hungary), 2 participants from Municipality of Sremski Karlovci (Serbia), 1 participant from Danube1245 (Serbia) and 3 participants from Municipality of Krivogashtani/LAG AGRO LIDER (Macedonia).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Torres Novas (Portugal) from 28/02/2018 to 01/03/2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to define euroscepticism and debate on topics concerning some main problems people stated about the EU – unequal distribution of funding, political independence, media involvement...Also, the event focused on the Portuguese experience, as the oldest member of the EU (in this project consortium). Upon sharing their experience, younger EU members saw how the problems they are having are normal. Active citizenship was fostered since many local people took part in the debate.

### **Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 98 citizens, including 7 participants from the Local action group Prigorje-Zagorje, 1 participant from the Municipality of Breznički Hum and 2 participants from Mladi za Marof (Croatia). Furthermore, 33 participants from Municipality of Bistrita (Romania), 15 participants from Municipality of Kameno (Bulgaria), 8 participants from Municipality of Dagda (Latvia), 9 participants from Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 4 participants from Municipality of Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 1 participant from Municipality of Torres Novas (Portugal), 12 participants from Municipality of Sopronkovesd (Hungary), 1 participant from Municipality of Sremski Karlovci (Serbia), 2 participants from Danube1245 (Serbia) and 3 participants from Municipality of Krivogashtani/LAG AGRO LIDER (Macedonia).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Bistrita (Romania) from 06/06/2018 to 07/06/2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to tap further into euroscepticism and see why people do or don't see themselves as EU citizens. Is the EU a community for people? Or just a political structure without concerning people and their will? The majority of participants came from countries that joined the EU after 2000. They debated freely on this topic. There was active involvement of young people that presented their associations and how positively they influence the local community in Bistrita.

### **Event 4**

**Participation:** The event involved 93 citizens, including 5 participants from the Local action group Prigorje-Zagorje and 1 participant from the Municipality of Breznički Hum (Croatia), 2 participants from Municipality of Bistrita (Romania), 2 participants from Municipality of Kameno (Bulgaria), 2 participants from Municipality of Dagda (Latvia), 1 participant from Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 1 participant from Municipality of Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 2 participants from Municipality of Torres Novas (Portugal), 2 participants from Municipality of Sopronkovesd (Hungary), 11 participants from Municipality of Sremski Karlovci (Serbia), 22 participants from Danube1245 (Serbia) and 42 participants from Municipality of Krivogashtani/LAG AGRO LIDER (Macedonia).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Krushevo (Macedonia) from 19/09//2018 to 20/09/2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to define last factors that cause euroscepticism, so to confirm the results gathered on previous debates. Also, focus has been put on the citizens whose country still didn't enter the EU membership. Their task was to debate whether they should join and why. With statements for and against, the majority of people at last were for joining the EU. However, negative sides of the membership were stated, too. With lots of positive examples, the benefit of entering the EU was very clear at the end.

### **Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 128 citizens, including 10 participants from the Local action group Prigorje-Zagorje and 3 participants from the Municipality of Breznički Hum (Croatia), 7 participants from Municipality of Bistrita (Romania), 8 participants from Municipality of Kameno (Bulgaria), 6 participants from Municipality of Dagda (Latvia), 36 participants from Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 16 participant from Municipality of Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 5 participants from Municipality of Torres Novas (Portugal), 10 participants from Municipality of Sopronkovesd (Hungary), 14 participants from Municipality of Sremski Karlovci (Serbia), 8 participants from Danube1245 (Serbia) and 5 participants from Municipality of Krivogashtani/LAG AGRO LIDER (Macedonia).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Novo Mesto (Slovenia) from 07/12/2018 to 08/12/2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to gather last results and give ideas for fostering eurooptimism. All participants who gathered had the task to discuss and give ideas for media, events and institutional support so it would foster a more positive thinking about the EU. Also, examples of good practices were presented, together with scenarios of the future Europe. With this event, a clear understanding has been made on the different view of euroscepticism: from the old members, non-members and young members. Citizens pointed out their satisfaction with participating in such project and aimed to promote joint EU values in their communities. At last, they came to rethink the doubts they may had before on how the EU is functioning.

## **Event 6**

**Participation:** The event involved 152 citizens, including 19 participants from the Local action group Prigorje-Zagorje, 11 participants from the Municipality of Breznički Hum, 10 participants from the Municipality of Gornja Rijeka, 12 participants from the Municipality of Breznica and 45 participants from Mladi za Marof (Croatia). Furthermore, 6 participants from Municipality of Bistrita (Romania), 6 participants from Municipality of Kameno (Bulgaria), 2 participants from Municipality of Dagda (Latvia), 6 participants from Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 2 participants from Municipality of Novo Mesto (Slovenia), 2 participants from Municipality of Torres Novas (Portugal), 6 participants from Municipality of Sopronkovesd (Hungary), 10 participants from Municipality of Sremski Karlovci (Serbia), 11 participants from Danube1245 (Serbia) and 4 participants from Municipality of Krivogashtani/LAG AGRO LIDER (Macedonia).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Novi Marof (Croatia) from 08/03/2019 to 09/03/2019.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to define all results gathered on the project. These results were presented in front of high school students, so they can get an insight into how the EU is working. Conclusions and guidelines were formed for the final brochure of the project. A conference was held in order to inform the public about euroscepticism and how we can reduce it. Members of the EU parliament were invited, together with many other local and regional officials. Media visited the conference in order to spread the word of the project and its success.

With the results of the project, the EU can establish a better way on how to deal with euroscepticism and get closer to citizens. Those involved in the project ended up being very positive and open minded on the EU topic. Together with the established network, EU values will continue to be promoted and good practices that were mentioned will serve as a positive example to all communities dealing with euroscepticism.

All information regarding the project and results you can find on:

<https://www.smug-eu.eu>

<https://web.facebook.com/smugeu/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2ZloQAPtRlrxYwChpcZg>