



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



The project « European Academy Network. Encouraging democratic participation at EU level » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens".

The project aimed to provide European local and regional policy makers, associations and citizens with tools that will support their informed civic and political participation at EU level. European Academy Network (EAN) connected 14 towns and organisations across Europe willing to participate in a series of international events where they experienced policy training modules – simulation games which allowed them to better understand procedures and standards that constitute Europe and active European citizenship. The Network also collected good practices on how local policy makers and citizens can “approach Europe” and participate in its making. This raised awareness about democracy in partners’ own municipalities and countries, and in the EU as a whole. The project created opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural learning solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at Union level.

Five main international in situ and hybrid (in situ and online) events have been carried out within the project in years 2020-2022:

Event 1 - European democracy and its impact on you, your town and your country.

Participation: The event involved **78** citizens, including 35 participants from Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), 3 participants from the city of Sofia (Bulgaria), 6 participants from the city of Brussels (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of Salzburg (Austria), 3 participants from the city of Zadar (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Sződliget (Hungary), 3 participants from the city of La Palma del Condado (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Benedikt (Slovenia), 3 participants from the city of Soveria Mannelli (Italy), 4 participants from the cities of Łask and Łódź (Poland), 3 participants from the city of Riga (Latvia), 3 participants from the city of Luqa (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Torres Novas (Portugal), 3 participants from the cities of Kolasin (Montenegro) – 13 countries.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria)** and online from 28/09/2020 to 30/09/2020.

Short description: The aim of the event was to kick off the project, and to build a better understanding of the relationship between the European democracy framework and culture, society and politics in a personal, local and national dimension. The event was enriched by a simulation of the proceedings of the European Parliament.



Event 2 - European values and their impact on you, your town and your country.

Participation: The event involved **104** citizens, including 7 participants from Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), 54 participants from the city of Sofia (Bulgaria), 6 participants from the city of Brussels (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of Salzburg (Austria), 3 participants from the city of Zadar (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Sződliget (Hungary), 5 participants from the city of La Palma del Condado (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Benedikt (Slovenia), 3 participants from the city of Soveria Mannelli (Italy), 5 participants from the cities of Łask and Łódź (Poland), 3 participants from the city of Riga (Latvia), 3 participants from the city of Luqa (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Torres Novas (Portugal), 3 participants from the cities of Kolasin (Montenegro) – 13 countries.

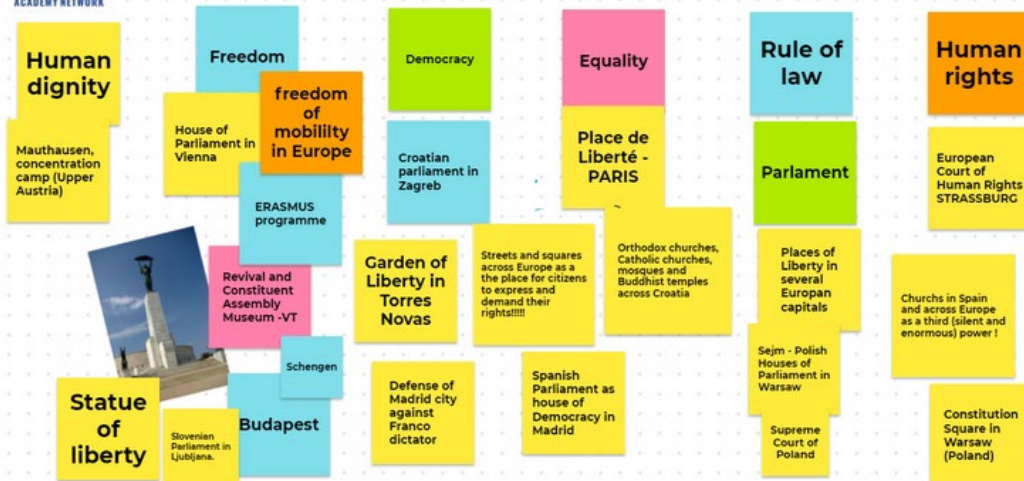
Location / Dates: The event took place in **Sofia (Bulgaria)** and online from 29/03/2021 to 31/03//2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss what active citizenship means: rights, participation, belonging. The event was enriched by a simulation activity of the proceedings of the Council of Ministers of the European Union.



Day 1, Monday 29th March 2021
European values in my community

Sofia (BULGARIA) 29-31 MARCH 2021
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT EVENT
ONLINE and OFFLINE



Event 3 - Europe in the making - exercising forms of engagement at local and EU level.

Participation: The event involved **104** citizens, including 8 participants from Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), 3 participants from the city of Sofia (Bulgaria), 59 participants from the city of Brussels (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of Salzburg (Austria), 3 participants from the city of Zadar (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Sződliget (Hungary), 3 participants from the city of La Palma del Condado (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Benedikt (Slovenia), 3 participants from the city of Soveria Mannelli (Italy), 4 participants from the cities of Łask and Łódź (Poland), 3 participants from the city of Riga (Latvia), 3 participants from the city of Luqa (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Torres Novas (Portugal), 3 participants from the cities of Kolasin (Montenegro) – 13 countries.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Brussels (**Belgium**) and online in two parts: from 29/06/2021 to 30/06/2021 and from 13/10/2021 to 15/10/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to experience practical examples of civic engagement. The event was enriched by a visit to Parlamentarium in Brussels, and with a collaboration with the initiators of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) called: Voters Without Borders which demands full political rights for EU citizens.



Event 4 - Europe in the making - exercising forms of engagement at the EU level.

Participation: The event involved **102** citizens, including 8 participants from Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Sofia (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Brussels (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of Salzburg (Austria), 3 participants from the city of Zadar (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Szódliget (Hungary), 3 participants from the city of La Palma del Condado (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Benedikt (Slovenia), 3 participants from the city of Soveria Mannelli (Italy), 5 participants from the cities of Łask and Łódź (Poland), 3 participants from the city of Riga (Latvia), 3 participants from the city of Luqa (Malta), 54 participants from the city of Torres Novas (Portugal), 3 participants from the cities of Kolasin (Montenegro) – 13 countries.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Torres Novas (Portugal)** and online from 28/03/2022 to 02/04/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to exchange on experiences of bottom up movements, grass-root organisations and non-organised citizens that decided to operate at EU level. The event was enriched by a simulation activity of the proceedings of the Committee of the Regions.



Event 5 - Debating the future of Europe: contributing to a roadmap for more united Union.

Participation: The event involved **110** citizens, including 8 participants from Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), 3 participants from the city of Sofia (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Brussels (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of Salzburg (Austria), 3 participants from the city of Zadar (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Sződliget (Hungary), 3 participants from the city of La Palma del Condado (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Benedikt (Slovenia), 3 participants from the city of Soveria Mannelli (Italy), 65 participants from the cities of Łask and Łódź (Poland), 3 participants from the city of Riga (Latvia), 3 participants from the city of Luqa (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Torres Novas (Portugal), 3 participants from the cities of Kolasin (Montenegro) – 13 countries.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Łask and Łódź (Poland)** and online from 09/05/2022 to 12/05/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to get participants engaged in discussing the future of Union and European citizenship taken into account the current performance of EU institutions, regional and national governments. The event was enriched by study visits to citizens groups which benefited from the EU funding in the recent years.



Another 300 EU citizens took part in local dissemination and follow activities which took place in almost each partner country of the project between 1 June 2021 and April 2022. Local Activities took place face-to-face and online. The aim of this activity was to engage a community of citizens in partner countries in the topics of the project and disseminate the results of the project (EU policy making, EU

agenda, active citizenship) and to provide inputs to the final project publication “Toolkit” with methods to support European civic education and engagement in shaping the EU agenda bottom-up.



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