

The project «An alternative positive voice. The citizens' shadow report» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"
Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"
Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"**

Preparatory activities: the activity involved 41 participants.

Location / Dates: online, 27/10/2020

Short description: During the first part of the online event Anders Bergström, Norden Association from SE shared his experience on civil society involvement in shaping the future of Europe together in a macro-regional setting followed by a vivid discussion. The second part was devoted to questions of a revised project timetable, to the questionnaire to be broadly distributed (the answers create an important component of the text of the Shadow Report), to methodological and communication issues. As a result, division of responsibilities was agreed upon among project partners.

Events:

6 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 399 citizens, including 282 participants from DK, 54 participants from SE, 22 participants from FI, 26 participants from DE, 3 participants from AT, 2 participants from HU, 1 participant from PL, 2 participants from SK, 1 participant from IT, 1 participant from RO, 1 participant from SL, 4 participants from NO

Location / Dates: The event took place in Mariager, Denmark, from 27/08/2021 to 29/08/2021

Short description: The aim of the event was to present the first draft of the Shadow Report and have a discussion on the priorities of the Baltic Sea Region. Environmental issues and regional cooperation dominated our discussions with a significant number of comments and inputs. The event was part of a Europe Festival.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 55 citizens, including 5 participants from AT, 3 participants from BE, 1 participant from FI, 1 participant from BG, 2 participants from DK, 2 participants from FR, 5 participants from DE, 2 participants from RO, 1 participant from PL, 11 participants from HU, 3 participants from IT, 2 participants from RS, 3 participants from SK, 12 participants from SI, 1 participant from CH, 1 participant from NL.

Location / Dates: online, from 25/11/2021 to 25/11/2021

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss the Shadow Report from the Alpine Region (EUSALP) perspective. The introductory presentations covered both governmental (Emil Ferjancic, Slovenian Presidency of the EU) and non-governmental (Neza Repansek, Youth Council of Slovenia) perspectives complemented by our project partner Darja Sekulic Krstic. The event was used to encourage participants to contribute also to the ongoing Conference on the Future of Europe debates.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 59 citizens, including 40 participants from HU, 3 participants from HR, 3 participants from RO, 2 participants from SK, 2 participants from AT, 2 participants from CZ, 1 participant from PL, 1 participant from DE, 1 participant from RO, 1 participant from DK, 1 participant from IT, 1 participant from SI, 1 participant from RS.

Location / Dates: Budapest, Hungary, from 18/02/2022 to 19/02/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss the Shadow Report from the Danube Region (EUSDRS) perspective focusing on the youth chapter. Participants dominated by young people discussed in working groups issues as how to promote the European Year of Youth 2022, youth activism or life in a post-COVID situation. Proposals were tabled how to make the Year a meaningful exercise. The youth chapter of the Shadow Report proved to be a useful background document; it was enriched by several proposals.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 59 citizens, including 48 participants from IT, 2 participants from HU, 1 participants from RO, 1 participants from SK, 1 participants from AT, 1 participant from PL, 1 participant from DE, 1 participant from RO, 1 participant from DK, 1 participant from SI, 1 participant from EL.

Location / Dates: Palermo, Italy, from 03/03/2022 to 04/03/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss the Shadow Report from the Adriatic-Ionian (EUSAIR) perspective. The event took place at a prestigious local school in a typical Sicilian atmosphere where students and their teachers were eager to voice their opinions on issues as migration, youth perspectives and participation, EU in their daily life. The initial presentation was given by Annalisa Tardino, MEP. The whole exercise was put into a regional perspective by Giovanni Cafeo, member of the Sicilian Regional Assembly, who received the project team in his office.

Event 5

Participation: The event involved 78 citizens, including 15 participants from BE, 8 participants from IT, 4 participants from HU, 5 participants from SE, 6 participants from RO, 2 participants from SK, 4 participants from SI, 5 participants from PL, 4 participants from UA, 8 participants from DE, 7 participants from AT, 2 participants from FI, 2 participants from EL, 2 participants from RS, 4 participants from DK.

Location / Dates: online, from 09/03/2022 to 09/03/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to present the Shadow Report to the large public. The event was part of the EU Macro-Regions Strategies Week 2022. Speakers included Mr Johan Magnusson, DG Regio who found the Report a useful tool to demonstrate citizens' commitment to macro-regional issues. Participants appreciated the innovative character of the project and praised the non-Place Schuman style and language of the text.

Event 6

Participation: The event involved 81 citizens, including 15 participants from BE, 8 participants from IT, 5 participants from HU, 4 participants from SE, 6 participants from RO, 2 participants from SK, 4 participants from SI, 5 participants from PL, 4 participants from UA, 8 participants from DE, 7 participants from AT, 2 participants from FI, 2 participants from EL, 2 participants from RS, 4 participants from DK, 1 participant from FR, 1 participant from BG, 1 participant from MT

Location / Dates: online, from 26/04/2022 to 26/04/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to organise a follow-up event titled Towards a new beginning after the presentation of the Shadow Report to discuss the way forward and future activities. The prevailing feeling of the meeting was that even the „mission was successfully accomplished” there is every reason to continue our work. Speakers included Jean-Pierre Halkin, DG Regio who highlighted the importance of citizens' involvement and Helmut Scholz, MEP who argued to have strong civil participation in the debate on the future of Europe. A special section was devoted to the situation in Ukraine with the contribution of Nadja Afanasieva, Director of the Ukrainian Institute of International Affairs. One of the concrete next steps should be the elaboration of a macro-regional civil society strategy.