

HOW WE MAKE EUROPE BETTER FOR ITS CITIZENS

*Participation of the Republic of Serbia
in the European Union Programme
"Europe for Citizens"*

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the brochure “How We Make Europe Better for Its Citizens”, dedicated to the success of various Serbian stakeholders that were the lead organisation of the projects supported under the European Union Programme “Europe for Citizens”. Brochure is made following the idea of presenting the different projects of civil society organisations, local self-government units, educational and cultural institutions, which were supported during the five-year period (from 2013 to 2018) during which the Republic of Serbia participated in the Programme, and the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society conducted the activities as national contact point for the Programme in Serbia. In drafting the brochure we used materials which were made available to the public by the beneficiaries of the Programme via their internet presentations and the questionnaires prepared by the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Programme “Europe for Citizens” is one of the programmes of the European Union aimed at promoting European Identity and European Citizenship, as well as cooperation among the countries participating in the Programme in different areas connected by the common policies.

Republic of Serbia initiated participation in the Programme “Europe for Citizens” in 2012 by signing the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia on the participation of the Republic of Serbia in the “Europe for Citizens” Programme, and the Serbian beneficiaries had applied for the first time at the calls for the project proposals in 2013. New Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia, which represented the basis for participation of the beneficiaries from Serbia in the Programme for following seven years, was signed in October 2014 and it is effective until 2020.

By promoting joint European history and by encouraging the accountability of Europe for its citizens, but their responsibility for direction of the further European development as well, the programme “Europe for Citizens” is aimed at better understanding of the European Union, its history and diversities, as well as at strengthening the idea of European citizenship and participation of the citizens in decision making on the future of the continent.

By dedicated engagement on better inclusion of its citizens in all aspects of a mutual life and building even more connected Europe, the European Union dedicated the Programme not only to the beneficiaries of the Member States but to those states which are in different phases on their road to Europe that ends in a full and equal membership in the “European family of nations”.

By making funds available to the very wide circle of beneficiaries, and by offering them the opportunity to connect, cooperate and implement projects on different topics, with partners from both the member states and those states who are in the accession process, the Programme had significant number of beneficiaries from Serbia during the previous years. So far, a total of 33 projects with the lead organisations from the Republic of Serbia have been approved reaching the total amount of over EUR 2 million. Even more important is the fact that via this Programme over 300 participants from our country have established partnerships on the projects being implemented all through Europe which has resulted in continuous cooperation on other projects and programmes.

Significant interest and the number of successfully implemented projects with the participants from Serbia testify about high level of recognition of the European values as important by the citizens of Serbia and their efforts to participate in creating “future Europe”.

Finally, on behalf of the team of the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, we would like to thank for the cooperation to those who are no longer part of our institution but were dedicated to promoting the Programme “Europe for Citizens” during the previous years. We would like to congratulate to all participants in the Programme and their partners who contributed with their ideas and dedication to joint vision of Europe, looking forward to continuing successful cooperation, EU accession, and creating better society for all the citizens.

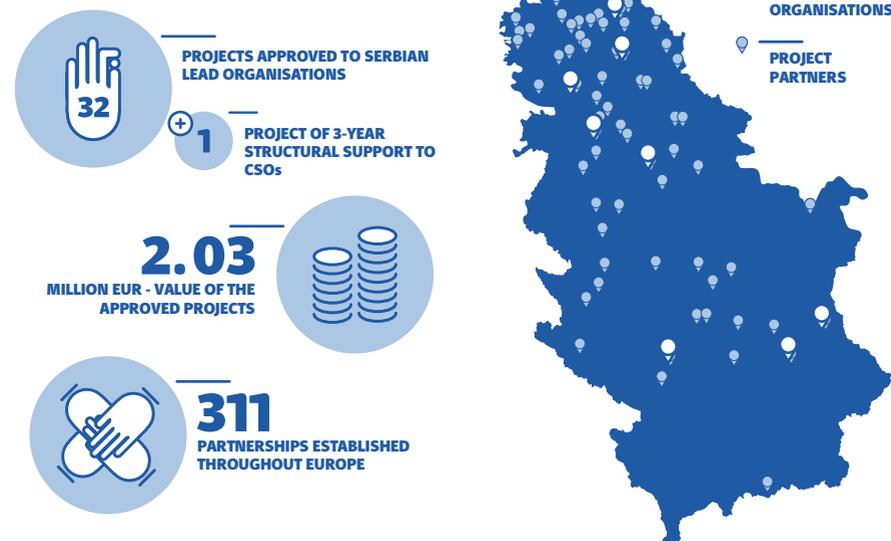
*The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society
of the Government of the Republic of Serbia
May 2018*

RESULTS OF PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA IN THE EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMME “EUROPE FOR CITIZENS” FROM 2013 TO 2017

During full five years of its participation in the programme “Europe for Citizens”, the Republic of Serbia recorded excellent results. During the period from 2013 to 2017, total of 33 projects were approved with the lead organisations from the Republic of Serbia, making to the total amount of EUR 2 million, while over 300 participants from our country established partnerships on the project implemented throughout Europe.

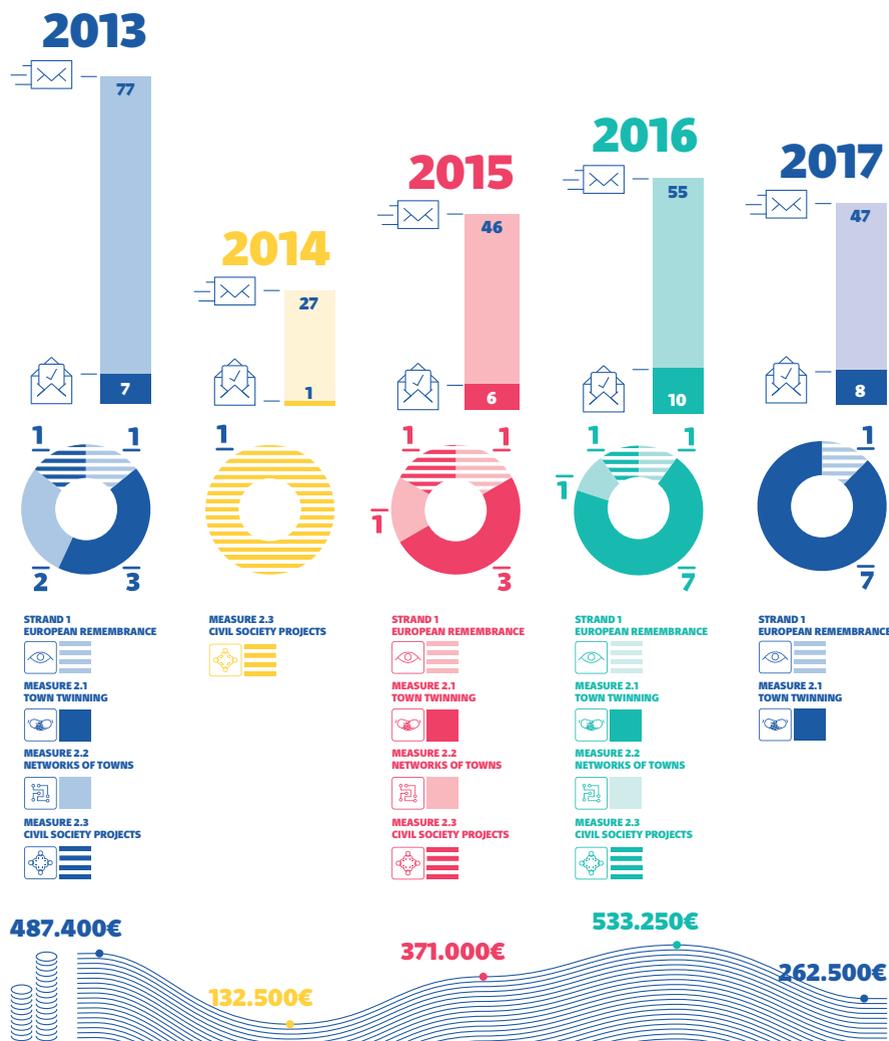
*The most important data on participation
of the Republic of Serbia in the Programme
“Europe for Citizens” for the period 2013-2017*

Locations of the approved projects



The biggest success was achieved in 2013, right after initiating the Programme for Serbia, but in 2016 as well, when the total value of the approved project was the greatest.

Number of applicants from Serbia, number of approved projects (lead organisations) and total value of the approved projects

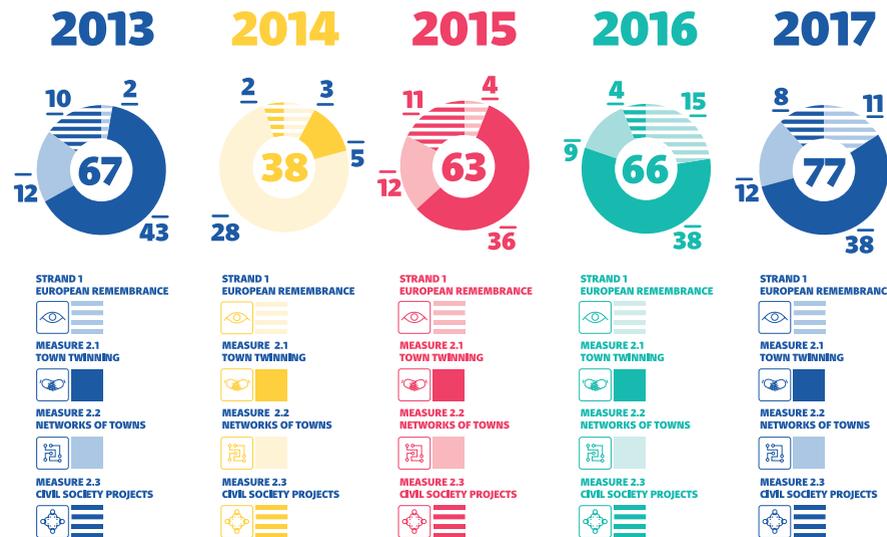


Among the Programme beneficiaries, some of civil society organisations and local self-government units had more than one approved project, such as the Hungarian Cultural Centre “Nepker” that had five projects and municipality of Senta, which implemented 3 projects.

It is important to mention that on the 2014 call for provision of three-year structural support to European think-tank organisations and civil society organisations at European level, out of 3 applications from Serbia, the project of the Belgrade Open School was approved in total value of EUR 249,720.

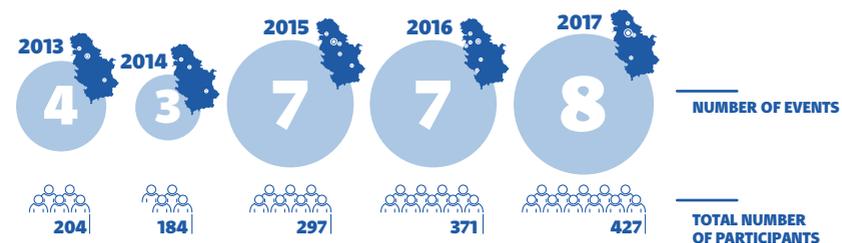
During the period 2013 till the end of 2017, up to 311 organisations from over 70 towns and municipalities were partners on the projects whose lead organisations were from other countries, participants in the Programme as well.

Number of approved projects with the partners from Serbia



The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society as the national contact point for the EU Programme “Europe for Citizens” during the previous five years conducted numerous activities directed to promotion of the Programme and capacity building of local beneficiaries to participate and network under the Programme. Over 1,500 participants - representatives of civil society organisations, local self-government units, culture, education, and scientific institutions participated in over 20 info sessions and 6 large scale conferences in 12 towns and municipalities. In addition, we organized several workshops about project proposal drafting and provided the regular support in the project proposal drafting process as well as in establishing partnerships of our beneficiaries with the interested stakeholders throughout Europe.

Number of events and total number of participants



“EUROPE FACING PAST”



PROJECT TITLE

“Escalating into Holocaust: from execution squads to the gas van of the concentration camp at Sajmište: Two defining phases of the Holocaust in Serbia”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 1. European remembrance



LEAD ORGANISATION

Historical Archives of Belgrade (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Croatia, Sweden, Netherlands, Serbia



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Creating an international platform for sharing experiences in connection to commemoration, research and education about the Holocaust, with the special focus on Holocaust in Serbia as an inseparable part of the common European narrative on Holocaust.



PROJECT DURATION

18 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 100,000



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.holokaust.arhiv-beograda.org/

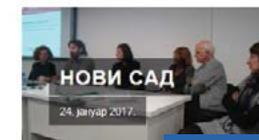
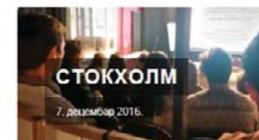


“The project has contributed to expanding the view to European perspectives and further examining the Holocaust and its defining impact on the common European values in post-war Europe, including current European challenges of growing intolerance, discrimination, antisemitism, and antiromatism.”

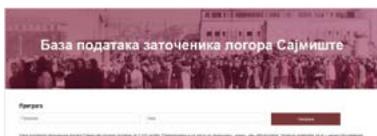
Historical Archives of Belgrade

By taking a Holocaust in Serbia as a starting point and the inseparable part of the shared European experience and narrative on Holocaust, the Project “Escalating into Holocaust: from execution squads to the gas van of the concentration camp at Sajmište: Two defining phases of the Holocaust in Serbia” was specifically focused on European dimension of Holocaust, and historical lessons which served as a basis for basic European democratic values of respect for and ensuring tolerance, diversity and human rights. Motivated by the discovery of their archivists about archival materials containing documents and death reports for over 3,000 Belgrade Jews murdered in the camp at Sajmište, the Historical Archives of Belgrade, together with its partners from Croatia, Sweden, Netherlands, and Serbia, initiated a large-scale international cooperation with the purpose to investigate modern experiences and methodologies to be used in order to process and present the found materials to the general public in the best possible and most effective way.

Basic project activities, implemented from September 2015 to February 2017, were focused on cooperation and knowledge and information sharing with the institutions and leading experts from around Europe in the area of the remembrance culture, research and education about Holocaust. Activities were implemented through the series of six public manifestations in Serbia, Netherlands, and Sweden, with each covering two main topics for local and international experts to discuss about: one related to Holocaust in Serbia and the other related to Holocaust in wider European context, with the reflection to the experiences and practices of commemoration, research, and education. Apart from that, discussions, workshops and lectures about teaching about Holocaust, Holocaust as a shared European historical experience and narrative, as well as about the set of current European challenges in facing intolerance, discrimination, antisemitism, antiromatism, and rise of a far-right political movements, etc.



International gatherings under the project: „Escalating into Holocaust”



Database of the prisoners of the Camp Sajmište
www.holokaust.arhiv-beograda.org/sajmiste/



Part of the Exhibition "October 1941."



Teaching materials "Ester"
www.ester.rs



Publication "Escalating into Holocaust"
www.holokaust.arhiv-beograda.org/zbornik/

Places and dates of the international events in Serbia were carefully selected, bearing in mind the remembrance days and places of specific importance for Serbia, that are still insufficiently presented to wider European public. In that manner, the Project activities were aimed at two objectives: to contribute to commemoration of the remembrance days, and to present historical events, monuments, remembrance places and dates of importance for Serbian history of the World War II to the international experts.

The most important result of the project is processing the archival material referring to the prisoners of the Camp at Sajmište which was not previously processed, and a new on-line database was created, being available to professional and general public on the webpage of the Historical Archives of Belgrade.

Exhibition "October 1941" about the month when the crime against innocent civilians had reached its highest proportions and the decision had been made about establishment of the Camp at Sajmište, was organised in Belgrade, Nis, Kragujevac and Novi Sad, and was presented at professional gatherings in Amsterdam and Stockholm.

"Ester" is a teaching material made under the Project with the collection of dramatized stories about Jewish victims at the Camp of Sajmište at the beginning of 1942 as the most important part of it. Stories are focused on young victims and their families, their life prior to war, during occupation and Holocaust, and are based on real historical events and persons.

Publication "Escalating into Holocaust" is a journal of professional papers presented and collected during conferences, seminars and workshops organised during the Project cycle.

"EUROPE OF TRUTH"



PROJECT TITLE

"Testimony – Truth or Politics: The Concept of Testimony in the Commemoration of the Yugoslav Wars"



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 1. European remembrance



LEAD ORGANISATION

The Center for Cultural Decontamination (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Germany, Italy, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Contribution to renewal of the culture of peace in European Union by inclusion of Yugoslav wars into shared remembrance through the methodology of the individual testimony.



PROJECT DURATION

18 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 95,000



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.czkd.org
www.svedocanstvo-imenovatoratom.org/rs/o-projektu



“Participants in the Project, citizens of various successor states of Yugoslavia and Europe, shall develop the feeling of active influence and ownership over the multiple democratic hybrid narrative. And in the end, but not least important, accepting those testimonies in European historical narrative shall send the term „Balkanising” to history.”

Online archive of testimonies

Looking for an answer to how is the testimony treated in commemoration of the Yugoslav wars – as truth or as politics, Centre for Cultural Decontamination gathered partners from 3 EU Member States (Germany, Italy, Austria), Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia on the Project “Testimony – Truth or Politics: The Concept of Testimony in the Commemoration of the Yugoslav Wars”. The Project included two mutually interconnected research lines dealing with the concept of testimony in the context of commemoration practices and wars in the nineties, and was based on interviews and works of art discussing those interviews as testimonies, as well as on the results of the previous Project “Name IT War”. Project basis was the audio archive of over 200 interviews with the participants of the Yugoslav Wars and anti-war activists, which represent the main motive of all project activities divided in three groups – online archives of testimonies, art exhibition, and conferences and other public events.

Creating the online archives based on interviews enabled every beneficiary to generate his/her own profile, but also to download parts of interviews and create a narrative to share with others. Beneficiaries could also contribute to the fund of testimonies by their own testimonies or interviews with others.

Traveling exhibition in four countries – Serbia, Italy, Austria, and Bosnia and Herzegovina – included 16 audio-visual works of art whose authors were selected via



International Conference „Testimony. Commemoration. Wellbeing.”

international open call for proposals, and most of them were from post-Yugoslav states. Artists who demonstrated interest were invited to participate in the Project by examining the material aspect of the testimonies (by sound and voice) on one hand, and their content – political, economic, social and cultural context in various key moments of the testimony on the other. The exhibition tended to provide an increase in production of the capital of knowledge by expanding the reality of facts about wars, as well as to encourage opening the channels which would enable testimonies to be heard and contextualised. Along with exhibitions, follow-up events were organised in order to present exhibition itself as well as the archives of the collected testimonies.

The third group of activities was constituted of various public events organised in the forms of the conferences, discussions, round tables, and similar gatherings in order to discuss the concept of the testimony as a part of historical narrative of Yugoslav Wars.

Final project conferences called “Testimony. Commemoration. Wellbeing.” were organised in Sarajevo and Belgrade in order to investigate how testimony could improve democracy and social participation in building historical narrative and establishing commemorative rituals. In other words, conferences, but the Project itself as well, were seeking for the answer what were the areas where the testimony could create an option for alternative social relations which would enable for people to live together in well-being in the context of commemoration of Yugoslav Wars.



Exhibition „Testimony - Truth or Politics”

“EUROPE AS A PARTNER”



PROJECT TITLE

“Sustainability of Unification”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
Measure 2.1 Town Twinning



LEAD ORGANISATION

Municipality of Bački Petrovac (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Presenting the European Union as a support to the states and their citizens in solving challenges and issues.



PROJECT DURATION

4 days



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 25,000



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.backipetrovac.rs/projekti/projekat-odrzivost-ujedinjenja



“Project introduced the European Union to the citizens and enabled them to see its significance from another angle, not only from the political framework perspective, from which it is usually represented.”

Municipality of Bački Petrovac

Project “Sustainability of Unification” was implemented via three-day events in Bački Petrovac organised by 7 partners from 4 European states (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, and Serbia) with the idea to encourage citizens to social activism as well as to gain insight in sustainability of all activities implemented in that direction at the European Union level. By gathering local self-governments and civil society organisations as partners, the Project demonstrated and promoted all advantages and qualities of cooperation and partnership of public and civil sector. Over 600 citizens and more than 3,000 indirect beneficiaries participated in public events where the citizens were encouraged to initiate and create social changes especially by networking the cities and people, and by exchange and cherishing the culture which would connect and lead to joint ideas and give a chance to mutual development.

In various forms (panel discussions, presentations, round tables), topics were discussed, and experiences shared in connection to the areas where the partner states face the same or similar issues, such as unemployment and youth migration. Participants from Serbia found especially important the presentations of partners from the European Union Member States about the experiences in connection to negotiating during the accession process, with the special focus on the chapter related to culture and education. Sustainability of the programmes supported by the European Union were discussed and the Programme “Europe for Citizens” was promoted. Cultural exchange under the Project was implemented via the “Art marketplace” where cultural and artistic societies from all of the partner states had the opportunity to present themselves.



Panel discussion “Sustainability of Cooperation/Sustainable Development”

“EUROPE WE UNDERSTAND”



PROJECT TITLE
“TranslatEU”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME
Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
Measure 2.1 Town Twinning



LEAD ORGANISATION
Association of citizens „Libero“ (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS
Macedonia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium



PROJECT OBJECTIVE
Presenting the European Integration process to citizens and providing support for them to better understand the personal benefits of the process.



PROJECT DURATION
3 days



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
EUR 25,000



PROJECT STATUS
Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT
www.libero.org.rs
www.facebook.com/libero.org.rs



“Misunderstanding leads to doubt and doubt creates Euroscepticism.”

Association of Citizens „Libero”

Association of Citizens “Libero”, the City Municipality of Vračar in cooperation with partner civil society organisations and local self-governments implemented the project „TranslatEU” as a part of the Human Rights Week at the municipality of Vračar. On the occasion, over 300 participants from Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Belgium, and Serbia shared their experiences and discussed joint future of the countries of the Western Balkans as part of the European Union. Considering that the citizens often perceive the European Union as insufficiently close to them because of the wrong interpretation and complicated language when referring to the European Union, project partners decided to “translate” the Union to the Citizens by presenting the key benefits of the policy and the concept of European Citizenship for their lives.

“Translation of the European Union” was initiated by gathering the young people from all the participants states, who, as a part of intercultural evening, represented to each other the culture, tradition, history of their own countries as well as the experiences of the young people living in those countries. By presenting promotional materials, tasting food and presenting music they listen to, the young Europeans temporarily created one of the key characteristics of the life within the European Union - interculturality - and therefore presented the feeling to others what it means to be a citizen of the European Union.

The most important activities implemented under the Project were:

- Theme workshops “translation of EU policies” in the area of ecology, culture, education, media, science, entrepreneurship, mobility and volunteering options for the young, by using creative and innovative thinking of the youth, to simple language understandable to all citizens;
- look like with the countries of the Western Balkans as its members;
- The website <http://local.libero.org.rs/> was developed as a support to creating better local communities on their way to the European Union;
- Workshops of creating interactive contents for discussions in local communities about European Union, its values and policies, and the concept of European citizenship;
- “Letters of intention” were signed by and between the representatives of the local governments involved in the Project in order to further enhance mutual cooperation, strengthen cooperation of the local institutions and citizens, encourage citizen participation, and create more open, tolerant, and inclusive societies.
- Open discussion with the citizens about the European Union, challenges it is facing today, as well as what will the Union

“On its European way, Serbia cannot rely only on the skills of its administration and politicians to harmonise legal framework with the framework of the European Union, but it has to receive the support from its citizens considering that EU reforms directly influence the quality of their lives.”

Association of Citizens “Libero”



Launching the Project “TranslatEU”

Sustainability and long-term effects of the Project, a direct consequence of the quality of cooperation and the trust, as well as the results which were accomplished, is reflected in the fact that the same project partners have another project that has been approved under the measure Town Twinning called “Europe talks”.

“FREE EUROPE”



- 
PROJECT TITLE
 “Together in the boundary and duty free Europe”
- 
STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME
 Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
 Measure 2.1 Town twinning
- 
LEAD ORGANISATION
 Hungarian Cultural Centre “Nepker” (Serbia)
- 
STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS
 Hungary, Romania, Latvia, Slovakia
- 
PROJECT OBJECTIVE
 Promoting the free movement of goods, capital, services, and labour as basic freedoms of the European Union
- 
PROJECT DURATION
 3 days
- 
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
 EUR 25,000
- 
PROJECT STATUS
 Implemented
- 
WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT
www.nepkor.rs/europe-for-citizens/
www.nepkor.rs/TogetherInDutyFreeEurope/
www.facebook.com/europeforcitizensnepkor/



“Three-day manifestation under the Project provided the Citizens with the option of cooperation but also the participation in drafting the joined European achievements, developing the future of joint Europe which simultaneously represents the future of Serbia“

Hungarian Cultural Centre

By symbolic gathering of 6 partners one from Serbia, Romania, Latvia, and Slovakia and two from Hungary, according to the model of number of states who had signed so-called Treaty of Roma in 1957, the Project commemorated 60 years of signing the Treaty which set the foundations of a single market of the European Union. By promoting the importance of four basic freedoms on which the single market of the European Union is based - the free movement of goods, capital, services, and labour, the Project partners organised three-day events in Subotica in order to presents European values to the citizens of Serbia and to enable them to hear from the citizens of the European Union Member States about the advantage of membership in the European family of nations.

Games about European Union's achievements were organised for the youngest students, while the adults were educated via conferences, workshops and lectures covering basic freedoms, with the purpose to even more efficiently dissolve those borders still existing among the citizens of the Union. Manifestation included a programme of cultural and arts associations from partners states who presented all the wealth of the various cultures enriching the Union, but also a “Euro marketplace” where the participants promoted the traditional local crafts and economies demonstrating the free movement of goods.



„Euro Marketplace“

“EUROPE WITHOUT GENDER DIFFERENCIES”



PROJECT TITLE

“WONET - Women's Network for Future”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
Measure 2.2 Networks of towns



LEAD ORGANISATION

City municipality of Savski venac (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Serbia



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Contribution to strengthening and capacity building of women for political articulation of gender inequality, building gender solidarity through networking of women at local and European levels.



PROJECT DURATION

11 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 77,500



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.savskivenac.rs

“We strongly believe that gender equality as a core value and transnational politics is inevitable part of all strategies and visions of the future of European Union.”

Publication „WONET Reportages“

City Municipality of Savski venac was a leading partner of the consortium of 11 stakeholders from Croatia, Slovenia, Italy and Serbia, which designed and implemented the Project “WONET - women’s network for future of Europe”. Special “European note” to this project which gathered over 130 women from the states of the partners, was provided by the fact that their networking occurred during the regional seminars organised by the national focal points for the Programme “Europe for Citizens” from Slovenia, Croatia, and Serbia. Among 130 participants, there were women of different generations, various educational profiles, professional and social status,



WONET photo-reportage

which additionally enriched the intercultural dialogue, making it possible not only between different states and cultures but between different generations and between urban and rural environment.

Project partners designed “WONET” as a contribution to reduction of gender inequality in the region and promotion of gender equality as one of the core values of European society. Special Project Objective was to develop gender solidarity among women at local, regional, and European level through their connecting, networking, and capacity building for political articulation of the gender equality. Participants were empowered to solve their social and other problems by the political articulation, i.e. active participation in drafting public policy proposals.

The results achieved during the implementation of the Project include 5 activities - 4 seminars and international, final conference. Topics covered by the seminars were related to some of key areas of women activism, but also to the areas where it was important to sensitize for gender equality: “Women and Education”, “Women, Politics, and Media”, “Women, Economics, and Social Policy”, and “Women and Family Right”. Along with those events, the Project included photo-reportages in several languages which were presented in the final publication “WONET Reportages” with the inspiring stories about gender equality and personal testimonies.

“Development of the new, regional partnerships is a sufficiently good strategic objective for all partner organisations to motivate them to take the risk of starting the new partnerships.”

Project participant



Exhibition of photo-reportages



Publication “WONET Reportages”

“EUROPE UNITED IN DIVERSITY”



PROJECT TITLE

“BETonEU - Balkans and Europe together: On the Road to Enlargement”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
Measure 2.2 Networks of towns



LEAD ORGANISATION

City of Subotica (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

France, Italy, Hungary, Macedonia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Great Britain, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Forming a network of partners which will represent the platform for dialog and active engagement for the future of Europe.



PROJECT DURATION

12 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 148,000



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.subotica.rs



“In the time of great challenges, enlargement process still contributes to peace, stability and prosperity in Europe.”

Publication “Book of Game Rules”

Through the project “BETonEU - Balkans and Europe Together: On the Road to Enlargement” a network was established covering 19 partners from 12 states of Europe - 8 Member States and 4 states in different stages of the accession process, acting as the Ambassadors of the slogan “United in Diversity”. The Project and the network building itself were initiated with the objective to develop a broad platform for exchange, discussion, and acting in connection to the Europe future direction.

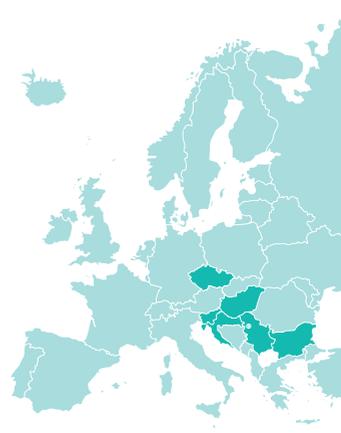
Specific and interesting structure of the Project followed the metaphor of betting: as in the case of betting, the first important thing is to know the rules of game, the second is to discuss one's own resources and in accordance with that what to invest in and, finally, to decide what to bet on. The partners on the Project “BETonEU” were asked to put their bets on the future of the European Union, take responsibility in its further shaping and to function as the spokesmen of the ideas and values of the European Union in their local communities, and all with the purpose of raising interest among the citizens, civil society organisations, public administration bodies and other stakeholders.

The most important activities during the Project were also following the metaphor of betting - the first international event in Subotica: “The Game Rules”; the second international event in Ravenna: “Resources for Investing in the Bet”; the third international event in Osijek: “Making the Decision about What to Bet on”. At the end of the Project, the publication “Book of Game Rules” was published where the results of the betting were presented, and which represents a useful tool for increasing the engagement of the European and Balkan local governments in the EU accession process.



„Game Rules”

“SUSTAINABLE EUROPE”



PROJECT TITLE

„Town networking and Engaging Citizens for the Protection of Water Resources in Europe - H2O WR”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
Measure 2.2 Networks of towns



LEAD ORGANISATION

Municipality of Ruma (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Serbia



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Strengthening civic initiatives in actions directed to improvement of quality of water, environmental protection and civil protection



PROJECT DURATION

24 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 142,500



PROJECT STATUS

In progress



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.ruma.rs
www.facebook.com/H2O-WR-Engaging-Citizens-for-the-Protection-of-Water-Resources-in-Europe-2060847467481388/



“Cooperation on this Project and on future initiatives will enable us to protect our resources, to ensure sustainable development and to make sure the future generations will follow their objectives and make their own dreams come true, leaving in safe, clean and healthy environment.”

Best Practice Guidelines

Municipality of Ruma together with the partners from five European Union Member States (Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Czech Republic) and the Tourist Organisation of the Municipality of Ruma is conducting the Project “Town Networking and Engaging Citizens for the Protection of Water Resources in Europe - H2O WR”. The project is aimed at protection of waters, civil protection and improvement of civic participation in public and social actions focusing on water resources. As the specific objectives of this Project, whose full implementation is expected until the end of 2018, project partners defined awareness raising aimed at the citizens about manners of application of the values and policies of the European Union in protection of water resources and protection of communities from natural disasters and improvement of cooperation between cities through joint actions directed at protection of water resources and natural disasters. The project shall promote the best practices and approaches in protection of water resources and observe in that context the attitudes of the citizens about the European integrations and volunteering as especially important aspect of reacting of the communities in cases of natural disasters.

The plan is that, during 7 events, partners share knowledge and best practice examples from their own states through workshops, conferences, and presentations, through visits to the location of the importance for the Project and introduce themselves to the initiatives coming from the citizens themselves and their associations. The Project is perceived as the first step in establishing the network of cities which shall deal with the protection of water resources. Therefore, signing of the Memorandum on Networking is planned as the final activity.



„Town Networking and Engaging Citizens for the Protection of Water Resources in Europe - H2O WR”

“INCLUSIVE EUROPE”



PROJECT TITLE

“Towards European Values - Persons with Disabilities a Equal Citizens”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
Measure 2.3 Civil society projects



LEAD ORGANISATION

Serbian Association for Promoting Inclusion - SAPI (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Italy, Serbia



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Contributing to full social integration and civic participation of the persons with disabilities



PROJECT DURATION

12 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 130,000



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.facebook.com/sapi.europe.for.citizens/



“Differences in individual knowledge, experiences and work manners, specific environments participants came from, level of inclusion of self-representatives and similar things, made implementation of the Project very dynamic and interesting experience.”

Serbian Association for Promoting Inclusion – SAPI

By gathering 11 partners from seven European states, the Project “Towards European Values - Persons with Disabilities as Equal Citizens” represents an example of multi-cultural and inter-sector approach to the sensitive social issues such as inclusion of the persons with disabilities. Civil society organisations, educational and institutions specialised in work with persons with disabilities from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Italy joined their efforts with the intention to develop a model of comprehensive empowerment of the persons with disabilities, with a special focus on persons with intellectual impairments and to encourage their more active role and inclusion in policy making process at national and European level.

Project partners identified five “key points” for empowerment of the persons with disabilities and dedicated educational workshops, training sessions or public discussions to each of them:



Self-representation training sessions, which included both persons with disabilities and professionals providing support to them, covered issues such as self-determination, expressing needs, identification of the type of support needed, and self-empowerment of the persons with disabilities for their more active social engagement;

Volunteerism as a tool for inclusion of the persons with disabilities was a topic of a three-day workshop for initiating voluntary services, where the persons with disabilities would have a role of a volunteer which would encourage their socialization and integration;

Peer support was implemented through the training sessions where the educators were the persons with disabilities to whom the participants discussed about the current practices of mutual support

and designed appropriate model for the service;

Programme of work engagement was covered by a three-day seminar with the purpose of presenting examples of best practice in order to improve options for employment of the persons with intellectual impairments who are often deprived of their working ability and excluded from the open labour market;

A discussion was dedicated to development of social entrepreneurship in which the participants presented the process of establishing a social enterprise in their own states as well as their own experiences. They also discussed social policy reforms and sustainability of social services through social entrepreneurship.

On the final conference, the “Guidelines for Self-representation and Social Inclusion” were presented along with the number of best practice examples and models for their application. Guidelines are aimed at the persons with disabilities and are based on experiences collected through the Project implementation.

Under the Project, a video about its implementation was created:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuLiC34ZAJk



Some of the participants in the Project „Towards European Values - Persons with Disabilities a Equal Citizens“

“EUROPE WITHOUT HATE”



PROJECT TITLE

“Combat against hate speech through European perspective”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
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LEAD ORGANISATION

Club for the Youth Empowerment 018 (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Romania, Poland



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Improve and strengthen cooperation at European level regarding respect for human rights



PROJECT DURATION

12 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 132,500



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.kom018.org.rs
www.facebook.com/KOM018



“Young people in Europe are more than willing to solve the problem of hate speech. They do not want to set borders between them, so they join projects that enable them to fight against these phenomena by joint efforts.”

Club for Youth Empowerment 018 - KOM 018

By involving directly 1,483 citizens from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Romania and Poland into the project activities, out of which 80% were younger than 30, the project “Combat against hate speech through European Perspective” empowered young Europeans to recognise and adequately respond to hate speech. Bearing in mind a large popularity and use of the internet among the young, project partners recognised the risk of virtual world for safety, discrimination and exposure of young to the hate speech. By the set of creative activities, they discussed and developed tools for promotion of the fight against hate speech and the European campaign of respect for Human Rights in online setting as well as in real life was initiated.

The Project also developed a programme “Hate Fighters” which included recording the hip hop and rap songs about fight against hate speech as a way to make this topic more appealing to the young. Data from the research about the attitudes of the young from 7 states of the project partners about hate speech were significant, since they demonstrated readiness of the young people to participate in joint action and fight against this negative social phenomenon. As the final activity of the Project, a debate competition was organised - the winners of the national competitions from 7 states debated in Niš about the problems of human rights violation and hate speech. This Project produced significant amount of creative and educational materials including 8 songs, over 150 graphics and 150 concept photos, over 15 exhibitions and flash mobs.



„Hate fighters” Programme

“SOLIDARY EUROPE”



PROJECT TITLE

“Celebrating Solidarity”



STRAND/MEASURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Strand 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation
Measure 2.3 Civil society projects



LEAD ORGANISATION

Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation (Serbia)



STATES OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Promoting solidarity as a universal human value



PROJECT DURATION

12 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 147,500



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.divac.com
www.museumofsolidarity.eu

“The Project objective is to gather citizens and inspire them to change the world with their good deeds.”

Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation

Project “Celebrating Solidarity” gathered civil society organisation from six Member States and candidates for membership in the European Union (Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania and Serbia) with the idea to explore, stimulate debate, promote and encourage solidarity as an important value in European societies. Apart from 27 thousand direct participants in the activities, it is assessed that Project found its way to over 500 thousand citizens of Europe via media and internet promotion. Different interactive activities enabled the citizens to participate and share their attitudes, ideas, and personal stories about solidarity which would serve as a positive direction for others, as a support to persons in difficult living situations and to encourage dialogue and positive social phenomena. This project was investigating the diversity of turbulent times which participating states were facing, simultaneously celebrating and accepting the importance of solidarity and love to other human being in the world of human conflict and natural disasters.

The most important results of the Project “Celebrating Solidarity” were:



Results of the Project „Celebrating Solidarity”

“To give a hand to one in need, to give a hand and to be one of them - we are all the same.”

Participants of the research about solidarity among the young in Serbia

- An online research of attitudes of over 7,000 young people (16-30 yo) about solidarity was conducted and it showed that young people are interested in solidarity and that they do have empathy for people in difficulties, especially when it comes to the disaster and war survivors.

www.divac.com/upload/document/fondacija_divac_izvestaj_mladi_fgd.pdf

- A virtual Museum of Solidarity was created with video and audio interviews of the citizens and personal stories about human empathy and support.

- Comic-poster “Small School of Solidarity” intended for the children of school age was distributed for free in over 100 institutions dealing with children in Serbia.

- Festivals of solidarity were organised in Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Albania.

- A number of public events were organised throughout Serbia: debate “The Young and Solidarity in Local Communities”, intergenerational workshops of Argentine tango, workshops with young persons with hearing impairments „The Body that Hears: Contemporary Theatre - The Space for Interpersonal Solidarity”, the exhibition of photographs of about solidarity in 10 towns in Serbia, video stories about solidarity with the children who were the beneficiaries of the services of the Shelter and migrants, the final conference “Solidarity in the Time of Crisis”, etc.

MUSEUM OF SOLIDARITY

Museum of Solidarity
www.museumofsolidarity.eu



Comic-poster “Small School of Solidarity”



Inter-generation Workshop about Argentine Tango

“EUROPE WHERE THE CITIZENS MAKE DECISIONS”



PROJECT TITLE

Support to Belgrade Open School operations through the Programme “Europe for Citizens” - institutional grant



LEAD ORGANISATION

Belgrade Open School (Serbia)



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Empowering democratic and civic participation by improving knowledge of citizens about policy drafting and decision-making process, promotion of options for social and intercultural engagement and volunteering at European level and wider.



PROJECT DURATION

36 months



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

EUR 249,720



PROJECT STATUS

Implemented



WEBPAGE OF THE BENEFICIARY OR PROJECT

www.bos.rs
www.bos.rs/ei/projekti/94/2016/04/13/podrska-beogradskoj-otvorenoj-skoli-kroz-program-evropa-za-gradane-i-gradanke.html



“The greatest significance of the programme Europe for Citizens is in refocusing on the common man, citizen, who is usually not familiar with what European Union is, what are its policies, values and standards, and what can they expect from it.”

Belgrade Open School

In 2015, the Belgrade Open School signed a three-year partnership agreement with the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission, under the programme “Europe for Citizens”. Cooperation which was established enabled the Belgrade Open School three-year institutional support by the European Commission for the development of internal capacities and improvement of its operation in strategic areas corresponding to the areas promoted by the “Europe for Citizens” programme and its objectives.

Basic objective of the support was empowering democratic and civic participation at the European Union level by improving knowledge of citizens about the policy drafting and decision-making process, as well as promotion of possibilities of social and intercultural engagement and volunteering at the European Union level. Therefore, many of the areas of action of the Belgrade Open School which were included in the support programme covered European integration, public administration reform, education and youth policy and youth employment. Consequently, institutional support was directed primarily at strengthening the research capacities of the Belgrade Open School for high-quality and fact-based development of public policies in abovementioned strategic areas as well as advocacy capacities for their implementation.

During the three-year period (January 2015 - December 2017), the core of the institutional support to this organisation was directed to European integration process



Regional Conference „Move.Link.Engage.”



and civic participation in it, through the initiative “Speak up about the Negotiations”. Basic objective of this initiative was to contribute to Europeanization of Serbia by promoting transparent and accountable process of the EU accession negotiations, based on dialogue and partnership of the civil society and public administration. In order to inform public about the negotiating process an internet portal was created: www.eupregovori.bos.rs and a monthly e-bulletin “Let’s Talk about Negotiations” and the Android application “Europe to Go” were created, which were additionally improved under the institutional support received through the programme “Europe for Citizens”. Thanks to this support, Belgrade Open School established the regional dimension of this initiative, making the results of the activities usable in all states of the Western Balkans in different phases of the EU integration process.

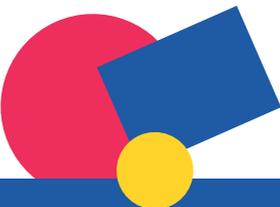
Along with “Let’s Talk about Negotiations”, institutional support covered other annual work sets of the Belgrade Open School:



Evropa za poneti

Android application
„Europe to Go”

- Initiative “Citizens in Action” which was constituted from strong research and advocacy component at local level;
- Development of the research on public policies in the areas of European integration, public administration reform and youth employment;
- Better integration of the portal “BOS career” and “Mingle” within the website of the Belgrade Open School in order to improve access and better use of the contents of the unique E(U) Laboratory for Civic Participation, which along with the abovementioned, included the portal “Speak up about Negotiations”, monthly bulletin “Let’s Talk about Negotiations”, Android application “Europe to go”;
- Organising annual regional conference “Move. Link. Engage.”



**THE OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH
CIVIL SOCIETY OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**



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