

The project «Solidarity4Heritage» 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 Kick-off meeting

Participation: The event involved over 100 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Agia, Greece, 4 participants from the city of Naxxar, Malta, 4 participants from the city of Novo Mesto, Slovenia, 3 participants from the city of Caltanissetta, Italy.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Strumyani, Bulgaria, from 07.03.2018 to 09.03.2018

Short description: The aim of the event was to lay the foundation of the network, the rules and principles for management, coordination, communication, evaluation and dissemination.

Furthermore, the partners discussed the possible ways for raising awareness of the importance of the preservation of heritage and tools, policies and instruments for facilitating citizens' involvement through solidarity and voluntary action.

Event 2 Workshop: "Challenges and best practices for conservation and management cultural sites and local traditions through volunteering"

Participation: The event involved 141 citizens, including 8 participants from the city of Agia, Greece, 8 participants from the city of Naxxar, Malta, 14 participants from the cities of Strumyani and Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, 4 participants from the city of Caltanissetta, Italy and 4 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Novo Mesto, Slovenia, from 13.06.2018 to 15.06.2018

Short description: The aim of the event was to discuss the challenges which all stakeholders – local authorities, cultural organizations, civil society and volunteering organizations are facing in heritage preservation; to present good practices related to the cultural preservation by each project partner. Based on these discussions, draft strategies for facilitating citizens and stakeholders' involvement, as well as volunteering in heritage preservation were drafted.

Event 3 "Tools for Solidarity" round table

Participation: The event involved 141 citizens, including 8 participants from the city of Naxxar, Malta, 15 participants from the city of Strumyani and Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, 4 participants from the city of Caltanissetta, Italy, 8 participants from the city of Novo Mesto, Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Agia, Greece, from 24.08.2018 to 27.08.2018

Short description: The aim of the event was exploring tools and mechanisms to be implemented both at local and international level in order to facilitate volunteering and solidarity. These include organization, coordination, information and integration actions, necessary to establish a coherent network of local and international stakeholders providing high quality volunteering and solidarity opportunities and placements.

Event 4 "Working and living as a volunteer" workshop

Participation: The event involved 126 citizens, including 87 participants from Malta, 14 participants from the city of Strumyani and Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, 8 participants from the city of Caltanissetta, Italy, 9 participants from the city of Novo Mesto, Slovenia and 8 participants from the city of Agia, Greece.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Naxxar, Malta, from 30.10.2018 to 02.11.2018

Short description: The aim of the event was the development of standards of working and living conditions for voluntary workers, thus addressing one of the main challenges voluntary workers face. The regulation introduces a unified set of criteria of living and working conditions to be satisfied in order to provide placements for volunteering. It also develops an ethical code for volunteers and solidarity workers, thus setting standards of personal qualities and behaviors required in order to engage in voluntary work.

Event 5 "Together for Solidarity" conference

Participation: The event involved 185 citizens, including 14 participants from the cities of Strumyani and Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, 8 participants from the city of Naxxar, Malta, 8 participants from the city of Novo Mesto, Slovenia and 8 participants from the city of Agia, Greece.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Caltanissetta, Italy, from 25.02.2019 to 28.02.2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to tackle the challenge of poor formal recognition of voluntary service as a valid working and/or learning/training experience. It gathered relevant stakeholders in order to discuss and draft a joint proposition for policy reforms, needed to achieve a better recognition of volunteering. The event included, experts panels, discussions and gathering of public opinions among the citizens and discussion with decision makers, NGOs, citizens, educational/training organizations etc. As a result a “Solidarity of the Future” white paper was developed and presented to European, national and local decision makers in order to initiate change.

Event 6 Closing conference

Participation: The event involved 212 citizens, including 12 participants from the city of Agia, Greece, 10 participants from the city of Naxxar, Malta, 15 participants from the city of Novo Mesto, Slovenia, 9 participants from the city of Caltanissetta, Italy.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Strumyani, Bulgaria, from 04.04.2019 to 07.04.2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to officially establish the Solidarity4Heritage Network, comprising a formal agreement between the participating institutions and organizations, and the regulatory tools and mechanisms developed during the project. The Network initiated policy reform through the development of a White paper with main objective – better formal recognition and validation of voluntary service as a working/training experience.