

## The project « SOLIDART » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

### Applicable to the Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation / Action 2.2 – Networks of Towns

8 events have been carried out within this project:

#### Event 1

**Participation:** The event involved 80 citizens, including 12 participants from the city of Preili (**Latvia**), 18 participants from the city of Larissa (**Greece**), 2 participants from the city of Athens (**Greece**), 5 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 5 participants from the city of Dolores (**Spain**), 10 participants from the city of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour (**France**), 8 participants from the city of Braga (**Portugal**), 5 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 6 participants from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 5 participants from the city of Grosuplje (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from the city of Novo mesto (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from Uršna Sela (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from Grgarske Ravne (**Slovenia**) and 1 participant from the city of Amsterdam (**Netherlands**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Grosuplje, Slovenia (online)**, from 16/06/2021 to 17/06/2021.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was presentation of partner organisations and best practice cases in connection with solidarity in times of crisis.

On the first day of the event a project team meeting took place. It started with welcoming speech from the lead partner, presentation of the event agenda and introduction of the host town and partner delegations. After that project overview followed. During the overview rationale, objectives and expected results of the project were represented by the coordinator. Project narrative, financial reporting and partners' future projects and possible collaboration were also discussed. After that partners' networking and follow-up meeting followed, including discussion about exchange of ideas on the design of project logo and dissemination of the project.

On the second day panel "EU and Solidarity in Times of Crisis" took place. At the beginning participants were addressed by Peter Verlič (mayor of Grosuplje), Jerneja Jug Jerše (head of the European Commission in Slovenia), Dolores Kores (head of the Office for Youth), Klavdija Mehle (Municipality of Grosuplje, Commission for youth affairs), Nives Felič (representative from Zavod Nefiks) and Anamarija Ahlin (member of Youth Council Grosuplje Executive board).

Peter Verlič introduced the Municipality of Grosuplje, which is a young municipality compared to the Slovenian average – there are many young families, children, and adolescents. He represented how important it is for people to help each other, to live in solidarity, all with the aim of developing a better society. He is happy that the Municipality of Grosuplje can be a leading partner in the project, because the SOLIDART project can greatly contribute to a better understanding of the topic at the local level, and by exchanging various knowledge and good practices, all partners will gain a lot of new knowledge. He expressed a belief, that project partners will be able to use this knowledge in their activities and so they will also help to create a better future and a more solidary society.

Jerneja Jug Jerše pointed out that Europe is facing recovery because of coronavirus pandemic. According to her, stronger solidarity is especially important in this period, because the epidemic crisis has erased years of economic and social recovery and exposed the structural weaknesses of the European economy. She said that the European Commission has provided huge amounts of vaccine doses, both for Europe and other countries. In addition, she introduced an enormous economic solidarity package – the EU's long-term budget, together with the temporary NextGenerationEU recovery instrument, which will be the largest stimulus package ever funded in Europe. A total of 1.8 trillion EUR will help rebuild Europe after the COVID-19 pandemic. An emphasis will be on a greener, more digital, and more resilient Europe. Improved flexibility mechanisms in the new long-term budget will make it possible to respond to unforeseen needs. Thus, the budget is appropriate not only for today's reality, but also for the future uncertainties of the EU. She added that the population of Europe is facing a demographic problem – and the young generations must face this problem now to ensure a better future for us to live in, indirectly through active participation in elections. Due to the aging society, it is even more important that we cooperate intergenerationally and show solidarity, she concluded.

Dolores Kores pointed out that due to COVID-19 crisis, some people have lost their jobs, others are facing psychological hardships caused by electronic technology and virtual socializing during the epidemic. She expressed concern about all the problems that young people face today. She explained that although they were often blamed for the spread of infections during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office for Youth saw young people differently. They recognized the humanitarian actions they carried out, they recognized their patience and solidarity with the older generations, so they are extremely proud of the Slovenian youth. For a healthy personal development, young people definitely need to socialize with their peers and actively participate in many activities at the local or national level, she concluded.

Klavdija Mehle presented participation of young people on the territory of the Municipality of Grosuplje. She affirmed that intergenerational solidarity during the coronavirus pandemic has gained even more importance and it has shown how important it is for generations to work together, how important solidarity is in these uncertain times. As she described, the elderly in the Municipality of Grosuplje received a lot of help from the younger generations during the coronavirus epidemic. During the epidemic, local community youth organizations, in cooperation with the civil protection of the Municipality of Grosuplje, joined forces to provide the elderly in rural places with essential necessities for life. Many NGOs in the municipality organized free telephone lines where volunteers offered conversation and psycho-social assistance to the elderly and lonely during the epidemic. She said that also otherwise, the Municipality of Grosuplje constantly encourages and develops intergenerational programs through public tenders for non-governmental organizations. The Municipality of Grosuplje also co-finances two multigenerational centers, which were established with the aim of preventing the social exclusion of young people and the elderly from endangered areas. Active participation of young people is extremely important, but at the same time municipalities are facing the issue of how to encourage it, she added. In the Municipality of Grosuplje, they try to involve young people in decision-making processes. In the Commission for Youth Affairs, they included all important stakeholders in the preparation of the local youth strategy – the municipal administration, the Commission for Youth Affairs and the Youth Council of Grosuplje participated. For this purpose, they also organized a public discussion, where everyone else who wants to be a part of co-shaping the future of youth policy in the Municipality of Grosuplje was able to participate and make suggestions.

Anamarija Ahlin presented a survey, conducted by Youth Council Grosuplje, in which young people were asked if they were willing to help, to be in solidarity. Members of Youth Council Grosuplje were extremely enthusiastic about the positive answers. They found out that there are many who are willing to help other people, but there are also some young people who have become even more isolated during the crisis, and their inactivity in society has therefore become even more pronounced. Anamarija Ahlin added that as a youth organization with various contents and programs in the post-covid period, they make even greater efforts to keep young people active and give them the feeling that they are not alone.

Then presentation of partner territories, initiatives and best practices followed. Different projects and civil protection approaches were presented to share best practices on how youth and elderly were included in the local communities in the times of COVID-19 crisis.

Youth specialist Sintija Ančeva (Preili County, Latvia) represented Youth Center “FOUR” and its experience during the COVID-19 crisis. Youth Center “FOUR” was founded in 2015. It employs 2 specialists and has been involved in different projects. Since 2021 «Proti un Dari» (Namely and Do) project has been running. It includes work with young people aged from 15 to 29, who have left job and social life. Since 2019 «PumPurs» (Bud) project has been running, which focuses on children and young people at risk of dropping out of school. Between 2020 and 2021 project «For one faster – further together» was implemented. Its basis was on cooperation with neighbour countries. In 2020 «Be diverse» project was implemented. Its goal was to improve and diversify free time activities. Between 2019 and 2020 mobile project «Next to you» was implemented. Its goal was to improve the quality of life of young people in the village and rural areas. In 2019 camp «Friendship in both directions» on building youth cooperation and promoting youth participation was carried out. They also organised sport challenges. During the COVID-19 crisis, when events were not allowed to take place, they offered young people individual challenges. They invited people to «collect» the kilometers in a month by walking, running, or cycling (24/10/2020–30/11/2020) and go through the contour of Latvia on foot (Patriots Week on Latvia's birthday 16/11/2020–22/11/2020). Participants received thanks from the municipality and prizes for all activities. They also offered to get to know the region in various orienteering events – young people completed their tasks step by step, spend the time in the fresh air and learn new things. Throughout the pandemic, young people also had the opportunity to apply for different individual activities. Youth Center organized relax by drawing mandalas, discussions about different topics (Internet safety, addictions, personal development, CV and career issues, conflict resolution, safe relationships), personality development trainings, help with school homework, creating a collage of goals etc. They offered various webinars on important and interesting topics for young people. Environmental cleaning activities for youth were also organized. To make the event more interesting for young people, the participants, who collected the most waste, were awarded. Various photo contests were implemented (Valentine's Day photo contest, photo contest “I can find summer feelings in winter”, Competition on International Child Protection Day). They also organized various creative competitions, for example, «Spring is coming in Preili». Within the action young people had to send drawn feelings and a vision of spring in Preili. The products were exhibited at the Youth Center. To activate the involvement of the society in the life of the country, they decided to start a new process – cooperation between young people and seniors. They plan to organize at least 6 common activities during 2 years. Further activities will be based on their experience and the best practices of the EU project partners.

Aleksandra Mamcarz (Fundacja Autokreacja, Poland) presented actions of their organization (online workshops, conferences, and projects) during the COVID-19 crisis. The initiative #PaczkaDlaSeniora (Package For a senior) was also presented, in which about 220 packages for the elderly in need were prepared this year. During the action, seniors in need were found by children. In 2021 the 5th edition of the initiative took place.

Daniel Llamazares and Barros Miguel (FAJUB - Federação de Associações Juvenis do Distrito de Braga, Portugal) represented 5 campaigns: Braga fecha a Porta ao Vírus (Braga closes the door to the virus), Virar a página (Turn the page), Todos ajudamos (We all help), Páscoa Solidária (Solidarity in Easter) and Cama Solidária (Solidarity Beds). The main purpose of the campaign Braga fecha a Porta ao Vírus (Braga closes the door to the virus) was to spread the awareness for protection regarding COVID-19 through different actions in the city for the ones, that most needed the clarification or information. Virar a Página (Turn the Page) was emergency food response project – more than 350 meals were served per day. Campaign Todos ajudamos (We all help) involved everyone in the creation of personal protective equipment and Páscoa Solidária (Solidarity in Easter) was project to give to those, who need necessary resources to survive. It was implemented by engaging the local communities to donate what they could in order to give back to those in need. Cama Solidária (Solidarity Bed) was also a project with an emphasis on solidarity. It was focused on medical staff. It provided direct support to the front line of COVID-19 medical people.

An example of good practices during the COVID-19 crisis were presented also by Mathieu Ducamp (Maison de l'Europe des Landes-WIPSEE, France). Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis they have organized

2 mobilities, 6 youth exchanges and around 50 animations, all with purpose to allow high school and university students to develop their professional competences through formations on projects management, volunteering, solidarity. They also continued with communication on their social networks, to maintain the relationship with people from all social areas using various supports (video-reports, podcasts, live debates). During summer 2020 they organized 4 youth exchanges and 2 mobilities, named Ecology Act in Bulgaria and MeYou in Greece. In 2021 they continue with the actions, that begun in 2020. Besides that, they also added new partners and projects. One of them is Erasmus + project for "Youngster's participation" allowing them to be involved in the public debate and to exchange ideas with policymakers. They also started with Zoom meetings for local animators, with purpose of adaptation to the digital world. During COVID-19 crisis they supported and transformed their actions to make people aware of international and citizen solidarity. They raised awareness among populations by creating a direct contact to allow people to better understand situations and to face inequalities mix people from different generations, different origins, different gender to share and understand different point of views.

Efren Zaplana (Municipality of Dolores, Spain) described different actions in connection with solidarity in crisis times, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. Preventive actions, which included activities related to the disinfection of public areas and body temperature measurement at the entrances of communities and public places, were presented. The importance of integration of Dolores Housewives Association in addressing COVID-19 crisis issues was also emphasized. Among other things, the mentioned organization took care of the supply of medical equipment (masks etc.) during the greatest crisis and poor product availability. The municipality is also planning various actions and events within the period after the COVID-19 crisis. Besides that, solidarity during the cold drop in October 2019 was presented, when a large amount of funds was raised for affected people.

Ladopoulos Dimitrios (Municipality of Larissa, Greece) represented Municipal Youth Council of Larissa, which has next administrative bodies: Plenary session of the Municipal Council, Organizing Committee and Bureau of the Municipal Council. It includes representatives of organizations, collectives and youth groups, representative from each political group and representatives of young citizens of the city. Participants are 17–30 years old. Within the council there are committees for: Environment and Climate Change; Democracy and Rights; Education, Culture and Sports; Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Sustainable Urban Mobility; Press, Interconnection and Extroversion and Health, Welfare and Social Actions. With the council they want to familiarize young people with the decision-making process at the local level. Besides that, they want to contribute to the formation of a local strategic plan for the new generation and meet the need for social justice and solidarity between generations. The council was established to organize and support actions related to important areas of the social life of the city.

Iliya Vukarski (Bulgarian Youth Association, Bulgaria), who works as a software developer and a teacher, presented good software education practices during the COVID-19 crisis. He pointed out, that the education sector was one of the most affected at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Neither the teachers or the children were prepared for the challenges and the impediments they had to face during the pandemic. Many teachers throughout the world had not used a computer at home before the crisis even to check their mail or search for information about a particular topic. Even some students had not had experience in the field of using online tools for education before the crisis, especially children below 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Education is a social process and if the students are not in the classroom, they cannot communicate and help each other. The teachers on the other hand cannot see if the students are listening to the lesson and understand learning material. As a solution Iliya suggested the use of MS Teams for educational purpose, whereby the camera should always be turned on. Besides this in MS Teams teachers can share their screens at any time and children can raise their hand at any moment and ask any type of question. In MS Teams it is also possible to record every session, which can be put as an educational material after that. Ilya also presented Google Classroom Repository, which is optimal for stored learning materials. Besides that, he added some other good practices such as asking of frequent questions during the online presentation, giving the students break to talk to each other and asking them for feedback.

Eva Jeza (The School of Health Association, Slovenia) presented The School of Health Association, which is a non-governmental organization that brings people together with the aim of carrying out morning outdoor

exercise called "1000 movements". The School of Health Association currently has 248 groups operating in Slovenia. They currently have 4891 members, older adults. With the support of public funds obtained through tenders, their group, in addition to qualified volunteers, is also led by professional staff. Training of 1000 movements is free of charge. It is suitable for everyone and takes place every morning. The main goal is to strengthen the body and make new friends. Socialization is therefore also an important aspect. Besides that, The School of Health Association organizes intergenerational cooperation with kindergartens and primary schools. During COVID-19 crisis The School of Health Association had to adjust its activities. They cooperated with young kinesiologists, who performed morning and afternoon exercises on ZOOM. They also used other information channels such as YOUTUBE videos, local TV channels and ZOOM meetings.

During the activities of 1st kick-off event next goals were achieved:

- participants understand the key characteristics of the project;
- participants rise their awareness on EU and its solidarity actions in times of crisis;
- exchange of best practices;
- better understanding of EU and how it is viewed by young European citizens;
- mental maps collected as project outcomes.

## **Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 83 citizens, 4 participants from the city of Larissa (**Greece**), 60 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 6 participants from the city of Dolores (**Spain**), 3 participants from the city of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour (**France**), 3 participants from the city of Braga (**Portugal**), 2 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 5 participants from the city of Grosuplje (**Slovenia**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland (online)**, on 16/09/2021.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was partners' presentations and following discussion on the subject of "European Memory: a debate with Cold War protagonists. Presentation of local initiatives and best practices".

On September, the 16th 2021, there was the International Conference „**European Memory: a debate with Cold War protagonists. Presentation of local initiatives and best practices**”.

The debate was organised by the Autokreacja Foundation from Poland. Due to the SARS-CoV-2 virus pandemic, the spread of a new delta variant and the threat of COVID-19 disease, the conference was organised online on the Zoom platform. In addition to the hosts - **Poland**, the event was attended by participants from: **Bulgaria, Greece, France, Spain, Latvia, Portugal and Slovenia**. The event was part of the **SOLIDART** project, implemented with the support of the **European Commission**.

### **CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:**

The first objective of the conference was to enable the participants of the project coming from different countries to understand as broadly as possible the issues related to the construction of order after World War 2 in Europe and in the world and the consequences of the so-called Cold War.

The result was to discuss experiences and to develop an action plan for a Europe without divisions, so that the Iron Curtain would never again divide our continent and the citizens of the European Union, and also to engage the young generation in building a united Europe.

### **PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE:**

The conference was held on the Zoom platform.

The meeting started at 10:00.

The organizers welcomed the participants.

Then a film was screened which showed the historical background to the conferences of the Great Powers in Tehran in 1943 and in Yalta and Potsdam in 1945. The film also presented the origins of the Iron Curtain which divided Europe for nearly 50 years.

After the film, the time came for presentations.

Each country - participant of the conference prepared a multimedia presentation and a speech. The speaker presented to the other participants the vision of history presented in the country of the speaker.

The presentation included answers to the following questions:

1. When did World War 2 break out?
2. Which countries contributed to the war and why?
3. What was the war like in your country?
4. What price did your country and its citizens pay for participating in World War 2?
5. Who is responsible for the division of Europe and the world order after WW2?
6. Which side of the Iron Curtain was your country on in 1945? In the bloc of eastern or western countries?
7. What was the Cold War like in your country? How did people live and how did they assess the situation at that time?
8. How did the events connected with the overthrow of the communist system in the former Eastern Bloc countries and the process of EU enlargement unfold and European Union enlargement process? How was it assessed in your country?
9. What opportunities and threats does the European Union currently face today?
10. What or who is a threat to the United Europe today?
11. How can we encourage young people to learn about history so that what led to the division of Europe is not repeated?

Each presentation was followed by a 5-10 minute Q&A session.

After the session of speeches there was time for conclusions and a summary.

### **Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 62 citizens, including 38 participants from the city of Dolores (**Spain**), 3 participants from the city of Larissa (**Greece**), 3 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 3 participants from the city of Preili (**Latvia**), 3 participants from the city of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour (**France**), 3 participants from the city of Braga (**Portugal**), 3 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 3 participants from the city of Grosuplje (**Slovenia**) and 3 participant from the city of Rotterdam (**Netherlands**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Dolores, Spain**, from 06/04/2022 to 07/04/2022.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was presentation of partner organisations and best practice cases in connection with solidarity in times of crisis.

On the first day of the event a project team meeting took place. It started with welcoming speech from the Mayor of Dolores, the Lead Partner and also the European Projects Councilor of the Municipality of Dolores. After this, a presentation of the event agenda and introduction of the host town and partner delegations. After that project overview followed. During the overview rationale, objectives and expected results of the project were represented by the coordinator. Project narrative, financial reporting and partners' future projects and possible collaboration were also discussed.

Then, representatives of the local police service together with some local volunteers and technicians did a speech about the DANA of 2019 and its strong rains in Dolores. They did a narrative about how strong that phenomenon in the town was and how people volunteers react to support each other.

During the afternoon, participants did a guided tour of the Municipality of Dolores, visiting the most affected places during the DANA of 2019. It counted on the intervention of a dramatized tourist guide where the historical value of the municipality and the events of the DANA 2019 were presented. Furthermore, Efen Zaplana (Councelor of EU funds and Youth in Dolores) described different actions in connection with solidarity in crisis times, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. Preventive actions, which included activities related to the disinfection of public areas and body temperature measurement at the entrances of communities and public places, were presented.

After this activity, an outdoor workshop where different interviews were carried out by young people on the impact of climate change and how the citizens of the municipality conceive it. More than 80 participants participated in this activity.

On the second day, participants did a guided tour by bike to the Hondo Natural Park, very connected to the geographical and environmental situation of Dolores and its climatic vulnerabilities. Participants also had some teambuilding exercises in order to promote volunteering. During the visit of the Hondo, some conclusions were pointed as, due to COVID-19 crisis, some people have lost their jobs, others are facing psychological hardships caused by electronic technology and virtual socializing during the epidemic.

After this, participants visited the Museum of “La Huerta”, that is an ethnographic museum related to the traditional culture of farming in Dolores. After this, participants worked in the dissemination strategy of SOLIDART, including the reflection and debate about project social media dissemination. After this, a creative workshop was organized, where participants painted by groups pictures representing Dolores and its future adaptation to Climate Change.

#### **Event 4**

**Participation:** The event involved 80 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Preili (**Latvia**), 17 participants from the city of Larissa (**Greece**), 2 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 1 participant from the city of Dolores (**Spain**), 2 participants from the city of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour (**France**), 2 participants from the city of Braga (**Portugal**), 1 participant from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 2 participants from the city of Grosuplje (**Slovenia**). The rest 51 participants were people that attended all or part of the activities carried out during the two days event.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Larissa, Greece**, from 20/06/2022 to 23/06/2022.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was partners' presentations and following discussion on the subject of “More European Union to solve Migrant's crisis”.

On the first day of the event all partners were gathered at the venue “Mill of Pappas”. It started with welcoming speech from the hosting partner, presentation of the event agenda and introduction of the host town and partner delegations. After that a presentation by the Deputy Mayor Mr Dimitris Deligiannis around the Municipality's Social Services and Lifelong Learning Initiatives was held and a discussion among partners was followed. Furthermore, all partners presented their activities towards the event's topic, especially focused on the initiatives taken to help migrants from Ukraine and deliver food, medicine and clothing to those who have stayed behind.

The participants' names are:

<b>Partner organization</b>	<b>Participant (first name, last name)</b>
Ayuntamiento de Dolores	Noelia Lucía, Martínez Rives
Bulgarian Youth Association	Kristiyan Andreev

FAJUB	Miguel Barros
FAJUB	Ricardo Cardona
Fundacja Autokreacja	Wiktoria Hebdzyńska
Fundacja Autokreacja	Martyna Pazdan
Latvia, Preili municipality	Sintija Anceva
Latvia, Preili Municipality	Evelina Gribuste
Maison de l'Europe des Landes WIPSEE	Mina BLAESS
Maison de l'Europe des Landes WIPSEE	Nolwenn Fleur Illona Truxler
Municipality of Grosuplje	Jasmina Selan
Municipality of Grosuplje	Domen Jere

In the afternoon, an outdoor workshop on migration crisis was organised by the Municipal Directorate of European Programmes at the Pinios River Festival, where all partners had the opportunity to discuss the issue and provide solutions at European level.

On the second day, an internal project meeting was organised, during which project progress, next meetings and financial issues were discussed, among other things, managed by the Lead Partner. Afterwards a walk visit to cultural heritage sites was held and the partners discovered another aspect of the city of Larissa.

In the afternoon, the partnership met with local stakeholders that had presence in Pinios River Festival and whose activities are related to the provision of assistance to vulnerable groups of people and exchange opinions and ideas on the barriers they face and role of EU on this.

### **Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 30 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Preili (**Latvia**), 15 participants from Fajub (**Portugal**), 2 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 2 participant from the city of Dolores (**Spain**), 2 participants from the city of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour (**France**), 2 participants from the city of Larrissa (**Greece**), 2 participant from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 3 participants from the city of Grosuplje (**Slovenia**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Guimarães, Portugal**, from 12/07/2022 to 15/07/2022

**Short description:** The aim of the event was partners' presentations and following discussion on the subject of "Intergenerational Europe".

On the first day of the event all partners were gathered at the venue "Plataforma das Artes". It started with a welcoming speech from the hosting partner, presentation of the event agenda and introduction of the host town and partner delegations. After that we performed some dynamics of getting to know each other, thanks to which it was possible for the participants to get to know each other a little more and thus interact with each other.

Next, we had the Intergenerational Europe session where each partner presented the activities and research they each did for this theme, and it was a very enlightening exhibition that helped all the project partners to have more perceptions about reality.

The participants' names are:

Partner organization	Participant (first name, last name)
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Ayuntamiento de Dolores	Pablo Martinez
Ayuntamiento de Dolores	Sofia de Gea Serna
Bulgarian Youth Association	Kristiyan Andreev
Bulgarian Youth Association	Luiza Poteva
Larissa, Municipality	Giorgos Tsioumanis
Larissa, Municipality	Eleftherios Dimovelis
Fundacja Autokreacja	Malgorzata Luczak
Fundacja Autokreacja	Lucyna Kraśkiewicz
Latvia, Preili municipality	Sintija Anceva
Latvia, Preili Municipality	Ilze Anceva
Maison de l'Europe des Landes WIPSEE	Mina BLAESS
Maison de l'Europe des Landes WIPSEE	Camille Chaillol
Municipality of Grosuplje	Klavdija Mehle
Municipality of Grosuplje	Tanja Kastelec
Municipality of Grosuplje	Jana Roštan

In the afternoon, we organized in partnership with the tourism department of the Guimarães City Hall a guided tour to the Paços dos Duques, Guimarães Castle and the historical center of the city, where the participants had the opportunity to learn more about the history of Guimarães.

On the second day, during the morning we developed two sessions in parallel in which the participants could see in a practical way how intergenerational learning environments can be created. Therefore, we developed a Workshop on the topic "Democracy of European Values" where participants could develop critical thinking skills and an Escape Room as a tool of non-formal education for intergenerational inclusion.

In the afternoon we developed a session on Project Management | Dissemination | Video Presentation where it was defined that we will hold a meeting with the project managers of each organization on Wednesday, July 20th at 15:00 CET where we intend to discuss the status of the project and also understand what the next steps will be.

Some project partners have expressed concern about some unanswered questions, such as:

- Project Funding;
- Dates for the next meetings;
- Possibility of having a project in an online format;
- Extension of the project;
- Methodology for the creation of the final result;

In the last session we had the opportunity of a Closing Session (Noble Room of Guimarães Town Hall) with the presence of the councilman for Youth of Guimarães Town Hall - Nelson Felgueiras.

## **Event 6**

**Participation:** The event involved 44 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Preili (**Latvia**), 2 participants from the city of Larissa (**Greece**), 2 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 2 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 2 participants from the city of Dolores (**Spain**), 2 participants from the city of Braga (**Portugal**), 2 participants from the city of Grosuplje (**Slovenia**) and 30 participants from the city of Pontonx sur l'Adour (**France**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Pontonx sur l'Adour and Dax, France, from 05/10/2022 to 06/10/2022.

**Short description:** The first day, Wednesday 05 October, took place in the town of Pontonx.

### **Morning:**

#### **Activity 1: La Cowo**

The first visit of the day was the coworking space "La Cowo". We were welcomed by the manager of the site Fabrice Verbeke. A presentation of the coworking space was made. Afterwards, the mayor of the city came to welcome the delegation, in order to present the city of Pontonx sur l'Adour. Séverine Gallais, director of the Maison de l'Europe des Landes WIPSEE, gave a welcome speech to our guests. During this speech, she presented the organization and our different projects linked to the theme. We continued with the visit of the premises of La Cowo. We can find rooms such as a coworking space, a room to make calls, rooms with specific machines such as sewing machines, 3D printers, virtual helmets, and a training room. At the end of the visit, a discussion took place on the different methods of the cities where the participants come from.

#### **Activity 2: Solidarity Garage:**

The second visit of the day was to the Garage Solidaire of the association Landes Insertion Mobilité. The visit began with a speech by Dominique Dourthe, the director of the association "Landes Insertion Mobilité". Association which was created in 2020, it works to reduce the recurrent mobility problems in the Landes department. This can be a problem to get to work and training. They also want to respond to the problem of recruitment in the automotive field. To implement their project, they have recruited professionals in the field of mechanics who have been able to implement the appropriate training to accompany unemployed people to train. They are committed to 3 actions:

- car repair for people who have a social prescription,
- vehicle rental for people who wish to go for an interview
- training for professional reintegration.

In the near future, the association wishes to open a driving school for people who cannot afford to go to an ordinary driving school, in order to reach a wider public and offer more opportunities to people in difficulty. After the speech, we had a time of exchange on the associations sharing the same spirit within the respective countries of the delegations. The visit of the buildings then began, passing by the office of the workshop manager, the space reserved for the fast mechanics, then the space for the biggest repairs and thus to limit the expenses of the vulnerable people.

They make diagnoses before the technical control to avoid the counter visits and thus reduce the expenses. Moreover, all the employees have fixed-term contracts of maximum 24 months so that they can, thereafter, integrate the traditional professional world.

### **Afternoon:**

#### **Activity 3: The media library**

The media library was the third visit of the day in Pontonx-sur-l'Adour. A time of exchange on the functioning of a media library and all its missions was carried out. The role of a media library is to give access to culture to all. They have books adapted for all: books for children, books for dyslexic people, books in Braille, audio books. There is an interface that allows people to share digital books, audio books, movies, or even the local press. This online interface allows all people, even those who cannot move, to have access to culture. Once a month, the media library goes to find all the elderly people who live alone and who cannot move around to make round tables and discuss everyday subjects. After this presentation, an exchange was made so that the participants could express in turn what is practiced in their country for the cultural inclusion of all.

#### **Activity 4: Solidarity grocery store**

The second time of the afternoon and fourth visit of the day was the Solidarity Grocery store of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour. It completes the visit of the Solidarity Garage because it has the same functioning. Corinne Mulcains, the director of the Association "L'arbre à Pain" which is in charge of the solidarity grocery store, presented to us the association. This last one is an association of insertion, they accompany the persons to find a job by the object of support to the activity. They put people back to work through the solidarity grocery store where they sell basic necessities to people receiving minimum social benefits. There are 3 social grocery stores on the territory. In Pontonx-sur-l'Adour, people can come on Wednesday mornings and they pay 20% of the price of large distributions. The employees who run the grocery store are people in integration who help people to find a sustainable job, like the solidarity garage. L'arbre à pain also has two other sectors of activity which are market gardening where they employ 8 people just like the grocery store and then there is the worksite/green space part where they employ 18 people. Following this presentation, an exchange took place in order to know the point of view of the participants on this type of action and to discover what is set up in their country.

#### **Activity 5: Youth leisure center**

For the fifth visit of the day, we thought we should also talk about children. We had a meeting with the director of the leisure centre of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour, the youth space being closed for an undetermined period. We were able to talk with one of the persons in charge of the leisure centre about their daily activities. They take care of children from 2 to 4 years old every day, and from 5 to 11 on Wednesday afternoons. The activities are mostly educational to develop the informal skills of these young children. This is done mainly through games and playful initiations. In France, a child's time is broken down into 3 types of activities: school, family and popular education. These are the 3 activities necessary for the good intellectual development of the child. This is a particular system that does not exist for all countries in Europe. In Spain, for example, there is no such structure to welcome children after school. Instead, they finish earlier, which gives them time for cultural and sports activities. After the presentation, an exchange took place so that the participants could express what is practiced in their hometown.

#### **Activity 6: Town hall of Pontonx Sur Adour**

For the sixth activity of the day, a more official meeting with the Mayor of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour: Mr. Dominique Urolategui came to close the day of the meeting in Pontonx. The meeting took place in the symbolic room of the city council for an exchange between the delegations and the Mayor. The Greeks asked if a youth council existed, the answer of the mayor was negative: Pontonx-sur-l'Adour has a youth space but not a youth council. Kristina (Spain) asked if the municipality had financed the renovation of the building of La Cowo. The Town Hall financed the development of La Cowo but not the renovation, it was financed by public funds like the department, the State, ... She also asked how many people work in the town hall: 8 people work in the town hall but in the municipality there are 50 agents (media library, green space agents). The exchange ends with the handing-over of documentation on the city of Pontonx sur l'Adour like a booklet on the history of the bullring or on the history of Pontonx but also of souvenir delicacies which come from the region.

#### **Activity 7: Maison de l'Europe des Landes Wipsee**

To finish the day, the group came to visit our office. The occasion to make an evaluation of the first day in the form of exchanges , around a shared local snack.

The second day, Thursday 06 October, took place in Dax, which is a bigger city and therefore offers more solutions for inclusion.

#### **Activity 1: Dax Town Hall**

The first visit of the second day was to the town hall of Dax where we took a group photo with the Mayor Mr. Julien Dubois and two of his deputies. Then, we attended the speech of the Mayor. He first talked about the benefits of the European Union, then about the city of Dax and its history. Finally, he came to the subject of inclusion by reminding us that in France 12 million French people suffer from a disability and that only 3.5% have access to a job. The city has few means of direct action but more indirect actions. Currently, 16 thermal baths are present in Dax and Saint Paul-les-Dax. They offer therapeutic treatments adapted to all, in the establishments or at home. The city also has a thermal hospital which takes care of children,

teenagers and adults with mental or physical disabilities. In addition, 33 workers are included in the municipal workforce of disabled workers (23 in the city services and 10 at the CCAS). There is also personalized accompaniment of agents in a situation of disability in order to help them to make their declaration of disabled worker or they have at their disposal psychologists or social assistants. The position of these agents is adapted and the town hall makes sure that the jobs are maintained by providing the necessary equipment, such as inclusive masks during a health crisis for the colleagues of an agent who reads lips. The historic centre of Dax is accessible to all and the municipal magazine is also available in audiobook for the visually impaired. Following this speech, Mr. Laussu (deputy for economic development, employment and commerce, housing, protection and enhancement of the environment) took the floor. He evoked the law of February 11, 2005, known as the law for the equality of the rights and the chances and the participation of the disabled persons. This law specifies and completes the rules of accessibility for people with reduced mobility as well as those governing the accessibility of the public domain. Among the actions carried out by the city, we can mention: the accessibility of the buildings receiving the public via Ad'AP, the accessibility of the public domain (adaptation of the pedestrian circulation to the standard of accessibility for the disabled but also for the visually impaired), the acquisition of 12 armchairs for the bullring and the development of their public order to structures of insertion by the adapted and protected work of disabled people. In addition to these two speeches, Mrs. Loubère-Berthelon (deputy mayor of Dax in the commissions: Higher education and very high speed, Tourism and thermalism, Social Affairs) spoke about inclusion for children and teenagers. 80 children are disabled in Dax schools and leisure centres. The city of Dax finances additional support to facilitate participation in the activity. For teenagers, group activities are organized to allow them to learn to live together. Moreover, during each school vacation, an action is carried out around the handicap to awaken the awareness of the able-bodied youth. Finally, Mrs. Perle BOUGE, a paralympic rowing athlete, met with a group of young people during one of her training sessions last July and shared her values and her vision of disability. To close this exchange, a friendly drink was offered by the mayor's team.

### **Activity 2: Amicale Laïque**

The second visit of the day continues at the Amicale Laïque, an organization that works with young people from 3 years to 18 years. It acts on different actions for all types of people. They take care of young people when they are not in school for extracurricular activities (sport, culture). With 13-18 year olds they work on school mediation when it is difficult for young people at school (behavioral problems, concentration difficulties). They come for two days and the organization works with them on citizenship, violence, and their behavior, so that they are better included in their colleges or high schools. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, children from 8 to 18 years old are welcomed to help with their homework, but also to play sports, go to the library, play music, and see matches.

The Amicale Laïque has other projects such as giving French lessons to migrants twice a week. The migrants who are welcomed by the Amicale Laïque are often of Syrian, Armenian, Georgian nationality but not many from Ukraine. The organization also has a climbing club which is attended by 250 people from 6 to 60 years old in Dax as well as a walking club which ensures intergenerational inclusion. An exchange took place on similar associations and organizations that may exist in different European countries. During the exchange, Kristina (Spain) told us that in Dolores, Spanish classes were given to Moroccans and English. The Amicale Laïque is not financed by the city of Dax but by the Caisse d'Allocation Familiale (CAF). The association works every day with the schools in Dax to see if the children need help with their social integration or schooling. Sometimes the children are more integrated than the parents, in fact it can be the children who help the parents because they do not speak French. For example, in some cases it is the children who know how to use the buses and explain to their parents how to use them. The organization was created after the Second World War by the teachers to keep the children after school. There was poverty, so the teachers wanted to help the children after school with their homework or to do extracurricular activities for them; amicale means friendly and secular citizens.

### **Free time:**

Following the visit the participants were in free time to visit the halls and the flea market.

### **Afternoon:**

Activities in sub-groups: Alzheimer Village and Sensory Pole. After lunch the group split in two. The first half went to the Alzheimer's village (an experimental village for the follow-up and support of people with the disease). As the village was secure and could not accommodate the whole group, the other half was able to visit the Pôle Sensoriel (a study and support space for people with hearing loss).

### **Village Landais Alzheimer:**

A visit to the Alzheimer village strong in emotions with a part of the SOLIDART group and 2 accompanying persons of the MDE40 Wipsee. This very privileged visit allowed us to discover the different spaces of this village and to collect interesting information on the resident public, the functioning, the activities, the difficulties, the innovative and experimental elements. We were the first group ever allowed to visit the village. The site has 16 houses installed in 4 districts. In each house where the residents live "like at home" 2 employees are present for 8 residents. The residents are divided according to age and degree of illness to ensure homogeneity in each house. The visit of the library space with its "wagon" was a highlight because we were able to realize the complexity of the management of emotional crises but also the strategies deployed by the caregivers to accompany these crises. In this village, residents and their families can find a grocery store, a dining hall, walking trails, free access to bicycles, a park with trees, a vegetable garden with some animals. This experimental space aims to maintain patients in a "normal" life functioning and to keep a close link with the outside world in a concern of inclusion and also to slow down the evolution of the disease.

Questions from participants:

Who works here? Several medical and social professions but also 60 volunteers who allow each infrastructure to function.

How long has this village existed? Since 2020 but due to the COVID crisis the site has remained closed to the general public for the moment, although this is an objective. It is an experimental place and they receive a lot of visits from other communities/countries that want to replicate the experience.

Who are the residents? They are between 39 and 102 years old with different degrees of illness. They can be accepted only when the diagnosis is really made. They can enter the village at any stage of the disease and stay there until the end of their lives. There are currently 120 places.

The participants were very attentive to certain details such as the small niches at the entrance of the rooms so that each resident can place objects that belong to him or her and allow him or her to easily identify their room, or the fact that certain mirrors are hidden to avoid the trauma of those who no longer recognize themselves.

### **Sensory pôle:**

The second group was welcomed by Cécile Lannuque at the sensory pole of Landes, she presented us her work. The sensory pole of the Landes is part of an association called IRSA, it is an association that comes to accompany children and adults with visual impairment, blindness, hearing impairment and deafness in the south west of France. In the Landes, there is a pole which gathers two services: a service for hearing or visually impaired adults and a service for children. Their objective is to ensure that deafness or low vision does not prevent people from participating socially like everyone else. For the children, they work a lot with the school, they are in their neighborhood school and the specialized teachers go to the school to make sure that learning goes well despite the deafness and the visually impaired. There are also specialized educators who work with the children on relationships with others because sometimes the disability can be a hindrance for socialization. There is also a psychologist who comes to support the children and their parents in accepting the handicap. All the professionals work directly with the child but also with the environment around him (his school, his extra-curricular activities, his family). They work hard to raise awareness about hearing and visual impairments. The objective is also that the environment adapts to the child, it is a colossal work because the children change the environment constantly (new classes), new teachers. For adults, there are professionals specialized in visual impairment, especially for learning how to move around safely and how to carry out daily activities. For the deaf, there are also interfaces that translate into French sign language the exchanges that the adults need to have in their daily life with the administrators. The work of the organization is based on the process of disability production. People with differences live in an environment and it is the mixture of the two that creates the disability. Their mission

is to identify situations of disability and to put in place responses that will enable the removal of social non-participation. In the Landes, 30 adults and 60 children are accompanied and 25 people work for the organization. After this presentation, an exchange was made so that the participants could express in turn what is practiced in their country about visually impaired and hearing-impaired people.

Here are some examples of testimonies heard during this mobility:

Dimitrios, who is in the youth council of Larissa (Greece), tells us that it is very similar to France, that there may not be exactly the same association but that it remains equivalent. Jure, who comes from Slovenia, tells us that there are separate classes for deaf and blind people but dyslexics or other similar handicaps are in classes with the other students. He doesn't know if there are similar organizations in Slovenia, if there are he doesn't know about them. Antra from Latvia says that children with disabilities go to special schools but they try to integrate them more and more in the mainstream schools to integrate them more in the society. Rita María de Dolores from Spain thinks that there are organizations like this one but she doesn't know them. Miguel from Portugal, tells us that in his city there are special classes but there are also children who go to regular schools and are followed by specialists who help them. There is an organization that takes care of disabled children for extracurricular time so that they can still socialize. After these visits, the group met to share the last dinner together and to exchange on our common project: time to evaluate the day and exchange on the continuation of the SOLIDART project.

Closing remarks:

During these two days of mobility, participants were able to discover the solutions of inclusion and solidarity implemented in France, in a small town in a rural area and a more urban city. All the activities organized allowed to make a complete tour of the issue of inclusion and solidarity of different publics. All the participants were able to exchange on the different practices and solutions implemented in their country or town. They were also able to discover French culture and its gastronomy. These two days reminded everyone of the importance of social inclusion, which is access for all to education, health services, employment opportunities, housing, security, etc. within a society; regardless of their origin, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, intellectual capacity, gender, financial situation, among others. We have seen in practice that there are many initiatives by governments, companies and organizations around the world that seek to avoid intolerance, discrimination, and inequity. The human being remains at the heart of all our actions and those of our partners and many projects like this one should allow Europe to continue this work.

## **Event 7**

**Participation:** The event involved 74 citizens, including 60 participants from the city of Preili (**Latvia**), 2 participants from the city of Larissa (**Greece**), 2 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 2 participants from the city of Dolores (**Spain**), 2 participants from the city of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour (**France**), 2 participants from the city of Braga (**Portugal**), 2 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 2 participants from the city of Grosuplje (**Slovenia**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Preili, Latvia**, from 17/01/2023 to 20/01/2023.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was presentation of partner organisations and local initiatives, best project practice in cultural projects, city Preili presentation and city best practices, debates about "more EU, more solidarity", discovering about the new EU Strategy, exposition making about comic and fairytale contribution, seminar "how to be a good European citizen", rights and responsibilities.

On January 17, the participants of the project were welcomed in the capital of Latvia, Riga, and brought to lodgings in the Preiļu district. In the evening, the welcoming dinner in an informal atmosphere.

On the second day (18/01) of the event a project team meeting took place in Preili Municipality. It started with welcoming speech from speech of the mayor of the city, the speech of the project coordinator of Preiļi municipality Sintija Anceva, presentation of the event agenda and introduction of the host town and partner delegations. After the head of the public involvement and marketing department of the Preiļi district municipality showed a presentation about Preiļi After that project overview followed. During the overview

rationale, objectives and expected results of the project were represented by the coordinator. Project narrative, financial reporting and partners' future projects and possible collaboration were also discussed.

Later, the participants were asked to present their prepared presentations on the topic "EU-funded (cultural and/or local/international cooperation) good practice projects." Each country had prepared a presentation of at least 10 minutes, where they shared good practice examples of various European Union projects related to culture, art in local or international cooperation. Each country shared the experiences of several projects, which inspired other countries to both get involved and create their own projects to implement the new ideas. The presentations provided the participants with extensive information about various projects that are still relevant and accessible to all European citizens. A total of 8 presentations were shown. One presentation from each country. Presentations were presented by all participants. After the presentations, the participants asked each other questions to get more details on the issue they were interested in, and all the presentations were placed in a common folder where everyone in the project can access to get inspiration and knowledge to build future networks or get support in case of a crisis.

Later, the participants were introduced to the state-level technical school, the branch of which is located in Preiļi, "Rīgas Tūrisma creative industries technical school", where young people learn a profession, participate in international projects, and cooperate with other organizations. Young people shared their different experiences with each other.

Later, the participants had a tour of the city of Preiļi, the park of Preiļi, where the renovated castle is located, which was restored as part of the European project, where a 5D cinema was also installed as part of the project, where films about the artisans of Preiļi are shown. After that, the participants were given the opportunity to imagine themselves in fairy-tale characters, where cooperation between the project members was formed, various tasks were given, initiatives were shown, and cross-national cultural exchange was promoted. In the evening, international participants enjoyed the cultural diversity of Latvia. Latvian values were demonstrated - dances and songs. Several Latvian citizens were involved in this activity, who gave the members the opportunity to both look at dances and songs from the outside, and to try the steps of Latvian folk dances themselves. After that, discussions continued in an informal atmosphere between member states and young people of Latvia. Young people discussed Europe's diversity, opportunities, shared examples of good practice.

On the third day, the morning started with the seminar and debate "How to be a good European citizen", rights and responsibilities, where the members of the project, together with the young people of Preiļi region, debated how to be a good European citizen, what every citizen can do for the sake of Europe's development and help fellow human beings so that countries work together in times of crisis as well as when things are good. As part of the seminar, young people developed various project ideas that would contribute to the growth of Europe and society.

In the second part of the day, the participants worked in groups, discussed the results and impact of the project. Attended two workshops. In one workshop, he studied and mastered Latvian national traditions and local culture - baking bread. And in the second workshop, ceramic works were created, while discussing, collaborating and creating new cooperation networks.

On the morning of the fourth day, the participants were taken back to the capital of Latvia, Riga, where they went back home to prepare for the final meeting event in Bulgaria.

During the activities of 7 event next goals were achieved:

- Better understanding about European principles, EU solidarity and its application at local level;
- Photos of comic and fairy tale collected in order to contribute to the outcomes elaboration;
- Better understanding of the European citizenship;
- Common projects outcomes delivered.

## **Event 8**

**Participation:** The event involved 54 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Preili (**Latvia**), 2 participants from the city of Larissa (**Greece**), 3 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 2 participants from the city of Dolores (**Spain**), 3 participants from the city of Pontonx-sur-l'Adour (**France**), 3 participants from the city of Braga (**Portugal**), 2 participants from the city of Grosuplje (**Slovenia**), 3 participants from the city of Sofia (**Bulgaria**) and 34 participants from the city of Plovdiv (**Bulgaria**) who joined online and in separate sessions after the event.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Sofia, Bulgaria (physically)**, from 26/02/2023 to 28/02/2023.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to conclude the whole project, to reflect on solidarity, exposition of the handbook, raising awareness about policies and strategies in the European union and exchanging best practices on interpreting solidarity in a creative way and disseminating results in local community afterwards.

### **Summary of the SOLIDART Project Meeting in Sofia “Interpreting Europe by Solidarity Way”**

The SOLIDART project's meeting in Sofia marked the culmination of a two-year initiative focused on promoting solidarity and interpreting Europe through creative means. With the participation of 54 representatives from eight European countries, the meeting aimed to reflect on solidarity, exchange best practices, present local initiatives, and raise awareness about the European Union (EU) and its policies. This summary highlights the key activities and outcomes of the meeting while emphasizing its success in achieving the project's aims.

#### **1. Getting on the Same Page:**

The first session aimed to align all participants and ensure a common understanding of the project's objectives and progress. The facilitators – Kristiyan Andreev and Raycho Raychev, two experienced individuals with a background in non-formal education and youth policies, played a crucial role in guiding the discussions and creating an inclusive environment.

#### **2. Open Space for Solidarity:**

Sessions two and three provided an open platform for participants to share their experiences and insights regarding solidarity in Europe. Through interactive discussions and workshops, the meeting fostered an atmosphere of collaboration, encouraging the exchange of ideas and best practices.

#### **3. Conclusion and Exposition of the Project Handbook:**

Session four focused on the project's results, particularly the handbook prepared by the Coordinator from Slovenia. The participants engaged in constructive discussions, offering valuable feedback and suggestions for further improvements. Group games and storytelling presentations added a creative touch to the session while reflecting on the concept of solidarity.

#### **4. Handcraft and Art: Solidarity in Practice:**

In the final session, participants engaged in a hands-on activity by learning and creating the local bracelet called Martenitsa. This practical exercise allowed them to connect the topic of solidarity with real-world impact. The bracelets were donated to a girl in a wheelchair, supporting her efforts to fund her medication for her disease. This act of solidarity provided a tangible example of how collective action can make a difference in someone's life. Also an art painting was created by the famous artist Tsvetan Uzunov and donated with the groups positive messages on the back of it. Personal messages about solidarity were also shared between participants.

#### **5. Cultural Event and Informal Exchange:**

The meeting concluded with a cultural event showcasing Bulgarian folklore dances and music. This informal gathering provided an opportunity for the international visitors to immerse themselves in the local cuisine and culture, further strengthening the bonds of friendship and understanding.

#### **Achievements and Success:**

The meeting in Sofia successfully achieved its aims and demonstrated notable achievements:

a. **Raised Awareness and Understanding:** Through the various sessions and activities, participants gained a deeper awareness and understanding of solidarity, its importance, and its practical applications in tackling societal challenges.

b. **Exchanged Best Practices:** The meeting facilitated the sharing of best practices from different European countries, enabling participants to learn from one another and gather insights on how to approach solidarity creatively.

c. **Enhanced European Cooperation:** The meeting brought together representatives from diverse backgrounds and cultures, fostering collaboration and building connections for future cooperation. The strong network formed during the meeting lays the foundation for continued collaboration and joint projects in the future.

d. **Practical Application of Solidarity:** The donation of Martenitsa bracelets to the girl in a wheelchair exemplified the practical impact of solidarity, reinforcing the project's message and leaving a lasting impression on participants. It emphasized that Action is important.

**After the event in Sofia**, a short session was organized to disseminate the project's conclusion, aims, and handbook to 34 young people from the city of Plovdiv. This online session, conducted through Zoom, aimed to extend the reach of the project's outcomes and engage a wider audience in the discussion of solidarity.

1. **Dissemination of Project Findings:** The session successfully disseminated the key findings, outcomes, and achievements of the SOLIDART project to the young people in Plovdiv. It provided them with valuable insights into the importance of solidarity and its practical applications in addressing social challenges.

2. **Introduction to Project Aims:** The session effectively introduced the project's aims and objectives, highlighting the significance of promoting solidarity as a tool for addressing crises and fostering an intelligent, sustainable, and integrative economy in the European Union.

3. **Presentation of the Handbook:** The online session showcased the project handbook prepared by the Coordinator from Slovenia. It provided young people with a comprehensive resource that they could utilize to understand and promote solidarity in their own communities.

4. **Interactive Discussion:** The session facilitated an interactive discussion where participants could ask questions, share their thoughts, and exchange ideas related to solidarity and the project's themes. It encouraged active engagement and fostered a sense of ownership among the young people.

5. **Engagement of Local Youth:** By specifically targeting young people from Plovdiv, the session successfully engaged a local audience and encouraged their active involvement in promoting solidarity within their community. It helped to foster a sense of responsibility and ownership among the local youth.

6. **Online Platform Utilization:** The use of Zoom as an online platform enabled seamless communication and interaction between the project organizers and the participants. It provided a convenient and accessible way to disseminate information and engage the young people from Plovdiv.

7. **Increased Awareness:** The session raised awareness among the local youth about the importance of solidarity, its role in addressing social challenges, and the potential impact they can make in their own communities. It inspired them to take action and contribute to a more inclusive and compassionate society.

8. **Expansion of Project Impact:** By extending the project's reach beyond the physical event in Sofia, the online session in Plovdiv allowed for a broader dissemination of the project's message and outcomes. It contributed to the wider impact of the SOLIDART project.

9. **Networking and Collaboration:** The session provided an opportunity for young people from Plovdiv to connect with the project organizers and potentially establish networks and collaborations for future initiatives and projects related to solidarity.

10. **Sustainable Legacy:** The online session ensured the project's sustainability by disseminating its findings and materials to a wider audience. It left a lasting impact by inspiring young people to continue promoting solidarity in their communities even after the conclusion of the SOLIDART project.

### **Conclusion:**

The SOLIDART project meeting in Sofia served as a successful conclusion to the two-year initiative. Through engaging sessions, discussions, and practical activities, the meeting achieved its objectives of promoting solidarity, interpreting Europe through solidarity, sharing best practices, and raising awareness of EU policies and strategies.

The facilitators played a pivotal role in creating an inclusive and stimulating environment, guiding participants through the sessions and ensuring a fruitful exchange of ideas. Their expertise in non-formal education and youth policies contributed to the overall success of the meeting.

The meeting's achievements and outcomes highlight the value of solidarity as a unifying force, capable of addressing social challenges and fostering a sense of European identity and cooperation. The project's legacy includes a strong foundation for future collaboration and joint initiatives among the participating countries.

In conclusion, the SOLIDART project meeting in Sofia exemplified the power of creativity, solidarity, and collaboration in shaping a brighter future for Europe. By fostering understanding and promoting practical applications of solidarity, the project has made a lasting impact on the participants and set the stage for continued cooperation in addressing societal challenges across the EU.

During the activities of the 8th event the following goals were achieved:

1. Increased awareness and understanding of the importance of solidarity among the participants.
2. Enhanced knowledge and insights regarding best practices in promoting solidarity across different European countries.
3. Strengthened cross-cultural understanding and cooperation among the representatives from the eight participating countries.
4. Empowered participants with practical tools and creative methods to approach solidarity in their respective communities.
5. Facilitated the exchange of ideas and experiences, fostering a network of collaboration for future projects and initiatives.
6. Provided valuable feedback and suggestions for further improvement of the project handbook, enhancing its effectiveness as a resource for promoting solidarity.
7. Demonstrated the practical application of solidarity through the donation of Martenitsa bracelets to support an individual in need.
8. Raised awareness of European Union policies and strategies related to solidarity and social challenges.
9. Inspired participants to take action in their own communities, promoting solidarity as a means to address local and regional crises.
10. Strengthened the sense of European identity and belonging among the participants, fostering a shared commitment to work together for a more integrated and compassionate Europe.

### **Conclusion of the European Dimension of the SOLIDART Project:**

The SOLIDART project has been a remarkable initiative aimed at promoting solidarity as a crucial tool to combat various social challenges arising from crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, an aging population, climate change, migration pressures, and localized economic depression. This project sought to open the minds of European citizens and encourage their active participation in fostering solidarity at all

levels, ultimately contributing to an intelligent, sustainable, and integrative economy within the European Union (EU).

Throughout the project's duration, discussions and workshops were conducted, bringing together representatives from eight different European countries who gathered in Sofia, Bulgaria. A total of 54 individuals from various organizations actively participated in these interactive sessions. The project's focus on engaging European youngsters through creative methods played a vital role in enhancing their understanding of solidarity during times of crisis.

One of the significant achievements of the SOLIDART project lies in its ability to foster a sense of unity and cooperation among diverse cultures, nationalities, and backgrounds. By bringing together individuals from different countries, the project successfully promoted cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration, highlighting the importance of collective action in addressing common social challenges faced by European societies.

The discussions held during the project's activities emphasized the role of solidarity in tackling complex issues that transcend national boundaries. The project facilitated a deeper understanding of how solidarity can contribute to building resilient communities, promoting social cohesion, and mitigating the negative impacts of crises. By recognizing the interconnectedness of European nations and emphasizing shared responsibilities, the SOLIDART project demonstrated the power of collaborative efforts in finding sustainable solutions.

Furthermore, the SOLIDART project has had a profound European dimension by showcasing the EU's commitment to promoting solidarity as a fundamental value. By actively engaging with citizens from various member states, the project fostered a sense of European identity and belonging. It highlighted the EU's role as a unifying force, working towards a more inclusive and compassionate society that values the well-being of all its citizens.

In conclusion, the SOLIDART project stands as a remarkable example of how initiatives rooted in solidarity and art can transcend national boundaries and foster a shared European consciousness. By promoting a deeper understanding of solidarity in times of crisis, the project has made a significant contribution towards building a more resilient and cohesive Europe. It is through such collaborative efforts and shared values that the EU can continue to address social challenges and strive towards a brighter future for its citizens.