



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



Twinning Town citizens meeting to discuss participatory practice

During summer 2015 citizens from Rundale (LV), Pakruojis (LT), Halinga (EE) and UggiateTrevano (IT) municipalities' will meet together to discuss citizens' participatory practice in the democratic life within the project "Involving=Gaining".

The main aim of the project is to develop citizens' understanding about engaging in decision making processes and to promote opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement, thus encouraging citizens' democratic and civic participation in different levels of democracy – local level, regional, national, as well as EU level.

During discussions representatives and citizens from partnering municipalities will present diversity of citizens' participation, positive praxis examples, thus promoting understanding of participatory processes both – citizens' as well as public administration servants. While through cultural activities and creative workshops participants will have the opportunity to interact and participate in forming closer Europe as well as highlighting wealth, promoting tolerance and mutual understanding between European citizens.

Project activities

During the Project implementation special attention will be paid to discuss issues about citizens' participatory processes from European perspective and comparing from different national points of view. To increase participation and develop understanding about involving in different levels of democratic processes (locally, nationally, EU level), cross border discussion about citizens' participation in democratic processes will be organized. All project partners' representatives will present their own praxis, experience and challenges on mentioned issue as well as will discuss it from transnational level.

To promote discussions about multiculturalism and multilingualism as the strength of European community nationalcultures evening "Differences CONNECTS" will be organized. During creative workshop "Uncovering roots of nationality" folk dance collectives from all participating municipalities will create common performance for Rundale Festival what is traditionally organized in splendid Rundale Palace garden.

Also virtual photo and art exhibition "Get Involved" will be organized thus raising the awareness on the richness of the cultural and linguistic environment in Europe and developing respectful, dynamic and European identity.

Above described methods (international citizens' meetings, discussions, creative workshops) are kind of participation which can be easily understood by different groups of persons who are not used to participate any decision making.

Overall the project will involve 140 direct members and indirectly over 2000 citizens

Thus through the citizens' involvement from local to EU level within Project, citizens will develop their understanding of European issues and will probably be willing to participate more actively in democratic decision – making at all levels.

The Project "Involving=Gaining" is co funded by European Union within the Europe for Citizens Programme (Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation – Measure Town-twinning)

Project events:

1. Project Opening Event

11/06/2015

*Project Opening Speeches *Information about project – main objectives, activities, expected results, reference to programme, EU dimension *Introductory presentations about partnering municipalities
*Discussing potential directions and spheres of cooperation*Signing twinning contracts

2.Cross border discussion about citizens' participation in democratic processes

12-13/06/2015

* All Partners' representatives presenting experience, challenges and positive praxis examples about citizens' participation in societal and democratic processes (national, regional and EU dimension)
*Discussing best fit methods of increasing local inhabitants into decision making processes *Diversity of participation

3.Creative workshop "Uncovering Roots of Nationality"

12-13/06/2015

*Creating common performance for Rundale Festival Concert, symbolizing unity of Europa, richness of culture diversity and multilingualism as an opportunity.

4.Creative workshop - creating virtual photo exhibition "Get Involved"

12-13/06/2015

* Photo sessions *Photo selection *Creating project profiles in social nets (facebook.com, Twitter.com)
*Publishing photo exhibition

5.National cultures' evening "Differences CONNECT"

12/06/2015

* Each Project Partner presents national culture (presentation, performance – national songs, national dances) *Discussions about multiculturalism and multilingualism of European Community.

6.Participating Rundale Festival (Procession, Concert)

13/06/2015

* Each Project Partner performs national culture *Common performance (involved all Project partners)

7.Project closing event - summary discussion

14/06/2015

* Project results presented *Evaluation of project and activities *Evaluation of reached goals.
*Summary of gained experience. *Evidences about 'what works' for our society in different circumstances

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