

The project « StadtRäume in Europa - gemeinsames Entdecken regionaler Kultur & Geschichte als Basis für eine europäische Zukunft » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

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

The starting point for the project was the study of the respective local history in the period between the two world wars (1918-1939). This first of all ensured a deeper understanding and at the same time a generally increased interest in local history during a challenging period for the whole of Europe. The cooperation of the eight project towns **Bracknell, Jülich, Ljubljana, Leverkusen, Oulu, Racibórz, Schwedt/Oder** and **Villeneuve d'Ascq** in the form of virtual and real workshops, at which the respective research results were presented and discussed, resulted in a comparative view of the period. This was accompanied by a broadening of perspectives that could be used fruitfully in further research. The project participants gained a European perspective on the defined thematic fields of politics, society, economy and culture under the aspects of modernisation and internationalisation. The understanding of history could be expanded to the extent that the understanding of how history is constructed grew. One European history cannot be told, but many small stories can be told, which, when seen together, result in a history of Europe in diversity. The joint workshops and the intensive joint work made Europe as an idea more understandable on the one hand, but on the other hand also strengthened the identification of the project participants with Europe. The cultural programme accompanying the workshops alone ensured this, enabling intense moments of shared experience. The involvement of young people from the project towns proved to be particularly fruitful, as they contributed their specific perspective on the history of the interwar period and also ensured that the project was clearly visible in the social media. The results of the local research are to be included in a publication, which will also make the procedure of project development and cooperation visible in order to serve as a model for further projects of this kind. An accompanying film documentation of the project process not only allows outsiders easier access to the project work, but also helps self-reflection on what has been achieved. In addition, the EfC project could be linked to a parallel project funded by Erasmus+, in which partial results will be incorporated into a variable and multilingual film kit as a didactic tool for historicalpolitical education work. The linking of universities, museums, archives, history and partnership associations created a resilient network that promoted the transfer of knowledge with regard to methods of historical research and the didactic communication of the results. It also improved the project participants' use of technical tools such as Zoom and Dropbox.

5 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 73 citizens of EU member states, including 10 participants from the town of **Jülich (Germany)**, 15 participants from the town of **Leverkusen (Germany)**, 28 participants from the town of **Ljubljana (Slovenia)**, 1 participant from the town of **Oulu (Finland)**, 7 participants from the town of **Raciborz (Poland)**, 7 participants from the town of **Schwedt/Oder (Germany)**, 5 participants from the town of **Villeneuve d'Ascq (France)** and 6 participants from the town of **Bracknell (United Kingdom)** as well as external experts and virtual participants from all participating towns.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Ljubljana (Slovenia)** [University of Ljubljana, conference hotel], from 19/08/2021 to 23/08/2021

Short description: The aim of the event was to be a Kick-off workshop incl. public cultural programme on site for the development of time frame, project structure as well as platforms for communication and data management. In detail:

- Discussion organisational aspects as well as research categories and available sources available sources as a basis for future work.
- Formation of working groups for the substantive approach to the project topic from local, national and European perspectives.
- Definition of target groups, products and sustainability.
- Definition of the respective themes, the approaches and the methods of mediation formed the basis for further project work in the participating towns. The intensive cooperation strengthened the partnership between the project participants.

The public event ensured a broader publicity for the project work and promoted external impulses for further content work. In addition, the project participants had the opportunity to get to know the project town of Ljubljana, its traditions and culture.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 166 citizens of EU member states including 9 participants from the town of **Jülich (Germany)**, 120 participants from the town of **Leverkusen (Germany)**, 7 participants from the town of **Ljubljana (Slovenia)**, 4 participants from the town of **Oulu (Finland)**, 9 participants from the town of **Raciborz (Poland)**, 11 participants from the town of **Schwedt/Oder (Germany)**, 6 participants from the town of **Villeneuve d'Ascq (France)** and 8 participants from the town of **Bracknell (United Kingdom)** as well as external experts and virtual participants from all participating towns.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Leverkusen & Jülich (Germany)** [Villa Römer - Haus der Stadtgeschichte Leverkusen, Museum Zitadelle Jülich], from 09/09/2021 to 13/09/2021

Short description: The aim of the event was to be a Workshop with a focus on "young people" from the project towns accompanied by a public cultural programme. In detail:

- Discussion of the results of the first workshop and the further project work.
- Formulation of their own expectations (youth) with regard to the contents and products of the project under guidance.
- Trying out creative approaches through artistic forms of expression.

The results of this workshop have helped the individual working groups to target groups more specifically for young people.

Public events also ensured that the project was presented transparent external presentation of the project and, if necessary, for further suggestions and modifications.

In addition, those involved in the project had the opportunity to get to know the project towns of Leverkusen and Jülich, their traditions and culture.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 151 citizens of EU member states, including 15 participants from the town of **Jülich (Germany)**, 17 participants from the town of **Leverkusen (Germany)**, 4 participants from the town of **Ljubljana (Slovenia)**, 4 participants from the town of **Oulu (Finland)**, 7 participants from the town of **Raciborz (Poland)**, 96 participants from the town of **Schwedt/Oder (Germany)**, 8 participants from the town of **Villeneuve d'Ascq (France)** and 8 participants from the town of **Bracknell (United Kingdom)** as well as external experts and virtual participants from all participating towns.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Potsdam & Schwedt/Oder (Germany)** [Conference Hotel Potsdam / Municipal Museums Schwedt/Oder], from 24/03/2022 to 28/03/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to be a Public symposium with large cultural programme with the focus on:

- Bringing together of the results the twinned towns within the working groups.
- Reflection on any necessary modifications to the thematic approach and the mediation products with regard to the findings of the 2nd workshop.
- Determination of the final thematic fields and products in relation to the project conclusion in plenary.

The local working groups could now work on the individual thematic fields in a targeted manner, keeping the target groups and products.

The network between the project participants was further strengthened.

Public events again provided transparency and further impulses for the project work.

In addition, the project participants had the opportunity to get to know the project town of Schwedt/Oder, its traditions and culture.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 98 citizens of EU member states, including 6 participants from the town of **Jülich (Germany)**, 16 participants from the town of **Leverkusen (Germany)**, 4 participants from the town of **Ljubljana (Slovenia)**, 2 participants from the town of **Oulu (Finland)**, 42 participants from the town of **Raciborz (Poland)**, 14 participants from the town of **Schwedt/Oder (Germany)**, 14 participants from the town of **Villeneuve d'Ascq (France)** and 8 participants from the town of **Bracknell (United Kingdom)** as well as external experts and virtual participants from all participating towns.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Raciborz (Poland)** [Conference hotel / Museum Raciborz], from 13/10/2022 to 17/10/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was the consolidation of the results of the local working groups with regard to the defined thematic fields and products and discussion in the plenum. In detail:

- Contribution of their point of view of young people in relation to what have worked out so far.
- Critical discussion of the findings with the help of external experts.
- Defining a portfolio of products, and public relations work for the presentation of results in 2023.

Expanding the focus through an accompanying public cultural programme.

The finalisation of the narratives within the local, national and European perspective on the defined thematic fields formed the roadmap for the for the elaboration of the final products (exhibitions, events, publications and innovative formats) to sustainable results.

The final symposium was planned and the sequence of events was fixed.

In addition, the participants had the opportunity to get to know the project town of Raciborz, its traditions and culture.

Event 5

Participation: The event involved 153 citizens of EU member states, including 13 participants from the town of **Jülich (Germany)**, 25 participants from the town of **Leverkusen (Germany)**, 5 participants from the town of **Ljubljana (Slovenia)**, 3 participants from the town of **Oulu (Finland)**, 6 participants from the town of **Raciborz (Poland)**, 12 participants from the town of **Schwedt/Oder (Germany)**, 10 participants from the town of **Villeneuve d'Ascq (France)** and 9 participants from the town of **Bracknell (United Kingdom)** as well as 79 participants from other towns and regions of EU member states: **Austria (2)**, **Belgium (2)**, **Bulgaria (1)**, **Croatia (1)**, **Italy (3)** and **Romania** as well as external experts and virtual participants from all participating towns.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Brussels (Belgium)** [(House of European History / European Committee of the Regions], from 22/02/2023 to 26/02/2023

Short description: The aim of the event was the public presentation and reflection on the results of the project in a public symposium with different event formats.

There was the additional possibility for the exchange of ideas, for other citizens from the partner towns as well as those directly involved in the project.

Linking the results to current socio-political issues through the participation of political representatives from the various municipal, state and European (Committee of the Regions, European Parliament and European Commission) levels.

The final symposium was accompanied by appropriate media coverage to ensure that the dissemination of the results to the public and a sustainable positioning in society, politics and administration.

The network that was intensified during the project and the towns involved in the project and their work results were once again visible in person with those directly involved in the project.

The various results and products of the substantive work of the project were presented to the public and thus provide the starting point for further cooperation and follow-up activities.