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Project “BEYOND - Rural Communities pushing BEYOND COVID-19” ref: 101091100

Presenters:

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October 25th 2024



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Comune di Usseaux
Città metropolitana di Torino





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Project basics

- The project has been approved for a grant worth €148,015.00 under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme under the call “Networks of Towns”

- The purpose of the project is to enhance citizen engagement in civil society actions and democratic processes in rural communities.

**To show each other how we can improve our communities after the COVID-19 Pandemic.*

- *Total grant: €148,015.00*

- **Duration of the project:** 24 months (From 1.12.2022 – 30.11.2024)



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Project basics – Partnership



1. Općina Cestica (HR) – Applicant and lead partner
2. Zavod Sopotniki, zavod za medgeneracijsko solidarnost (SI)
3. Municipality of Ormož (SI)
4. Comune di Cavriago (IT)
5. Gemeinde Heiningen (DE)
6. Comune di Usseaux (IT)
7. Sásd és Térsége Terület- és Humánfejlesztési Nonprofit Kft (HU)



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Untitled Map

PROJECT BEYOND partner map

Legend

- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- Feature 3
- Feature 4
- Feature 5
- Heiningen





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Project Basics – Main Activities



The project has been broken down into 7 3-day events



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Project Basics – Events



- Kick-off event in Cestica, Croatia: March 29-31, 2023 (Theme: Organizing volunteers and civil protection actions);
- Event 2 in Ajdovscina, Slovenia (organized by Sopotniki); June 7-9, 2023 (Theme: Promoting inter-generational solidarity and responding to the needs of the elderly);
- Event 3 in Heiningen, Germany: September 27-29, 2023 (Theme: Organizing actions that enhance social inclusion & environmental protection);



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Project Basics – Events



- Event 4 in Cavriago, Italy; November 11-13, 2023 (Theme: Enhancing citizen engagement in education actions and the mental well-being of families);
- Event 5 in Usseaux, Italy; May 13-15, 2024 (Theme: Engaging citizens in actions that contribute to preserving cultural and nature assets in remote areas);
- Event 6 in Sásd, Hungary (organized by “Sásd és Térsége Terület”): September 18-20, 2024 (Theme: Addressing the mental well-being of the most vulnerable during pandemic – elderly persons and persons w/disabilities);



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Project Basics – Events



- Final event in Ormož, Slovenia and Cestica, Croatia (organized by Ormož and Cestica): October 23-25, 2024 (Theme: Adapting community events so that they promote tourism and solidarity in the community);

**80-100 participants attended each event from 5 EU countries.*



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Outcomes of Event 1 – Cestica, HR March 29th-31st, 2023



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Outcomes of Event 1 – Cestica, HR



- Participants learned how Cestica continued to assist persons in need in the community - Civil society actions
- Participants learned how people came together in times of crisis
- Participants shared experience and best practice stories relating to civil protection during the pandemic (lessons-Learnt)



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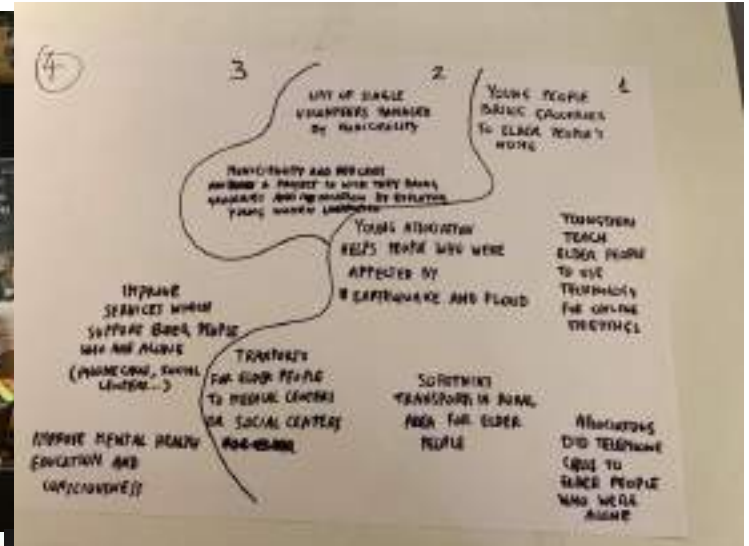
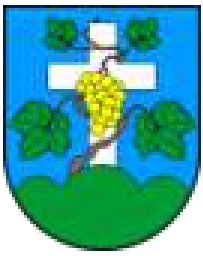
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Outcomes of Event 2 – Ajdovščina, Slovenia June 7th – 9th, 2023





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Outcomes of Event 2 – Ajdovščina, Slovenia June 7th – 9th, 2023



Participants learned:

- how to engage and connect elderly and younger generations (especially in times of crisis such as COVID-19);
 - became aware of the best methods and practices in terms of protecting local heritage and preserving the know-how of all generations,
- *The participants were also able to generate new project ideas (connected to mobility solutions for elderly persons and others in need).



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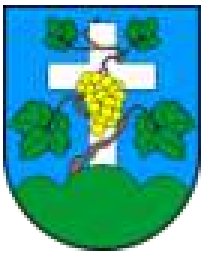
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Outcomes of Event 3 – Heiningen, Germany September 27th – 29th, 2023





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Outcomes of Event 3 – Heiningen, Germany September 27th – 29th, 2023



Participants learned:

- How citizens managed to continue to make progress towards EU environmental goals during the times of the pandemic
- how to engage and connect elderly and younger generations (especially in times of crisis such as COVID-19);
- Improved awareness of the best methods and practices in terms of protecting promoting diversity, social integration and inclusion of persons from vulnerable groups (elderly persons, third-country nationals, etc.)



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Outcomes of Event 4 – Cavriago, Italy November 11th – 13th, 2023





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Outcomes of Event 4 – Cavriago, Italy November 11th – 13th, 2023



Participants learned:

- How citizen-based actions contribute to the inclusion of youth in the community and enhance the overall mental health of citizens especially during the times of the pandemic
- About the importance of engaging families and youth in the community as a means to promote sustainable growth
- About the best methods and practices in terms of promoting mental health in the community.



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Outcomes of Event 5 – Usseaux, Italy May 13th – 15th, 2024





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Outcomes of Event 5 – Usseaux, Italy May 13th – 15th, 2024



Participants learned:

- How active governance models (such as “MANSIA”) that rely on the efforts of volunteers contribute to solidarity, mutual understanding and a sense of belonging in the community (even in times of crisis such as COVID 19);
- How the efforts of volunteers ensure that the cultural assets of rural areas are promoted and preserved;
 - How citizens can engage in actions that preserve traditions, nature and cultural assets and that also contribute to EU integration



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Outcomes of Event 6 – Sasd, Hungary September 18th – 20th, 2024





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Outcomes of Event 6 – Sasd, Hungary September 18th – 20th, 2024



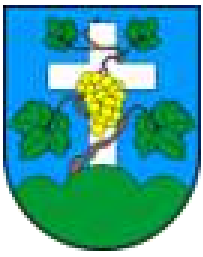
Participants learned:

- How associations and local governments can work together, promote mental well-being and social inclusion via volunteer-based actions;
- How to address mental health issues in rural communities during crisis periods (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) in various settings (education, healthcare, promoting cultural heritage, etc.)
- How European values contribute to the well-being of the community and social inclusion.



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Outcomes of Final Event/Event 7 – Ormož, SI October 23rd to October 25th, 2024





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Outcomes of Event 7 – Ormož, Slovenia October 23rd to 25th, 2024



Participants learned:

- How to adjust and use local cultural and tourism assets (e.g. public events) as a means to have citizens remain resilient in times of crisis;
- About methods and approaches that incorporate EU values such as social inclusion, gender mainstreaming, and solidarity; that can be used (relating to tourism, agriculture and cultural heritage) to reinforce a sense of belonging in the community



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End results of the project?

- Enhanced capacities in rural areas to prepare and participate in actions that contribute to rural communities overcoming COVID-19;
- Improved awareness among citizens in rural communities about how EU policies/values positively impact the quality of life;
- Enhanced cooperation between rural communities



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Outcomes of Event 7 – Ormož, Slovenia October 23rd – 25th, 2024



Big result:

Cooperation agreement concluded among partners. Two new project ideas are included in it detailing how the partnership can continue to cooperate further.



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Thank you for your attention!


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