



The project « H2O WR - Town Networking and Engaging Citizens for the Protection of Water Resources in Europe » 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"

Seven (7) events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 79 citizens, including 38 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia), 7 participants from the Razlog Municipality (Bulgaria); 5 participants from Društvo za Razvoj Podezelja LAZ (Slovenia), 8 participants from Municipality Prague 9 (Czech Republic); 11 participants from the City of Nasice, (Croatia); 6 participants from HICS - Humán Innovációs Csoport Nonprofit Kft (Hungary) and 4 participants from Tourism Organization of the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ruma, Serbia from 08/03/2017 to 10/03/2017

Short description: The aim of the event was to provide local government representatives, CSOs (Civil society organizations), public sector representatives and citizens the opportunity to exchange knowledge, experience and best practices on water protection issues and civil defense in their regions. The activities included: 1) Opening press conference (including a project presentation and presenting the partner organizations to the press, interviews); 2) Study tours to sites relating to water protection (Gomolova Archaeological Park in Hrkovci, Bara Trskovača, Borkovac Lake), 3) presentations and discussions relating to EU projects, Serbian accession to the EU relating to environmental protection, Local water issues in Ruma; 4) Workshop relating to the Civil Defense mechanism, devising measures and responses for environmental challenges, and developing projects for the Europe for Citizens programme; 5) Meeting between partner organizations for the coordination of the project. The event served as an initial step in building links and cooperation between the partners and the target groups.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 99 citizens, including 36 participants from Municipality Prague 9 (Czech Republic), 6 participants from Razlog Municipality (Bulgaria), 20 participants from Društvo za Razvoj Podezelja LAZ (Slovenia), 16 participants from the City of Nasice (Croatia), 9 participants from HICS - Humán Innovációs Csoport Nonprofit Kft (Hungary), 2 participants Tourism Organization of the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Municipality Prague 9, Czech Republic from 24/05/2017 to 26/05/2017

Short description: The aim of the event was to demonstrate to citizens how volunteering, CSO actions and implementing actions via EU values (intercultural dialogue, transnational cooperation, mutual understanding, etc.) and measures have contributed to enhancing flood prevention, environmental protection and civil defense in the Prague 9 region. The activities included: 1) Presentations of EU projects, local CSOs and partner organizations (plus Q&A and discussion of future proposals); 2) study visits to the flood gate Libeňský zámeček, revitalized Friendship park, and JACINA – JAP, a.s., the anti-flood material producer; 3) Presentations and opening of the MIKROKLIMA (targeting youth, students and other citizens), 4) Interactive demonstrations with local volunteer firefighters. Through these activities, volunteering in local actions was promoted, and participants learned how EU integration (policies and values) impacts civil defense and water protection.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 93 citizens, including 48 participants from the Razlog Municipality (Bulgaria), 12 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia), 4 participants from Društvo za Razvoj Podezelja LAZ (Slovenia), 8 participants from Municipality Prague 9 (Czech Republic), 10 participants from the City of Nasice (Croatia), 6 participants from HICS - Humán Innovációs Csoport Nonprofit Kft (Hungary), and 5 participants from Tourism Organization of the Municipality of Ruma.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Razlog, Bulgaria from 13/09/2017 to 15/09/2017

Short description: The aim of the event was to build on the results of the previous events and show how Bulgarian civil society organizations (CSOs), local authorities and public sector bodies have been able to apply EU values, policies and funding mechanisms in order to ensure civil protection, water management and improve the quality of life in communities. The activities of the event included 1) an opening conference at the Razlog Town Hall where local authorities and partners presented how they network and exchange information in relation to flood prevention and water management, promote volunteering, etc; 2) presentations of sites in the Razlog region relating to water that have been renovated, revitalized and improved via EU funds; 3) Workshop and demonstration in the main square of Razlog relating to DRR techniques and disaster response; 4) study tour of the water purifying station; 5) workshop relating to EU programmes and future proposals for the H2O WR network agreement. By seeing the experiences of Razlog as a new member state, participants from other countries learned how EU policies and integration result in improved measures for water protection.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 95 citizens, including 52 Hungarian participants from the Pecs and Szigetvar regions, that were invited by and/or from HICS - Humán Innovációs Csoport Nonprofit Kft (Hungary), 11 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia), 7 participants from Drustvo za Ravoj Podezelja LAZ (Slovenia), 8 participants from Municipality Prague 9 (Czech Republic), 12 participants from the City of Nasice (Croatia), and 5 participants from the Razlog Municipality (Bulgaria)

Location / Dates: The event took place in the Cities of Pecs and Szigetvar, Hungary from 11/04/2018 to 13/04/2018

Short description: The aim of the event was to build on the results of the previous events and demonstrate how Hungarian public bodies for water protection, civil defense bodies, and CSOs have used EU integration, policies and values to promote water protection and citizen-based actions. The activities included the organization of an EU eco-quiz, field visit in Pecs of the waste management and biogas facilities to show how EU programmes/funds and methods have enhanced environmental protection, presentation of water management and civil defence actions by CSOs and water management authorities, a workshop for the development of new EU project proposals and understanding how CSR is being promoted regionally, field visit in Szigetvar regarding the role of wetlands and waterways in shaping local identities; Field visit to the Drava River to demonstrate how EU policies enhance environmental protection. Through this event, new project ideas for the network agreement were developed and elaborated on, and participants gained knowledge on the importance of applying the principles of environmental protection and active citizenship to water protection actions.

Event 5

Participation: The event involved 84 citizens, including 41 participants from the City of Nasice (Croatia), 10 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia), 5 participants from the Razlog Municipality (Bulgaria), 13 participants from Drustvo za Ravoj Podezelja LAZ (Slovenia), 8 participants from Municipality Prague 9 (Czech Republic), 5 participants from HICS - Humán Innovációs Csoport Nonprofit Kft (Hungary), and 2 participants from the Tourism Organization of the Municipality of Ruma

Location / Dates: The event took place in Nasice, Croatia from 16/05/2018 to 18/05/2018

Short description: The aim of the event was to build on the results of the previous events, demonstrate how volunteering in local actions contributes to water protection and civil defense, and exchange best practices on how local authorities can apply EU programmes, policies and values to local actions. The activities included an opening conference where the City of Nasice presented its best practices in water protection and civil defense + Q&A with participants and discussion of EU policy impacts; LAPOVAC 2018 demonstration and workshop - The City of Nasice in coordination with local firefighters, emergency services and volunteers showing how local authorities and volunteers react to prevent flooding and disasters; and Study visits to sites (water purifying plant, fish farm and waste management facilities) maintained by the local water authority under NATURA 2000 and promoted via LEADER principles. Through the activities, the participants gained know-how on how to include various citizen groups in actions, and use EU opportunities/funds to enhance water protection, civil defense and regional development.

Event 6

Participation: The event involved 128 citizens, including 89 participants from the Municipalities of Litija and Šmartno pri Litiji, Slovenia (invited by and/or representing Drustvo za Ravoj Podezelja LAZ), 12 participants from the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia), 6 participants from the Razlog Municipality (Bulgaria), 9 participants from Municipality Prague 9 (Czech Republic), 7 participants from the City of Nasice and 5 participants from HICS - Humán Innovációs Csoport Nonprofit Kft (Hungary),

Location / Dates: The event took place in Litija, Slovenia from 14/06/2018 to 16/06/2018

Short description: The event took into account the outcomes of the previous events and had the aim of presenting Slovenian best practices in applying EU policies, best practices and approaches to water protection, civil defense and rural development. The activities at the event included best practice presentations and debate/discussions relating to the preservation of groundwater in Litija and Šmarto pri Litiji (based on the best practice project AMIGA), study visits to the central water treatment plant in Litija and the abandoned mine Sitarjevec (where there were also exercises organized to show how local authorities prevent lead from leaching into groundwater in line with EU wastewater directive), the presentation of the Litija Museum's pebble collection (used to promote water education and tourism), and partner presentations and civil defense demonstration along the Save river during the Litija Municipal day (to promote volunteering). Through the activities, participants learned how EU directives, policies and values contribute to water protection, civil defense and promote active citizenship.

Event 7

Participation: The event involved 117 citizens, including 67 participants from the Municipality of Ruma, Serbia, 6 participants from the Razlog Municipality (Bulgaria), 10 participants from Društvo za Razvoj Podeželja LAZ (Slovenia), 9 participants from Municipality Prague 9 (Czech Republic), 8 participants from HICS - Humán Innovációs Csoport Nonprofit Kft (Hungary), 15 participants from the City of Nasice (Croatia), and 2 participants from the Tourism Organization of the Municipality of Ruma (Serbia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ruma and Irig (Serbia) from 11/09/2018 to 13/09/2018

Short description: The final event was organized in order to build on previous events, test pilot concepts (photography event, eco-day) and allow participants to exchange knowledge on how water protection measures (in line with EU policies and values) benefits all citizens. The activities of the event included: 1) presentations at the Eco-Day by the Red Cross of Ruma, local non-profits and schools on how they promote volunteering, engage citizens based on European values (volunteering, intercultural dialogue, etc.) and prevented various disaster risks; 2) Student debate and presentation on the added-value of EU integration in Ruma; 2) The photo event where participants were challenged to take photos of sites (Zasavica Bio-Reserve, Borkovac, Hrkovci flood wall) that show the positive impact of water protection and civil defense measures; 3) Civil defense demonstration (as a part of Eco-day) on Lake Borkovac performed by the Red Cross to demonstrate the added value of teamwork and volunteering to civil defense; 4) field visit to Lake Pavlovac and the Winery Kovačević in Irig in order to show how local producers are taking measures to improve industrial processes (while also protecting the environment). During the final press conference on 13/09/2018, the partner representatives signed the network agreement in order to sustain cooperation; presented the project results and explained to the press and public the know-how they gained through the project and how the project benefited their citizens.