

- Titre général (pas celui du projet: effort pour trouver un titre attrayant mettant directement en lumière ce dont il est question) // - General title (not the project title: find an attractive title which directly referred to the theme): European citizens: informed and involved
- Eventuel sous titre précisant les choses // Possible subtitle stating things: New bridges of communication between EU and its citizens

L'histoire // history

(1 ou 2 paragraphes, 200-300 mots) // (1 or 2 paragraphs, 200-300 words)

The project aimed at empowering citizens with the necessary knowledge and civic competences to express their opinions on issues like the European integration process or the EU policies and their impact by involving them in a series of activities where they would learn what mechanisms the EU makes available for them to make their opinions known (forums, opinion, polls, etc.).

The project also aimed at developing the feeling of citizenship within the European Union and at enhancing tolerance and mutual understanding between European citizens, respecting and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity, while contributing to intercultural dialogue.

In order to achieve these objectives the following activities were organized throughout the one year duration of the project: 30 national seminars (6 in each of the 5 partner countries), 3 international conferences and 2 national conferences.

The groups directly involved in the project were: ordinary citizens from different social, professional and demographic backgrounds. Special attention was paid to individual and collective opinion building.

L'impact // The impact

(Evocation synthétique des principaux résultats atteints et des publics atteints) //
(Summary evocation of the main outcomes achieved and the interested public)

Implemented activities and the methods used

1. Needs analysis at the level of the target groups

In order to develop quality products adequate to the needs of the target groups, an analysis of their needs were carried out by involving different target groups of citizens in the 5 European partner countries.

In this sense, in each of the 5 countries a workshop was organized with 88 people previously recruited, aged between 16 and over 65.

In view of carrying out the needs analysis, a working methodology was developed, as well as a questionnaire for the target group.

2. Preparation of awareness raising activities

In this workpackage the partners prepared the awareness raising activities with citizens based on the needs analysis.

For this purpose the partners developed the basis of the work methodology, the themes, the necessary materials and they selected the trainers who carried out these activities.

The common themes approached within the awareness raising activities, as resulted from the needs analysis, were:

- European Organization & Institutions: their aims and activities
- European Values: European Identity and nationality
- The rights of the European Citizens across Europe
- Aspects regarding Human Rights
- Employment possibilities within the European Market
- The Rights of Employees during economical crises.

3. Implementation of the awareness raising activities (6 in each country)

The awareness raising activities were run with a group of 10-39 peoples from each partner country. In each of the 5 partner countries there were 6 workshops with the target group. In total 523 peoples from: UK (60), Romania (136), Czech Republic (81), Germany (119) and Greece (127), with ages between 16 and over 65, participated to the workshops.

By means of these 30 awareness raising activities, the project followed to make the citizens familiar with institutions and policies of the EU, but also with the means in which they can communicate with the European politicians that represent them in issues that are important to them.

They became familiar with the online interaction tools: forums, websites, platforms, blogs as well as with useful Internet addresses where they can express their points of view regarding the European policies.

4. Implementation of 2 National conferences and 3 International Conferences

4.1. National conference in Belfast, UK

The national conference “Celebrating European Citizenship and Achievement” was organised by BWC, UK on Wednesday 23rd June at the Stormont Hotel. The event was attended by over 100 people. As well as women and young people guests included local Councillors, representatives from DSD and the voluntary and community sectors.

4.2. National conference, Krnov, Czech Republic

The Czech national conference took place in Hotel Cvilin in Krnov, on 1st October 2010. There were 57 participants. The morning session was focused on different European issues presented by different experts. The conference was attended by people from the

municipality, local government, experts from different organizations and also people from the wide public. In the afternoon session, there was a discussion on different topic based on morning presentations.

4.3. The European Conference “Active European Citizenship”, 19 February 2010, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens, Greece was attended by 52 participants from Greece, 3 attendants were Germany, 5 from Republic of Czech, 6 from North Ireland and 6 from Romania, in total 20 EU participants other than the Greek citizens.

Two sessions of presentations of papers took place on the themes: *European Union: past and perspectives and European Policies*. In each session 5 papers were presented by speakers from Greece, Romania, UK, Belgium and Germany.

4.4. International conference „EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY IN THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION“, 11th June 2010, Gelsenkirchen, Germany

During the conference, most questions focused on the issues of European education and of a European identity. This last topic particularly seemed to spark the interest of the audience and it was heavily debated; if there was such a thing as a European identity and if so, whether it relied on language or other assets.

In this context, the question of a ‘European language’ and its chances were discussed.

Proposals for such a language were English, but also artificial languages like Esperanto which then should be made mandatory in school.

Another point which naturally raised questions in the relatively young audience was the amount of EU topics taught in school.

The two Round Tables were: ‘European Diversity - an advantage or a disadvantage’ and ‘The role of informal education in European society’.

4.5. International conference "Intercultural Dialogue and Involvement through Volunteering", 5th November 2010, Bucharest, Romania

The International Conference "*Intercultural Dialogue and Involvement through Volunteering*", 5th November 2010, Bucharest, Romania was attended by a numerous public, over 90 participants, among which more than 20% of them were European citizens from UK, Czech Republic, Greece, Germany and Finland.

The conference wished to offer all the interested stakeholders the possibility to express their opinions on issues like the European integration process or the EU policies and their impact, as well as the opportunity to participate to debates and present papers on the following themes:

Intercultural dialogue

European projects for disadvantaged citizens

Volunteering actions: involvement and results

European institutions and citizens

Le(s) témoignage(s) // Witness

Citation du porteur du projet et/ou d'un des partenaires. // Quote of the project leader and / or partners

Interviews with participants of the awareness events

- **How do you evaluate your participation in the workshop?**

- I was actively involved in this workshop. I found all issues interesting and I liked that all of us expressed our opinion. I was informed about the European Union, its policies and mechanisms and how to use the online tools in order to share and exchange ideas and opinions.

- **What did you like most of all?**

- I liked a lot the discussion, the debates and the presentation of the European institutions.

- **Do you intent to use the internet sites and links?**

- Yes, I feel more confident now about the knowledge that I gained by attending the workshop. I am able to “surf” and participate in forums and blogs more easily now. I will also use the booklet that was disseminated to us as it is a useful material. It is very practical to have all the information gathered.

- **Before the workshop, did you believe that your participation in EU issues was valuable?**

- No. I believed that no one would listen and agree with my point of view.

- **What do you think that changed now?**

- I understood that I have the same ideas with others citizens and it is important to share our opinions with each other. I realized how necessary it is to speak up for yourself and being always informed about your rights. I also gained the knowledge to search and find out information on several issues through Internet.

- **Would you participate to another similar event?**

- Yes, without a doubt.

- **Thank you very much.**

- Thank you, too.

Interviews with participants attending International Conferences in Germany & Romania

- **Did you like participating in this activity?**

- Yes, I liked it very much.

- **What did you like more?**

- I liked that I had the opportunity to be involve in this event and to attend an International Conference.

- ***Do you think that this is the same as attending a Conference in your country or to another one?***
- No, of course it is not the same.

- ***Why do you think that? What are the differences?***
- First of all, you have the opportunity to listen to the opinion of other European citizens on issues that are important for you and learn how they think and what they believe. It was interesting to learn what volunteering means to other European citizens, what volunteering actions they have and exchange and share my experience with them.

- ***Do you think that you share the same doubts and questions with them?***
- More or less yes.

- ***Would you like to add something else?***
- Yes. I want to highlight the fact that, through my participation in this project, I travelled to another European country and I understood better the cultural and linguistic diversity.

- ***Would you participate to another similar event?***
- Of course.

- ***Thank you very much***
- Thank you for this opportunity.

The following comments show how interesting for participants in the workshops the knowledge obtained, were:

- ... I would not expect that every citizen of the Union who is domiciled in a member state where he/she is not a national has the right to vote and be elected in municipal elections in the member state where he/she is domiciled under the same conditions as nationals of this state. I could thus become the mayor of London, for example.....
- ... I did not know that if I am on holiday as a Union national on the territory of a third country where Czech Republic does not have any representation, I have the right to diplomatic and consular protection by any member state under the same condition as nationals of this state.
- ... It is interesting that I have the right to live, work and study in other member states of European union and that this belongs among the basic rights resulting from my membership in the European Union.
- I did not know that nationals of the European Union have the right to equal access to job opportunities and to subsequent equal treatment. Or that I may apply for a job with any company on the territory of any member state and that I have the same conditions guaranteed within the competitive tendering procedure.
- ... I was surprised that Czech language is one of the official languages of the European Union.

Faits et chiffres // Facts and Figures

*Titre du projet // Project Title: **Dialog with EU - The voices of the European citizens***

*Porteur du projet // Project leader: **Romanian Society for Lifelong Learning***

*Partenaires // partners: **Ballybeen Women's Centre Ltd. UK; AKLUB Centrum vzdelavani a poradenstvi, CZ; IAT, FH Gelsenkirchen, DE; KMOP, GR***

*Durée // Duration: **1 year***

*Financement du programme Europe pour les Citoyens // Financing from Europe for Citizens program: **Community Programme "Europe for Citizens" Action 1: Measure 2.1: Citizens' projects***

Pour en savoir plus // For more information

(Liens utiles pour approfondir la connaissance du sujet traité ou pour compléter l'information sur le projet) // (Links to deepen the knowledge of the subject or to complete the project information)

<http://www.srep.ro/dialogeu/>