

PROGRAMME EUROPE FOR CITIZENS
ACTION 1 –ACTIVE CITIZENS FOR EUROPE



LITTLE BIG THINGS IN EUROPE
AND IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

*International project
for the exchange
of experiences, best practices
and networking*



**ΔΗΜΟΙ
ΚΑΛΟΤΡΙΑΣ**



Associazione dei Comuni
della Locride
Italy



Kunsill Lokali
Santa Venera
Malta



Municipio da Lousã
Portugal



Ville de Bram
France



Citta' di Siderno
Italy



Commune de Viroinval
Nismes
Belgium



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



sharing of little big things of positive experiences made at local level which represent the **values of the European Union**

sustainable development

solidarity

combating of social exclusion and discrimination

promotion of economic, social and territorial cohesion

PROGRAMME EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

Action 1 - Active Citizens for Europe

Measure 1.2 - Networks of twinned towns

LITTLE BIG THINGS IN EUROPE

AND IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Promoted by Municipality of Kastoria in partnership with municipalities of Lousã, Santa Venera, Bram, Viroinval, Siderno and Association of Municipalities of Locride area.

With the support of the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union



General Information for the project

- Project title: Little big things in Europe and in our local communities
- Project acronym: LBTinEU
- Programme : CITIZENSHIP EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission)
- Sub-programme: Action 1 - Active Citizens for Europe
- Action: Measure 1 – Town Twinning
- Sub-action: Measure 1.2. Networks of twinned towns
- Round: 2013 - Round 1
- Reference number: 541694
- Grand decision: nr 2013-1166
- Budget: 142.000,00 euros
- Website: www.lbtineu.eu

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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Description of the project

“Little big things in Europe and in our local communities («LBTINEU»)” is a thematic network project, developed among seven partners from various European municipalities of 6 different countries (Greece, Belgium, Italy, France, Malta and Portugal) in the framework of the European Commission's “Europe for Citizens” programme. The partner municipalities wish to share and valorize as reference models little big stories-local best practices in the social, economic and cultural development, promoted by visionary citizens and innovative organizations of their communities. Little big examples of social-economic development that represent the values and the objectives of the European Union such as solidarity, combating of social exclusion and discrimination, sustainable development and promotion of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The concept is to offer a unique opportunity to learn about the daily lives of citizens of other European countries, to talk and work with them establishing stable relations of friendship that promote a sense of European

identity and belonging to the European Union process.

The project incorporated a huge number of various stakeholders, methods and fields of action. In line with the initial project idea, six international events have been carried out involving elected officials and representatives, public officers, civil servants and citizens from the seven partners. The opening and closing events on the theme of the project and the promotion of European citizenship were organized by the project leader, Municipality of Kastoria while the other four events dealing with main issues of the project were implemented by the other partner municipalities. In all the events, the response gained was enthusiastic and consent-foul and as the participants pointed out, they represented a unique opportunity for mutual learning, discovery of other cultures, exchange of experiences and know-how strengthening thus a sense of adherence to the construction of a united Europe.



This publication, according to the guidelines of the Europe for Citizens Programme, explains the tasks of the project “Little big things in Europe and in our local communities” gives a report of the activities developed during the initiative and summarizes the main goals achieved during the common work among the partners.

The aim of the **Europe for Citizens Programme** is to bring Europe closer to its citizens and to enable them to participate fully in the European construction. Through this programme, citizens have the opportunity to be involved in transnational exchanges and cooperation activities, contributing to developing a sense of belonging to common European ideals and encouraging the process of European integration.

LBTinEU events in numbers



1st Event

Location: Kastoria, Greece

Dates: 04/04/2014 to 08/04/2014

Participation: The event involved 101 citizens, including 69 participants from the city of Kastoria (Greece), 9 participants from Association of the Municipalities of the Locride Area (Italy), 5 participants from the city of Siderno (Italy), 6 participants from the city of Santa Venera (Malta), 6 participants from the city of Lousa (Portugal) and 5 participants from the city of Viroinval (Belgium).

2nd Event

Location: Santa Venera, Malta

Dates: 17/01/2015 to 21/01/2015

Participation: The event involved 88 citizens, including 7 participants from the city of Kastoria (Greece), 8 participants from Association of the Municipalities of the Locride Area (Italy), 4 participants from the city of Siderno (Italy), 59 participants from the city of Santa Venera (Malta), 5 participants from the city of Lousa (Portugal) and 5 participants from the city of Bram (France).

3rd Event

Location: Lousã, Portugal

Dates: 14/03/2015 to 18/03/2015

Participation: The event involved 88 citizens, including 7 participants from the city of Kastoria (Greece), 9 participants from Association of the Municipalities of the Locride Area (Italy), 3 participants from the city of Siderno (Italy), 7 participants from the city of Santa Venera (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Bram (France) and 57 participants from the city of Lousa (Portugal).

4th Event

Location: Bram, France

Dates: 25/04/2015 to 29/04/2015

Participation: The event involved 89 citizens, including 7 participants from the city of Kastoria (Greece), 7 participants from Association of the Municipalities of the Locride Area (Italy), 4 participants from the city of Siderno (Italy), 6 participants from the city of Santa Venera (Malta), 59 participants from the city of Bram (France) and 6 participants from the city of Lousa (Portugal).

5th Event

Location: Locride district, Italy

Dates: 24/06/2015 to 28/06/2015

Participation: The event involved 111 citizens, including 8 participants from the city of Kastoria (Greece), 45 participants from Association of the Municipalities of the Locride Area (Italy), 42 participants from the city of Siderno, 7 participants from the city of Santa Venera (Malta), 4 participants from the city of Lousa (Portugal) and 5 participants from the city of Bram (France).

6th Event

Location: Kastoria, Greece

Dates: 19/07/2015 to 23/07/2015

Participation: The event involved 110 citizens, including 66 participants from the city of Kastoria (Greece), 10 participants from Association of the Municipalities of the Locride Area (Italy), 5 participants from the city of Siderno (Italy), 6 participants from the city of Santa Venera (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Lousa (Portugal) and 8 participants from the city of Bram (France).

The partners of LBTinEU network



Kastoria is a dynamic municipality in northern Greece in the region of West Macedonia which main priority represents the constant improvement of the quality of life and services provided to its citizens. As a local government unit; the municipality executes public tasks and provides services in a number of fields like education, culture, safety, social welfare etc., to its 35.830 citizens (estimated permanent population according to 2011 census). The city of Kastoria is known for its many Byzantine churches and its fur clothing industry.

website: www.kastoriacity.gr



Associazione Dei Comuni Della Locride is the nonprofit federation that represents all the municipalities (42 municipalities) of Locride area in Calabria. This area covers 1366 km² (44% of the province of Reggio Calabria) and has a population of around 150.000. The association is governed by a 42-membered board comprised of elected mayors (the president of the association and all the members of the council are mayors). Aim of the association is to represent and safeguard the collective interest of the municipalities at regional and national level.

website: www.comunilocride.it



Santa Venera is a town situated in the centre of the island of Malta and is to be found in the main road, half way from the City of Valletta to the Old City of Mdina, in the Outer Harbour Region of Malta. The origins of the name of Santa Venera are associated with the church dedicated to the patron saint's name who was one of the first martyrs of the Catholic Church. Santa Venera is not just a commercial town but also residential one with a population of around 6,800 (2011) that is constantly growing.

website: www.lc.gov.mt



Lousã is a municipality located in the central part of Portugal and is part of the old district of Coimbra, in the subregion of Pinhal Interior Norte. In 2011, its resident population, that included 17,606 residents, occupied an area of 126.51 square kilometres (48.85sq mi). The municipality's natural resources, and in particular the geophysical morphology of the mountainous region has shaped the human settlement and assisted some economic growth in the last centuries.

website: www.cm-lousa.pt



Ville de Bram is a French historic city with unique architectural heritage as it is one of the largest and best preserved circular villages in Europe. It is located 790 km from Paris between Toulouse and the middle age city of Carcassonne and rises to 134 meters. Its population is 3 401 habitants (Census 2012) and is a prefecture of the department of Aude in the region Languedoc-Roussillon.

website: www.villed Bram.fr



Siderno is an Italian municipality with 18,248 inhabitants based in the Calabria region, Italy. It is a modern city and the most densely inhabited center in the district. The city presents an urban structure characterized by large roads and squares while the historic old town with the typical features of any medieval village is situated on the hillside. Siderno, is also known as the "pearl" of the "Jasmine Riviera", as it is one of the most well-equipped tourist resorts on the Ionian coast of the province of Reggio Calabria.

website: www.comune.siderno.rc.it



Viroinval is a Walloon municipality located in Belgium in the province of Namur. The name Viroinval, Viroin (River) Valley, was chosen for the municipality that was formed by fusing eight villages, in 1977: Dourbes, Mazée, Le Mesnil, Nismes, Oignies-en-Thiérache, Olloy-sur-Viroin, Treignes, Vervies-sur-Viroin. From 1995 to 2004, Viroinval was the location of the geographical centre of the European Union and a particular monument there records that finding.

website: www.viroinval.be



Kastoria - Greece

First event from 4th to 8th April 2014

The aim of the initial preparatory event was to promote a first exchange of ideas and plan in detail project tasks and responsibilities. Participants from different institutions, associations and organisations of the 6 European countries involved in the project got the chance to meet up, be acquainted with the Europe for Citizens Programme, and above all to officially launch the LBTinEU network. In a public council meeting the delegations of the partners presented the structures of their municipalities, described their competences and sectors of responsibilities and met representatives of the Association of the municipal employees of Kastoria discussing common problems and prospects in a European context. Afterwards all together plant a tree symbolizing the commemoration of the project accompanied by the placement of a memorial plaque. A number of consultation exercises and interactive workshops helped the participants of the partners analyze and discuss the themes of the project, setting the challenging agenda for the next months and the main topics at stake. Apart from the introduction to the project, a variety of topics were discussed referring to the European policies of regional development and their impact on local level. Special emphasis was given to the presentation of concrete ongoing activities promoting social development which are subsidized by the European Union. Thus during the event field visits were made in structures and social centers supported from EU Funds for the Cohesion Policy giving the participants the chance to learn about opportunities which

stem from the European citizenship, highlighting thus the contribution of EU to local social development. Namely visits were arranged in the DayCenter of Organization for the Protection of People with Autism and Development Disorders and the Support Center for Consulting Women Victims of Violence which operate via grants of European Social Fund as well as in the Model Municipal Nursery School in Maniakous where the European project "Harmonization of family and professional life" is implemented subsidizing mothers for hosting their children in order to facilitate them finding a job. In addition participants have visited the department of Technological Education Institute of Western Macedonia in Kastoria where they attended a conference concerning "EU-funding in local higher education" co-organised in cooperation with the student association AEGEE Kastoria.

For the non formal part of the event an international night was idealised and organised in order all the delegations to become familiar with the tradition of every partner and approach each other. Moreover cultural routes in byzantine and post byzantine monuments of the city of Kastoria were conducted in an attempt the participants to learn about the local history that constitutes the basis of the city's social identity. The opening event in Kastoria was the kick-off meeting which incentivized the dialogue about the objectives that each partner municipality wanted to take forward in the upcoming activities.



Study-Visit at Kastoria's Department of Technological Education Institute of Western Macedonia



Attendance of the Conference:
EU- funding in local higher education



Santa Venera - Malta

Second event from 17th to 21st January 2015

St. Venera Local Council (Malta) hosted the participants of the twinning project 'Little Big Things in Europe & in Our Communities' between the 17th and 21st January 2015.

The Malta event had a mix of cultural tours, workshops and visits to the local industry and also official institutional visits to distinguished guests.

Participants were given tours of the Capital City of Valletta, and the former Capital Cities of Mdina and Birgu. They were also taken on a boat ride on Marsamxetto Harbour and the Grand Harbour. These historical tours were aimed at helping the participants to understand the history of Malta through the ages. We believe that our history is the basis of our cultural and social identity.

Apart from the cultural experience, a set of hands on workshop sessions were organised to deep dive into the topic of the twinning - the best practices which shape our success stories. The workshops were aimed at providing participants with the opportunity to get to know each other and exchange ideas, experiences and best practices with each other on various aspects related to the daily life of our citizens, including EU projects, social and community life and the economy.

One of the workshops was in fact a visit to a local industry - Maypole Bakery. The bakery is a local best practice of how a family-run traditional industry can grow into a fully-fledged business with the help of investment through EU funds.

The workshops sought to pave the way for future cooperation and new initiatives between the different communities taking part in this project.

The highlight of the event for many participants was the visit to the President of Malta, Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, who hosted us at her official residence, San Anton Palace. There, the participants could engage in a brief discussion about matters pertaining our realities in Europe and also discuss ways of how European cooperation should improve the life of its citizens and also create a better future not only in Europe but in the Mediterranean region where we live.

The International Night was an opportunity to learn about the different communities' general culture, including gastronomy, music and dance. This was a great moment of sharing and the group became even more compact as a team than ever before.

To commemorate this event, and to remember this beautiful experience for both the participants and our local citizens, an indigenous tree was planted at one of our public gardens in Santa Venera. The event is commemorated with a plaque next to the tree – to remember the project, the skills and experiences learned throughout this project and to remind ourselves that cooperation is the only way forward in this ever changing reality.



"Welcoming of the delegations by the President of the Republic of Malta, her Excellency M' Louise Coleiro Preca"



A unique Experience.

Dear Friends,

It has been of great satisfaction for me, that the Santa Venera Local Council participated in this twinning project, that was different from other twining projects since it included 5 partner countries which although all being European countries, all have their own different cultural and traditional background.

The participating countries included Greece (the leading partner of this twinning), Italy, France, Portugal and our country – Malta.

Kastoria, Locri, Slderno, Mammola, Ville de Bram, Lousa and Santa Venera where the participating cities. Each of these localities expressed their vision for the future and their wish to multiply prosperity within its citizens.

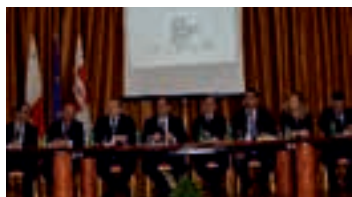
There where a number of interesting ideas which came out of the sessions during these events – an example above all is the continuous need of inclusion of different-abled people in employment, because they can clearly and tangibly be of great contribution towards a more just society.

Another aspect, which interested me, more was the fact that from an early age, children are being educated to be better civic citizens by learning the street code and how to behave on the road as pedestrians.

From our end, we can host residents from the partner counties to learn English in our country and also send residents from our locality to learn the languages of our partner countries. This idea can not only enhance the friendship between countries but also instill more trust and can also impact the economic prosperity.

Finally, I believe that this project served as a bridge and a tool for better communication between our citizens that can lead to more benefits, and this would have never been possible if it was not supported from European funds.

Stephen Sultana
Mayor
Santa Venera





Lousã - Portugal

Third event from 14th to 18th March 2015

Between the 14th and the 18th march of 2015, in the domain of Measure 1.2. – Networks of twinned towns project “Little big things in Europe and in our local communities” (LBTINEU), which is part of the Program Europe for Citizens, a gathering took place at Lousã.

The delegations of five countries had the opportunity to be in contact with the richness and diversity of the Council, local people, cultural and social assets, among others.

When idealizing the program the Council had in account the importance of having common issues to every territory /delegation, namely education, social supports, financial and business development, new technologies and also territory promotion and its enhancement.

In order to achieve better results in the meetings and to enhance the final experience of every delegation, several thematic moments were created and held, enabling a different but productive brainstorming on each topic in discussion.

With that in mind, various visits took place to

relevant and diverse Institutions, which are a true calling / visiting card not only to the Council itself, but also to the entire region due to the impact and implantation that they have in the social tissue.

The results of these encounters was, in the opinion of the Lousã's delegation and locals, very positive and it allowed, through several moments of sharing, a personal and institutional enrichment and growth.

Not only it allowed the emulation of distinct projects from different countries, but also, via the input and reactions of all the participants, the further development of those projects.

We consider that these networks are extremely important towards the council development and the consolidation of the European Project.

It is only by these actions that we can imprint a feeling and spirit of belonging in our citizens and Institutions, hence promoting bonds and thus sustainable development.

The themes approached in this International Meeting are, for us, strategic and transversal to every municipality involved in this project.



“Presentation of New Technology Educational Tools – Oratio Classroom at the “Escola Básica da Lousã”



"Field-visit in "Schist Villages", project for the touristic renovation of a rural territory"

Between the 14th and the 18th of March 2015, inserted in the program "Europe for the Citizens", we welcome at Lousã a meeting of this important network of collaboration.

This meeting, like others that took place in other countries, was extremely interesting and relevant, namely because it allowed the share of good practices and of know-how, but also because it allowed us to promote our territory and our touristic, commercial and business agents.

Like in all the 5 countries where the works took place, at Lousã we aimed to show the projects that we considered relevant to be emulated in other territories, while also gathering input and reactions to those projects from the other participants, with the goal of improving them even more.

It is our understanding that this kind of meetings, of sharing and relationships should be an incentive to the enrichment and further building of European bonds and we will always be available to be part of projects with that purpose.

With friendship,
Luís Miguel Correia Antunes
The Mayor of
Municipality of Lousã



Ville de Bram - France

Fourth event from 25th to 29th April 2015

L'événement de Bram était le troisième du projet LBTinEU. Nous avons souhaités mettre en avant notre savoir faire qui fait de Bram la ville à vivre. Le séjour a débuté avec la mise en avant du patrimoine local, visite du musée archéologique "Eburomagus", le potier de qui fabrique le plat traditionnel à cassole pour préparer "le cassoulet", la découverte de l'espace culturel "Les essarts" avec la présentation d'une exposition. Un événement centré sur Bram avec plusieurs thèmes. L'éducation avec la visite des écoles et la rencontre des enseignants pour tisser de futurs liens entre nos écoles, La jeunesse avec la visite du centre de loisir de la communauté de communes "RDV" pour favoriser de futur séjour, et la présentation de Lolipop, application interactive développée par une habitante de Bram. La citoyenneté et le

conseil municipal des jeunes pour créer de futurs échanges. Le lien entre les générations avec le jardin de Jules où pousse des légumes mais créons surtout du lien entre les jeunes et les vieux. L'économie locale avec la visite de deux entreprises qui exportent sur toute l'Europe, une pisciculture et une huilerie bio. L'événement a connu aussi des moments conviviaux avec la cuisine locale comme le civet cuisiné par le jardin de Jules, ou encore le cassoulet plat typique. L'objectif de cet événement était la poursuite du lien entre nos collectivités et que chacun des participants puissent s'inspirer de nos pratiques pour les développer ensuite chez eux. Au-delà de ce projet nous espérons créer ensemble de futurs projets autour de l'éducation, la jeunesse et nos différentes cultures.



"Field-visits at Pisciculture (fish farm) "les Etangs d'Occitanie" and the oil-company "Bio Planète"



Meeting with the President of General Council of Aude Mr. Andre Viola



Le conseil municipal et les bramais ont été heureux que Bram participe à ce beau projet d'échange. Je tiens vraiment à remercier Eric Misse, Hélène Boyer, Véronique Garrigues, Marjorie Andreu et Adeline Bosc pour leur investissement personnel dans le suivi du projet et l'organisation de l'évènement à Bram. Tout le monde dans Bram a été impliqué et très fier partager notre savoir-faire à travers l'Europe, écoles, centre de loisirs, associations ont été associés et sont ouverts désormais sur l'Europe. Dans Bram notre slogan est "Bram, la ville à vivre". Je peux traduire "Bram, l'endroit pour vivre": un endroit où les gens doivent se sentir bien et vivre tous ensemble dans un environnement privilégié.

Notre ville a intégré le projet plus tard et aujourd'hui, je veux vous dire à tous combien nous sommes intéressés dans les objectifs développés dans ce projet "petites grandes choses en Europe et dans nos communautés"; Bâtiment complètement une nouvelle Europe; sachant les uns les autres; mieux se comprendre mutuellement; apprendre des expériences des autres; mieux vivre tous ensemble.

Nous souhaitons bien évidemment que l'ensemble des axes développés au fils de ces mois passés ensemble soient les prémices d'un long et fructueux partenariat entre nos communes. Telle est l'Europe dont nous rêvons! Un humaniste, Europe tolérante et ouverte d'esprit.

Claudie Méjean
Maire de Bram



Locride / Siderno - Italy

Fifth event from 24th to 28th June 2015

“Costruire l’Europa dal basso” è stato il leitmotiv dell’evento internazionale tenutosi nella Locride in Calabria dal 24 al 28 giugno 2015. L’evento ha visto una notevole partecipazione di enti, cittadini ed associazioni del territorio che hanno preso parte alle attività seminariali, agli incontri pubblici, ai workshops realizzati nel corso delle intense giornate di scambio.

Nel corso dell’incontro di benvenuto che si è tenuto nella sala consiliare del palazzo di città a Siderno, il sindaco sen. Pietro Fuda, ha messo l’accento sull’importanza della cooperazione internazionale dal basso per promuovere una Europa più vicina ai cittadini anche si è realizzato un workshop pubblico sulla promozione di nuove forme di turismo sociale. Mentre a Mammola, a cura dell’amministrazione guidata dal Sindaco Antonio Longo, le delegazioni europee hanno preso parte ad una attività seminariale di valorizzazione delle eccellenze locali, in linea con gli obiettivi del progetto “Little big things in Europe and in our local communities”, che si è posto l’obiettivo di mettere in rete e promuovere le esperienze di successo presenti nelle varie realtà.

Temi rilanciati nel corso dei vari momenti seminariali sia dal Presidente del Comitato dei Sindaci, avv. Giuseppe Strangio, sindaco del Comune di Sant’Agata del Bianco, che dal Presidente dell’Assemblea dei Comuni della Locride, Prof. Giorgio Imperitura, sindaco del Comune di Martone. Nell’antico borgo della città di Gerace, guidata dal sindaco Pino Varacalli, membro del Comitato Europeo delle Regioni, i

partecipanti all’evento si sono confrontati sui temi del marketing territoriale, visitando altresì alcune aziende agricole di successo del territorio.

Nella sala consiliare del palazzo di città di Locri, è stato sottoscritto un formale patto di cooperazione e amicizia che, come sottolineato dal sindaco di Locri, dott. Giovanni Calabrese, rappresenta la volontà del territorio della Locride di contribuire dal basso al percorso di costruzione dell’Europa.

Tra le attività di successo dell’evento sono altresì da sottolineare la manifestazione pubblica di chiusura dell’incontro e di valorizzazione dei valori europei, organizzata dalle associazioni di Siderno nel vecchio borgo di Siderno Superiore alla presenza di centinaia di cittadini, e la serata interculturale realizzata a Locri a cura del Presidente del Consiglio comunale Avv. Domenico Maio.

A facilitare le attività di rete, e curare l’assistenza tecnica dell’incontro, l’associazione Civitas Solis, www.civitassolis.org, ente con oltre 25 anni di esperienza nella gestione di attività internazionali. L’evento, si è avvalso altresì del lavoro di un team internazionale di esperti coordinati da Francesco Mollace, www.francescomollace.it, che hanno supportato nelle interazioni i partecipanti durante i workshops con l’ausilio di innovative metodologie di lavoro in team.



Sign of friendship pact among partners municipalities



Come Associazione dei Comuni della Locride abbiamo sin da subito sposato le finalità del progetto "Piccoli grandi cose in Europa e nelle nostre comunità locali" che ha inteso mettere in rete e valorizzare rilevanti iniziative promosse da una serie di comuni europei. Aprire la Locride a forme di cooperazione e scambio internazionale in materia sociale e imprenditoriale è una delle azioni che riteniamo fondamentali per il progresso del nostro territorio. Personalmente sono rimasto molto soddisfatto della partecipazione che abbiamo registrato tra i comuni e l'associazionismo dei cittadini del circondario, così come della intensa collaborazione con le città partner europee. Ritengo che le esperienze seminariali che abbiamo realizzato siano state importanti per noi amministratori per aprirci ad una comune visione europea.

Ringrazio l'ente capofila, la città di Kastoria per il lavoro svolto, così come le amministrazioni dei comuni europei partner. Un particolare ringraziamento all'associazione Civitas Solis che ci ha supportati, nei due anni di progetto, svolgendo una intensa attività di assistenza tecnica, così come a tutte le realtà associative della Locride che hanno collaborato alla realizzazione degli eventi. Eventi che sono stati anche momenti di fraternità e reale spirito europeo per tutti i partecipanti. La nostra valutazione del progetto sostenuto dalla Commissione Europa nell'ambito del programma L'Europa per i cittadini è molto positiva, ed è nostra intenzione proseguire nella cooperazione avviata tra le comunità coinvolte.

Giorgio Imperitura,
Mayor of Martone,
is the President of the General Assembly
of the Association of Municipalities
of Locride Area



The project Little big things in Europe and our communities was a valuable opportunity to start a cooperation between the European partners involved in the initiative, which was based on the exchange and networking of good administrative practices. A fruitful occasion for sharing experiences and reaffirming the principle of a Europe close to its citizens, the association of the municipalities of Locride area, in association with the city of Siderno, had the privilege to host the delegates from Kastoria, Lousã, Bram and Santa Venera.

Throughout the event, we all took part in a series of initiatives, seminars and workshops on various topics, including the promotion of local resources and territorial marketing, topics which raised the interest of all the participants. I would like to thank all the administrators and the associations of the Locride area for their technical assistance and hospitality throughout the events. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by the public involved.

I would also like to underline the success of the project in fostering active participation of citizens, favouring the exchange of experiences on a variety of subjects of common interests, and raising awareness on the advantages of finding concrete solutions at a European level.

The enthusiasm which I have seen in person in the participation of the local communities at the events helps me to look with renewed hope at the aim of building a Europe for citizens; an aim in which we all believe.

Giuseppe Strangio,
Mayor of Sant'Agata del Bianco and lawyer,
is the President of the Association
of Municipalities of Locride Area



Kastoria - Greece

Sixth event from 19th to 23th July 2015

The aim of the final event was to evaluate the project implementation, celebrate the success achieved and plan further steps for the future collaboration in terms of the topics addressed by the project. The methodology of the meeting was a combination of non-formal education, parallel thematic workshops, theoretical input from guest experts not forgetting space for the participants to share and discuss the results of the project and the strategy for the future. Focusing in topics that attracted the partners' interest during the previous events the scheduled workshops were directed to exploring the possibilities for future cooperation in the context of concrete funding European programmes like HORIZON, etc. More specifically four workshops were organized concerning the next themes: 1) Education: Dissemination of best practices with emphasis on special education and intergenerational cooperation, 2) New Alternative Forms of Tourism: social tourism, people with disabilities, 3) Support of new entrepreneurship types-Promotion of local traditional products and 4) Environment, and Life Grants: Nature & Biodiversity, Environment and Resource Efficiency. In fact the fourth workshop about environment was led by the invited national expertise for Life Grants of the Greek Ministry of Reconstruction, Production, Environment and Energy who informed the participants for the specific EU's financial instrument that cofinances environmental projects with European added value.

A great public Official Ceremony took place on 21st of July, in order to disseminate and make public the progress achieved and the Europe for Citizens programme. The event widely picked up by local media showed broad involvement of the local population as many local stakeholders were invited as well as prominent Greek Members of the European Parliament. After the welcome speech of the Mayor of Kastoria, a keynote address was delivered by the responsible for Europe for Citizens Contact Point in Greece from the Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic who stressed the importance of this kind of initiatives and followed the contributions on behalf of the heads of delegations who expressed their commitment to continue the LBTinEU network. The project activities included also study-visits in the Wildlife Protection Center of Kastoria, in a local enterprise that produces wine and the specialist part was completed with folk performances, guided tours of monuments and sports activities including a special bicycling tour in the lakeside road. In the last day a special evaluation session was organized in which the participants made a recapitalization drawing the lessons of the events past, summarized the meetings and commented the jointly implemented project pointing out what worked and what needed improvement for the future. During the moments of farewell they assured each other of further cooperation and friendly support.



“Keynote address by Mr Antonios Karvounis, responsible for Europe for Citizens Contact Point in Greece- Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic”

Το LBTinEU αποτελεί ένα θεματικό πρόγραμμα δικτύωσης που αναπτύχθηκε με πρωτοβουλία του Δήμου Καστοριάς μεταξύ επτά ευρωπαϊκών δήμων - φορέων για την ενίσχυση της κοινωνικής - οικονομικής ανάπτυξης με την ανταλλαγή και την αξιοποίηση καλών πρακτικών που έχουν προκύψει σε τοπικό επίπεδο και τη δημιουργία νέων εργαλείων συμμετοχής των πολιτών τους στα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα.

Μέσω των αμφιδρόμων επισκέψεων, που πραγματοποιήθηκαν στα πλαίσια του προγράμματος, οι δήμοι εταίροι είχαν την ευκαιρία να ανταλλάξουν απόψεις, εμπειρίες, καθημερινές πρακτικές και να προωθήσουν θέματα που έχουν άμεση σχέση με την εκπαίδευση, την αλληλεγγύη, την κοινωνική συνοχή και την βιώσιμη ανάπτυξη. Επιπλέον, κατάφεραν να δημιουργήσουν σχέσεις συνεργασίας και φιλίας οι οποίες στηρίζουν το ευρωπαϊκό οικοδόμημα καθώς αποτελούν την απτή απόδειξη της ευρωπαϊκής ολοκλήρωσης.

Με την ελπίδα αλλά και την πίστη, ότι ανάλογες δράσεις θα πραγματοποιηθούν και στο μέλλον, από πλευράς μου διαβεβαιώνω πως θα έχουν την αμέριστη συμπαράσταση και στήριξη του Δήμου Καστοριάς. Τέλος, θεωρώ υποχρέωση μου να ευχαριστήσω όσους συνέβαλλαν στην επιτυχή ολοκλήρωση του εν λόγω προγράμματος.

Με εκτίμηση,
Ο Δήμαρχος Καστοριάς
Ανέστης Αγγελής

Visibility of LBTinEU

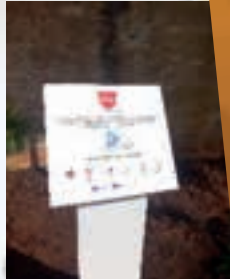
“Little big things in Europe and in our local communities” had got great media coverage during the six events: here a collection of some articles appeared on local newspapers about the goals and the content of the project.





In order to promote and disseminate the initiatives, the spirit and the objectives of the project, a series of information campaigns have been implemented aiming to involve as many people as possible in the values and facilities set in motion by project.

The first step was the creation of a distinctive graphic calling to mind the building of a European network. Subsequently, a website www.lbtineu.eu constantly updated on the project and its activities, along with a press review on the scheduled events have been produced. Each international meeting has also been promoted through posters and banners to increase the visibility of the project, while plaques have been offered to institutional representatives at the end of each event. After the conclusion of the project, a short film and a summary of the initiatives carried out have been released.





Impact of the project

LBTinEU aimed to achieve profound qualitative impact for the citizens of the municipalities involved within the project raising their awareness on the values, rights and opportunities created by the EU. All those involved gained proper understanding of what EU brings in their daily lives, fostered reflection on the cost of non-Europe and strengthened their desire to take part in the European venture. More specifically the realization of the project had a significant impact on the overall local context in the sense that it has enhanced and shared the local excellences accomplished in the partner municipalities. This was achieved by fostering a local approach to transnational relations which ensured the involvement of the main key actors in local development: the policy makers and the local government, social organizations, schools, NGO's and the local private sector had a lasting impact and a long-term cooperation among the municipalities. In this regard, the project included the partnership with all major socioeconomic and cultural actors present in the municipalities. LBTinEU succeeded in introducing a European dimension into the day-to-day activities of its members through the creation of a thematic network aimed to discover and valorize all of the little big things promoted in the partner communities linked to the European values.

During the project, hundreds of citizens and leaders of the local partner communities, have participated in an intense transnational exchange of experiences aiming at common development. Moreover by linking twinning activities to particular topics, the network not only facilitated exchanges, it also managed to improve understanding on numerous issues and thus stimulated mutual learning, transfer of good practices and creative joint develop-

ment in selected areas. As a result the project not only developed the skills and abilities of citizens living in the partner communities but also ensured long-lasting cooperation between the involved municipalities in new future projects regarding social and economic sectors.

Namely the six events of the project by bringing together facilitators from different backgrounds reached out to a wide target group spectrum demonstrating with concrete examples what benefits EU citizenship offers—as private individuals, consumers, residents, workers or political actors. Directly hundreds of citizens, including representatives of the key players in local development have participated in the workshops during the meetings identifying similar challenges in the six countries and discussing possible ways of tackling them. Local entrepreneurs, students and common people became acquainted with EU programmes and the being of European integration, understanding the essence for their participation in the European Parliament elections. It is estimated that around 600 citizens have been involved in public activities during the events. Indirectly a much larger target group was acquainted with the project as family members and friends of the participants who had experience the events. Municipalities have extended further their synergies with a series of associations around Europe not only on national but on local and regional level, achieving a grass root approach. Ultimately, LBTINEU served as a step in reaching people in different countries encouraging them to be more interested in the current European affairs and be more conscious European Citizens.

Person responsible of the management of the project: Gkerats Reveka
e-mail: rebgerats@yahoo.com

International Project Support Team:
Francesco Mollace, João Santos,
Annalisa Schembri, Eric Misse

Technical Support:
Associazione Civitas Solis
www.civitasolis.org

Municipality of Kastoria thanks the European Commission for its financial support.

The Commission is not responsible for any use that maybe made of the information contained therein.

More information about the project is available on the website:
www.lbtineu.eu





LITTLE BIG THINGS IN EUROPE
AND IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES