Europe
for Citizens

The project « Civic Council on European Democracy » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.1 *"Town-Twinning"*

Participation: The project involved … citizens, notably … participants from the city of ... (**country**), ... participants from the city of .... (**country**) etc.

Location/ Dates: The event took place in ... (**city, country**), from dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy

Short description:

The day of dd/mm/yyyy was dedicated to ...

The day of dd/mm/yyyy was dedicated to ... etc.

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 *"Networks of Towns"*
Measure 2.3 "C*ivil Society Projects*"
Strand 1 – "*European Rememberance*"

Preparatory activities (if applicable): the activities involved 5 participants.
Location / Dates: Amsterdam / January 2020 – September 2020

Short description: these activities consisted of: researching the contents of the Civic Council Sessions, their dissemination plan, making the proposed changes to the activity plan when the coronavirus pandemic occurred.

Events:

3 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1
Participation: The event involved 33 citizens
Location / Dates: The event took place in (**Amsterdam, the Netherlands**), from 17/09/2020 to 18/09/2020

Short description: The aim of the event was to kick-off the Civic Council Sessions with our international panel of speakers during the Forum on European Culture, so as to raise the first questions for the purpose of the project, identifying what common myths about Europe and the European Union impede our understanding of its actual functioning.

Event 2
Participation: The event involved 37 citizens, including 11 participants from the city of Palermo (**Italy**).
Location / Dates: The event took place online and was produced in **Amsterdam**, with a strong focus on (**Palermo, Italy**), from 12/03/2021 to 13/03/2021

Short description: The aim of the event was twofold: on the first day, we explored the ways in which democratic systems can be improved, both from the bottom-up – as suggested by keynote speaker Alberto Alemanno - as well as through institutional means – as elucidated by the comments of Bastiaan Rijpkema. This was organized against

the backdrop of the global pandemic, from the belief that citizens need to be able to hold their representatives responsible at a time when their leaders' choices and motivations remain.

On the second day of this Civic Council Session, we addressed the question of how to include those voices that are usually on the fringes of public discourse and deliberation, via an artistic intervention by Lina Issa, Palermo-based artist and social activist. In an exercise of 'radical empathy', participants were asked to summon up those voices that they felt were not present in the conversation at hand.

Event 3
Participation: The event involved 104 citizens, including 13 participants from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**) etc.
Location / Dates: The event took place online and was produced in **Amsterdam**, with a strong focus on (**Warsaw, Poland**), on 23/06/2021

Short description: The aim of this Civic Council's session is to run a discussion on how culture and the media can protect and improve democracies both in Poland and at the European level. We discussed these questions with esteemed industry experts from Poland and wider Europe.

We gathered insights on how freedom of expression and the rule of law can be protected by (independent) cultural and media sectors, taking the situation in Poland as our departure point.