

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 "Civil Society Projects"

Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

Preparatory activities (if applicable): the activities involved 5 participants.

Location / Dates: Amsterdam / March 2020 – September 2020

Short description: these activities consisted of researching the contents of the Civic Council Sessions, drafting a list of participants, the dissemination plan, drafting the proposed changes to the activity plan when the coronavirus pandemic occurred. Four staff members from the Forum on European Culture were involved - a project lead, project assistant, communications officer, an intern, as well as our colleague from European Alternatives, until the Palermo session had to be postponed (decision taken March 16, 2020).

Events:

3 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 32 citizens, including 17 from the city of Groningen (Holland), 4 from the city of Amsterdam (Holland), 1 from the city of Maastricht (Holland), 2 from the city of Berlin (Germany), 1 from the city of Frankfurt (Germany), 1 from the city of Vienna, (Austria), 1 from the city of Ghent (Belgium), 1 from the city of Paris (France), 1 from the city of Kaunas (Lithuania), 1 from the city of Roma (Italy), 1 from the city of Firenze (Italy) and 1 from the city of Perugia (Italy).

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. Anne-Marijn Epker (moderator) and Simon de Leeuw (secretary) prepared the contents of the session

were briefed to present one myth about Europe that they thought needed to be debunked.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 37 citizens, including 9 from the city of Palermo, 5 from the city of Rome, 1 from the city of Bologna, 1 from the city of Catania, 1 from the city of Firenze (all in Italy), 7 from the city of Amsterdam (Holland), 1 from the city of Groningen (Holland), 1 from the city of Maastricht (Holland), 2 from the city of Berlin (Germany), 1 from the city of Vienna, (Austria), 3 from the city of Brussels (Belgium), 1 from the city of Ghent (Belgium), 1 from the city of Strasbourg (France), 2 from the city of Paris (France), 1 from the city of Kaunas (Lithuania).

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: This was the first event organized together with Marta Cillero Manzano of European Alternatives, who assisted with the open call for citizens from Palermo to participate.

The aim of the conversation 'in' Palermo focused on democratic inclusion in two distinct ways: 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 unclear.

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 108 citizens, including 64 participants from the city of Amsterdam (**Holland**), 11 from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**), 4 from the city of Utrecht (**Holland**), 3 from the city of Leeuwarden (**Holland**), 3 from the city of The Hague (**Holland**), 2 from the city of Wroclaw (**Poland**), 2 from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), 1 from each of the cities of Almere (**Holland**), Bilbao (**Spain**), Brussels (**Belgium**), Essen (**Germany**), Freiburg (**Germany**), Ghent (**Belgium**), Groningen (**Holland**), Haarlem (**Holland**), Kaunas (**Lithuania**), Leiden (**Holland**), Madrid (**Spain**), Naarden (**Holland**), Nijmegen (**Holland**), Oosterwolde (**Holland**), Palermo (**Italy**), Paris (**France**), Soest (**Holland**), Uffelte (**Holland**) and Wittem (**Holland**).

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 was to have 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 media experts, scholars, artists and academics, gathering insights on how freedom of expression and the rule of law can be protected by (independent) cultural and media sectors.

From the last event onwards, we focused on drafting the open letter summarizing the Council's main findings. Asking a few members of the steering committee of speakers to edit the draft letter, we then collected participants' signatures before publication.