



**The project « European Counter and Alternatives Narratives Network »  
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Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

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

## **5 international events have been carried out within this project:**

### **Event 1**

**Participation:** The event involved 126 citizens, including 88 participants from the city of Paredes (Portugal), 4 participants from the city of Bankya (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Bucharest (Romania), 3 participants from the city of Athens (Greece), 3 participants from the city of Demir Kapija (Republic of North Macedonia), 3 participants from the city of Lezha (Albania), 3 participants from the city of Campobasso (Italy), 2 participants from the city of Bruxelles (Belgium), 4 participants from the city of Miklusenai Alytus Region (Lithuania), 9 participants from the city of Guadassuar (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Viareggio (Italy).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Paredes, (Portugal), from 09/04/2018 to 12/04/2018

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to gather information and data on the backgrounds of the communities involved in the project. During the meeting, the deadlines for the project phases were set and a structured monitoring, evaluation and dissemination plan was adopted to ensure the exploitation and dissemination of the results. The communities involved in the project were identified, and the work schedule was approved. Representatives of local authorities, citizens and civil society organizations were actively involved in developing a constructive dialogue on the issues. Debates were created on the role of the youth sector in preventing violent extremism and the international conference served as the basis for future initiatives and actions among the partners of the EUCAN network. The meetings allowed local authorities to be encouraged to provide long-term investments in quality education, both formal and non-formal, to inspire more young people to participate in youth sector activities to combat radicalization. Thanks to the World Café the issue of refugee integration has been addressed with the aim of helping refugees and migrants to better understand European cultures, circulate everyone's experiences and learn about each other. The study visits of the Portuguese Center allowed the participants to closely observe the cooperation between volunteering and local institutions. The participants interviewed the Center manager and social workers, migrants living in the center and were able to evaluate the reception and protection measures, increasing their awareness of integration policies, human rights, asylum and political rights

### **Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 126 citizens, including 88 participants from the city of Guadassuar (Spain), participants from the city of 4 Bankya (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Bucharest (Romania), 3 participants from the city of Athens (Greece), 8 participants from the city of Paredes (Portugal), 3 participants from the city of Demir Kapija (Republic of North Macedonia), 3 participants from the city of Lezha (Albania), 4 participants from the city of Campobasso (Italy), 2 participants from the city of Bruxelles (Belgium), 4 participants from the city of Miklusenai Alytus Region (Lithuania), 3 participants from the city of Viareggio (Italy).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Guadassuar and Valencia (Spain), from 18/06/2018 to 21/06/2018

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to compare the results of the research conducted by the partners and the contents of the informative workshop and public debates were implemented subsequently at the local level. This meeting allowed to plan an action aimed at implementing the subsequent workshops "From knowledge to empathy, from empathy to integration". During this meeting a constructive dialogue was developed together with representatives of local authorities, civil society organizations, groups directly concerned by the topic, the general public on the issue of unaccompanied foreign minors and the experiences of the reception center in mediation and intercultural communication. CSO representatives directly involved in communication have highlighted their role, experience and ideas to build synergies. This conference was the basis for future initiatives between the CSO involved in the EUCAN network on the issues addressed, and served to encourage local authorities to invest in strengthening local services, designed for the benefit of the entire community, both autochthonous and migrant. The aim of the event was also to involve the participants in World Refugee Day with the aim of increasing the awareness of the participants about the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons around the world who have been forced to flee their homes due to wars, conflicts and persecutions. This event helped to raise awareness of the honors, courage, strength and determination of women, men and children forced to flee their homeland under the threat of persecution, conflict and violence.

### **Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 126 citizens, including 88 participants from the city of Bucharest (Romania), 3 participants from the city of Bankya (Bulgaria), 6 participants from the city of Paredes (Portugal), 3 participants from the city of Athens (Greece), 7 participants from the city of Guadassuar (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Demir Kapija (Republic of North Macedonia), 3 participants from the city of Lezha (Albania), 3 participants from the city of Campobasso (Italy), 3 participants from the city of Bruxelles (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of Miklusenai Alytus Region (Lithuania), 4 participants from the city of Viareggio (Italy).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Bucharest (Romania), from 24/09/2018 to 27/09/2018

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to facilitate a space for dialogue and positive interaction aimed at building resilience, developing learning tools and increasing resistance to extremism. Local scenarios, analysis of responses to problems of racism, social exclusion and radicalization were simulated. Thanks to these activities, the anti-extremism and anti-radicalism tools of the project NGOs have been improved and developed. The ability to create a learning environment in which social and youth workers are flexible, confident, and involving young people in the space for dialogue has been developed. Thanks to these training sessions EUCAN network contribute to equip young people with appropriate skills and knowledge, to develop learning tools to counter violent extremism, to build counter narratives to prevent radicalization of young people, to develop flexibility and creativity in counter-narrative design in a given cultural context and to develop abilities to create dialogue within the communities on violent extremism to generate counter-narrative content. These workshops were preparatory to the subsequent laboratory phases during which the participants were trained with tips and tricks for preparing educational videos on the subject.

### **Event 4**

**Participation:** The event involved 126 citizens, including 88 participants from the city of Athens (Greece), 3 participants from the city of Bankya (Bulgaria), 3 participants from the city of Bucharest (Romania), 8 participants from the city of Guadassuar (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Demir Kapija (Republic of North Macedonia), 3 participants from the city of Lezha (Albania), 3 participants from the city of Campobasso (Italy), 3 participants from the city of Bruxelles (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of Miklusenai Alytus Region (Lithuania), 3 participants from the city of Viareggio (Italy), 6 participants from the city of Paredes (Portugal)

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Athens (Greece), from 25/03/2019 to 28/03/2019.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to involve representatives of local authorities, citizens and civil society organizations in developing a constructive dialogue on the project issues, creating open debates and discussions on multicultural society, integration policies, the phenomenon of immigration in Europe, racism and xenophobia. The international conference has produced the following results: increased awareness on integration policies, human rights, asylum, participation and political rights, intercultural communication and cultural mediation, women and the gender perspective, services to immigrants and policy advocates. The aim of the event was also to produce educational videos and the manual that includes a series of practical tools developed during the international training course in Bucharest, which can be used locally by operators and social workers to improve knowledge and understanding of project activities, goals and objectives. The manual will be useful for foreigners, immigrants and refugees to understand the cultural differences, objectives and values of the EU in order to facilitate their integration process. The participants were involved in the study visit where they learned about the relationship between the public and private sector in managing the humanitarian crisis. The visit to the IOM center allowed the participants to study the necessary skills to manage in a successful and sustainable way the projects that help thousands of refugees living far from their countries of origin. Thanks to the question time, an in-depth analysis of the skills and methods needed to provide an immediate response to humanitarian crises followed. The participants have visited a reception center studying the cooperation between a non-profit social enterprise and the public sector and which are the responsibilities of the public sector in the provision of humanitarian aid and the coordination of volunteers, qualified translators and cultural mediators.

### **Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 129 citizens, including 91 participants from Belgium, 7 participants from the city of Paredes (Portugal),

3 participants from the city of Bankya (Bulgaria), 3 participants from the city of Bucharest (Romania), 3 participants from the city of Athens (Greece), 7 participants from the city of Guadassuar (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Demir Kapija (Republic of North Macedonia), 3 participants from the city of Lezha (Albania), 3 participants from the city of Campobasso (Italy), 3 participants from the city of Miklusenai Alytus Region (Lithuania), 3 participants from the city of Viareggio (Italy).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Brussels (Belgium), from 01/07/2019 to 04/07/2019.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to involve local authorities, citizens, civil society organizations, experts, citizens, and the general public in a constructive dialogue on the issue, with an open debate on the asylum and migration fund and on the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

The international conference and the study visits to the EC, the EESC and the EP facilitated the knowledges of the EU decision-making process and how the EU helps civil society to become a force for political reform and defense of human rights. Discussions and exchanges of experiences were stimulated from the perspective of different stakeholders on the issues addressed by the EU CAN network. The long-term sustainability plan was discussed and will be implemented following the closure of the project with the aim of increasing the impact and ensuring further exploitation and dissemination of the project results and the exploitation of the tools realized. During the final conference, the "EUCAN" toolkit was which includes a series of practical learning tools developed during the international training course and the CAN educational videos have been presented. Moreover, during the final conference the results of the project and the future framework of the EU CAN network were presented. This motivated stakeholders to improve the conditions for democratic participation at the Union level. The final conference forms the basis for future initiatives and actions between the municipalities and CSOs involved, on the issues addressed.

The project's partner municipalities have signed an official twinning that aims to strengthen relations and mobilize citizens at local level around issues of intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia, incitement to hatred and radicalization, to encourage cooperation between municipalities and to deepen the discussed issues, thus favoring the exchange of best practices. The ceremony represents a long-term commitment between the partners.

This agreement will ensure that the partnership is regularly reviewed to ensure that it is able to address European challenges on important issues such as intolerance, discrimination, xenophobia and radicalization.