

**The project « CITIMIG » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"**

**Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"**

**Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"**

**Preparatory activities:** the activities involved 2 participants when it came to in-person meeting (respecting COVID-19 measures). Online preparatory activities involved a representative of the lead partner, a representative of the Slovenian Paneuropean Movement and a representative of the hosting institution.

**Location / Dates:** Bad Radkersburg (Austria), 29 July 2020; 5 other preparatory activities took place online.

**Short description:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we could not implement in-person preparatory activities, but only one between the lead partner and the Slovenian Paneuropean Movement. The aim of the in-person preparatory activity was to discuss the administrative, organisational and financial implementation of the project and the project timeline. Slovenian Paneuropean Movement, with its extensive project management skills and knowledge, played an important partner and role in the process of project management and implementation.

**Events:** 6 events have been carried out within this project – 5 online events and 1 in-person event.

#### **Event 1**

**Participation:** The event involved 69 citizens, including 1 participant from *Croatia*, 16 participants from *Montenegro*, 17 participants from *Austria*, 12 participants from *Slovenia*, 6 participants from *Italy*, 2 participants from *Sweden*, 2 participants from *Germany*, 1 participant from *France*, 4 participants from *Spain*, 1 participant from *Luxemburg*, 1 participant from *Portugal*, 1 participant from *Switzerland*, 1 participant from *Greece*, 2 participants from *Hungary*, 1 participant from *Poland* and 1 participants from *Serbia*.

**Location / Dates:** The event (webinar) took place online (due to COVID-19 restrictions) and was hosted by the Paneuropean Union Montenegro from 3/7/2020 to 4/7/2020. The event should originally have taken place in **Podgorica, Montenegro**.

**Short description:** This event served as the first in a row and thus as a kick-off of the project itself. Distinguished guest speakers, coming from politics, academia, international institutions and civil society organisations have discussed the nexus between migrations and security, with a special focus on South-East Europe. This region is a transition area for the majority of immigrants, coming from the East Mediterranean. Guest speakers have reiterated that migrations are not new for Europe, but the circumstances and the context are completely different. We have to distinguish between asylum seekers, refugees, economic migrants, legal and illegal immigrants, internal and external migrations and many more.

#### **Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 56 citizens, including 16 participants from *Austria*, 1 participant from *Croatia*, 3 participants from *France*, 2 participants from *Germany*, 1 participant from *Hungary*, 2 participants from *Italy*, 1 participants from *Luxemburg*, 6 participants from *Montenegro*, 1 participant from *Portugal*, 14 participants from *Slovenia*, 7 participants from *Spain* and 2 participants from *Sweden*.

**Location / Dates:** The event (webinar) took place online (due to COVID-19 restrictions) and was hosted by the Slovenian Paneuropean Movement from 11/9/2021 to 13/9/2020. The event should originally have taken place in **Maribor, Ljubljana**.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to discuss the historic overview of migrations in Europe, where we could hear that migrations have significantly shaped the European culture and identity. The mixture of cultures has enriched the European heritage, but there is a significant difference compared to nowadays. Migrations today raises huge political debates, put Schengen system under pressure, but at the

same time to certain extent offer an answer to European demographic challenges. Guest speakers have reiterated that migrations should never be used as a tool for raising populisms and extremisms. Politicians should refrain from misusing the immigration question to divide the citizens.

### **Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 74 citizens, including 32 participants from *Austria*, 1 participant from *Bulgaria*, 5 participants from *France*, 4 participants from *Germany*, 2 participants from *Greece*, 2 participants from *Hungary*, 5 participants from *Italy*, 1 participant from *Luxemburg*, 6 participants from *Montenegro*, 12 participants from *Slovenia*, 3 participants from *Spain* and 1 participant from *Sweden*.

**Location / Dates:** The event (webinar) took place online (due to COVID-19 restrictions) and was hosted by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association from 2/10/2020 to 3/10/2020. The event should originally have taken place in **Valencia, Spain**.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to highlight the socio-economic perspective of migrations. This webinar was organized days after the European Commission adopted the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, which brings hopes for better European migration management and coordination among member states. Today, (im)migrations are politically led, thus posing a huge pressure on rather fragile European social system. To this end, guest speakers have agreed that migrations need to be regulated and supported by integration programmes. European economic market should support and encourage internal migrations, thus putting emphasis on European cohesion.

### **Event 4**

**Participation:** The event involved 78 citizens, including 26 participants from *Austria*, 1 participant from *Belgium*, 2 participants from *Czech Republic*, 1 participant from *Finland*, 6 participants from *France*, 6 participants from *Germany*, 1 participants from *Greece*, 4 participants from *Hungary*, 1 participant from *Ireland*, 7 participants from *Italy*, 1 participant from *Luxemburg*, 5 participants from *Montenegro*, 1 participant from *Poland*, 14 participants from *Slovenia*, 1 participant from *Spain* and 1 participant from *Sweden*.

**Location / Dates:** The event (webinar) took place online (due to COVID-19 restrictions) and was hosted by the Association des Fondateurs et Protecteurs de l'Institut Catholique de Lyon from 5/2/2021 to 6/2/2021. The event should originally have taken place in **Lyon, France**.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to discuss the importance of the intercultural dialogue, what migrations mean for the European values and identity and how to incorporate the intercultural aspect in the EU policy-making process in order to better address the challenges of migrations. Guest speakers have highlighted the issues deriving from different understanding of the concept of dialogue, further need for more discussions about different cultures, languages and religions in Europe, as well as creating smaller common social environment on micro levels instead of more general top-down policy approach in understanding the intercultural dialogue.

### **Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 65 citizens, including 23 participants from *Austria*, 1 participant from *Belgium*, 1 participant from *Bulgaria*, 1 participant from *Czech Republic*, 1 participant from *France*, 6 participants from *Germany*, 4 participants from *Hungary*, 8 participants from *Italy*, 2 participants from *Luxemburg*, 5 participants from *Montenegro*, 1 participant from *Serbia*, 9 participants from *Slovenia*, 1 participant from *Spain* and 1 participant from *Sweden*.

**Location / Dates:** The event (webinar) took place online (due to COVID-19 restrictions) and was hosted by the University of Catania from 7/5/2021 to 8/5/2021. The event should originally have taken place in **Catania, Italy**.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to discuss the EU external border management and the role and future of the Schengen system. Guest speakers have agreed that the Schengen system has never faced greater challenge than current migrations. EU should put much more emphasis and find unity in creating and implementing the common European foreign policy, since its current implementation gives mixed signals about addressing the migration challenges. Migration/Schengen/asylum continue to be very relevant for the future of Europe and will play crucial elements of the EU future policies. Closing Europe is not a solution, but more unified and solidary European migration management system.

### **Event 6**

**Participation:** The event involved 85 citizens, including 58 participants from *Austria*, 2 participants from *Albania*, 1 participants from *North Macedonia*, 1 participants from *Denmark*, 1 participants from *Greece*, 4 participants from *Hungary*, 2 participants from *Germany*, 2 participants from *Sweden* and 7 participants from *Slovenia*, 3 participants from *Spain*, 3 participants from *Montenegro*, 1 participant from *Italy*.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Vienna, Austria** from 17/9/2021 to 19/9/2021.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to make a wrap up of the project, present its results to the

wider public, get the final view of migrations from citizens and come up with conclusions. With invited guest speakers we touched upon the political landscape in Europe regarding the migrations, how migrations influence the European agenda setting and how to raise the level of political dialogue in order to avoid any potential extremisms or populisms. We concluded the project by open forum discussion with participants about their view of the future of Europe.