



Are newcomers European citizens?

Final report

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The project «Are newcomers European citizens?» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"

8 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1.- Initial evaluation

Participation:

The event involved 40 citizens, including:

- 5 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 2 participants from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 2 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Ceze(France)**
- 2 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 2 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 2 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 2 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 2 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Carcaixent (Spain)** from **21/07/2016 to 24/06/2016**

Short description:

The aim of the event was:

- Seek to cohere the group of people who will carry out the project and adjust, if necessary, the activities planned to prepare the initial evaluation during this first meeting.
- Sharing of all activities to be carried out throughout the project.
- Start-up of the project's portfolio: This day is planned to have on the Internet the publication of all the materials, documents and agreements generated in the preparation of this Project.
- Become aware of the importance of the work to be done and the objectives pursued
- Exchange performances and experiences of each participating city
- Share in real time all the information generated to improve both the coordination between committees and its dissemination among all cities
- Commitment to carry out each one of the activities foreseen in each meeting by the twinning and commitment committees also of the political leaders in their collaboration with the project's aims

Commune/Municipality Website link: <http://www.carcaixent.es/va>

More links:

- Communication tools:
 - [Planning meeting](#)
 - [Things to do](#)
- Others activities
 - [Integration into primary schools in Carcaixent](#)
 - [Life histories about migration in Carcaixent](#)

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Event 2.- Social and demographic impact of migration

Participation:

The event involved **200** citizens, including:

- 38 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 11 participants from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 10 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Ceze(France)**
- 122 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 6 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 6 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 3 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 3 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Feltre (Italy)** from **04/08/2016 to 08/08/2016**

Short description:

The aim of the event was the deepening of the migrations of peoples. A first Conference (History of migrations) permitted to address the topic of the migrations and immigrations from a historical point of view, with a focus on the twin cities involved in the project; the Conference has allowed us to provide participants with a knowledge of the past, even recently, indispensable to face the new concurrent migrations. A second Conference (The social and demographic impact of the migrations) has allowed us to understand what the real impact of today's immigrants in the twin cities in particular, in order to help the necessary and fundamental process of integration; among the speakers, especially important the role played by monsignor Gian Carlo Perego, then Director of the "Fondazione Migrantes" and now Archbishop of Ferrara-Comacchio. The theme was also addressed through the visit to two museums: the Ethnographic Museum of the Belluno Province in Seravella of Cesiomaggiore and the Interactive Museum of migrations of Belluno. The presence at the meeting of the Italian MEP Isabella De Monte has allowed us to start a confrontation even on the Treaty of Dublin. During the meeting also celebrated the official twinning between Feltre and Carcaixent, strengthening a fraternity more than thirty years.

Commune/Municipality Website link:

More links:

- Communication tools:
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Newspaper 1](#)
 - [Newspaper 2](#)
 -
- Speeches
- Others activities
 - [Museo interattivo delle migrazioni](#)
 - [Museo etnografico della Provincia di Belluno e del Parco nazionale Dolomiti bellunesi](#)

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Event 3.- Good practices in integration policies and initiatives

Participation:

The event involved 268 citizens, including:

- 8 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 6 participants from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 7 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Ceze(France)**
- 8 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 210 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 10 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 6 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 9 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**
- 4 participants from the city of Tomesti and Prisacani (Romania)

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Eeklo (Belgium)** from **23/02/2017 to 27/02/2017**

Short description:

The aim of the event was:

Firstly, to give an introduction and overview to the participants about Belgian and local government policies in relation to refugees and migrants. Secondly, the event focused on the integration part of the migration and refugee situation.

At the first day a conference was held with an introductory presentation about the migration and refugee policy in Belgium given by Mr. Vincent Van Peteghem, a member of the Federal Parliament in Belgium. The presentation was followed by a panel debate, with participants representing the Flemish Public Employment Service, the local Public Social Welfare Centre and a local social organisation working with poor people and often also foreigners. The purpose of the debate was to learn more about the specific and daily issues and problems with which those organisations have to deal with. But the

opposite was also the case with examples of success stories and policies to help integrate migrants and refugees. Language and skills are very important but also the willingness to learn more, a good social network and help to overcome the first bottlenecks (search for a job, search for a house, introduction to a social network) are very important. Policies can be general by nature and structure but in practice they need to be Taylorized and used in a case-by-case manner.

In the afternoon visits were made to companies and the hospital (AZ Alma) in Eeklo where employers or representatives of the company told more about the company policy towards migrants and non-Dutch speakers and gave real life stories about working with people with a migration or refugee background.

The second day started with a presentation by Mr. Koen Loete, the Mayor of Eeklo. Mr. Loete explained how local migration and refugee policies work and he gave examples of which services were provided towards refugees and migrants by the town services and social services. Eeklo also has a civil servant who is responsible for integration to help people with all kind of daily problems and issues. The presentation was followed by some testimonies by migrants living in Eeklo. We also asked a Belgian woman to testify about her story because she lived for many years outside Belgium and she just (at the moment of the event) returned back to Belgium. In the afternoon a visit was made to Ghent, with a guided tour in the old migrant neighbourhood of Ghent (environment of railway station Ghent-Dampoort which was the industrial centre of the 19th century in Ghent).

On the third day, a visit was made to the refugee reception centre of the Red Cross in Eeklo. The centre opened in 2002 and gives place to 109 residents. It gives shelter to families, singles and unaccompanied minors. Representatives of the Red Cross and residents gave a guided tour throughout the centre and gave insight in the daily working of the centre and the common rules and rights. Together with the Red Cross centre we organised a 'drink and meet' in the centre between the participants and the residents of the centre.

The committee for international cooperation (CIS Eeklo) also organised a school competition in which pupils were asked to make a drawing about what they understand about migration and refugees. The drawings were presented to the participants via a photo exhibition.

Commune/Municipality Website link:

<http://www.eeklo.be/>

http://www.eeklo.be/Eeklo_leeft/verzustering

More links:

- Communication tools
 - [Debate about migration](#)
- Speeches
 - [Welcoming speech](#)
 - [Migration policy in Belgium by Vincent Van Peteghem](#)
- Others
 - [Pictures about the activities](#)
 - Red Cross Refugee Reception Centre in Eeklo
<https://www.rodekruis.be/wat-doen-we/hulp-wereldwijd/opvang-asielzoekers/onze-opvangcentra/eeklo/>
 - Public Employment Service of Flanders
<https://werkgevers.vdab.be/werkgevers/integratie-door-werk>
 - Public Social Welfare Centre
<https://www.ocmweeklo.be/>
<https://www.ocmweeklo.be/index.php/sociale-dienst-mainmenu-39/wie-is-wie-mainmenu-40>
 - Local social organisation for poor people "Wijkcentrum De Kring"
<http://www.wijkcentrumdekring.be/>
<http://www.wijkcentrumdekring.be/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/TAALKABAA-L-flyer-najaar-2016.pdf>

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Event 4.- Refugees: A new challenge for the EU (yes)**Participation:**

The event involved 124 citizens, including:

- 15 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 60 participants from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 10 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Ceze(France)**
- 8 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 7 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 12 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 9 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 3 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Braunfels (Germany)** from **01/06/2017 to 05/06/2017**

Short description:

The aim of the event was:

Since the end of the Second World War Germany has been a country of immigration.

- In 1946 already came 14 million people from former German areas in East Europe like Czechoslovakia or Poland

- In the seventies came guest workers from Italy, Spain, Turkey, and Yugoslavia

- They all started integration and to achieve this the German people had to feel themselves into the life of the refugees.
- after the German reunification real Russian people of German origin had to be welcomed in Germany
- We explained all the situation with the help of workshops.
- One day we had three parallel workshops with eye witnesses about the Russian people, the West European people, and the Sudeten German people.
- We made an excursion to the Hessenpark in Neu Anspach where the guests learnt about old ethnic peculiarities and where they saw an original train waggon taking people from Czechoslovakia to West Germany. the last thing impressed the guests very much.
- In a ceremonial act the towns of Carcaixent and Braunfels twinned after they have got to know each other for almost thirty years.

Commune/Municipality Website link:

More links:

- Communication tools
- Speeches
 - [Spanish migration policies](#)
- Others
 - [Pictures about the activities](#)
 - [Video participants](#)

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Event 5.- Refugees: Exchange of best practices to combat xenophobia

Participation:

The event involved 93 citizens, including:

- 11 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 5 participants from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 5 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Ceze(France)**
- 4 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 5 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 5 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 50 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 8 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Kiskunfélegyháza(Hungary)** from **06/09/2017 to 10/09/2017**

Short description:

The main aim of the event is to show the situation of Hungary and our town which is different from the average one. In the earlier decades as the gateway to Europe lots of

refugees from Russia,Romania and Serbia crossed the border of Hungary because of the dictatorship or genocidium, thousands of people asked for and got refuge.

With the help of the different presentations and personal meetings the guests and the local people could get to know what the government working closely together with the relief organizations could do. It was demonstrated how the newcomers could find their homes or they could get prepared for the journey to find their final destinations.

Nowadays in the Hungarian universities there are a lot of foreign students who are supervised by a separate organization of the university. They communicate with each other in a common language that is in English.

Most of the older ones work in different workplaces, the native language of most of them is Hungarian (Romania,Serbia).

The volunteers, the students and the members of the relief organizations could see and experience directly the meaning of aid giving, acceptance and tolerance.

The most important result of the meeting is the presentation of the local work and conditions and giving information to a wide range of local people.

Commune/Municipality Website link:

<https://kiskunfelegyhaza.hu/europai-unios-projektek/migracios-projekt/>

- **All the information available at the previous link**

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Event 6.- Immigration and integration: two challenges for Europe in the twenty-first century.

Participation:

The event involved **200** citizens, including:

- 80 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 10 participants from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 9 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Ceze(France)**
- 6 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 5 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 4 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 3 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 5 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**
- 5 participants from the city of **Tomesti (Romania)**

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Carcaixent (Spain)** from **01/11/2017 to 05/11/2017**

Short description:

The aim of the event was:

- Disseminate European policies to citizens, focusing on the Europe with citizens program.
- Transmitting citizens that belonging to a network of twin cities favors the bonds between their peoples and reinforces the European conscience.

- Foster the links between European citizens and know and share their customs, cultures and languages.
- Foster solidarity and volunteerism among citizens through coexistence in host families
- Know the situation of the refugee to denounce the reality with which people who leave their country of origin find themselves in order to seek a more dignified life in the EU.
- Foster solidarity and volunteerism among citizens through coexistence in host families

Commune/Municipality Website link: <http://www.carcaixent.es/>

- Communication tools:
 - [Historical view about Migration in Carcaixent.- Vicent Ferrer](#)
- Speeches
 - [Demographic study in Carcaixent.- Vicent Ferrer](#)
 - [Little video](#)
 - [Migration and refugees.- Lola Bañon](#)
- Others activities
 - [Life stories.- Vivi Català](#)
 - [Intercultural readings 2017](#)
 - [Program and photos](#)
 - [Video](#)
 - [Intercultural readings 2018](#)
 - [Program](#)
 - [Musical performances](#)
 - [Photos](#)
 - [Migration workshop](#)
 - [NGO Ballona Matata](#)

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Event 7.- Integration policies with children and young people

Participation:

The event involved 135 citizens, including:

- 12 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 14 participants from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 10 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Ceze(France)**
- 7 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 10 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 76 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 6 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 0 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Newbury (United Kingdom)** from **29/03/2018** to **02/04/2018**

Short description:

The aim of the event was:

- Strengthen the ties between the people that are part of the twin town network in order to highlight the importance of European collaboration.
- Strengthen the links between European citizens through the sharing of customs, food, cultures and languages.
- Highlight the importance of volunteers as host families and project supporters.
- To inform and educate a group of people regarding current UK policies on integration.
- Understand the situation of refugees in the UK.
- Understand the situation of non-UK citizens living in the UK following the Brexit referendum.
- Understand the long history of migration to the UK from Europe and other countries in the world.

Commune/Municipality Website link:

<https://kiskunfelegyhaza.hu/europai-unios-projektek/migracios-projekt/>

- All the information available at the previous link

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Event 8.- Integration or cultural crash?

Participation:

The event involved **343** citizens, including:

- 12 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 10 participants from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 285 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Cèze (France)**
- 8 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 6 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 4 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 2 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 3 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**
- 6 participants from the city of **Tomesti (Romania)**
- 4 participants from the city of **Ialoveni (Moldavian République)**

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Bagnols-sur-Cèze (France)** from **09/05/2018** to **13/05/2018**

Short description

The aim of the event was:

- Strengthen the ties between the people and a sense of shared purpose and direction for a united and fraternal European Union within our twin towns' network,
- For European citizens, discovery and sharing of French customs, food, cultures and languages,
- Raise awareness about integration and immigration problems in each twin town,
- Give informations about CEAS (Common European Asylum System) (*RAEC in French*),
- Learn about origins of Bagnols' inhabitants and demonstrate that they are integrated. Their style of cooking have even been adopted. Our exhibition will be exposed at M.A.S. (Maison des alternatives Solidaires) at the end of June 2018. We will broadcast a book included the posters' exhibition,
- Perpetuate the celebration of May 9th in order to gather together around European Union - tree planting with representatives from twin city delegations and friendly cities.

Commune/Municipality Website link:

<https://www.bagnolssurceze.fr/fr/culture/jumelages.htm>

More links:

- Communication tools
 - [Summary of the meeting](http://www.jumelages-bagnols.fr/) - <http://www.jumelages-bagnols.fr/>
<http://www.jumelages-bagnols.com/>
- Speeches
- Others

Event 9.- Final evaluation**Participation:**

The event involved 231 citizens, including:

- 23 participants from the city of **Carcaixent (Spain)**,
- 1 participant from the city of **Braunfels (Germany)**
- 6 participants from the city of **Bagnols-sur-Ceze(France)**
- 4 participants from the city of **Feltre (Italy)**
- 7 participants from the city of **Eeklo (Belgium)**
- 8 participants from the city of **Newbury (United Kingdom)**
- 7 participants from the city of **Kiskunfelegyhaza (Hungary)**
- 175 participants from the city of **Zamosc (Poland)**

Location / Dates:

The event took place in **Zamosc (Poland)** from **12/07/2018 to 15/07/2018**

Short description:

The main aim of the event was to evaluate the project activities and their impact on the project participants and the local communities. The main tool of assessment was a questionnaire produced by a member of the Polish group which was completed by members of all the committees and sent for analysis before the meeting. The results of the questionnaire were presented to all the participants by its author who demonstrated that there were different attitudes towards foreigners depending on the country and age of the respondents. It also turned out that there was a positive correlation between the fact of participating in the project and the attitudes of the involved persons. The results were discussed by the participants who also were free to express their personal opinions on the project and its topics.

Apart from evaluation, the meeting also had a wide informative and educational function. It was done through lectures given by local historians (3 speakers), meetings with political and local government figures and visits to places related to the area's multiethnic past. The topics presented during the lectures included the changing ethnic structure of the local population in the town's history, the destructive effects of World War Two and present day economic and political immigration from the ex-Soviet territories, especially Ukraine.

The speakers who addressed the meeting included the mayor of Zamosc, who talked about the economic and political aspects of immigration and emigration from the region as well as two

members of the Polish parliament who represented opposing political parties and presented their points of view on the question of immigration at a more general level. The members of the audience asked questions and voiced their opinions which made the meeting very productive. The participants were also met by the head of a local higher education college who talked about foreign students studying in Zamosc. His talk was complemented by a talk by an Ukrainian student who is currently studying in Zamosc. There was also a meeting with a few foreign workers most of whom were youth volunteers from Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Hungary who talked about their experiences as foreigners living in Poland.

The meeting was reported on the website of the city office and on local television which was an efficient way of dissemination. Apart from the members of the hosting organisation and the hosting families, there was a big number of local inhabitants who were informed about the project in detail through direct talks and leaflets produced by the organisers. The activities which involved members of the local community and helped disseminate the project included opening of an exhibition on Zamosc cultural heritage, opening of an exhibition of works by Tamas Szuts (head of the Hungarian team), visit to a local WW2 resistance museum and a visit to the Nazi Death Camp Memorial Site at Belzec.

Commune/Municipality Website link:

More links:

- Communication tools
- Speeches
 - [Evaluation questionnaire](#)
- Others
 - [TV report about the meeting and project](#)

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