



European
Commission

Europe for citizens Programme

Results 2017



Europe for
citizens

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Unit C1 - Europe for citizens



Europe for citizens

Report 2017

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ACRONYMS

CSP	Civil Society Projects
DG	Directorate-General
EACEA	Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency
EB	Eurobarometer
ECPs	Europe for Citizens Contact Points
EFC	Europe for Citizens
EP	European Parliament
NT	Network of Towns
OG	Operating Grants
REM	European Remembrance
TT	Town Twinning

2017 AT A GLANCE

1942 applications submitted within the EFC programme

1912 applications submitted within action and operating grants (REM, TT, NT, CSP, OG)

1876 applications submitted for action grants (REM, TT, NT, CSP)

412 applications selected (of which **382** for action grants REM, TT, NT, CSP and operating grants)

20% of average success rate within action and operating grants

Applicant organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

Beneficiary organisations are established in **all EU Member States except LU**

Partner organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

IT, SK, HU, PL, RO and **DE** are the countries that introduced the highest number of applications (61% in total)

IT, SK, HU, DE, FR and **PL** are the countries with the highest number of applications selected (59% in total)

MT, DE and **FR** have the highest success rate per country (ratio submitted/selected per country for action grant) among Member States

2133 partner organisations directly involved in the EFC projects selected in 2017

An average of **5 partners** per project in TT and **8 partners** in all other actions (more than **10 partners** for NT)

Placement for **240 members** of the **European Solidarity Corps** approved in 2017

10 members of the **European Solidarity Corps** already recruited and operational in 2017

Average grant per project:

In OG: € 187.816

In NT: € 133.203

In CIV: € 133.167

In REM: € 89.667

In TT: € 17.442

Almost **60%** of the projects selected in 2017 focused on the debate on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism

LU, ES, MT, DE, FI, IE and **PT** are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is above 80%

BG, CZ, UK, IT and **EL** are the countries where the feeling of being European citizens is below 60%

2014-2017 AT A GLANCE

9169 applications submitted within action grants and operating grants (REM, TT, NT, CSP, OG)

8928 applications submitted for projects grants (REM, TT, NT, CSP)

1409 applications selected (of which 1372 for action grants REM, TT, NT, CSP)

15% of average success rate within action and operating grants

Beneficiary organisations are established in **all EU Member States**

HU, IT, SK and **PL** are the countries that introduce the highest number of applications (50% in total)

HU, SK, IT, DE and **PL** are the countries with the highest number of applications selected (55% in total)

MT, DE, IE, FR and **SE** have the highest success rate per country (ratio submitted/selected by country) within Member States

7801 partner organisations directly involved in EFC projects selected in 2014 - 2017

An average of **5 partners** per project in TT and **8 partners** in all other actions

Average grant per project:

OG: € 187.880

NT: € 131.570

CIV: € 128.845

REM: € 88.802

TT: € 16.668

Total grants awarded according to the Decisions taken so far amount to **€ 90.438.000**

Projects mainly focused on:

Debate on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism

Migration, social inclusion and solidarity in times of crises

LU, ES, MT, DE, FI, IE and **PT** are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is higher

BG, CZ, UK, IT and **EL** are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is lower

PART A
RESULTS 2017

OVERVIEW

In 2017 the "Europe for Citizens" programme showed its maturity and stability. Supported activities were implemented successfully in all Member States and corresponded to the priorities set out by the Commission.

Almost 60% of Programme beneficiaries selected in 2017 focused on the **debate on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism** namely:

- Designing different scenarios on how the European Union could evolve by 2025;
- Highlighting the importance to involve youngsters in the debates;
- Promoting participation to the upcoming **2019 European Elections** with a special focus on first-time voters;
- Implementing innovative channels of civic participation and monitoring fake news;
- Analysing the impact of Brexit and the 'cost of non-Europe'.

Almost 40% of projects granted **combated stigmatisation of "immigrants"** and helped to build counter narratives showing **solidarity in time of crises**, i.e.:

- Analysing the migration crisis and new policy approaches for refugees;
- Sharing practices and strengthening social inclusion systems for immigrants;
- Promoting the integration of immigrants and the analysis of its impact on local development;
- Working on media literacy and on the importance of a story-telling approach in combatting the stigmatisation of immigrants;
- Volunteering and developing solidarity mechanisms as a form of civic participation.

Whereas in previous years organisations were active in the urgent management of the migrants and refugees crisis, in 2017 they concentrated rather on democratic participation on the Future of Europe. They proposed to combat the general mistrust in democracy, seeing democratic participation as a tool to face intertwined challenges such as populism and xenophobia.

The Europe for Citizens programme has thus demonstrated its flexibility and capacity to respond to the needs of citizens and address the issues at the top of the EU policy agenda.

European Remembrance projects maintain stability in the themes presented in 2017 compared to the previous years. Predominant is a reflection on the core **European values** –such as liberty, democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights– and the threats they faced in the recent history as much as today. The success for this strand stems from the bridge created by beneficiaries between the past and the present, to encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation.

The Europe for Citizens programme incorporated in the 2017 calls for proposals the Commission priority related to **European Solidarity Corps** which was very well received by organisations applying under European Remembrance and Civil Society Projects. A Programme beneficiary has been the **first organisation at Union level to welcome a member of the European Solidarity Corps**.

With regard to the **results of the programme management**, of note is the excellent execution rate (100% in commitments and payments). The Agency's effective and efficient grant management is demonstrated by indicators such as the **total time to grant beneficiaries** (5.1 months).

For the period 2014-2020 the **audit error rate** of the Programme – measuring the accuracy of the payments done by the Agency thanks to the verification performed by external Auditors – is 0%. This data confirms the added value provided by the use of user-friendly, **simplified financial procedures** (notably the lump-sums and flat rate).

Lastly, in 2017 the Programme **increased its average success rate** from 15% in 2016 to 20% in 2017. This is mainly achieved due to the decrease of submitted applications (around 23% in comparison with 2016). This decrease might be caused by multiple factors among which: (1) the very low success rate in the past years (which may have discouraged organisations from applying again); or (2) relevant information passed by the Agency and the National Contact Points, helping to avoid applications which do not fit the requirements of the Call. This decrease is particular relevant in countries like Hungary -which used to have the highest participation rate since the beginning of the programme- and results in a better geographical distribution across Member States.

STRAND 1: EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

European Remembrance Projects

Throughout 2017 the Agency analysed the achievements of "European Remembrance" projects selected in 2015 (for which 28 out of 33 final reports were closed in 2017), monitored the implementation of projects granted in 2016 (38 projects, of which 30 still ongoing and 8 closed in 2017) and carried out a new selection which resulted in the approval of 39 projects.

Before entering into the details of the analysis, there are two considerations that it is worth mentioning:

- The quality of projects implemented is generally very high and corresponds to the expectations raised at selection level. This result has a particular value in light of the very competitive selection process which excluded many valuable proposals.
- All projects were successfully implemented and responded to the priorities established for the Programme contributing to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity.

Projects implemented and closed in 2017 allowed to evaluate the impact of the priorities established in 2015 (framed in the in the context of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II) and to monitor the implementation of projects responding to the multi-annual priorities established in 2016.

They mainly focused on:

1. **European values** – such as liberty, democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights– and the threat faced within totalitarian and nowadays.
2. **World War II**: its dark past associated to the rise of intolerance and its consequences, the Cold war on the one hand, and the beginning of the European integration process following the Schuman Declaration in 1950 on the other hand.
3. **The Holocaust**, the genocide as escalation of other forms of intolerance as anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia.
4. Other important moment of the European history and the **European construction**.

All projects implemented present a strong European dimension, thanks to the themes treated, the partnerships and the capacity to overcome the local dimensions. This was for instance the case in the project titled "*L'Italia e la deportazione degli ebrei nei territori occupati durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale: 1939-1945*" coordinated by the Italian University LUISS in which the starting point was the analysis of the Italian role and responsibility in the Jewish deportation but the main part of the implementation focused on the Western Balkan countries –occupied by Italy during the War– and on the atrocities committed in these territories, which are often under-estimated or forgotten. An itinerant exposition and the work with higher educational institutes allowed a great dissemination of the results and the involvement of young generation in the discussions.

Young generations were the main target group of many Remembrance projects. For example, the project "*From war history to modern education*" coordinated by the Finnish Municipality of Rautjärvi realised a *comic book* to show to a young public – with simple and appropriate visual and written language – the life of children during the war; it has also developed a series of **pedagogical tools** made available in internet in different languages which were already used in many meetings. The project "*Woman, War and Peace*" implemented by the Irish organisation "Smashing Times Theatre" presented theatre performances –well appreciated by the youngsters– based on the life of women who stood-up against authoritarian and totalitarian regimes.

As in the past years, **Civil society organisations** played a primary role in commemorating the memory of victims and reflecting on multiple memories of genocide and discrimination. Thanks to the Europe for citizens' support, the Italian association "*Opera Nomadi*" could focus its activities on the holocaust of Roma, homosexuals and disabled people and made a proposal to integrate the Italian Law 211 – establishing the 27 January as "Remembrance Day" in Italy – with a strong emphasis on the "forgotten holocausts".

Within the projects implemented, the commemorative aspects were often linked to the **Roma** or **women empowerment** in the present society. In this light, exemplary is the project titled "*70 Years after Auschwitz – Remembrance and Education of Young Europeans about the Roma Genocide*" carried out by the Romanian organisation "Asociatia Nevo Parudimos". It gathered together a large number of Roma and non Roma participants to discuss about different cultures and common values. Within the framework of this project the first Roma youth meeting was organised by Roma in the Czech Parliament. Furthermore, during the "European Roma Platform" meeting, the beneficiary had the opportunity to present the results of the project to 200 representatives of all Member States, European Institutions, International and civil society organisations. It was the occasion to reiterate their request to the European Parliament for a stronger recognition and remembrance of the Roma Holocaust and its effect towards Roma people.

Another set of projects monitored in 2017 focused on the **post-war architecture of Europe**, including the one titled "*Behind Iron Curtains*" which encouraged meetings of historians, experts, students and the general audience to discuss about the communist past and history after 1945.

The *itinerant exhibition* realised within the framework of the project promoted by the Italian municipality of Macerata "*Walls and integration: images of Europe building*" is a good example of wide partnership and participation on themes of actuality.

Remembrance projects also successfully responded to the **refugee crisis** in Europe and to the priority fixed in 2016 on "1951 Adoption of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in relation with the post WWII refugee situation in Europe". The projects "*Migrations et Mémoires*" led by the French think tank "Institut français des relations internationales" and "*European History Atlas under construction*" coordinated by the Polish organisation Fundatja Strefa WolnoSlowa aimed at building a common European narrative on past and current migration flows. This objective was very ambitious and the organisations had to face with the limits of such construction nowadays. However both those projects created a sense of solidarity and belonging to the same European community between the participants of different age and cultural backgrounds and highly contributed to the dialogue on these matters at European level.

The project selection 2017 confirms the positive trend of the European Remembrance Projects of combining commemoration of the past with the discussion on the values on which the European Union was built. The link between the past and the present represents in fact the silver line of all the projects approved and responds to the Programme priorities.

The **39 projects granted** correspond to the following **typologies**:

1. Projects commemorating historical turning points capable to link the past to the present on broad themes and recurrent issues such as racism, genocide, loss of citizenship and the fight for fundamental rights;
2. Projects commemorating the persecution, discrimination, deprivation of fundamental rights of a specific minority group (i.e. Roma, mental disables, etc.) under European totalitarian regimes;
3. Projects at grassroots level with a strong networking component.

These projects propose a variety of activities such as big events (e.g. international conferences or debates), educational tools for formal and non-formal education, exhibition or online museum, digitalisation and artistic activities. Such a variety shows how the simplifying financing system of the Call is a successful modality to cover various types of activities.

The 39 granted projects represent a good geographical coverage (**23 countries** out of 30 countries represented at application level); they are well structured, with **extended partnership** (6.5 is the average number of partner organisations involved per project). Concerning the impact, in total **163.800 participants are planned to be directly involved** with an average of **around 4200 participants per project**. Around 50% of the direct participants are young people (under 30 years old), in line with the objective highlighted in the Legal Base and the Programme Guide to reach the younger generation.

The threshold for funding remains at a high level: **82.5/100** — as it was already in 2016. This proves the good quality of the applications proposed for granting and that many other projects would deserve to be granted if more budgetary resources were available.

European Solidarity Corps

The Selection 2017 of the "European Remembrance Projects" included as a novelty the "European Solidarity Corps", a new feature of the Europe for Citizens Programme. Remembrance **organisations welcomed the Commission priority** to involve young people in solidarity activities through the European Solidarity Corps initiative. Out of 286 admissible applications, 104 (~35%) planned to involve volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps foreseeing a total of 925 placements (mainly in IT, ES, EL, SK, BG, FR, PL and HU). Almost 50% of the granted projects will host members of the Corps, for a total of 152 placements.



STRAND 2: DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Town Twinning

A decrease of 15% of applications under the Town Twinning (TT) measure in comparison to 2016 has to be noted, mainly due to the lower participation from HU (representing 50% of this decrease), the country which used to have the highest participation rate since the beginning of the programme. This trend — already noted last year — contributed to a **better geographical distribution** as well as to a **better action success rate** (27% in 2017 against 22% in 2016).

Having said that, the biggest interest in the Town Twinning action continues to come from Eastern European countries and particularly from HU and SK representing together in 2017 selections around 46% of the total number of submitted applications. Applicants from 29 countries participated in the 2017 TT selections. The highest number of applications continues to come from Slovakia (26%) and Hungary (20%) followed by Italy (12%) and Germany (7%). It is worth mentioning that applicants from Bulgaria, a country that was absent in the 2016 Town Twinning selections, showed interest in the Measure. The geographical spread of the selected projects shows that 26 countries are represented as beneficiary. The geographical spread of those projects including the partners is important considering that 33 countries (all participating programme countries) are represented within the selected projects.

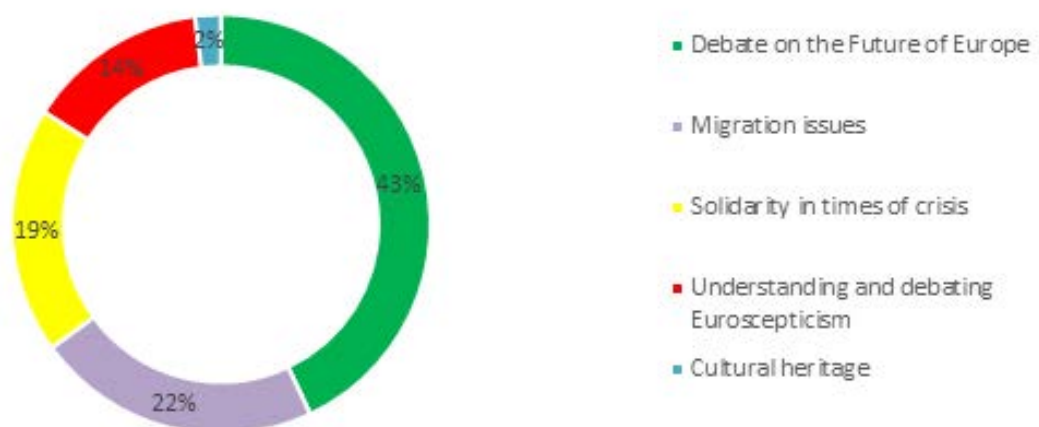
The average amount requested per TT project (€ 18.140 in 2017) is higher than the "average value of grants" foreseen in the Commission annual work programme 2017 (i.e. € 13.724). Consequently, the number of grants allocated within this measure in 2017 is lower than the number foreseen in the annual work programme: 248 against 315. Despite the constantly increasing average value of the grant per town twinning project, it is important to underline that the TT action continues to **support projects with a very small budget**: grants between € 5.000 and € 10.000 were awarded to 29% of the selected projects.

TT projects involve an increasing number of partner organisations: in average 5.4 partner organisations are involved in a selected TT project. Globally the 248 selected projects will bring together around 1350 partner organisations representing an important diversity in terms of the partnership (e.g. municipalities, NGOs, twinning committees, associations etc.). Although the multilateral town twinning projects are inclined to further enlarge their partnerships, the programme continues to support bilateral TT projects.

The 248 TT selected projects will mobilise citizens at local and EU levels, involving them in debates and exchanges of opinions around the multiannual programme priorities and focusing on the current challenges faced by the EU.

The distribution of the multiannual priorities by the 2017 TT selected projects is as follows:

Multiannual priorities addressed by the TT beneficiaries



It is worth stressing that the highest interest of 2017 TT beneficiaries goes to the priority "Debate on the future of EU", thus responding to the call of President JUNCKER to reflect on different scenarios for how the European Union could evolve by 2025. The importance to involve youngsters in this debate was particularly emphasised by TT beneficiaries, making them active actors in building up the future of the European project.

Beneficiary: *Comune di Este (IT)*

Project Title: *UNITED IN DIVERSITY*

Project testimonies: *"L'impegno e la partecipazione dei cittadini europei adulti e giovani, uomini e donne che si passano il testimone della costruzione europea, saranno le armi che condurranno gli europei a vincere la lotta per l'affermazione di un continente unito e solidale, rispettoso della diversità".*

The project UNITED IN DIVERSITY has implemented an information campaign highlighting the strengths and successes of the EU. Key goals of the project: consolidating and strengthening the idea of the EU citizenship, preserving and protecting multiculturalism, exchanging views on the EU citizenship and increasing the understanding of the Union policies and of their impact. The project has targeted youngsters in order to increase their awareness about rights and opportunities, to empower them with regard to decision-making and to encourage them to vote at the 2019 European Parliament Elections.

Reactive to the current political and social contexts, **TT projects implemented in 2016-2017** very often addressed the priority **"Debate on the future of EU"** together with the analysis of causes of **"Euroscepticism"** and the rise of populist movements. 'Brexit', non-Europe scenario and its consequences for the future were also in the centre of the debate for most of the organised Town Twinning events.

Beneficiary: *Newbury Twin Town Association (UK)*

Project Title: *A debate on The Future of Europe Following the UK Referendum on EU Membership*



Project testimonies: *"This was a very enjoyable and informative meeting held in Newbury. The theme was 'The Future of Europe.' The meeting took the form of statements on the relationships between our individual communities and how we all felt being part of the EU. We split into our own towns and had a lively discussion culminating in a vote as to whether we agreed or disagreed on each statement. We then came together and looked at how each Town had felt about each statement. This was most entertaining as the results were shown by a 'swingometer' from red being least accepting to green being most accepting of each statement. This was a very clever method of giving clear results without any language barriers causing misinterpretation or incomprehension. Following the discussion and over the rest of the weekend, looking back at the various statements used at the meeting, we were able to discuss further with our guests how we as individuals felt about being part of the EU. I am pleased to say, despite the result of the Referendum, we were unanimous in our wanting to remain part of the EU and to continue our close associations with our Twin Towns."*

Beneficiary: Comune di Collecchio (IT)

Project Title: A Day without Europe

Project testimonies: "Citizens need first of all precise, coherent information in order to be able to form their opinions without false narratives that develop a distorted vision of the EU and its values. Euroscepticism, as well as the economic crisis, the migrants' issues and the lack of solidarity among EU member states represent an important ground for improving active participation, commitment and sense of ownership among EU citizens. The word "euroscepticism" hides countless political approaches, feelings, false narratives, wrong communication as well as the idea that all decisions were taken by a very limited number of people who lack the understanding of the everyday reality. For these reasons, we need strong "bottom-up" participation."

The aim of the project was to address the phenomenon of Euroscepticism and to approach it from a bottom-up perspective. Citizens actively participated with questions and debates during the conference, related to a variety of feelings and opinions after Brexit, the Swedish experience on migrant integration and the German role in the EU. Speakers at the Conference included academic experts and research centres who presented reasons of the Euroscepticism today with a historical overview on the different phases of European integration, on how the lives of European citizens would look like without the rights offered by the EU, especially with regard to youth policies, students and small entrepreneurs.

Within **2016–2017 TT implemented projects**, the priority on **migration** was often approached from the integration perspective putting an emphasis on volunteering and **solidarity** between countries and citizens. The importance of having a 'story-telling' approach in combatting the stigmatisation of immigrants was stressed by some project beneficiaries.

Beneficiary: Šilalės Rajono Savivaldybės Administracija (LT)

Project Title: We of Today – Europe of Tomorrow

Project testimonies: "The project gave an opportunity for three small towns from three different countries to discuss European issues and become a part of European community. It inspired local communities to be more interested in migration crisis and change stereotypes."

The project encouraged European youth to reflect upon two important EU issues –migration and refugee crisis. It motivated them to become personally involved in the process of finding solutions to EU problems and contributed significantly to the development of tolerance among young people. It also stimulated inter-cultural dialogue regarding creation of a better European future. For four days young people from Šilalė (Lithuania), Stavenhagen (Germany) and Krasnik (Poland) participated in a round table discussion, workshops, simulation games and a March for Tolerance. They watched social documentary films and tried an educational method called a "Living Library", based on storytelling. These non-traditional activities helped the international youth become aware of the migration crisis and attempted to promote general public tolerance towards refugees and migrants.



Beneficiary: Gmina Pila (PL)

Project Title: Unity in Diversity – an International Debate of Young People on European Solidarity

Project testimonies: "Active European citizenship respects the needs of others, cultural diversity, religion, freedom, dignity, struggles with stigmatization and exclusion. All limitations and phobias arise only in our heads. The strength and impetus to fight them will give solidarity and community."

The agenda of the youth meeting was based on the sustainable support of many aspects of social life and active European citizenship. It expanded knowledge of European values and perpetuated intercultural dialogue on solidarity, mutual understanding, combating stigmata and prejudice. The project stimulated the search for answers to various questions. What does it mean to be European during the migrant crisis? How do we achieve understanding, dialogue and respect of our differences, beliefs, cultures and traditions? Participants learned about the possibilities of active citizenship, and increased knowledge about the legal processes of the EU migration policy. Together, participants defined the concept of solidarity. For all of them, it is connected with another very important word – „together“. Young people have recognized that only together and in solidarity Europe and all Europeans will be able to face the challenges of stigmatization, exclusion, rejection.

Noteworthy: within the 2017 selections, the upcoming programme priority "2018 European Year of Cultural heritage" has been already taken up by some programme beneficiaries, who used culture as a tool to address challenging issues such as Euroscepticism, stigmatisation of immigrants and to contribute to promoting tolerance and EU values.

Network of Towns

As for all programme actions in 2017, a decrease in the number of applications was also noted for Network of Towns (NT) projects (around 9 %). This decrease is mainly due to the lower participation of HU and IT applicants, the countries which used to have the highest participation rate within this action. This trend — as already noted last year — contributed to a **better geographical distribution** as well as to a **better action success rate** (11% in 2017 against 9% in 2016).

Applicants from **28** countries participated in the 2017 selections. The greatest number of applications comes from Italy (**23%**) and Greece (**8%**). Applicants from Greece, Austria, Sweden and Bosnia & Herzegovina demonstrated in 2017 their increased interest in the action concerned. The geographical spread of the selected projects is wide with **19** countries represented as (lead) beneficiary. The geographical spread of those projects including the partners is even higher considering that **33 countries (all participating programme countries)** are represented within the selected projects.

The average amount requested per NT project (€ 128.500 in 2017), is higher than the "average value of grants" foreseen in the annual work programme 2017 (i.e. € 94.085). Consequently, the number of grants allocated within this action in 2017 is lower than the number foreseen in the annual work programme: 32 against 45.

Under this action **32** projects have been selected, providing support to municipalities and associations working together on a common theme in a long-term perspective, and wishing to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation sustainable. The projects under "Networks of Towns" action are characterized by **large, diversified and strong partnerships** (i.e. in average more than **10 partner organisations** per selected project), thus maximising programme impact at national/regional and EU levels. Altogether 32 selected projects will involve around **335 partner organisations** reflecting an important diversity in terms of the partnership (e.g. municipalities, regions, NGOs, twinning committees, foundation, associations, CSOs etc.).

Around **200 transnational events** will be organised by the NT beneficiaries across Europe (in average more than 6 international events will be organised per selected project), which will be coupled with local events in project partner countries.

The distribution of the multiannual priorities by 2017 NT selected projects:



The highest interest of NT beneficiaries goes to the issues related to the **Debate on the Future of Europe** and **migration** challenges. The topics such as upcoming European Elections 2019, with a special focus on the youth and first-time voters' participation as well as benefits of the EU integration and future challenges have been put at the centre of the debate by the selected projects. It is worth noting that the discussion on the Future of Europe goes beyond big cities. Issues such as the debate on the Future of Europe, Euroscepticism, migration changes and solidarity are also tackled in small rural communities.

The priority linked to the **debate on the Future of Europe** was successfully addressed by NT beneficiaries suggesting innovative approaches and new tools for citizens' mobilisation. The importance to involve youngsters in the debate on the Future of EU was particularly stressed during NT projects events, making them key players in the development of the European Project.

Beneficiary: Commune de Loches (FR)

Project Title: Se souvenir de l'Avenir – ongoing project (monitored in 2017)

Project testimonies: "J'observe deux tendances, une serait l'euro-enthousiasme et l'autre l'euroscepticisme, un mouvement conservateur qui met à l'avant la sauvegarde des traditions nationales, qui une fois intégrées dans la culture européenne risqueraient de se dissoudre. La réalité peut être au milieu car cet enthousiasme doit être modéré de façon à ce que l'élan conserve l'identité nationale, le passé de chaque pays. Les idéaux des pays qui composent d'UE doivent converger vers un point d'où l'on puisse partir pour construire un avenir commun."

The project event gathered around 250 invited participants from all EU member states. Around 300 volunteers assisted the project promoters to implement the project activities. The activity programme of the event was structured around the following main project objective: encourage participants to think about the European project and their future within this project, to reflect on the consequences of the non-EU vision. Conference on the future of the EU was organised in the form of an interactive discussion between Mrs Angélique Delahaye (MEP) and youngsters. It was important to explain to young generation that their views count and how they can contribute to the development of the EU project. Young people from all EU countries exchanged their experiences, their vision on the future in the European Union and consequences of the Brexit.



Under the priority **tackling migration issues** the NT beneficiaries put an emphasis on the following aspects: migration crisis and new policy approaches for refugees; digital strategies for immigrants' integration; integration of immigrants and its impact on local development; sharing practices and strengthening social inclusion systems for immigrants; volunteering actions and solidarity mechanisms addressing migration crisis.

Beneficiary: ANCI ABRUZZO (IT)

Project Title: "Reactivating European citizenship: a network of inclusive towns"- REACT (monitored in 2017)

The project aims at building a network of local authorities and NGOs from different EU countries in order to develop shared approaches on integrating migrants and combating every form of stigmatization, thus supporting the new "European Agenda on migration". The activities encourage intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, civic participation and young people involvement.

The project has defined young people (native and foreign or second-generation immigrants) as specific target group, taking into account that the active participation and creativity of the younger generation can raise ideas and suggestions that can support the process of integration and inclusive citizenship.



It is worth stressing that the multi-annual priorities are strongly interconnected and therefore, should be seen as complementary rather than dealing with independent issues. Indeed, very often the priority Debate on the Future of Europe was addressed together with the analysis of causes of Euroscepticism; while the priority on migration was approached from the integration perspective putting an emphasis on volunteering and solidarity between countries and citizens.

Civil Society Projects

The main subjects treated by the projects monitored in 2017 for Civil Society Projects were:

1. Migration/Integration (42%)
2. Debate on the Future of Europe and Democratic participation (40%)
3. Social cohesion/Inclusion (18%)

In most of the cases themes are linked to each other and projects achieve fully their objectives when they were able to develop citizens' understanding of the Union **policy making-process** and **influence policies**. The annual priority of 2015 "**Future of Europe**" was very broad and could leave the door open to many interpretations. However beneficiaries focused on current policy issues, such as **migration**.

*The project titled **Boosting Young Migrants** coordinated by the Italian organization ICEI (Istituto Cooperazione Economica Internazionale) boosted participation of young migrants in the formulation of migration policies and measures. The project considered young migrants as dynamic stakeholders, able to play a role in planning, implementing policies, and participating in local networks to enhance their community, social and political inclusion. Main achievements:*

- 1. Increased civic participation of young migrants;*
- 2. Promotion of societal activities at local level*
- 3. Impact on public policies;*
- 4. Creation of local multi-actors networks associating migrants' associations;*
- 5. Experiences shared at European level*

*The project **Reinventing European Solidarity And Raising Tolerance** led by the Greek Institute of Research and Training on European Affairs, wished to inform and raise awareness in key countries regarding the refugee crisis in Greece, Albania, Cyprus as main routes for the refugees and Belgium as the heart of Europe. Through the discussions, voluntarism, workshops and trainings with the youth they created a policy paper that expresses their concerns, ideas and vision for the EU and its role in the refugee crisis.*



Source: <http://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/towards-a-european-public-sphere/#.WnmEh2cqNrA>

In most of the cases, the start-up of the projects was linked to a specific **local dimension** and the Programme gave them the possibility to reach a European outreach.

*The project **Balkan refugee trail – a pathway for European solidarity** led by the organization **Interkulturelles Zentrum** based in Austria addresses the priority of combatting stigmatisation of "immigrants" and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Bringing together a variety of civic actors from all over the Balkan route, it tried to bridge the gap between these local experiences and the EU policy level. The project reflected on how this form of voluntary societal and intercultural engagement could help promoting the idea of solidarity and meeting future challenges for the European Union.*

*Riksorganisationen **Hela Sverige Ska Leva (SE)** (=Swedish Village Action Movement) was the leader of the "**Strengthening Participation among Rural Citizens in Europe**" project that promoted local development towards a sustainable society. The Movement consists of about 5000 village action groups encouraging participation of citizens living in rural areas in shaping policies as well as taking actions for the well-being of rural economies and communities. The project gave them opportunities to share their experience with almost 10 000 European citizens living in rural areas in BE, AT, CZ, CY, DK, UK, EE, FI, EL, NL, PL, PT, ES and IE. The biggest event of the project was the **3rd European Rural Parliament** that took place in the Netherlands with participants from 40 European countries. The project had therefore a powerful impact and had a large European outreach.*

In other cases the co-responsibility of citizens was enhanced by their personal experience. In such context, the **solidarity** and societal aspects were remarkable as well as **volunteering**.

*The Croatian project "**Optimizing Volunteer Services in Times of Refugee Crisis**" led by **Udruga "MI"** – Split encouraged volunteering as a form of solidarity in times of crisis. Together with seven civil society organisations from RS, FYROM, BE, UK and HU they exchanged experiences working with refugees and volunteers. Participants were asked to give their impressions on how they see the role of volunteers, and how it could be improved. This research was done at national level by all the partners and synthesised as recommendations for improving volunteer services in times of refugee crisis which could be read in a notebook titled "**Volontheka**".*

Volontheka

summary of research results on volunteer services for migrants/refugees in UK, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Hungary

Civil Society Projects contributed to the **shape a European citizenship**, acknowledging the differences existing in Europe in order to fight against xenophobia, prejudices and racism.

Euro-scepticism has gained ground in Member States to the point of redrawing political maps and disrupting traditional political divisions. The term itself refers to very diverse forms of attitudes vis-à-vis the European construction, ranging from a mere criticism of its current integration modalities (Eurocriticism) to an outright hostility toward the European Union itself (Europhobia). Rebuilding trust is a long process, and can be achieved only improving transparency, openness, and frank and honest **dialogue between politicians and the citizens** who elect them.

*The project **Debating Europe**, carried out by Friends of Europe aimed to foster debate on the full range of grassroots issues facing Europe, and to challenge traditional 'top-down' EU thinking with a citizen-driven 'bottom-up' approach. To these ends, Debating Europe produced 24 online debates, 24 infographics and hosted 2 live events in 2015 and 2016 involving citizens and decision-makers throughout Europe.*

Improving the understanding of European citizenship, diversity and future of Europe by **young citizens** was central to many Civil Society projects.

*Within the project **Debating Threats to Democracy and Human Rights** the civil society organization IDEA based in the Netherlands equipped youth with the skills required to debate different ideas, old and new values, and norms in Europe about threats, opportunities, risk and fears. Young people increased their self-esteem by participating as citizens in a multi-cultural Europe, and learnt to debate, write and even advocate for future social change.*

In the Selection 2017 the following priorities were covered:

1. Debate on the future of Europe (48 %)
2. Combatting stigmatisation of immigrants and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding (28 %)
3. Understanding and Debating Euro-scepticism (24 %)¹

It seems that whereas in previous years Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) were particularly active in the urgent management of the migrants and refugees crisis, in 2017 they concentrated more on democratic participation. CSOs proposed to combat the general mistrust in democracy, seeing democratic participation as a tool to face intertwined challenges such as migration, populism and xenophobia.

The 27 projects granted present a large geographical coverage (21 countries out of 32 countries represented at application level); they have large partnerships and cover all the thematic priorities highlighted in the Call. In total 21.304 participants are planned to be directly involved in the activities granted.

The threshold for funding remains at a high level: 82.25/100 —slightly higher than in 2016. This shows the good quality of the applications proposed for granting and that many other projects would deserve to be granted if more budgetary resources were available.

Civil Society organisations welcomed also the Commission priority to involve young people in solidarity activities through the **European Solidarity Corps** initiative. The Europe for Citizens Programme is thus successfully meeting the expectations of this new initiative and grassroots organisations in Europe. Almost 50 % of the projects proposed for granting will host Corps members, for a total of 88 placements.

¹ "Solidarity in times of crisis" is a priority transversally treated in different projects (32%) either as part of the debate on the future of Europe —launching a reflection on potential solidarity mechanisms that could be developed at European level— or as an active way to combat stigmatisation of immigrants (i.e. by volunteering).

OPERATING GRANTS

2017 was the last year of the four-year Framework Partnership agreement (2014-2017) of the Operating Grants awarded to 36 organisations. In 2017 the Agency has analysed the reports presented by those organisations for the activities implemented in 2016 and has monitored the implementation of activities presented in the work programme 2017.

Those organisations worked successfully on the established Programme priorities, with a special focus on the debate on the Future of Europe -in many cases linked to Brexit- and on migration issues.

Activities took the form of public debates, publications, workshops as well as research & comparative analysis. Overall, in the course of 2017, the organisations raised awareness on EU issues and contributed to the European policy debates.

Many beneficiaries celebrated the **60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome** which was an opportunity for them to focus discussions on the **future of Europe** and to promote the message of a more united Europe. They called for **civic participation** to combat renewed **Euroscpticism, rising nationalism and populism, racism and xenophobia** while they also promoted European integration and the **active involvement of the European citizens in the democratic process**.

*In order to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome two of our beneficiaries, **Union of European Federalists (BE) & European Movement International (BE)** seized the occasion to gather in Rome and show support for the European project. Together with citizens from all across Europe they "marched for Europe" as a symbolic act of public support for a Europe of unity & solidarity while they also called for the European political unity.*

*The **Heinrich Böll Stiftung (DE)** held a conference to discuss the **future of Europe** in relation to the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. Participants coming from all over Europe reached a consensus at the end of the conference: "Europe is a liberal democracy success story and must sustain. Europe can make good on its promises. This is evident from over 60 years of peace and freedom in Europe. Not treating these achievements as a matter of course but fighting and standing up for them is now the order of the day."²*

Throughout the year the organisations engaged policy makers and civil society across the EU Member States in discussions on the **links between national and EU policies**, the role of national and EU institutions in making decisions that affect EU citizens. They organised series of debates addressed to citizens to discuss about the value of the Union today and the expectations for the future. All these activities aimed to reinforce the message that **civil society & citizens play a crucial role in bringing citizens closer to Europe**.

*In order to celebrate Europe Day, **Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana (PL)** organised their annual Schuman Parade. This important event involved participants from ten different countries and aimed at strengthening active citizenship and the EU integration process by embracing differences and exploring European identities.³*

*The Czech think tank —**Institut pro Evropskou Politiku EUROPEUM**— organised many public debates to ensure a high level of information about the Union amongst the general public. In the course of 2017 their research and roundtable discussions had diverse topics from the migration crisis, Central Europe and the rise of populism, Brexit and electoral challenges in the EU to climate change.*

² https://www.boell.de/en/2017/03/31/moving-forward-europe?dimension1=e_eubb_2017

³ <http://clubbingeurope.schuman.pl/en/clubbing-europe-wydarzenia-miedzynarodowe/european-clubs-in-warsaw-may-2017>

Many of the supported organisations stressed the value of volunteering, cross-border mobility of volunteers, and analysed **how volunteering has an impact in terms of employment levels, European citizenship, solidarity & social inclusion**. Some of them successfully participated in the **European Solidarity Corps** initiative. They were committed to promote reinforced solidarity among EU citizens; they made constructive proposals and organised participatory activities on how to reform the Union to achieve such goals.

*The **European Volunteer Centre – CEV** hosted in Brussels one of the first participants of the "European Solidarity Corps". CEV's main aim is to promote solidarity via volunteering across Europe and to that end in addition to individual volunteering at local and national level they initiated the "European Volunteering Capital" project that is a multiplier tool to introduce new citizens to the importance and value of volunteering.*

*In the context of solidarity & social inclusion, the transnational civil society organisation **European Alternatives Limited (UK)** led the initiative "Re-Build Refuge Europe", a project that brought together partners from the UK, Sweden, Spain, Finland and Germany, and Greece. It aimed at counteracting the dominant discourses of 'crisis' and 'threat' by using art, culture and innovative practices allowing European citizens and refugees to learn from each other as equals. Activities of the project included storytelling, training and workshops for participants and the digital arts. Interim and final results of the project were exhibited during the Athens Biennale and the TRANSEUROPE Festival in Madrid.⁴*

Organisations under the "European Remembrance" strand specifically dealt with the Holocaust and the post-war migration, genocide, 1917's revolution and transition towards democracies and the impact of the fall of empires on Europe's political and historical landscape.

*As one of the main priorities of the European Remembrance strand in 2017, **Politikatortneti Intezet Kozhasznu Non-Profir KFT (HU)** organised events with invited guests on European history from 1914 to present and discussed the main social, political and historical dilemmas of the 20th century.*

*The **Fundacio Solidaritat UB**, which also leads the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM), a transnational network of institutions committed to promote research of public memories, besides research on memorial politics in Europe also organised seminars and exhibitions to commemorate the Spanish Civil War and the Holocaust.*

To conclude beneficiaries of operating grants showed their capacity to stay close to citizens' concerns whilst remaining focused on issues at the top of the EU policy agenda. They encouraged networking and cluster activities and were able to support civil society all over Europe.

⁴ <https://euroalter.com/projects/refuge-europe>

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS WITHIN THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" PROGRAMME

Background

The European Solidarity Corps Initiative was announced by President Juncker at his State of the Union speech on September 2016 and officially launched by the Commission on 7th December 2017. The European Solidarity Corps initiative became immediately fully operational.

The Europe for Citizens programme incorporated this new feature already in the 2017 calls for proposals: applications submitted within the framework of European Remembrance and Civil Society Projects measures could already foresee European Solidarity Corps members. Also, organisations receiving an operating grant from the programme had the possibility to host Corps members in 2017.

State of play

The initiative and the possibility to welcome European Solidarity Corps members were very well received by organisations applying under the 2017 call for proposals; in the European Remembrance selection 2017, out of 286 admissible applications, 104 (~35 %) planned to involve members of the European Solidarity Corps for a total of 925 placements (mainly in IT, ES, EL, SK, BG, FR, PL and HU). In Civil society selection 2017, out of 363 applicants, 151 (42 %) planned to involve members of the European Solidarity Corps foreseeing a total of 1636 placements.

The success of the initiative is shown also by the selected applications:

- Remembrance Projects: Out of 39 awarded projects, 17 included European Solidarity Corps, for a total of 152 placements;
- Civil Society Projects: Out of 27 awarded projects, 13 included European Solidarity Corps, for a total of 88 placements.

In total, **240 members** of the Corps will be involved in **30 projects** in the framework of the 2017 selections of the Europe for Citizens Programme-. Those beneficiaries were given access to the dedicated Portal (PASS) to enrol European Solidarity Corps participants.

10 members of the European Solidarity Corps were participated already in 2017 to activities supported by Europe for Citizens including 3 under the traineeship stands engaged by organisations supported by operating grants.

Depending on the activities planned in the framework of the Europe for Citizens projects, volunteers will be performing a different range of tasks, e.g. research and collecting material for European Remembrance projects, making guided tours in historical places for citizens and project participants, making/editing video and other communication material requiring technical expertise, ensuring contacts among project partners, supporting in the organisations of itinerant exhibitions, debates, conferences and festivals, disseminating the European Solidarity Corps initiative among the general public, especially for Civil Society projects.

Ongoing Monitoring

The implementation of the European Solidarity Corps initiative was followed up through monitoring missions, dedicated phone calls and email to reply to precise questions from beneficiaries on practical technical concerns.

In 2017, 21 out of 30 beneficiary organisations of Europe for Citizens projects have been specifically monitored on this feature to offer support and ensure consistency with the rules.

In practice

The *European Volunteer Centre (CEV)*, beneficiary of an operating grant, has been the **first organisation at Union level to welcome a member of the European Solidarity Corps** within the occupational strand of the European Solidarity Corps initiative. In particular CEV could offer the opportunity of a traineeship. A first member of the European Solidarity Corps joined the organisation in March 2017 working on different projects implemented by CEV on volunteering; the second trainee arrived soon after to work on communication. Being among the first young people to join the Corps, the two trainees appeared in a number of online articles

to talk about their experience and the value of being involved in a Europe-wide solidarity initiative: "Young people are already motivated to change the world, they just need quality programmes that enabled them to do so" said Helena GANDRA at the conference "Quality Traineeships in the EU – Youth Guarantee, European Solidarity Corps and beyond" organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Youth Forum.

European Network of Houses for Debate "Time to Talk" is beneficiary of a 2017 European Remembrance project "*Revolution Revisited – Rethinking Europe*". In September 2017 the organisation has hosted three members of the European Solidarity Corps. The volunteers were involved in the organisation of the Vienna Humanities Festival organised by the beneficiary in the framework of their project. Their participation was crucial at all stages of the event, from preparation to the closure of the event. The cooperation among the hosting organisation and the volunteers were so positive that the volunteers performed additional tasks related to the editing of the event video. Gavrilova DESSISLAVA, representative of "Time to Talk Association" said that without the volunteers it would not have been possible to edit that video and that she found it very beneficial to host them; she also reported that the volunteers valued their participation in the Festival and enjoyed the flexibility of the initiative with regard to timing, tasks and arrangements.



PART B

Examples of projects

STRAND 1: EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

"European crossed approaches: challenging remembrance gaps"

REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Beneficiary: Memorial de la Shoah (FR)

Project reference: 589075-CITIZ-1-2017-1-FR-CITIZ-REMEM

Partner countries: MK, ES, PT, BG, IT, HR, RS, EE

Number of direct participants: 275

Date of the project events: 01/08/2017 - 31/01/2019

Grant awarded: 97.500 €

Taking its starting point as an archive collecting evidence of Anti-Jewish persecution in 1943, the *Mémorial de la Shoah* is an institution deeply linked to the history of the Holocaust and WWII. Today the Mémorial serves as a point of reference on Shoah related matters at European level. Its main mission is to raise awareness on the unprecedented nature of the Holocaust as a shared European event as well as to promote the memory of the Holocaust as a founding event of the EU. Selected in 2017, the project "European crossed approaches: challenging remembrance gaps", has started in July 2017 and will be completed at the beginning of 2019. Giving space for debate, reflection and exchanges, the project will foster mutual understanding, tolerance and reconciliation.

Together with 8 partners from MK, ES, PT, BG, IT, HR, RS, EE, the Mémorial de la Shoah (FR) organises multilateral and regional workshops bringing together approximately 270 educators, teachers, civil society stakeholders and experts. Besides deepening the general understanding of the holocaust and other mass atrocities, the seminars will address topics embedded in the regional history and visit to important historical places. Local dynamics and remembrance challenges between neighbours are revealed and serve as a basis to debate and reflect over Genocide issues, European remembrance and peace education. The workshops also address current challenges in education such as how to equip students with appropriate tools for critically analysing the information on the topic, distinguishing real and fake information and develop their ability to fight nationalistic or simplistic views.

Through its educational approach the project challenges and breaks up competing memories on exclusive victimhood by giving space to all victims and sufferings, hence allowing a common European narrative to emerge.

"THE TUTSI GENOCIDE IN RWANDA IS PROOF, IF ANY WERE NEEDED, THAT THE CONDITIONS ENABLING THE PLANNED DESTRUCTION OF PART OF HUMANITY CAN STILL EXIST. IT IS THEREFORE URGENT TO LEARN HOW TO DISSECT THE MECHANISMS OF GENOCIDE TO PREVENT IT FROM OCCURRING AGAIN IN THE FUTURE."⁵

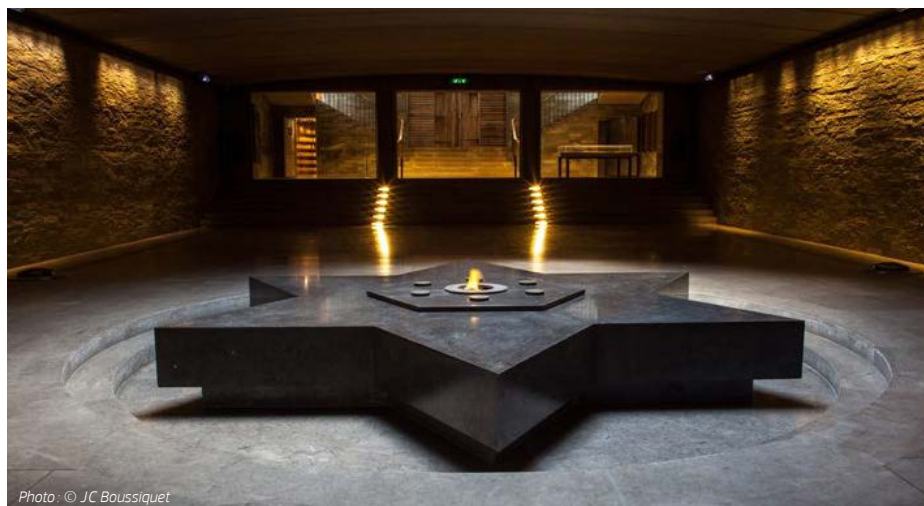


Photo: © JC Boussiquet

Source: <http://www.memorialdelashoah.org/le-memorial/les-espaces-du-musee-memorial/le-mur-desnoms.html>

⁵ <http://www.memorialdelashoah.org/en/education-training/pedagogical-activities.html>

"Women, war and peace"

REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Beneficiary: Smashing times Theatre Company limited (IE)
Project reference: 563591-CITIZ-1-2015-1-IE-CITIZ-REMEM
Partner countries: ES, PL, DE
Number of direct participants: 1.769
Date of the project events: 03/08/2015 - 02/02/2017
Grant awarded: 100.000 €

In "Woman, war and peace" the personal stories of 23 women who stood up against authoritarian and totalitarian regimes are taken as examples to study and discussing the WWII, authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, gender equality and the role of EU in promoting peace. Partners from PL, DE, ES and the Irish coordinator researched the exemplary life of women that "refused to accept oppression" and use the information so gathered to publish a book and to write a screen play for theatre. The life of six of those women were reinterpreted in theatres performances and in a video; through the screening of the performances, participants were encouraged to discuss what they have seen and how they can relate this to their own experience and reality – remembrance through drama.

"THE STORIES INSPIRE PRIDE IN THE VALUES THESE WOMEN HAD FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY AND BY ILLUMINATING THE PAST THROUGH CREATIVE PROCESSES THE PROJECT CAN INSPIRE AND SHOW YOUNG PEOPLE HOW TO BECOME ACTIVE CITIZENS TODAY. HEARING THESE STORIES ENSURES THAT YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TODAY ARE HEARING A DIFFERENT NARRATIVE, ONE THAT GIVES THEM NEW ROLE MODELS THAT INSPIRE A SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN RELATION TO WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO ADVOCATING FOR PEACE."⁶

Among the stories recalled by this project you might find the one of Mary Elmes from Cork (IE) who was the first Irish person honoured as *'Righteous Among Nations'* for her work risking her life to save Jewish children from being deported from the Rivesaltes camp (FR) to Auschwitz (PL) during the Second World War. She also supported and worked in hospitals in Spain and in refugees' camp in France for Spanish refugees during the Spanish civil war. She was arrested and imprisoned by the Gestapo on suspicion of espionage and hostility against Germany. But when the war was over, she married and settled down, never speaking

about what she had done. Her story was forgotten until some journalists discovered it.

The success of the project is shown by the high number of participants: 1769 participants from Ireland, Germany, Poland and Spain participated to the numerous events organised in the framework of this project. Many of those participants (1103) participated for the first time to a European event! The communication and dissemination activities reached 1.619.147 citizens in the partner countries.



Photo: © www.smashingtimes.ie

MEDIA VIEW: NEW PLAY TELLS OF THE CORK WOMAN WHO HELPED JEWISH CHILDREN ESCAPE THE NAZIS

Published On 14 September, 2016 | Latest News



Photo: © www.smashingtimes.ie

Source: <http://www.smashingtimes.ie/media-view-new-play-tells-of-the-cork-woman-who-helped-jewish-children-escape-the-nazis>

⁶ <http://www.smashingtimes.ie/women-war-and-peace/>

STRAND 2: DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

" Flüchtlinge in Europa – Eine Herausforderung für uns Europäer, die wir nur gemeinsam meistern können. Integration beginnt in den Kommunen."

TOWN TWINNING

Beneficiary: Stadt Bad Kötzting (DE)

Project reference: 582426-CITIZ-1-2016-2-DE-CITIZ-TT

Partner countries: PL, HU, NL, FR, ES, AT, CZ, SK, UK, LU, LV, PT, SL, HR, RO, EL, BE, EE, DK, BG, IT, SE, MT, FI, CY

Number of direct participants: 228

Date of the project events: 11/05/2017 – 14/05/2017

Grant awarded: 22.000 €

The Town Twinning event took place in the *Municipality of Bad Kötzting* on 11-13 May 2017 and directly reached 228 citizens from 27 partner's cities of 25 European countries to discuss opportunities and risks of integration, increasing understanding of cultural similarities and differences and understanding of the EU's role in welcoming and integrating refugees and migrants. It included many different activities like forums, workshops, conferences, meetings and more 'social' activities. During the implementation and preparation around 150 citizens and 60 refugees were actively involved.

Before the event, each partner had undertaken a local research on the topic of migration, by interviewing refugees and migrants

on their reasons for moving, their personal experiences and their expectations in relation to Europe. Refugees and migrants were contacted in their hometowns and partners prepared reports and presentations on the situation of refugees.

The public was largely informed on the town twinning project and on the topic "refugees in Europe" and several weekly reports were published in local newspapers. The importance of the topic among the regional politicians was sustained by the presence of representatives of the regional government and members of the Bundestag. Several follow-up projects on the topic of migrants and refugees integration were planned and initiated thanks to the town twinning project.

PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIES

"The theme on migrants and refugees in Europe is a difficult, important and challenging topic that concerns us all. I believe that we have touched the subject on a micro-scale with empathy and integrity."

"Integration can be successful if both sides make an effort to reduce fear and prejudice by means of dialogue and also if an exchange becomes normality. This is more feasible in a small commune than in more urban centres. The fair distribution of refugees within Europe must be a priority; it should not be the case that a few countries become overwhelmed with hosting refugees as humanitarian aid might not be guaranteed in a satisfactory manner."



"Regards croisés Est-Ouest et intergénérationnels sur la solidarité en Europe: les attentes des peuples européens"

TOWN TWINNING

Beneficiary: Comité de Jumelage Fontenay-le-Comte (FR)

Project reference: 588647-CITIZ-1-2017-1-FR-CITIZ-TT

Partner countries: RO

Number of direct participants: 280

Date of the project events: 02/07/2017 – 07/07/2017

Grant awarded: 10.000 €

The project "Regards croisés Est-Ouest et intergénérationnels sur la solidarité en Europe: les attentes des peuples européens" was a bilateral project between France and Romania that took place in Fontenay-le-Comte in July 2017 and involved directly 280 participants. The participants focused their activities on three priorities of the Europe for Citizens programme: combatting stigmatisation of migrants, solidarity in times of crisis and debate on the Future of Europe.

The roundtable "Youth demands from Europe" aimed at designing the future of the EU from the youth perspective. In this regard, the activity gathered people under 40 with different experiences: a Romanian MEP, 3 local government representatives from Romania and France, a Polish citizen living in France, a former Erasmus student from France that studied in Romania and a volunteer working with an association dealing with migrants and vulnerable people integration in France. Although solidarity

can have a different definition depending on each country's problems, the debaters agreed that European integration is a continuous process, that Europe thrives when EU Member States help each other, act as a bloc when facing threats, while protecting a common vision and destiny for Europe. Although not initially in the project, 12 local associations joined the debates and activities. For example, a visit to an association hosting vulnerable people, presented practical solutions for housing, access to labour market for people in need.

As a result of the project, the French municipality wants to further develop the partnership allowing more vulnerable people from Romania to discover France and Europe. They have also expressed their willingness to create a partnership between two high schools from France and Romania with an agricultural profile and help young Romanians to find traineeships in France.

PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIES

"Il faut que les relations s'harmonisent entre les pays européens riches de diversités culturelles et de compétences. - Ce grand moment de vie commune est-ouest a été rendu possible grâce au programme l'Europe pour les citoyens. Nous en sommes sortis grandis et surtout conscients de notre liberté commune, des défis à relever. Il faut y croire !"

"Le processus de la construction européenne n'a pas de date fixée d'achèvement, mais elle sera développée par chaque génération"

"La plupart d'entre nous avons bien compris, que pour l'intérêt général, il est nécessaire de travailler ensemble afin de maintenir une stabilité financière et politique. Même si par moment un sentiment d'injustice peut apparaître, dû à un manque d'information, un manque de transparence et de compréhension, il faut construire un avenir commun, une histoire commune."



PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIES

"Les jeunes générations ont grandi avec l'Europe et acceptent mieux cette solidarité. L'avenir de l'Europe passe par l'éducation de nos enfants."

"J'attends de l'Europe qu'elle permette de favoriser encore plus les échanges entre les pays, que ce soit par la liberté de circuler ou de travailler. Je souhaite également plus d'harmonisation entre les différents États que ce soit au niveau des lois et des conditions économiques. En effet j'aime à croire que l'Union Européenne saura nous garder tous unis, saura se battre pour la défense des valeurs européennes. Aujourd'hui, nous avons besoin, plus que jamais, d'une plus grande uniformité des valeurs européennes dans tous les pays membres de l'Union Européenne, du soutien des droits de l'homme et des femmes en particulier, de l'investissement dans l'éducation et l'avenir des jeunes, de la solidarité avec la population de tous les pays membres de l'Union Européenne, de l'est à l'ouest."



Photo: © www.fontenaylecomte.fr - Table ronde

“BAM - Bagages à main”

TOWN TWINNING

Beneficiary: Associazione Laboratorio del Cittadino Onlus (IT)

Project reference: 589177-CITIZ-1-2017-1-IT-CITIZ-TT

Partner countries: FI, FR, CZ, BE, EL, ES, UK, RO, PL

Number of direct participants: 212

Date of the project events: 01/10/2017 – 06/10/2017

Grant awarded: 25.000 €

The project "Bagages à main" gathered in Italy in October 2017 22 partners from 10 different countries in order to debate around two of the annual priorities of the Europe for citizens Programme: promoting solidarity in times of crisis and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups. The main aim of the project was to shed light on the refugee crisis that impacts Europe since 2015, to reduce political, institutional, moral or ethical gaps and practices between different countries in Europe and finally, to provide the local communities with the necessary tools for a successful integration of migrants.

The project reached its purpose through both theoretical and practical activities – debates, workshops and an exhibition – in which more than 200 people with different backgrounds (academics, local governments' representatives, NGOs, migrants and other groups of vulnerable people) took part. The debates and workshops covered the following topics: history and future of the EU, inclusive and participatory democracy, reasons why migrants leave their countries, different types and means of migration, portraiture of migrants in the media.



Photo : © <http://bagagesamainbam.wordpress.com/gallery>



Photo : © <http://bagagesamainbam.wordpress.com/gallery>

By presenting 22 video-testimonials/ interviews with migrants living currently in Italy and by organising an exhibition where migrants shared their stories and journeys, the project promoted its strongest message of tolerance or "common humanity" (as named in the project), key-value that guided all the activities. As a result of the collaboration that started in 2016, the partners decided to create a network of participatory actions, aiming at finding new ways of rethinking and practicing democracy at local level, a better mobilisation of tools, human and material resources that can change socially and economically small communities.

PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIES

"Le fossé entre l'Europe et les citoyens risque de se creuser, jusqu'à rendre inacceptable les décisions prises par nos dirigeants nationaux et européens. Il est urgent de développer un autre discours européen et d'adopter des mesures significatives pour rapprocher l'Europe des citoyens".

"Pour moi c'est une richesse pour notre ville tout ce mélange de cultures et de choses qu'on peut apprendre des uns et des autres"

"J'espère qu'avec eux on va pouvoir réaliser une Europe enfin multiculturelle, une nouvelle Europe multiculturelle."

"Il ne suffit pas de préparer l'intégration mais il faut aussi que cette intégration soit acceptée et bien respectée, c'est ça qui fera la réussite d'une bonne intégration professionnelle et personnelle".

"YELAC - Young European Leaders for Active Citizenship"

NETWORK OF TOWNS

Beneficiary: Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) (FR)

Project reference: 389046-CITIZ-1-2014-1-FR-CITIZ-NT

Partner countries: DE, IT, UK, NL, ES, SK, LT

Number of direct participants: 109

Date of the project events: 01/11/2014 – 31/05/2016

Grant awarded: 80.000 €

The project "Young European Leaders for active citizenship" led by Council of European Municipalities and Regions (*CEMR*) in a partnership with German Association of CEMR (*RGRE*) (DE), CEMR Italian Section (*AICCRE*) (IT), Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (*COSLA*) (UK), Association of Netherlands Municipalities (*VNG*) (NL), Association of Basque municipalities (*EUDEL*), Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (*ZMOS*) (SK) and Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (*LSA*) (LT) aimed at encouraging **young representatives** to contribute to the European debate, increasing their involvement in the democratic life of the EU and to facilitate discussions and knowledge exchange among them on relevant European issues.

The project presented innovative forms of young citizens' participation, encouraging young elected representatives to use them in their constituencies, and to shed light on how to achieve a successful multi-level governance and partnership in the field of youth. The project also allowed coming up with recommendations to foster youth participation at the local level, as well as helping to re-define the institutional framework to facilitate youth engagement in politics.

The last project event summed-up the results of the implemented activities in order **to design a strategy for the future**. It re-addressed the main points raised previously regarding education, unemployment, housing and youth participation.

One of the most important achievement of the project is its follow up idea to establish a permanent Committee composed of mayors and councillors below the age of 35, that will follow EU politics closely in order to mainstream youth participation, contribute to the EU policies in the field of youth, strengthen the multilevel governance approach of EU decision-making and increase the presence of **young councillors and mayors** in EU decision-making (Council of Europe, European Youth Forum, EU institutions, Youth Intergroup of the European Parliament, etc.)

There was a strong agreement about the necessity of strengthening political education to reinforce participation and civic engagement among young people. It was stressed, that mentoring/ coaching young people in the process of effective and meaningful participation and their involvement in planning and decision-making can help to boost civic participation.

The main key message of the citizens involved in the project was **"We need an integrated approach in order to involve youth in the decision-making process"**.



“EUROPOLY - An innovative Bottom-Up approach to fight euroscepticism through networking”

NETWORK OF TOWNS

Beneficiary: Centro Diego Fabbri Studi ricerche e formazione sul teatro (IT)

Project reference: 586732-CITIZ-1-2017-1-IT-CITIZ-NT

Partner countries: HR, HU, SL, ES, IT, BG, RO

Number of direct participants: 435

Date of the project events: 04/09/2017 – 31/05/2019

Grant awarded: 145.000 €

The project Europoly has the intention to tackle the "generational conflict" when it comes to citizens' attitudes towards the EU. More precisely, based on their research at local level and EU polls the applicant and his partners believe the economic, financial and refugee crisis have created a generational gap, reinforcing older generations more nationalistic views, while the young generations remain largely pro-European. The "Euroenthusiasm" of young generations is explained by the applicant by the opportunities the EU has to offer for youngsters (traineeships, exchange programmes) and access to information.

Therefore, the goal of the project is to interrupt the "generational conflict", to understand the reasons behind euroscepticism through debates, to use attractive and innovative communication means through arts, to inspire local authorities to create a bottom-up approach in designing local policies in order to better engage their citizens in their communities. Another expected result is to overtake the "institutional communication" and create more creative ways of passing the information, values and benefits of the EU from youngsters to Eurosceptics.

In this regard, 8 events will be held in different cities: in Dubrovnik, Fano and Medina del Campo the participants will find out about the roots of euroscepticism, mainly due to immigration, the economic situation and unemployment. The events in Velenje, Szolnok, Shumen and Targu Mures will focus on emphasizing the benefits and opportunities of being an EU citizen: free movement, peace, economic benefits. The final event will be held on Europe Day (May 9th) in order to maximize the impact of two years activities and will provide knowledge and tools to local policymakers in order to design local civic engagement strategies, to better communicate them and involve their citizens.

“WIR – Welcome and Integration for Refugees in Europe”

NETWORK OF TOWNS

Beneficiary: Vänersborgs kommun (SE)

Project reference: 588538-CITIZ-1-2017-1-SE-CITIZ-NT

Partner countries: IT, AT, DE, ES, FI, LV

Number of direct participants: 323

Date of the project events: 16/10/2017 – 15/10/2019

Grant awarded: 150.000 €

The project "Welcome and Integration for Refugees in Europe" gathers seven countries with six local authorities, two associations and one University, with old and new member states with a North – South and East-West dimension. The aim of the project is to increase knowledge about the EU policies towards refugees and asylum seekers' integration, to exchange best practices, compare different European experiences and transfer new ways for welcoming and integrating refugees.

The applicant acknowledges the fact that migration can be a challenge for many EU countries as practices for welcoming and integrating refugees are very different at EU level. Misguided information, narratives creating stereotypes have created social and economic clashes in the member states and among member states. On the other hand, migration is also an opportunity for many EU countries in need of young populations and workforce. These two aspects are taken into account for all the proposed activities.

Different aspects are tackled, such as schooling, access to education for refugees, best practices on unaccompanied minor refugees, socio-economic support of migrants in Europe, the role of communication in creating stereotypes on refugees. In terms of methodology and for a better transfer of results, the applicant and his partners will organise coordination meetings, transnational meetings and focus groups. They intend to set up local valorisation groups consisting of stakeholders interested in deepening and engaging on the project theme. Apart from conferences, debates, workshops, the transfer of practices will be also ensured through volunteering festivals, for example the annual volunteering Day in Daugavpils (LT) and the annual multicultural feast in Collecchio (Unione Pedemontana), will be carried out through the local valorisation groups.

"European Citizen Initiative to Combat Political Extremism and Euroscepticism"

CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECT

Beneficiary: Republicon Tudományos, Oktatási és Kutatási Alapítvány (HU)

Project reference: 563986-CITIZ-1-2015-1-HU-CITIZ-CIV

Partner countries: PL, CZ, SK, DK, SI, RS, RO

Number of direct participants: 501

Date of the project events: 01/08/2015 - 31/01/2017

Grant awarded: 140.000 €

The project [European Citizen Initiative to Combat Political Extremism and Euroscepticism](#) aimed at combatting radicalism as well as studying Euroscepticism, the relationship between the economic and political crisis in the EU and citizen's attitudes to democratic values.

This was done by organising six high impact events in 5 EU Member States (HU, PL, CZ, SK, RO) and one in a pre-accession country (SR), in order to provide factual insight for European citizens to understand the roots of Euroscepticism and the factors behind the spread of political extremism.

For instance, the conference '[Migration's influence on Euroscepticism and Political Radicalism](#)', one of the main events of the project, took place in Prague and focused on the impact of migration on Euroscepticism and political radicalism. Speakers who elaborated on this issue and engaged in exchanges with citizens included inter alia the Austrian and Slovak ambassador to the Czech Republic. The discrepancy between media coverage, political discourse and the factual impact of refugees and migrants was amongst the main topics debated during the conference and various different approaches and perspectives concerning for example integration were developed by participants.

Other project's events covered the topics of the EU's foundations, the economic and political accomplishments of the EU, the rights and freedoms that every EU citizen is entitled to and the cohesion policy, which assures every EU citizen's wellbeing. Through these events, Republikon managed to inform EU citizens on the functioning and the achievements of the EU by providing a platform for dialogue and best practice exchange. This dialogue was enriched by the attendance of many high level speakers, such as Russia's former prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov, Chinese author and human rights activist Liao Yiwu, and Polly Mackenzie who was the former adviser to the British deputy prime minister Nick Clegg. Ultimately, the project managed to reach 663 European citizens and enabled them to exchange viewpoints and to debate so as to connect more to the purpose of the European project.



"Prisoners: Present Discussion and Contribution to the Future European Union"

CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECT

Beneficiary: Asociacija Novi Homines (LT)
Project reference: 563809-CITIZ-1-2015-1-LT-CITIZ-CIV
Partner countries: EL, MT, ES, PT, RO
Number of direct participants: 196.944
Date of the project events: 01/09/2015 - 28/02/2017
Grant awarded: 59.750 €

PROFESSOR DUNCAL FROM GERMANY SAID "BEING IN PRISON IS EQUAL TO A LACK OF FREEDOM TO MAKE MOVEMENTS. IF YOU LOSE SOME RIGHTS, YOU WILL START TO LOOK FOR NEW WAYS OF SATISFACTION"

The project, *Present Discussion and Contribution to the Future European Union* helped ex-prisoners and their family to get involved into a discussion about the benefits and impact of EU citizenship to ensure the universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity as stated in Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union are respected.

Projects events were attended by representatives from the Prison Departments, the National Human Rights Commission, and Commission for Women rights, retired and serving officers from the prisons and police departments, ex-prisoners and their family members, members from NGOs, academicians, bureaucrats and lawyers.

The project starts from the assumption that prisoners do not regularly exercise their voting rights and analyses causes and consequences in the light of next European elections. Total prison population in European Union countries (including pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners) is around 1, 7 million prison inmates (<http://www.prisonstudies.org/>) and while voting is the right of every EU citizen, prisoners are avoiding from exercising this right. Prisoners and ex-convicts are not prone to participate in democratic and civil actions or get participates passively as well as their family members.

The project was divided into eight parts, covering workshops, discussion, art and psychological activities, conferences, lectures and seminars, research and tours. The activities took place in all partner countries: Lithuania, Greece, Malta, Spain, Portugal and Romania and in all projects events, there were visits to prisons and open discussion organised. Topics as 'Prisons and Human Rights', 'How much freedom can you take away from someone', 'Opportunities of volunteering', The Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the Istanbul Protocol were discussed. In January 2017, the association Novi Homines hosted an art exhibition in Vilnius, realised by inmates.

Activities were the occasion for a productive dialogue between inmates, ex-inmates, institutions and public society, as well as start discussions about problems that European citizens encounter now in the related field.

As a conclusion, a policy paper containing *Recommendations to the European Parliament* aiming to have a harmonised European regulation of imprisonment has been prepared by the beneficiaries.

"ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN POLITICAL LEVEL WAS DONE, WHEN MINISTER OF JUSTICE JUOZAS BERNATONIS ATTENDED THE EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTY MINISTERS OF JUSTICE MEETING IN RIGA AND SUPPORTED PROPOSALS ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF SENTENCES OF RESTRUCTURING THE SYSTEM OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:
<http://tm.lt/naujienos/pranesimasspaudai/2366>

WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS POLITICAL ACT AS A RESULT OF OUR EVENTS, BUT WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT NOVI HOMINES WITH THIS PROJECT IS MAKING A HUGE IMPACT TO SOCIETY VIEW IN RELATED FIELD."⁷



Photo: © Conference - Novi Homines projektu vadovės Ieva Jasaitytė

⁷ <http://novihomines.lt/prisoners>

European Civic Forum

OPERATING GRANTS

Beneficiary: European Civic Forum (FR)

Project reference: 585098-CITIZ-1-2017-1-FR-CITIZ-OGCIV

Number of direct participants: 146.252

Date of the project events: 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2017

Grant awarded: 200.000 €

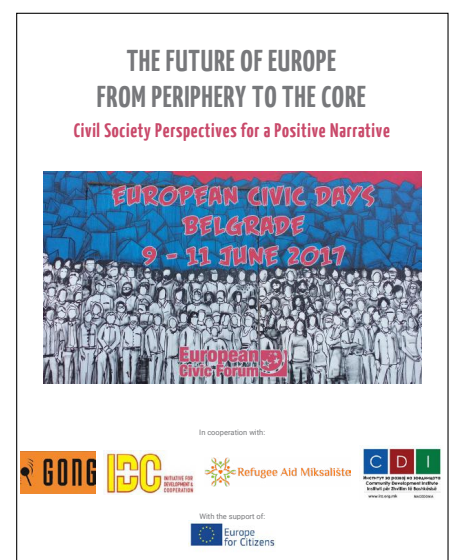
As a pan-European network with over 100 associations and non-governmental organisations across Europe active in fields such as education to citizenship and democracy, defence of human rights and development cooperation, **European Civic Forum** encourages civic engagement and works towards a genuine European civil dialogue.

In 2017 in collaboration with other civil society organisations and networks, ECF created spaces for open discussions on current social, economic and democratic paradigms for example in the course of "*European Civic Days*" held in Belgrade. The focus of the discussions was whether "civil society should enter the political arena to change the rule of the game [political scene]"⁸ by taking into consideration positive examples of civic mobilisations from Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Furthermore, a highly participative and interactive initiative, the "*European Civic Academy*", increased awareness among academic researchers about civil society needs and priorities as well as tried to identify collaborative opportunities for future research. The participants discussed new perspectives on challenges faced by civil society and expressed their views on the European civil society scene. With a "*European Citizenship Award*" ECF also promoted social and democratic innovation and rewarded creativity in the way NGOs, campaigns, individuals and social enterprises enact and reinvent citizenship in their daily life and work. These events contribute not only to **bring the European debate to the national and local level** and to reach a public often remote from the European challenges, but also to **feed the European policy process with national and local concerns**, give voice to grassroots initiatives and concerns so as to be better taken into account in the decision making process.

"CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER CAN UNLOCK A GREAT POTENTIAL TO REDEFINE OUR SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR A EUROPE OF EQUALITY, SOLIDARITY AND DEMOCRACY."⁹



Photo: © <http://civic-forum.eu>



Source: <http://civic-forum.eu/en/civic-space/european-civic-days-civil-society-perspectives-for-a-positive-narrative>

⁸ <http://civic-forum.eu/en/civic-space/european-civic-days-civil-society-perspectives-for-a-positive-narrative>

⁹ <http://civic-forum.eu/en/civic-forum/missions>

Notre Europe – Institut Jacques Delors Association

OPERATING GRANTS

Beneficiary: Notre Europe – Institut Jacques Delors Association (FR)

Project reference: 585075-CITIZ-1-2017-1-FR-CITIZ-OGCIV

Number of direct participants: 200.000

Date of the project events: 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2017

Grant awarded: 350.000 €

As a European think tank, the Jacques Delors Institute aims to stimulate European debates by producing various analyses and proposals targeting European decision-makers and wider audience. In the course of 2017 the Institute addressed the main challenges facing European citizens today in the light of rising populism and Euro scepticism. To this end, it organised series of debates, seminars and conferences on hot topics, including Brexit, Trump Election and Migration. A number of debates, publications and podcasts that reached more than 300.000 people offered analysis on issues directly effecting European citizens – including the Schengen area and the extension of the border control, or the impact of the German political crisis for Europe. The themes also included the possible impact of Brexit on the EU Budget and on the future of Europe. The activities took place all over Europe with the help of international researchers followed by prominent media attention (BBC, Financial Times, Reuters, Le Monde).

Enrico Letta, the president of the Jacques Delors Institute and former Prime Minister of Italy was a keynote speaker in the EACEA staff event where he shared his vision on citizens' participation in shaping the European political agenda. In an interview in the occasion of the "Europe Day", Enrico Letta shared his view and message on the future of Europe:

"THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WILL NATURALLY BE SHAPED BY ITS CITIZENS AND MEMBERS STATES' WISHES. I BELIEVE THIS FUTURE IS PROMISING IF WE CAN ALL LOOK AT THE WORLD IN A WAY TO ESCAPE FROM OUR INWARD LOOKING "CO-OWNER CRISES". LOOKING AT THE WORLD CAN INDEED MAKE US AWARE THAT WE ARE TRULY EUROPEANS, I.E. UNITED BY A DEVELOPMENT MODEL AIMING TO RECONCILE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY, SOCIAL COHESION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: LET'S BE PROUD OF THIS MODEL AND LET'S TRY TO SAFEGUARD AND TO PROMOTE IT!"



Source: <https://twitter.com/DelorsInstitute>

PART C

**QUANTITATIVE
INFORMATION**

Europe for citizens programme: follow up selection and contracts (2017)

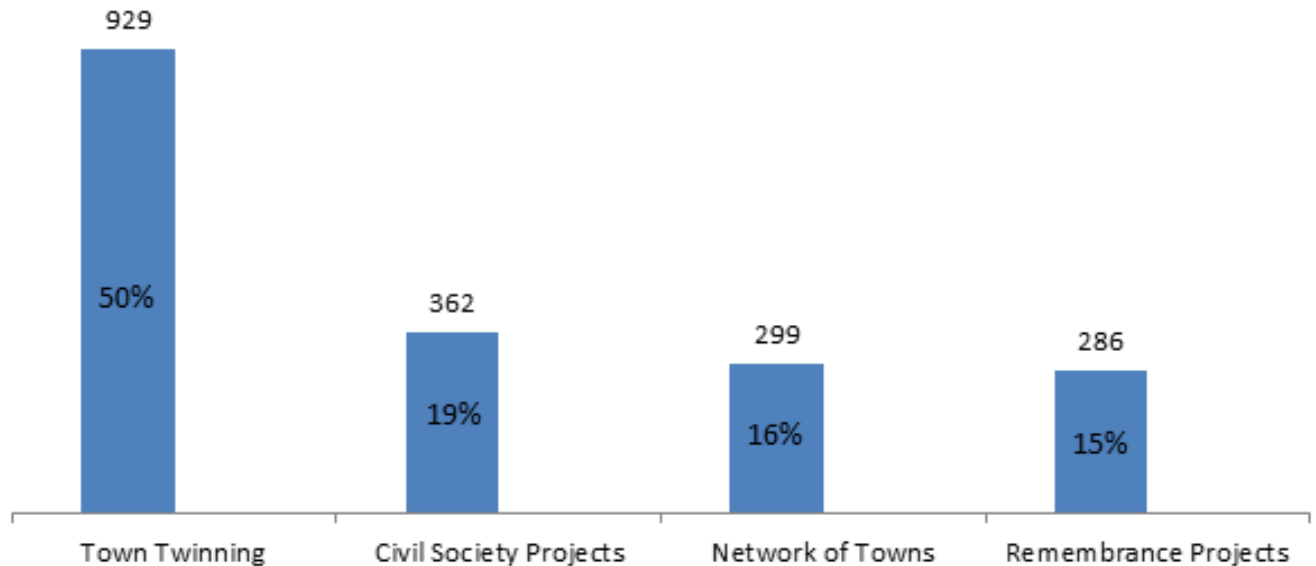
Europe for citizens programme follow up selection and contracts (2017)												
Index	Actions and sub-actions	Budget	Number of grants / contracts	Call	Deadline	Number of applications received	Number of ineligible application	Number of selected application	Success rate	Decision date	Time to inform (in months)	Amount of Decision (euros)
Strand 1 - European remembrance and European citizenship												
1.1.	Remembrance projects	3.477.974	44	Programme Guide	1/06/2017	286	0	39	14%	23/06/2017	3,8	3.497.000
1.2.	Structural support think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	1.213.467	6	Call COMM C2/01/2013	23/12/2016	6	0	6	100%	9/03/2017	2,5	1.213.467
Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation												
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 1	4.323.291	315	Programme Guide	1/03/2017	482	0	134	28%	9/06/2017	3,3	2.309.000
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings - phase 2				1/09/2017	447	0	114	26%	11/12/2017	3,4	2.016.500
						929		248	27%		3,3	4.325.500
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - phase 1	4.233.844	45	Programme Guide	1/03/2017	143	0	17	12%	9/06/2017	3,3	2.287.500
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns - phase 2				1/09/2017	156	0	15	10%	27/11/2017	2,9	1.975.000
						299		32	11%		3,1	4.262.500
2.3.	Civil society projects	3.254.440	34	Programme Guide	1/03/2017	362*	0	27	7%	23/06/2017	3,8	3.595.500
2.4.	Structural support for think tanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	5.627.984	31	Call COMM C2/01/2013	23/12/2016	30	0	30	100%	9/03/2017	2,5	5.547.927
Strand 3 - Valorisation												
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	900.000	33	Designated bodies	31/12/2016 and 30/09/2017 at the least	30	0	30	100%	17/02/2017	1,6	810.000
4.1.	Support to project selection	200.000	na	na					na	13/03/2017	na	159.300
TOTAL WP 2017		23.231.000	508			1942	0	412	21%		3,0	23.411.194

* 1 applicant withdraw

Applications submitted in 2017

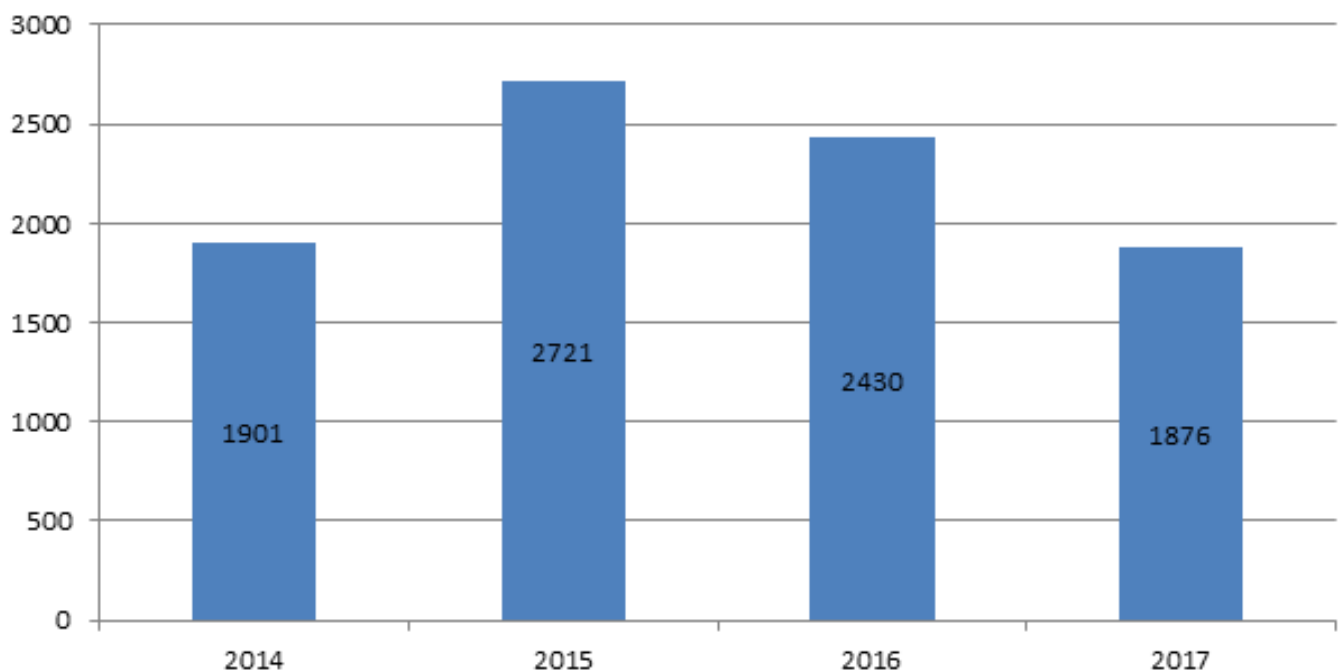
A total of 1876 applications were submitted within action grants. Furthermore 36 applications were presented within Operating grants and 30 were submitted by "Europe for citizens" Contact Points that renewed their partnership. Therefore a total of **1942** applications were submitted in 2017.

- **Overview per action**



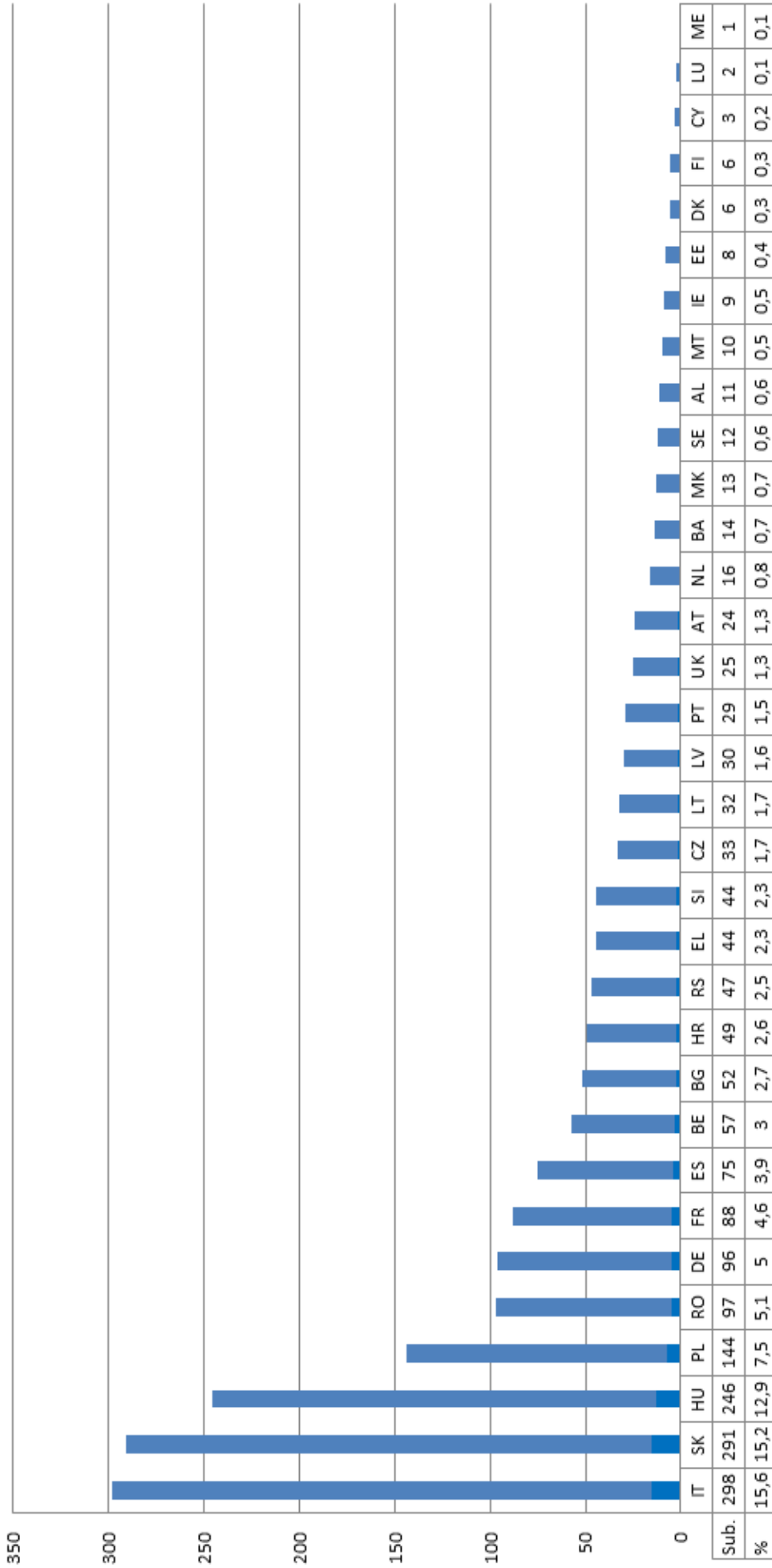
- **Comparison 2014-2017**

The number of applications for action grants submitted in 2017 represents a **decrease** of almost **23%** compared to 2016, a decrease of **31%** in comparison with **2015** and a minimum decrease of around **1%** in comparison with 2014. This decrease has improved the success rate of the Programme.

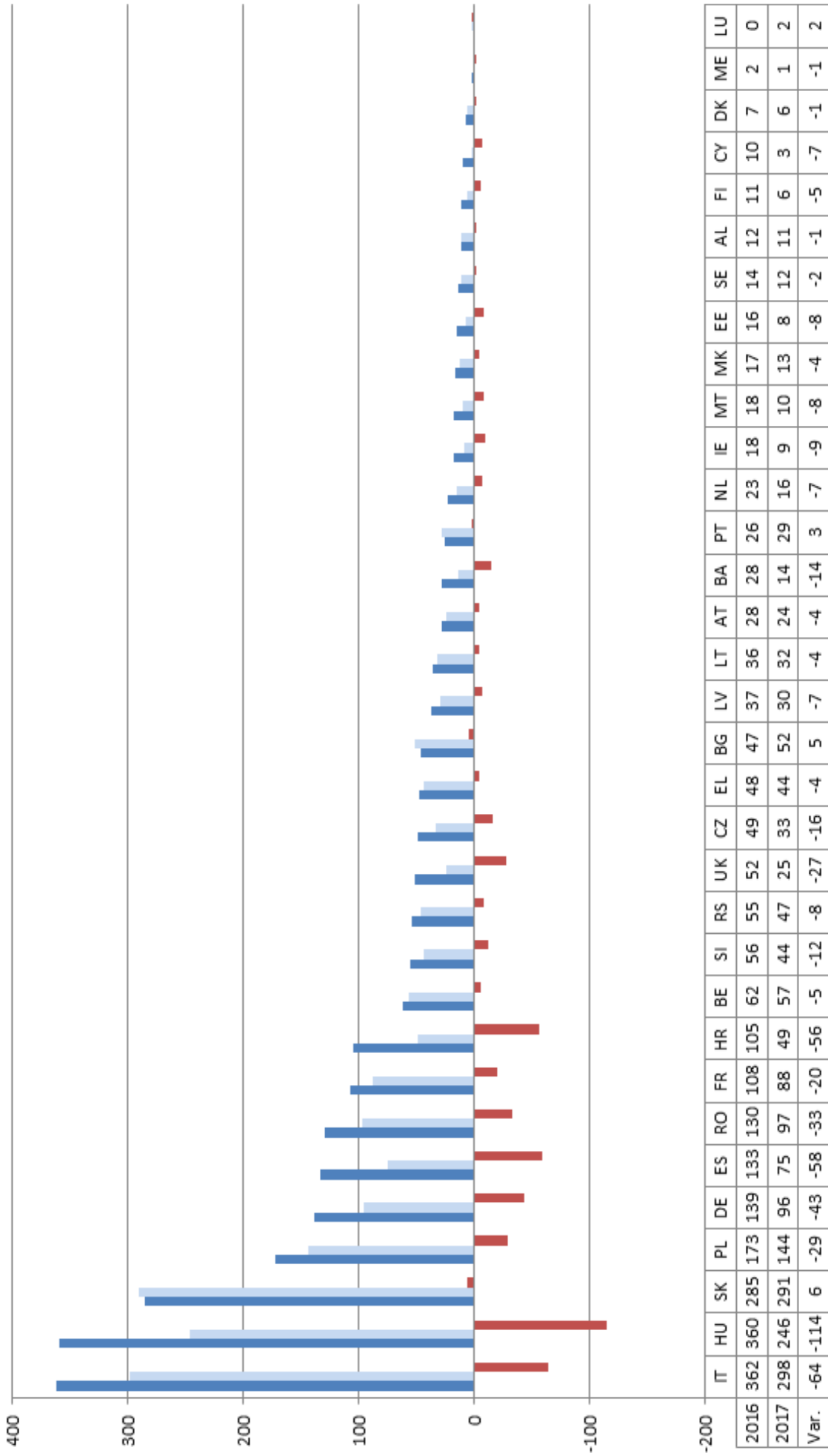


- **2017 - Overview per country of applications submitted within action and operating grants**

Organisations from all member states and programme countries are represented as applicant. **Italy** was the Member State introducing the greatest number of **projects (298) 15,6%**, followed by **Slovakia (291) 15,2%**, **Hungary (246) 12,9%** and **Poland (144) 7,5%**.



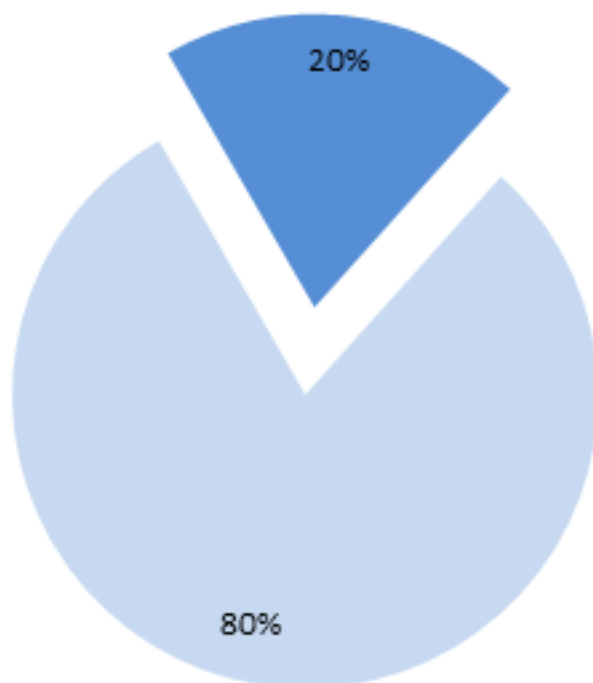
- Variation 2016-1017 per country



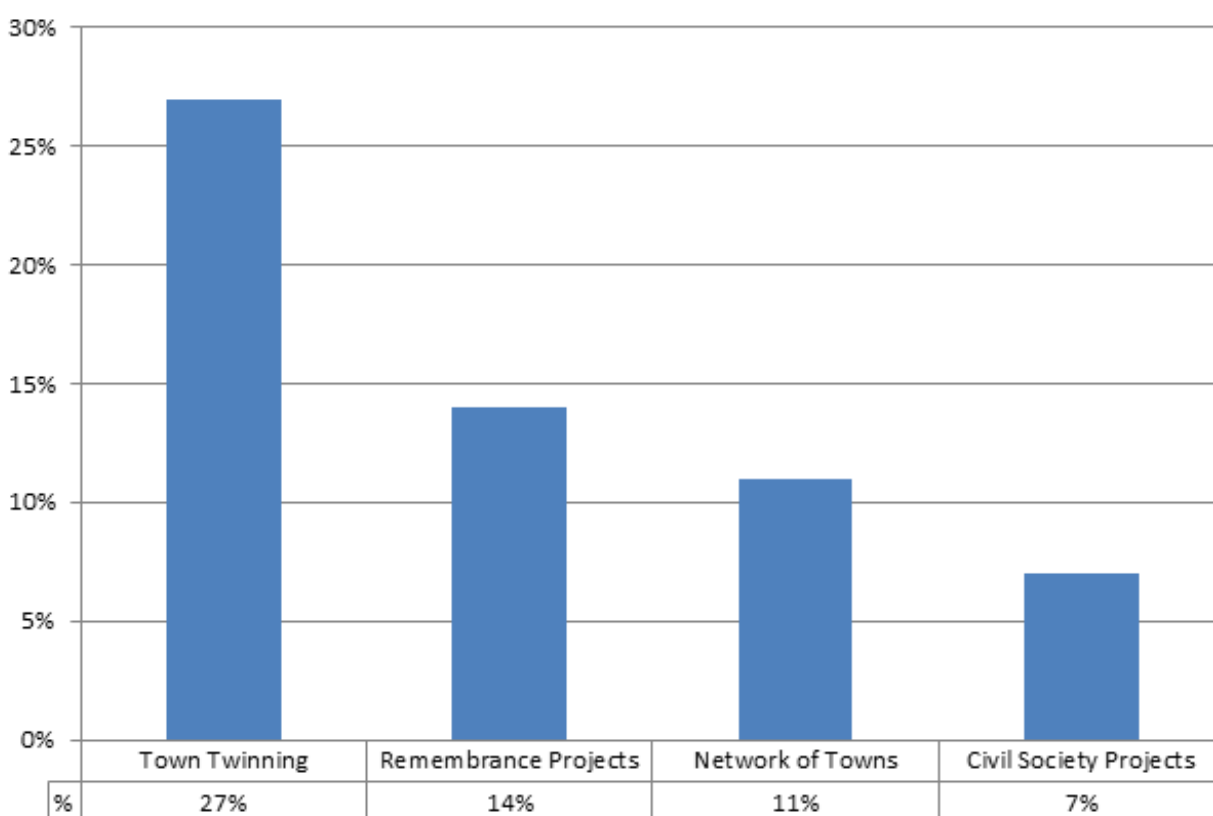
Applications selected in 2017

- Programme success rate

In 2017, out of the **1912** applications submitted (within TT, NT, REM, CSP and OG), **382** were selected. Therefore, the average success rate is **20%**.



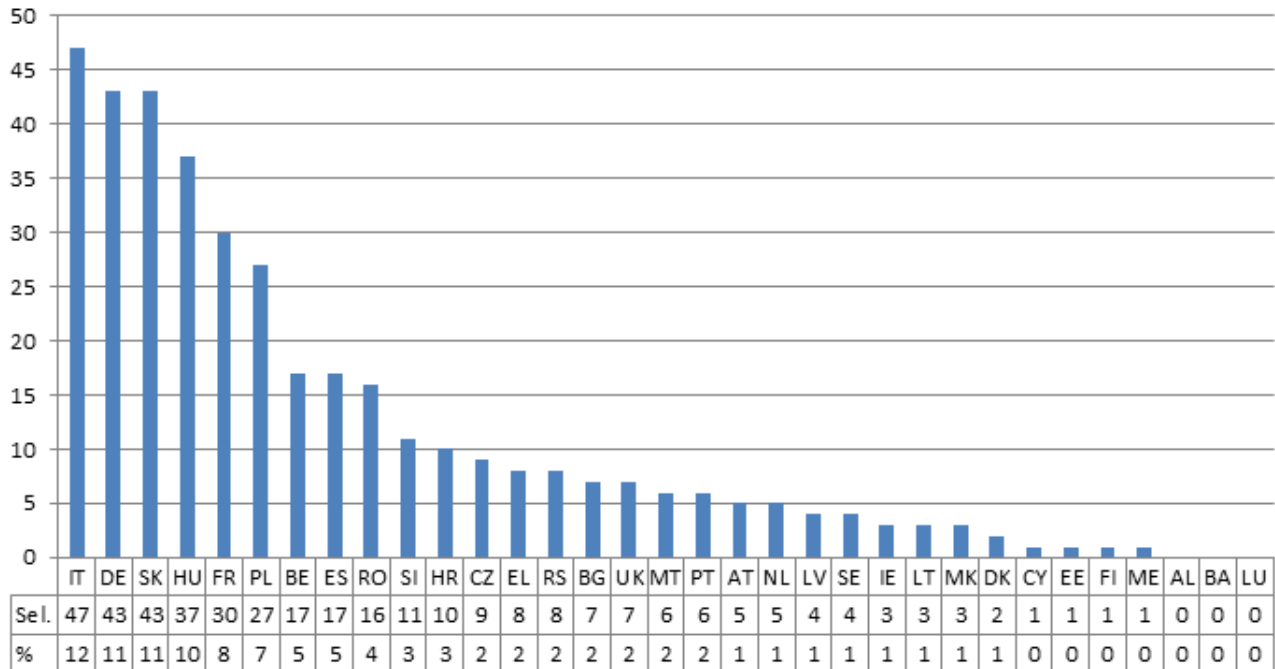
- Success rate per action



- **Success rate per country in relation to all 1912 applications submitted within action and operating grants.**

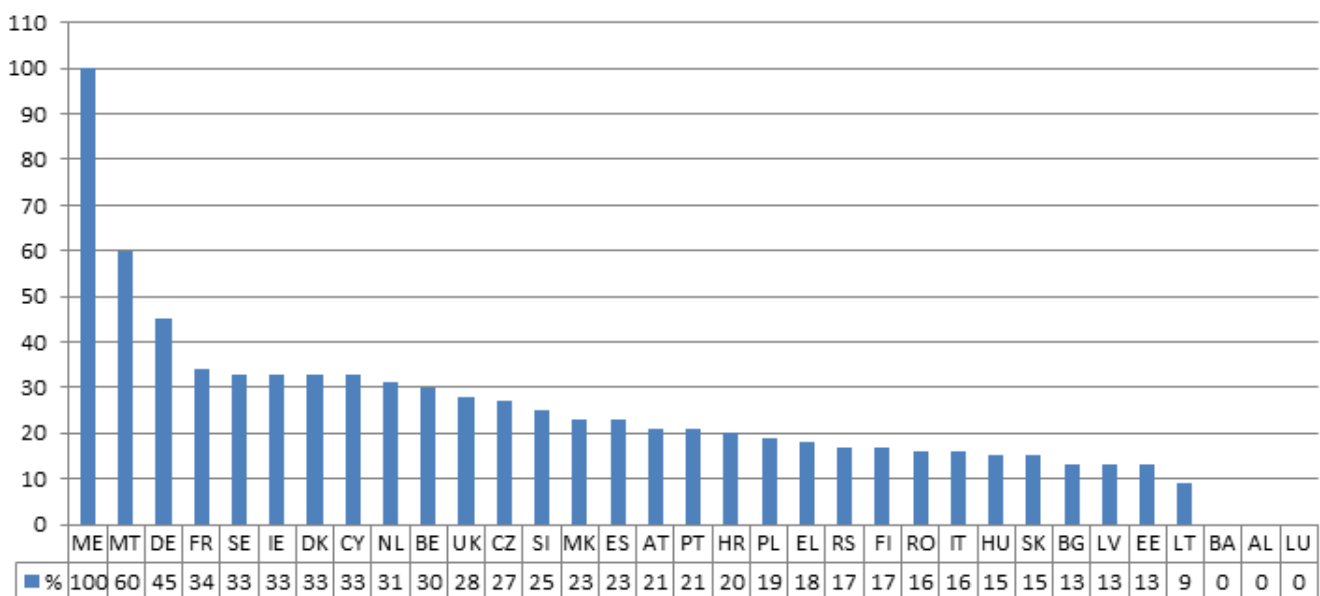
In 2017, 27 organisations from 28 Member States were beneficiaries.

Italy, Germany and Slovakia have the greatest success rate followed by **Hungary and France**.



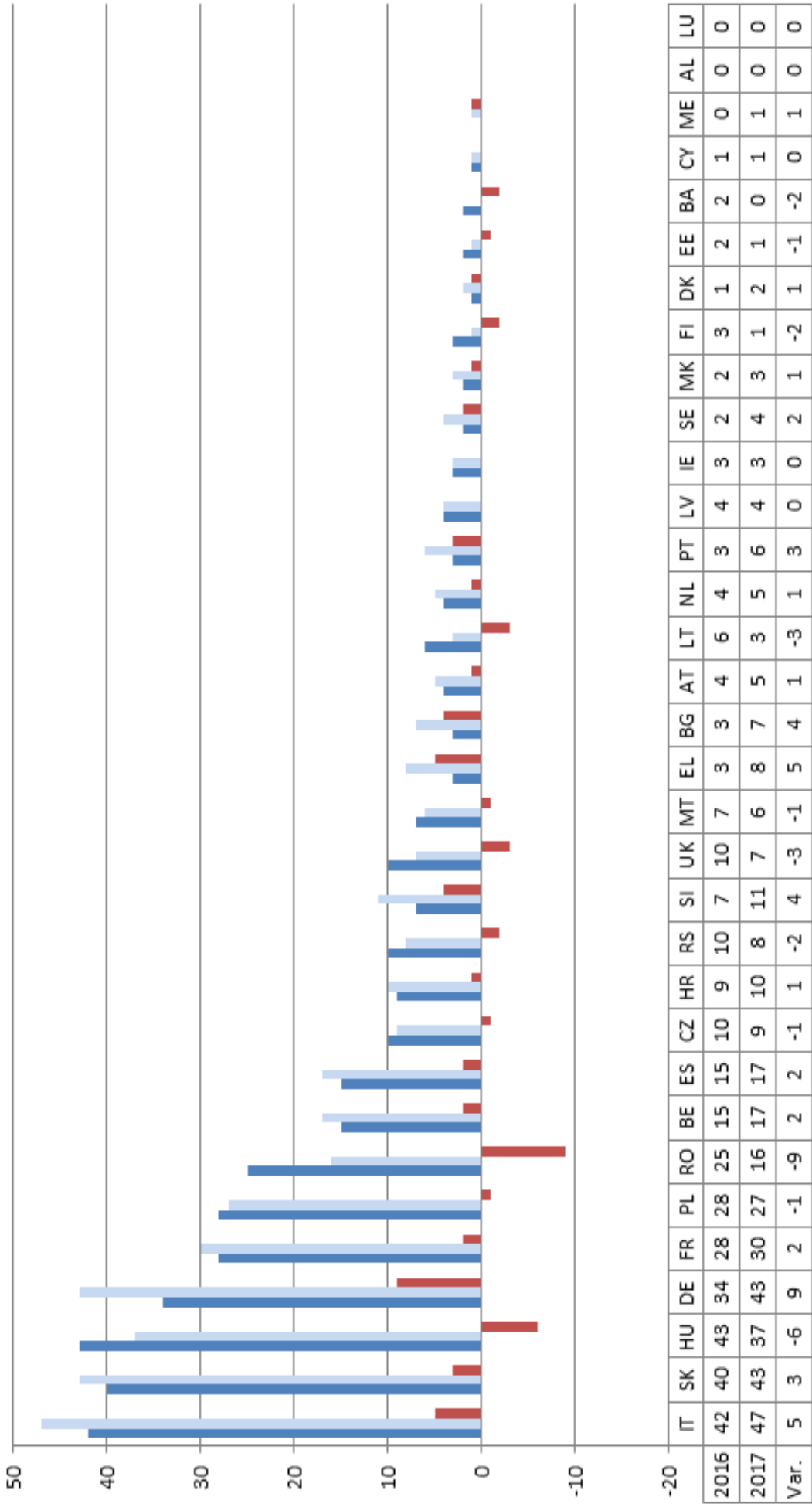
- **Success rate per country in relation to projects submitted by the same country**

Ratio between applications submitted and selected per country.



- **Applications selected: comparison between 2016 and 2017 (action grants and operating grants)**

Organisations of all Member States except Luxembourg are beneficiaries in 2017.

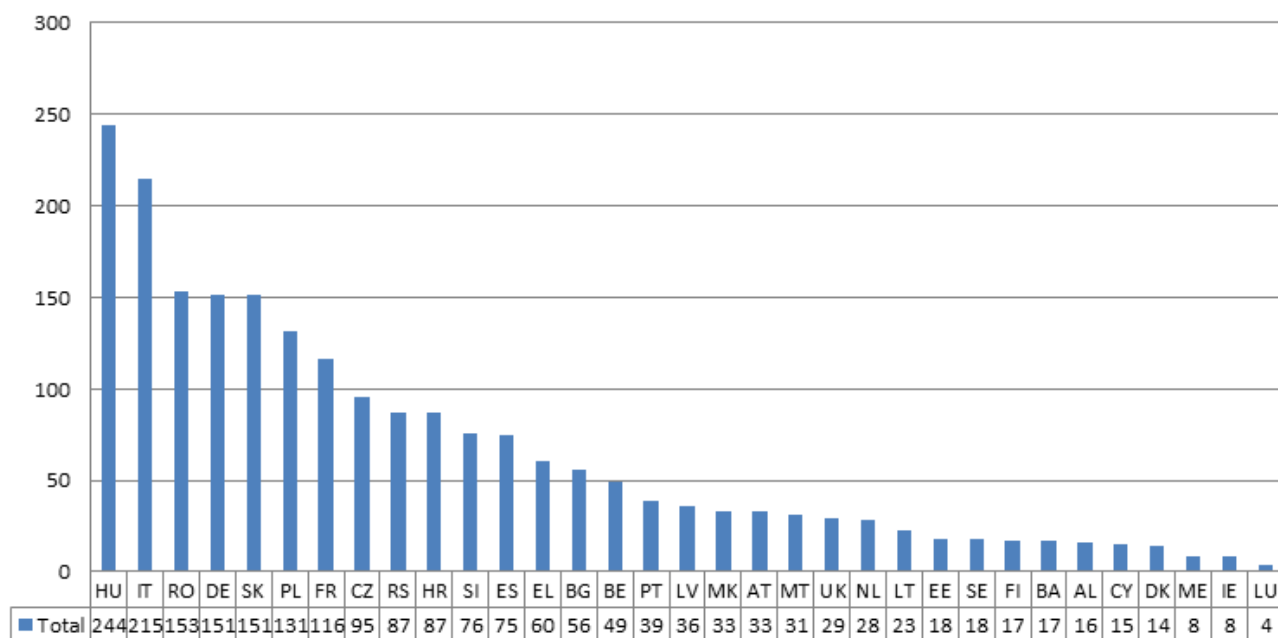


■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ Var.

Analysis of project partners

• 2017 - Overview per country

Total number of partners in projects selected by country:



• 2017 – Partners per country in selected applications

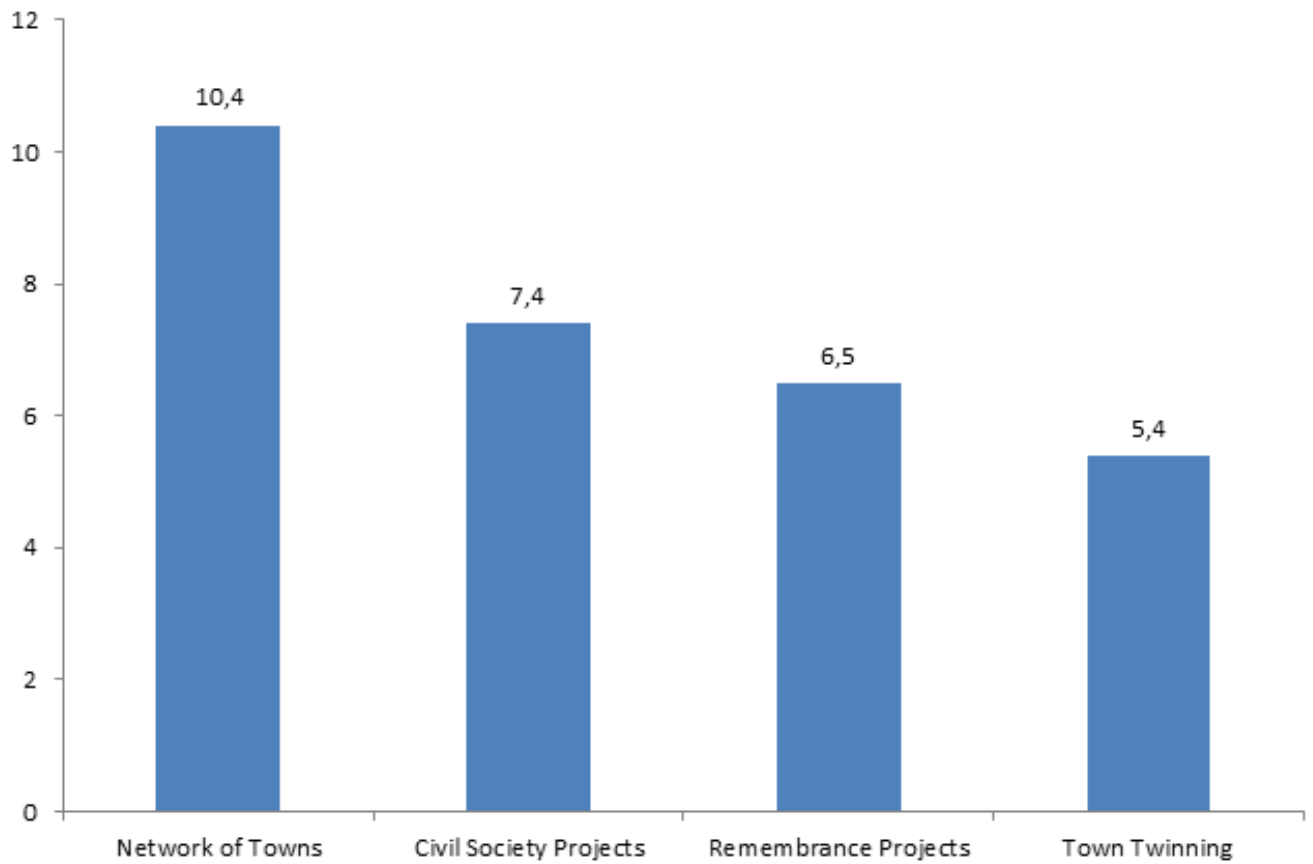
Action	Number of projects granted	Number of Partners in project granted	Average number of partners in 2017	Average number of partners in 2016
Network of Towns	32	334	10,4	9,7
Civil Society Projects	27	199	7,4	7,6
Remembrance Projects	39	254	6,5	6,9
Town Twinning	248	1346	5,4	5,2
TOTAL	346	2133	6,1	5,9

- Partners per action in selected applications 2017

Country	Network Towns	Civil Society Projects	Remembrance Projects	Town Twinning	TOTAL
AL	6	2	0	8	16
AT	5	6	6	16	33
BA	2	2	7	6	17
BE	6	16	9	18	49
BG	17	7	13	19	56
CY	4	2	2	7	15
CZ	7	7	11	70	95
DE	12	8	18	113	151
DK	5	2	3	4	14
EE	4	3	4	7	18
EL	17	12	8	23	60
ES	15	12	13	35	75
FI	4	1	2	10	17
FR	9	7	10	90	116
HR	18	8	9	52	87
HU	16	12	12	204	244
IE	1	2	1	4	8
IT	49	23	24	119	215
LT	5	2	3	13	23
LU	2	0	0	2	4
LV	11	2	3	20	36
ME	2	4	1	1	8
MK	7	7	5	14	33
MT	10	2	1	18	31
NL	4	3	10	11	28
PL	13	4	26	88	131
PT	12	4	4	19	39
RO	23	9	16	105	153
RS	12	8	12	55	87
SE	6	2	2	8	18
SI	20	7	8	41	76
SK	8	8	9	126	151
UK	2	5	2	20	29
TOTAL	334	199	254	1346	2133
Number of projects granted	32	27	39	248	346

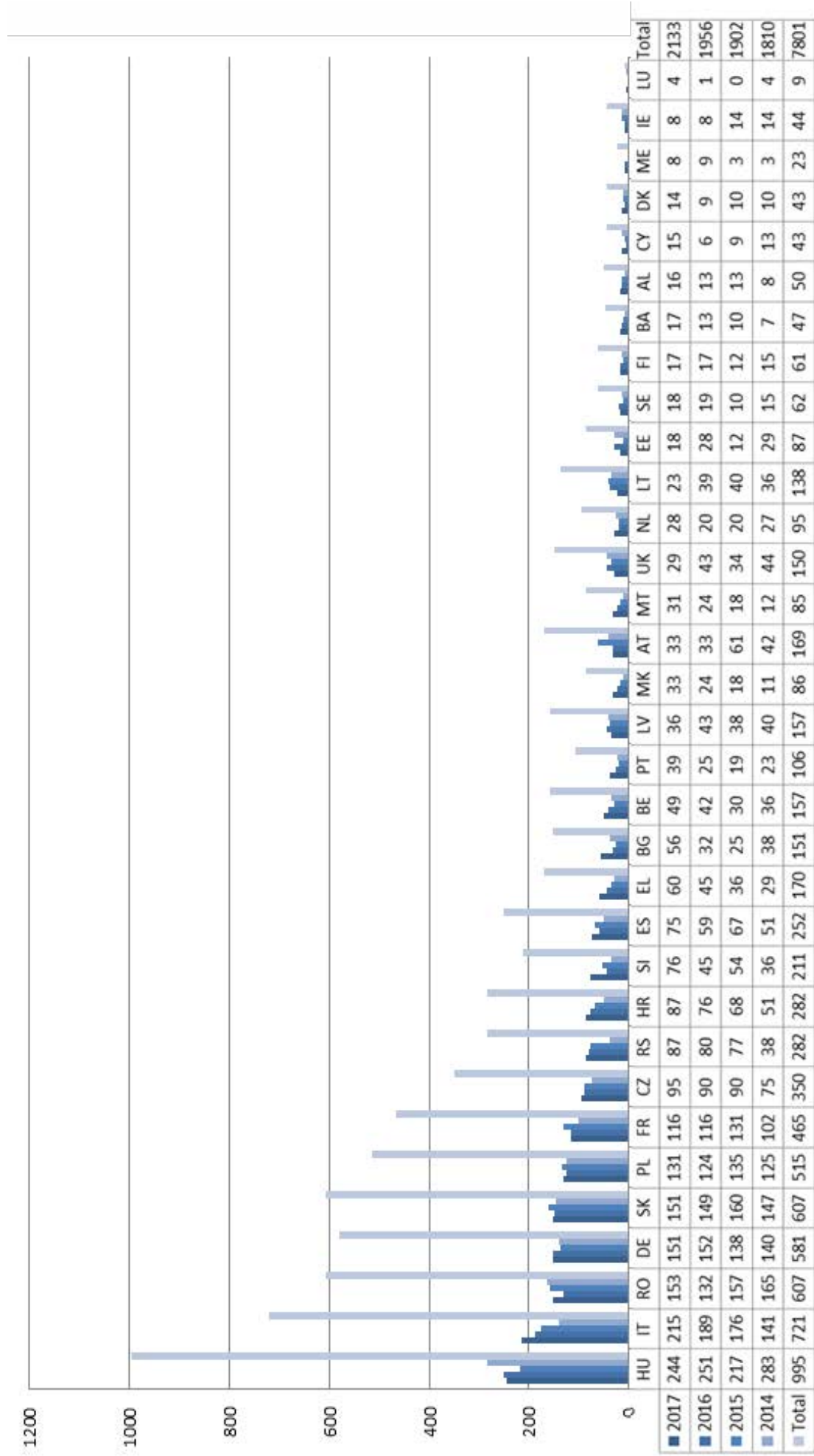
- **2017 - Overview per action**

Average number of partners per action:



● Total number of partners per country 2014 – 2017

The number of partners have increased continuously since 2014.



Selection thresholds

The table below shows all the funding thresholds (i.e. lowest score obtained by a retained project) since the beginning of the current Europe for Citizens Programme in 2014. It takes in consideration also the released reserve lists.

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Remembrance	84	79,5	82,5	82,5
Civil Society	82,75	81,75	81,5	82,25
Town Twinning phase 1	53	78	74	71
Town Twinning phase 2	70,75	74,25	73	72
Network of Town phase 1	67,5	80	81	82
Network of Town phase 2	76,25	85	84	83

• Overview of the results for all actions since 2014

Index	Actions and sub-actions	Years	N° applications received	N° applications funded	Grant awarded (in Mio €) according to the decision	Finding threshold* (incl. Reserve lists)	Success rate
Strand 1 - European remembrance							
1.1.	Remembrance projects	2014	472	36	3.104.000	84	8%
		2015	538	33	3.021.560	79,5	6%
		2016	468	38	3.342.500	82,5	8%
		2017	286	39	3.497.000	82,5	14%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	1764	146	12.965.060	82,1	8,2%
1.2.	Structural support for think thanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	2014	22	6	1.213.966	77,5	27%
		2015	6	6	1.213.466	n/a	100%
		2016	6	6	1.213.466	n/a	100%
		2017	6	6	1.213.466	n/a	100%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
		SUB TOTAL	40	24	4.854.364	77,5	n/a

* For the actions having 2 selection rounds ('Town Twinning' and 'Networks of Towns' actions), the data provided shows weighted average based on number of applications received and thresholds $(NUM1 \times THR1 + NUM2 \times THR2) / (NUM1 + NUM2)$

Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation							
2.1.	Town twinning citizens meetings	2014	667	252	3.890.000	59,6	38%
		2015	1404	252	4.138.000	76,4	18%
		2016	1093	237	4.131.500	73,5	22%
		2017	929	248	4.325.500	71,5	27%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
SUB TOTAL		4093	989	16.485.000	70,25	24,16%	
2.2.	Networks of twinned towns	2014	224	35	4.522.500	72,9	16%
		2015	339	32	4.067.500	82,6	9%
		2016	328	30	4.120.000	82,6	9%
		2017	299	32	4.262.500	82,5	11%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
SUB TOTAL		1190	129	16.972.500	80,15	10,8%	
2.3.	Civil society projects	2014	538	29	3.593.250	82,75	5%
		2015	440	27	3.322.750	81,75	6%
		2016	541	25	3.413.750	81,5	5%
		2017	361	27	3.595.500	82,25	7%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
SUB TOTAL		1880	108	13.915.250	87,19	5,75%	
2.4.	Structural support for think thanks, organisations at European level (framework partnerships)	2014	139	29	5.474.702	77,5	21%
		2015	37	31	5.627.984	n/a	84%
		2016	30	30	5.549.678	n/a	100%
		2017	30	30	5.547.927	n/a	100%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
SUB TOTAL		236	120	22.200.291	77,5	n/a	
Strand 3 - Valorisation							
3.2.	Information structures in Member States and participating countries	2014	24	24	694.025	n/a	100%
		2015	27	27	761.525	n/a	100%
		2016	28	28	780.000	n/a	100%
		2017	30	30	810.000	n/a	100%
		2018					
		2019					
		2020					
SUB TOTAL		109	109	3.045.550		n/a	
TOTAL			9312	1625	90.438.015	78,22	17,45%

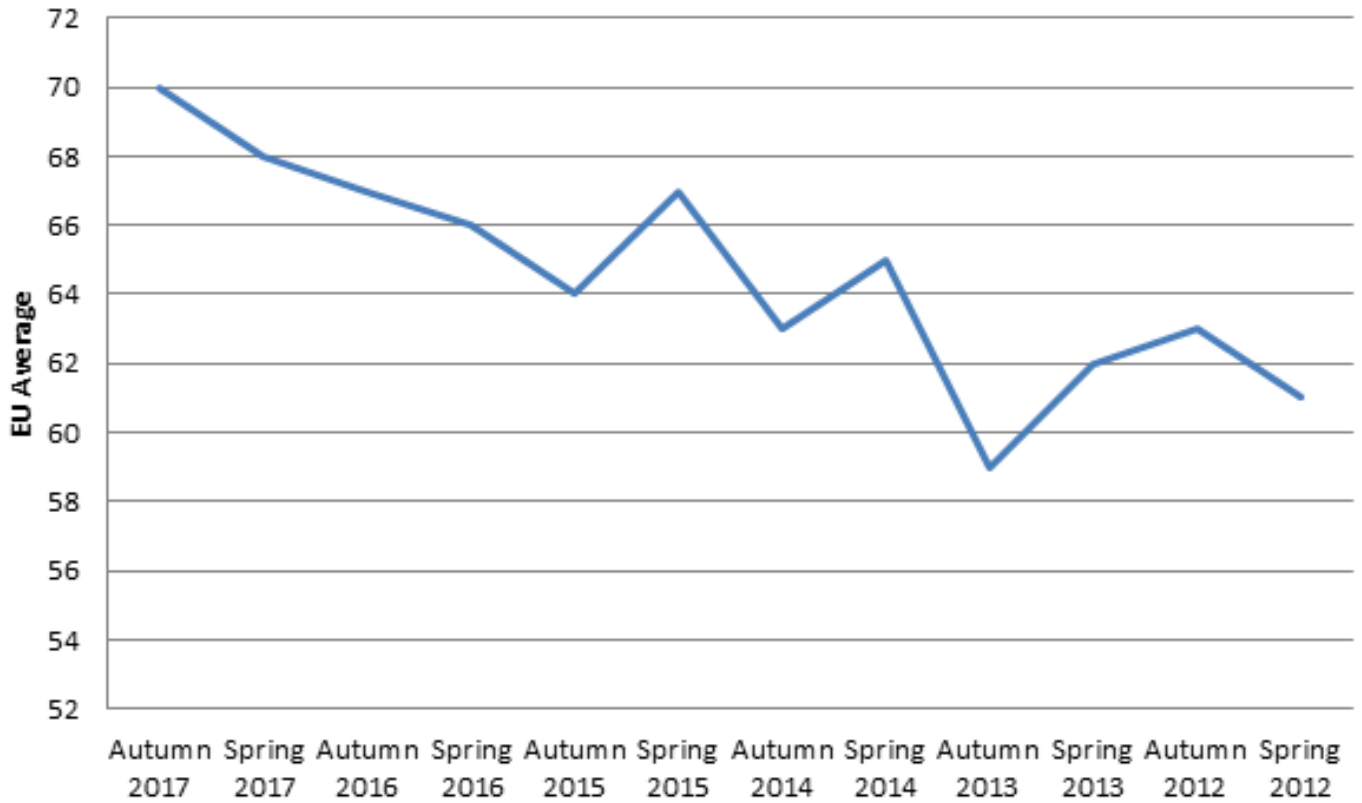
• Feeling of being a citizen of the EU

According to Standard Reports of the Eurobarometer the feeling of being an EU citizen on European average has remained stable over the last years (except a decrease in autumn 2013). In 2017, it reached a threshold of over 70%, which is the first time since spring 2010 and represents an increase of more than 10% since 2014. According to the most recent data (autumn 2017):

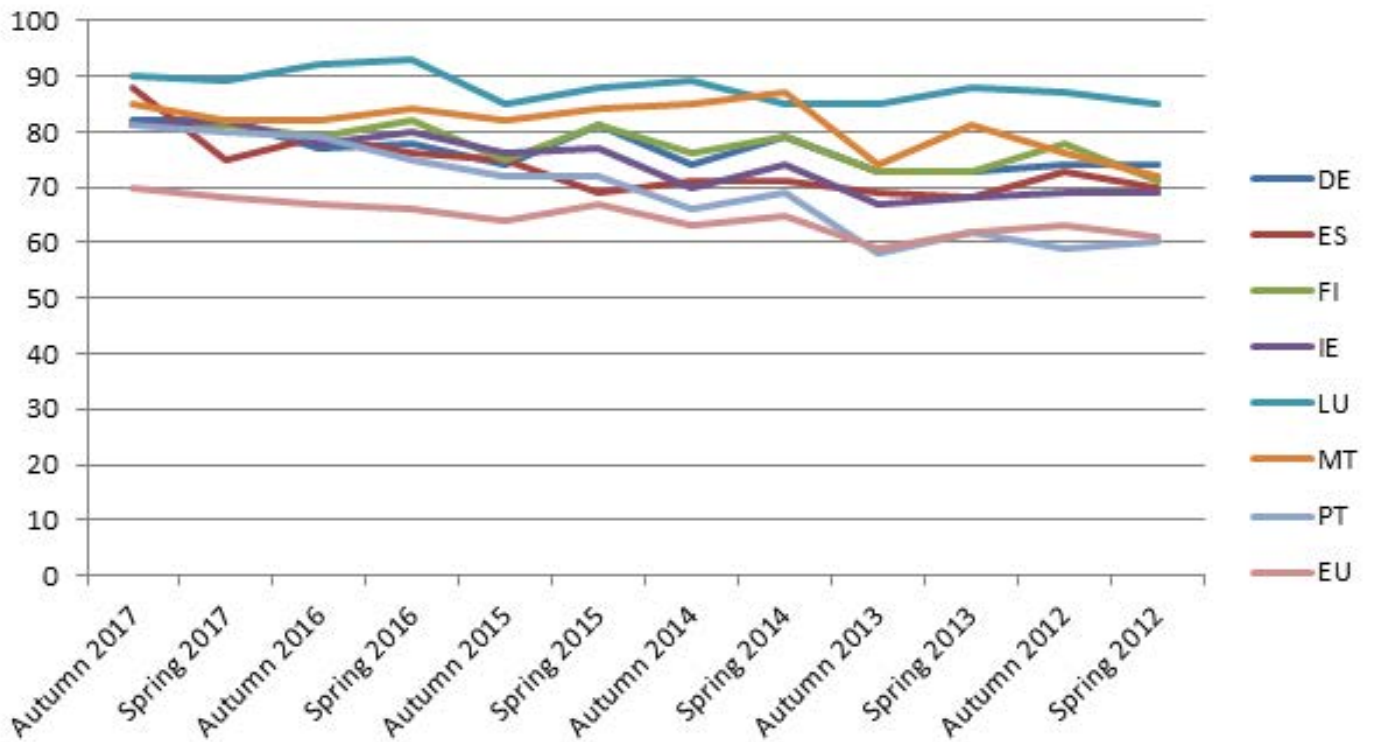
- LU, ES, MT, DE, PT, FI and IE are the countries where the feeling of being a European citizen is the highest
- EL, IT, UK, CZ and BG are the countries where the sense of European citizenship is the lowest

Country	Autumn 2017	Spring 2017	Autumn 2016	Spring 2016	Autumn 2015	Spring 2015	Autumn 2014	Spring 2014	Autumn 2013	Spring 2013	Autumn 2012	Spring 2012
	EB 88 p.39	EB 87 p. 38	EB 86 p.32	EB 85 p. 38	EB 84 p. 32	EB 83 p. 17	EB 82 p. 29	EB 81 p. 7	EB 80 p. 30	EB 79 p. 23	EB 78 p. 23	EB 77 p. 22
AT	78	73	66	69	63	72	73	87	63	66	63	60
BE	78	78	71	71	72	70	69	71	70	71	68	69
BG	56	55	50	49	47	50	48	46	49	48	47	50
CY	69	64	53	53	49	50	51	53	46	45	55	62
CZ	56	57	53	58	57	62	60	57	55	54	54	52
DE	82	82	77	78	74	81	74	79	73	73	74	74
DK	79	81	74	77	76	74	74	73	71	71	74	75
EE	78	75	75	76	73	79	78	76	72	70	73	67
EL	48	48	47	46	50	50	45	49	42	44	46	50
ES	88	75	79	76	75	69	71	71	69	68	73	70
FI	81	81	79	82	75	81	76	79	73	73	78	71
FR	63	64	61	67	61	61	63	63	57	61	66	65
HR	61	61	60	61	66	63	56	55	58	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
HU	67	70	69	65	69	67	67	59	59	59	54	51
IE	81	82	78	80	76	77	70	74	67	68	69	69
IT	54	53	51	49	49	53	47	47	45	52	51	45
LT	77	77	74	74	77	78	71	71	64	65	64	60
LU	90	89	92	93	85	88	89	85	85	88	87	85
LV	73	74	73	71	68	69	68	62	53	56	57	54
MT	85	82	82	84	82	84	85	87	74	81	76	72
NL	70	71	68	70	67	70	61	65	58	61	67	60
PL	77	80	78	76	71	74	74	77	67	70	74	67
PT	81	80	79	75	72	72	66	69	58	62	59	60
RO	63	66	67	59	62	65	68	61	56	53	51	60
SE	77	76	75	74	72	78	76	77	69	69	73	65
SI	73	71	73	70	75	65	69	69	61	64	68	66
SK	75	72	73	75	69	75	73	73	70	76	71	70
UK	55	54	55	53	52	56	60	52	42	48	48	42
EU	70	68	67	66	64	67	63	65	59	62	63	61

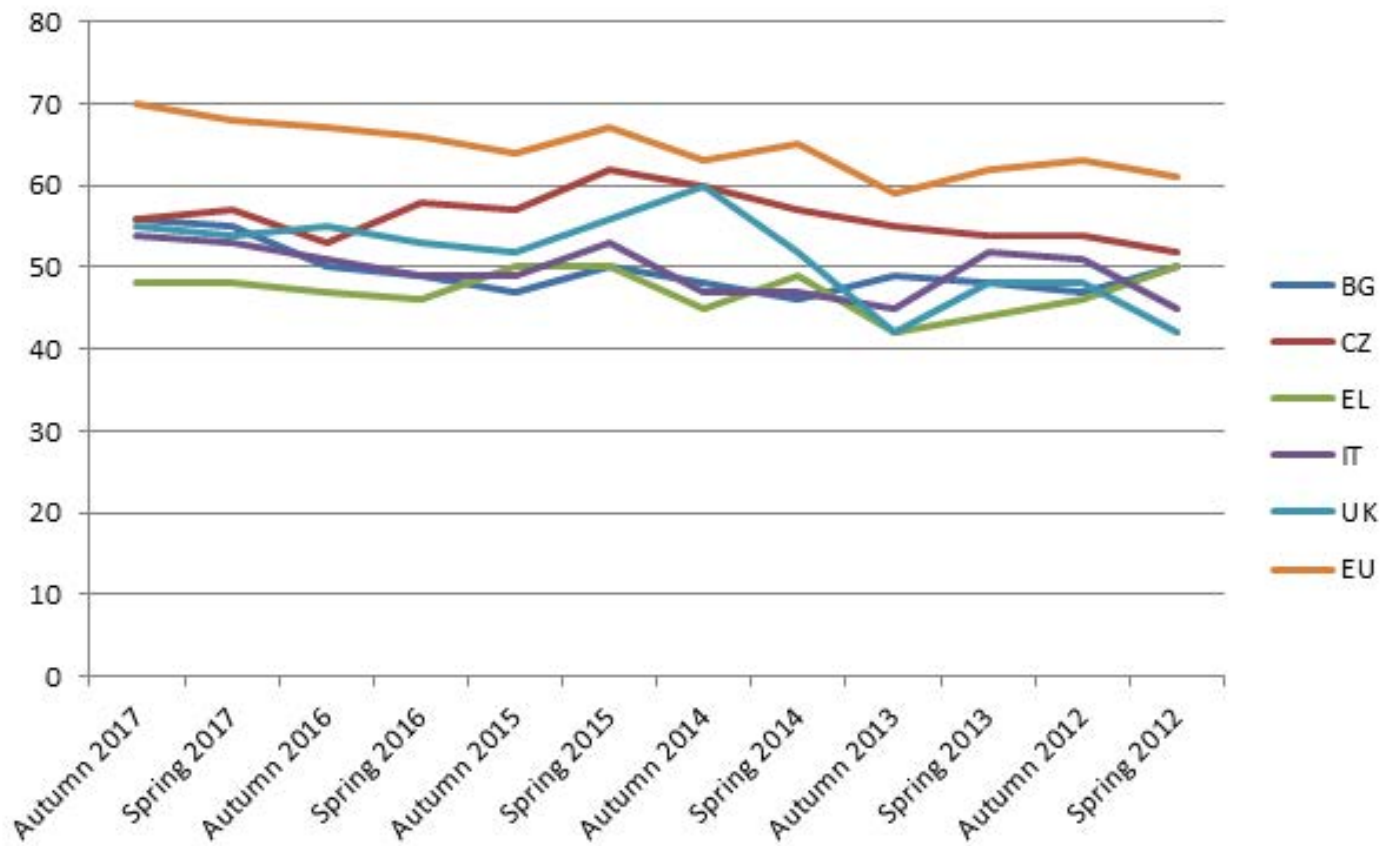
- Feeling of being a citizen of the EU: average



- EU countries that feel like EU citizens > 80%



- EU countries that feel like EU citizens < 60%



Synoptic table of projects submitted and granted per country and action in 2017

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME 2014-2020

STATE OF PLAY 2017

Country	Applications Submitted							Total submitted		Total selected		Applications selected						Statistic data			Population Eurostat 2017		
	Civil Society Projects	Remembrance Projects	Operating Grants	Town Twinning Phase 1	Town Twinning Phase 2	Network of Towns Phase 1	Network of Towns Phase 2	TOTAL SUBMITTED	TOTAL SUBMITTED without OG	TOTAL SELECTED	TOTAL SELECTED without OG	Civil Society Projects	Remembrance Projects	Operating Grants	Town Twinning Phase 1	Town Twinning Phase 2	Network of Towns Phase 1	Network of Towns Phase 2	Country	Submitted in %		Applications Granted in %	Success rate submitted/granted per country
AL	5	2	0	0	0	1	3	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	AL	0,58%	0,00%	0,00%	0,55%
AT	8	4	0	1	4	3	4	24	24	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	AT	1,26%	1,31%	20,83%	1,65%
BA	5	2	0	0	0	3	4	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	BA	0,73%	0,00%	0,00%	0,73%
BE	26	10	9	4	3	2	3	57	48	17	8	2	1	9	2	1	1	1	BE	2,98%	4,45%	29,82%	2,14%
BG	20	11	0	1	10	2	8	52	52	7	7	2	0	1	2	0	2	0	BG	2,72%	1,83%	13,46%	1,36%
CY	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	CY	0,16%	0,26%	33,33%	0,16%
CZ	3	5	1	11	12	0	1	33	32	9	8	1	2	1	3	2	0	0	CZ	1,73%	2,36%	27,27%	2,00%
DE	11	6	4	25	39	3	8	96	92	43	39	2	2	4	12	19	1	3	DE	5,02%	11,26%	44,79%	15,60%
DK	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	6	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	DK	0,31%	0,52%	33,33%	1,08%
EE	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	8	8	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	EE	0,42%	0,26%	12,50%	0,25%
EL	7	8	0	2	3	13	11	44	44	8	8	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	EL	2,30%	2,09%	18,18%	2,05%
ES	18	17	2	9	10	9	9	75	73	17	15	2	3	2	5	4	1	0	ES	3,92%	4,45%	22,67%	8,82%
FI	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	6	6	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	FI	0,31%	0,26%	16,67%	1,04%
FR	11	10	10	23	24	3	7	88	78	30	20	1	2	10	7	10	0	0	FR	4,60%	7,85%	34,09%	12,66%
HR	15	4	0	10	6	6	8	49	49	10	10	1	0	0	5	3	1	0	HR	2,56%	2,62%	20,41%	0,80%
HU	21	23	1	96	86	9	10	246	245	37	36	2	3	1	19	2	1	1	HU	12,87%	9,69%	15,04%	1,87%
IE	6	1	0	0	2	0	0	9	9	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	IE	0,47%	0,79%	0,79%	0,88%
IT	69	52	0	63	45	39	30	298	298	47	47	3	4	0	20	16	3	1	IT	15,99%	12,30%	15,77%	11,52%
LT	11	12	0	3	3	2	1	32	32	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	LT	1,67%	0,79%	9,38%	0,55%
LU	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	LU	0,10%	0,00%	0,00%	0,11%
LV	6	10	1	3	3	2	5	30	29	4	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	LV	1,57%	1,05%	13,33%	0,37%
ME	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	ME	0,05%	0,26%	100,00%	0,12%
MK	6	1	1	1	1	1	2	13	12	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	MK	0,68%	0,79%	23,08%	0,39%
MT	2	0	0	4	2	1	1	10	10	6	6	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	MT	0,52%	1,57%	60,00%	0,08%
NL	6	5	1	1	1	1	1	16	15	5	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	NL	0,84%	1,31%	31,25%	3,22%
PL	31	34	1	33	26	11	8	144	143	27	26	1	2	1	11	11	0	0	PL	7,53%	7,07%	18,75%	7,21%
PT	11	5	0	6	2	2	3	29	29	6	6	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	PT	1,52%	1,57%	20,69%	1,96%
RO	12	12	0	40	23	5	5	97	97	16	16	1	1	0	7	6	1	0	RO	5,07%	4,19%	16,49%	3,75%
RS	11	9	0	9	10	4	4	47	47	8	8	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	RS	2,46%	2,09%	17,02%	1,34%
SE	2	1	0	0	2	5	2	12	12	4	4	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	SE	0,63%	1,05%	33,33%	1,87%
SI	12	10	0	5	7	3	7	44	44	11	11	1	2	0	3	3	1	1	SI	2,30%	2,88%	25,00%	0,39%
SK	9	18	1	129	117	10	7	291	290	43	42	1	1	1	25	13	1	1	SK	15,22%	11,26%	14,78%	1,03%
UK	7	6	4	2	2	2	1	25	21	7	3	1	0	4	1	1	0	0	UK	1,31%	1,83%	28,00%	12,41%
TOTAL	362	286	36	482	447	143	156	1912	1876	382	346	27	39	36	134	114	17	15	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%

EU 511.805.100

Synoptic table of projects submitted and granted per country and action in the period 2014 - 2017

Europe for Citizens programme 2014 - 2020 Report 2014-2017

Country	Applications submitted							TOTAL submitted	TOTAL selected	Projects selected							Statistic Data									
	CSP	REM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2			CSP	REM	OG	TT1	TT2	NT1	NT2	Country	Submitted in %	Applications Granted in %	Success rate submitted/country	Population rate	Population Eurostat 2017				
AL	10	11	0	2	0	3	5	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	AL	0,34%	0,00%	0,00%	0,55%	2.886.026						
AT	50	33	3	13	7	9	9	124	20	4	7	3	1	2	AT	1,35%	1,42%	16,13%	1,85%	8.772.900						
BA	22	11	1	3	4	4	6	51	2	0	0	1	0	0	BA	0,56%	0,14%	3,92%	0,73%	3.830.911						
BE	102	52	51	15	8	6	12	246	35	8	7	5	3	2	BE	2,68%	2,48%	14,23%	2,14%	11.365.800						
BG	110	84	8	6	16	16	23	263	18	3	5	0	2	3	BG	2,87%	1,28%	6,84%	1,36%	7.101.900						
CY	14	0	0	2	3	2	5	26	4	3	0	0	0	0	CY	0,28%	0,28%	15,38%	0,16%	854.800						
CZ	38	34	5	43	61	4	6	191	38	3	6	1	13	15	CZ	2,08%	2,70%	19,90%	2,00%	10.578.800						
DE	84	91	22	186	136	17	20	556	151	7	10	4	68	50	DE	6,06%	10,72%	27,16%	15,60%	82.800.000						
DK	14	4	1	4	2	0	0	25	4	1	1	0	0	2	DK	0,27%	0,28%	16,00%	1,08%	5.748.800						
EE	17	20	0	6	6	1	1	51	6	2	2	0	1	1	EE	0,56%	0,43%	11,76%	0,25%	1.315.600						
EL	41	48	1	5	13	27	40	175	18	4	5	0	2	1	EL	1,91%	1,28%	10,29%	2,05%	10.757.300						
ES	101	115	21	30	44	25	34	370	48	7	8	2	14	12	ES	4,04%	3,41%	12,97%	8,82%	46.529.000						
FI	13	6	1	2	2	4	1	29	6	0	3	0	1	1	FI	0,32%	0,43%	20,69%	1,04%	5.503.300						
FR	58	69	47	117	121	23	22	457	103	4	11	10	37	32	FR	4,98%	7,31%	22,54%	12,66%	67.024.500						
HR	72	44	2	39	28	25	28	238	37	4	5	0	12	11	HR	2,60%	2,63%	15,55%	0,80%	4.154.200						
HU	135	128	6	681	416	81	74	1521	194	5	5	1	116	54	HU	16,59%	13,77%	12,75%	1,87%	9.797.600						
IE	17	9	1	4	7	0	1	39	10	3	4	0	0	3	IE	0,43%	0,71%	25,64%	0,88%	4.774.800						
IT	346	353	12	199	173	133	167	1383	161	10	14	0	62	50	IT	15,08%	11,43%	11,64%	11,52%	60.589.400						
LT	46	53	0	14	13	6	5	137	19	4	6	0	3	5	LT	1,49%	1,35%	13,87%	0,55%	2.847.900						
LU	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	LU	0,05%	0,07%	20,00%	0,11%	590.700						
LV	27	45	5	15	8	13	17	130	12	1	4	1	3	1	LV	1,42%	0,85%	9,23%	0,37%	1.950.100						
ME	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	ME	0,05%	0,14%	40,00%	0,12%	622.400						
MK	22	7	4	7	4	4	5	53	8	1	2	1	2	0	MK	0,58%	0,57%	15,09%	0,39%	2.073.700						
MT	10	6	1	12	8	6	6	49	22	2	2	0	8	5	MT	0,53%	1,56%	44,90%	0,08%	440.400						
NL	39	21	8	9	2	4	4	87	13	4	6	1	0	0	NL	0,95%	0,92%	14,94%	3,22%	17.081.500						
PL	130	189	10	126	97	34	36	622	108	5	11	2	45	39	PL	6,78%	7,67%	17,36%	7,21%	37.973.000						
PT	38	15	2	10	7	9	7	88	15	3	2	0	5	3	PT	0,96%	1,06%	17,05%	1,96%	10.309.600						
RO	74	101	1	201	120	15	18	530	94	4	3	0	58	26	RO	5,78%	6,67%	17,74%	3,75%	19.638.300						
RS	54	37	2	28	32	10	20	183	27	3	3	0	9	10	RS	2,00%	1,92%	14,75%	1,34%	7.040.300						
SE	14	7	1	3	5	10	7	47	12	3	1	0	0	3	SE	0,51%	0,85%	25,53%	1,87%	9.995.200						
SI	64	68	0	22	25	15	22	216	29	3	5	0	9	9	SI	2,36%	2,06%	13,43%	0,39%	2.085.900						
SK	53	78	8	457	432	33	37	1098	172	2	3	1	106	54	SK	11,98%	12,21%	15,66%	1,03%	5.435.300						
UK	60	24	17	15	17	3	7	143	20	4	3	4	4	5	UK	1,56%	1,42%	13,99%	12,41%	65.808.600						
TOTAL	1881	1764	241	2276	1817	542	648	9169	1409	108	146	37	589	400	TOTAL	100,00%	100,00%		100,00%	528.258.437						
														989		129		53		76		129		EU Total		511.805.100

Legenda:

- CSP Civil Society Projects
- REM Remembrance Projects
- OG Operating Grants
- TT1 Town Twinning Phase 1
- TT2 Town Twinning Phase 2
- NT1 Network of Towns Phase 1
- NT2 Network of Towns Phase 2

Europe for citizens Programme

Results 2017

Resume

In this document you will find an overview of the Europe for Citizens programme implementation in 2017 together with some data measuring the overall impact for the period 2014-2017.

PART A provides a policy feedback per action on the main achievements in 2017 as well as the first results of the "European Solidarity Corps" initiative.

PART B gives examples of good projects selected or monitored in 2017.

PART C presents the main statistical data on the Programme execution in 2017 and in the period 2014-2017.

Furthermore, synoptic tables illustrate the breakdown of projects submitted and granted by country.