

The project «EUYouth VS EUscptics: European opportunities for Youth access to rights in rural, peripheral, disadvantaged areas» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.1 "Town-Twinning"

Participation: The project involved 102 citizens, notably 76 participants from the city of Reggio di Calabria (Italy), 26 participants from the city of Patras (Greece).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Reggio di Calabria (italy), from 28/03/2023 to 31/03/2023

Short description:

The project "EUYouth VS EUscptics: European opportunities for Youth access to rights in rural, peripheral, disadvantaged areas" will bring together 100 citizens of different ages from Patras and Reggio Calabria, with priority for young people 18-30, in order to know better the common Greek heritage in a European perspective and to build together an Action Plan for access to rights of young people from disadvantaged areas, based on solidarity, volunteering, youth work, self-entrepreneurship and contrast to euroscepticism. In the frame of the project, the two Mayors will sign the Twinning Agreement.

The aims of this project are:

- to enhance the awareness about being European Citizens, also living in peripheral, rural, disadvantaged areas;
- to promote solidarity and opportunities for volunteering, at local level and with a European perspective;
- to challenge euroscepticism through youth engagement and active participation;
- to promote democratic participation of young people in order to improve their access to rights.

The expected outcome of this project are:

- an established cooperation between Reggio Calabria and Patras;
- a deep connection created between youth/youth organizations to work on access to rights of young people from disadvantaged areas;
- increased knowledge about the European Programmes for youth;
- raised number of citizens who wants to take part in European initiatives;
- a commonly developed Action Plan to be concretely implemented;
- the Twinning Agreement signed;
- new joint European Projects proposals planned.

The day of 28/03/2023 was dedicated to the welcome of the delegation by the leading association APICE and by representatives of the Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria;

The day of 29/03/2023 was dedicated to the formulation of the Action Plan and the signing of the Twinning Agreement;

The day of 30/03/2023 was dedicated to the knowledge of the Erasmus+ programmes and of the ENTER! Recommendation;

The day of 31/03/2023 was dedicated to the evaluation and closure of the project and to facilitate the departure of the Greek delegation.

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

Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

Four events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 46 citizens, including 20 participants from the city of Reggio di Calabria (**Italy**), 26 participants from the city of Erymanthos and Patras (**Greece**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Reggio di Calabria(**Italy**), on 28/03/2023.

Short description: The aim of the event was the welcome of the delegation by the leading association APICE and by representatives of the Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria, the City Councilor Filippo Quartuccio and Maria Lea Quattrone, Head of EU Policy and International Cooperation Office. During the introduction to the work, the Councilor for Linguistic Minorities of the Municipality of Reggio Calabria, Lucia Nucera, was invited to take part in the meeting, and the valuable work of protecting and enhancing the Greek of Calabria was widely exposed. Finally, after a getting-to-know-each-other activity that allowed participants to deepen aspects of their culture and of their city of origin, the group realized the non-formal activity "Fears, Expectations & Contributions" entering into the spirit of the project. The objectives of the project were then presented, as well as the programme and activities to be carried out during the following days.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 46 citizens, including 20 participants from the city of Reggio di Calabria (**Italy**), 26 participants from the city of Erymanthos and Patras (**Greece**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Reggio di Calabria (**Italy**), on 29/03/2023.

Short description: During the first session of the morning, the two delegations, characterized by a strong youth component, worked together on the shared Action Plan: concrete proposals to be implemented after the signing of the Twinning. Also in this case, the facilitation of the activity took place by committing to the methods of non-formal education. Subsequently, the Greek delegation together with the Italian delegation, visited the Archaeological Museum of Reggio Calabria where they were able to treasure the historical beauties present inside, most notably among the iconic Bronzi di Riace. In this way they could compare the two cultures, noting how close and complementary they are.

In the afternoon the groups of young people completed together the Action Plan, which was then presented at the Twinning ceremony while the signing between the Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria and the city of Erymanthos of the Patras region took place. The day ended with music and traditional dances from both cities: on one side the Cretan lyre; on the other the Calabrian lyre, the lute and the Grecian songs.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 46 citizens, including 20 participants from the city of Reggio di Calabria(**Italy**), 26 participants from the city of Erymanthos and Patras (**Greece**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Reggio di Calabria(**Italy**), 30/03/2023.

Short description: During the morning activities, the two delegations discussed and deepened European values, such as: democracy and participation, solidarity and volunteering, freedom, tolerance and dignity, human rights, inclusion, equality and respect, justice and cooperation. They then realized how the latter are the basis of Erasmus+ projects, becoming aware of all the programs created and of which they could be the next users and promoters, such as: Europe for Citizens, Erasmus+, CERV, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs.

A concrete example was the programme for local solidarity projects, where two completed projects were presented, together with the methodologies used and the results obtained. The two delegations were therefore able to better understand the ENTER! Recommendation, underlying the two solidarity projects carried out, and found in it many points in common with the Action Plan implemented the previous day. In the afternoon, visiting the city, they had the opportunity to get in touch with the local community through the streets of Reggio Calabria, discovering more common points .

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 46 citizens, including 20 participants from the city of Reggio di Calabria (**Italy**), 26 participants from the city of Erymanthos and Patras (**Greece**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Reggio di Calabria(**Italy**), on 31/03/2023.

Short description: It was dedicated to the evaluation of the programme carried out during the previous days. All the participants then expressed thoughts and emotions about what they had experienced, highlighting the many elaborate learnings. The next steps for the Follow-up phase have been identified, starting from the adoption of the Action Plan, and from the strategy to concretely implement the activities jointly decided.

