



Europe for Citizens
Programme

Projects from Latvia in EU programme „Europe for Citizens”

Building Active European citizenship: strengthening participation in NGO's work

Applicant: Culture agency of Kekava district municipality (LV)

Partners: Deutsch-Lettische Partnerschaft Bordesholm-Kekava e.V. (DE), Stowarzyszenie Dom Europejski w Gostyniu (PL), Šiaulių rajono jaunimo centras (LT)

Support measure: Town Twinning citizens meetings

Project realisation year: 2011

Grant awarded: EUR 13 000

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Project web page: www.via.kekava.lv

Description:

The project events will take place in Kekava, Latvia in the framework of international multifunctional town twinning festival VIA KEKAVA. Overall in the festival will participate delegations from 7 countries – Estonia, Russia, Turkey, Belarus, Poland, Germany and Lithuania, representing people from municipalities, NGOs, enterprises, tourism organizations, dancers, musicians, craftsmen and other fields. The project events will be a part of festival programme.

The project objective is to exchange of experience between NGOs from different states about encouraging citizens to become more involved in NGOs work, find new ways how to improve citizen participation, as well as to develop sustainable informal ties between participating NGOs.

The project aims are:

- * exchange of experience in different EU states on involvement of citizens in forming NGOs and its activities;
- * involve the local community in the planning and implementation of the project;
- * raise public awareness and interest of local inhabitants about domestic and overseas cultures, traditions thus promoting cultural and linguistic diversity;
- * during the project prepare common cultural performance – amateur photo exhibition, dance, musical performance;
- * participate in festival VIA KEKAVA cultural and activities – concerts, exhibitions, seminars.

In the result of project:

- * about 30 participants in each state will be involved in building active european citizenship;
- * more than 50 000 inhabitants of participating municipalities in the project, will obtain information about citizens involvement in NGOs work;
- * a positive attitude towards different cultures and societies will be developed;
- * citizens will develop new skills for interacting with people coming from different countries. The established contacts between participants will be used for further follow up activities between partner states.

Suggestion from project team:

We noticed that such large scale, international event organization was a challenge and at the same time unique experience for us and it mobilized our local community members at all levels – administration, volunteers and inhabitants. We also noticed that for participants and visitors such international event was like a discovery of European cultural and linguistic diversity and recognition that we form a part of European identity. One of the conclusions was that such inter cultural dialogue promoting projects are necessary, therefore we came to decision to organize similar festival in the future. We encourage all municipalities and other project promoters to use instruments provided by EU programme „Europe for Citizens” to enrich and activate their local communities.

Reinis Zobens, project coordinator

