



# EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

## Democratic engagement and civic participation sub-programme

### FINAL REPORT form

Programme	EUROPE FOR CITIZENS
Sub-Programme	Democratic engagement and civic participation
Action	Network of Towns
Sub-Action	N/A
Call for Proposal	Programme Guide 2018
Project number	600964-CITIZ-1-2018-1-BE-CITIZ-NT
Agreement/decision number	20181312
Project Title	European Accessible Sustainable Young TOWNS II

# Contractual Data

## Dates and Beneficiaries

### Dates

Project Start: 01/10/2018	Project End: 30/09/2022
Activities Start: 01/10/2018	Activities End: 30/09/2022
Project Duration(months): 48	

### Beneficiary Data

Role	PIC	Name	Country
Coordinating Organization / Beneficiary	938895108	GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	Belgium
Management Contact Person	938895108	GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	Belgium

## Legal Representative

### Organisation Legal Address

Name: GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	
Street: KERKPLEIN 17	
Post Code: 2220	City: HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG
Country: Belgium	

### Department

Name: Mayor's Office	
Street: KERKPLEIN 17	
Post Code: 2220	City: HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG
Country: Belgium	
Local Address:	
Internet site:	

### Contact

Title: Mr	Function: Mayor
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Name Luc  
Phone Number 1: 00 32 1522 86 50  
Fax Number:  
Email: bernadetteecat@gmail.com

Last Name: Vleugels  
Phone Number 2:  
Mobile Number:

## Contact Person

### Organisation Legal Address

Name: GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG  
Street: KERKPLEIN 17  
Post Code: 2220  
Country: Belgium  
City: HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG

### Department

Name: Culture, Europe, Education, Tourism  
Street: KERKPLEIN 17  
Post Code: 2220  
Country: Belgium  
City: HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG  
Local Address:  
Internet site:

### Contact

Title: Mrs  
Name: Bernadette  
Phone Number 1: 00 32 477 78 80 11  
Fax Number:  
Email: bernadetteecat@gmail.com  
Function: President of Community Council  
Last Name: De Cat  
Phone Number 2:  
Mobile Number:

# Implemented Activities

## Short description of the project's results in English, French or German

English - 1	<p>The activities built on cultural heritage &amp; aspects of daily life to promote debate on EU values, policies &amp; efforts in building a more united &amp; open-minded society. Meetings &amp; events were held in Malta, Croatia, Italy &amp; Poland, in public spaces to attract people, using music &amp; poetry, (Rijeka), theatre (Malta &amp; Italy), &amp; folk elements (Heist-op-den-Berg). Poland showed efforts to deal with war refugees from Ukraine, namely mothers &amp; children with traumas from war, violence, fear, loss. Croatia worked on freedom &amp; independence, underground activities of artists &amp; press in times of repression. Heist-op-den-Berg worked on cultural heritage with primary schools' children &amp; their community. A project week in all primary schools gave information on European values (respect, peace, learning from the past). A project week on "Our village" with theatre music, design of the village in cardboard, was presented to the public. All partners focused on Youth &amp; tackled the risk of youths being influenced by extremist movements. Fanatical views led to cruel extremes in the past, &amp; these were discussed when (Heist-op-den-Berg organized a visit to the War Memorial Breendonk; &amp; Niepolomice organized a visit to Auschwitz). The partners got the chance to exchange experiences &amp; emotions, both during &amp; after site visits. Discussion groups focused on peace at risk &amp; respect for inclusion ideas through natural &amp; digital cultural heritage. Young people, youth workers, members of local youth councils participating in the project events &amp; meetings, together with administrators &amp; politicians came to an increasing citizens' understanding of the Union's policy-making process. Social media communication &amp; digital production helped transnational cooperation &amp; long-lasting relations &amp; friendships. Despite Covid restrictions, all planned topics were implemented in local activities. A list of good &amp; bad practices from Easy Towns I was taken up again &amp; the new initiatives focused on inclusion &amp; connection. Heist-op-den-Berg involved schools (950 pupils) in information sessions on Europe, creative workshops to build a "village", monitoring newcomers &amp; refugees in language lessons, job trainings, buddy projects. Integration &amp; diversity was the objective: promoting local food, shops &amp; local shopping, &amp; confronting it with new ideas &amp; unknown traditions brought in by refugees. This was the focus for Heist-op-den-Berg during the project FINALE in September 2022 (33 persons). Another example: Sentjur, organized a quiz "Do you know your community?" an event in a local cultural hall where young representatives from 6 local schools (30) used board games to share their knowledge on their cultural heritage &amp; community in Sentjur (155 young people). An escape room event for learning purposes was built through which youth learnt about cultural heritage (90 young people). In 2020 &amp; 2021 online zoom workshops were held in schools presenting local heritage (160 pupils up to 13years). A strategic game "The Knights of Sentjur" was developed in August 2021 and was used in a school tournament in new strategic cultural heritage games. Rijeka organized a visit to a new cultural district, a visit to the Maritime &amp; History Museum of the Croatian Littoral, an EASY TOWNS digital), opening of the anarcho-communist exhibition from the collection of Giovannio Morbin, a concert of partisan &amp; anti-fascist songs, cooking for the community heritage travelling exhibition, &amp; a panel on youth &amp; independent publishing ("Antifascism then &amp; now"). All project activities clearly showed that cultural diversity requires intercultural dialogue, which foster exchange of views between cultures that can create a strong common ground of empathy between different cultures, communities &amp; different generations.</p>
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## Description

### Impact and Citizen Involvement

The biggest achievement of this wonderful project is, apart from creating and confirming friendship with new and old partners, the growing awareness that a profound knowledge of your own cultural heritage can lead to a better knowledge and understanding of "new" people's cultural heritage. With new people we mean new inhabitants of the own community, new fellow citizens wherever they come from, in which way they arrived, whichever culture they bring with them.

### **Direct testimonies/stories from participants collected during the events.**

-“Schoolchildren love their village”  
-“Even on corona times creativity is possible by meeting on line”  
-“An EU project can surprise EU citizens in a most unexpected way”

### **Key message(s) of citizens involved in the project**

“Inclusion is made possible by young people on condition they are aware of their own cultural heritage and are willing to understand and accept the newcomers’ cultural heritage”.

### **Description of implemented activities**

-In Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium) schools worked on Cultural heritage. The elementary school organized a project week on “My village”. They worked for a very long period and in several lessons on the history of their village. The method? They wrote a play and performed it in front of a public of parents, teachers and local press and politicians. They rebuilt their whole village in paintings, maps and plans, and “maquettes” showing every local shop, doctor, pharmacy, school, church, wood, farms and fields etc. A local Kindergarten even worked on Cultural heritage by creating a lake with white swans (the swan is the symbol of their village).  
-A forum discussion led to a clear insight in the needs of the actual multicultural society. To discussion as well, explaining prejudices, fears and misunderstandings.  
-Other partners worked in the same way: creative contributions, research on attitudes and opinions, quiz, walking tours, equates...

### **Changes in relation of the original application**

-The most important change in the course of the project was, of course, the impact of Covid on travelling, on mobility and on organizing local events. This turned the project into a ‘handicapped’ one. The goodwill among the partners was immense but so were the restrictions.  
-Another change was the post Covid decision of Banska Bystrica not to organize the 4rth International meeting. Luckily Niepolomice took over, coping with Covid as well so that, thanks to the extension procedure we could finally meet in Poland and prepare the Finale in Heist-op-den-berg, Belgium.

### **Dissemination and visibility of your project**

The visibility and the dissemination of the project as such was ensured through regular messages in local newspapers. And by publishing actions, activities, ideas, plans! also on the site of the local municipality. By going out in the open spaces and presenting the project.  
See : site of Heistop-den-Berg and sites of all partners.

### **Visibility of the Europe for Citizens Programme**

Every time an action was taken, a trip abroad was made, an initiative was on the press was invited. Every time the context of Europe and the “Europe for citizens” was stressed. The European flag was always there. It made people wonder why. So, this offered a unique occasion to explain!

### **Additional information**

-In future projects we hope for no limitations like Covid, of course.  
-It is and remains a constant struggle to communicate the importance of European projects to create more awareness of the need of uniting, the need of facing conflicts, the effects of war, discussions, disagreements.  
-Creating awareness and goodwill with the local authorities is and remains the biggest issue, at least according to my experience.

# Statistics

## Direct Participants

Name of Organisation/municipality	Country	Participants by target group			Disadvantaged participants	Women	Men	Total
		below 30	30-65	above 65				
GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	Belgium	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
Ayuntamiento de L'Alfàs del Pi	Spain	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
COMUNE DI VICENZA	Italy	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
GMINA NIEPOLOMICE	Poland	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
MUNICIPIUL ARAD	Romania	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
OBSHTINA KNEZHA	Bulgaria	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI COLLEGE	Malta	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA KOZJANSKO	Slovenia	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
Stadt Pforzheim	Germany	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
UNIVERZITA MATEJA BELA V BANSKEJ BYSTRICI	Slovakia	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
GRAD PULA - POLA	Croatia	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
RIJEKA 2020 DOO ZA PROVEDBU PROJEKTA RIJEKA EUROPSKA PRIJESTOLNICA KULTURE 2020(DVIJE TISUCE I DVADESETE)	Croatia	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
		<b>74</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>189</b>

## Indirect Participants

### Indirect Participants

Number of indirect participants

165

## Other Information

### Activities of the project

Project start date

08/10/2018

Project end date

29/09/2022

### Venues of the activities

#### Venue of the activities

Country

City

Belgium	Heist-op-den-Berg
Poland	Niepolomice
Italy	Vicenza
Croatia	Rijeka
Malta	Valletta

### Information template

Direct link to the webpage of the municipality where the duly filled out information template is located/published.  
Reminder: acceptance of the Final Report is conditioned upon the publication of the information template with project-related information.

### Citizens' understanding of the EU

To which extent have the project's activities increased citizens' understanding of the EU?

Good

**Please give an example**

A "good" understanding by the citizens of the EU, especially during the period of the mobilities, meetings, activities. Thanks to communication in the local press and visits to local activities.

### Short description check

I hereby confirm that the information provided under the "Short description of the project's results" is written in EN, DE or FR and clearly indicates the main results/achievements of the project, topics covered, countries involved; number of direct/indirect participants.  
I am aware that this information can be used for publication purposes.

### Duty to keep documents/obligation to provide information check

I hereby confirm that I'm aware about contractual obligations set out in the Articles n° 27.2 and n° 27.3 of General Conditions to keep all original documents, especially accounting and tax records, stored on any appropriate medium, including digitalised originals when they are authorised by its national law and under the conditions laid down therein, for a period of 5 years starting from the date of payment of the balance. Therefore, the evidences of the project implementation (e.g. participants lists and/or photos and/or catering & travelling invoices and/or boarding passes and/or any other proves) have been kept and will be provided upon request in the context of checks, audits, evaluations and on-the-spot visits.

# Financial Sheet

## Final Grant Requested

Item	Contractual	Declared
Executive Agency - EACEA	146 160,00	146 160,00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>146 160,00</b>	<b>146 160,00</b>

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## Attachments

Type of File	Name of the File
Declaration on Honour	
Financial Final Report - Grant calculation sheet	
Project's pictures (if you could summarize the project in 3 pictures what those would be?). Please note that these pictures might be used for publication purposes - picture 1	
picture 2	
picture 3	

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