

The project «European Heritage Custodians» 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 directly involved 242 citizens, notably 62 participants from the Municipality of Rakovica and 4 participants from the City of Rab (**Croatia**), 21 participants from the Municipality of Čapljina and 18 from the Municipality of Stolac (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**), 16 participants from the City of Tarcento and 27 participants from the Municipality of Aquileia (**Italy**), 37 participants from the Municipality of Bač (**Serbia**), 34 participants from the Municipality of Piran (**Slovenia**), 5 participants from the International Sociology Institute of Gorizia and 18 participants from INGO Adriatic GreeNet (**Italy**).

1/3 of participants were children from each Country and 60% of participants were women.

Location/ Dates: The event took place in **Rakovica, Croatia**, from 13/05/2016 to 15/05/2016

Short description:

The day of 13/05/2016 was dedicated to:

- Workshop for local stakeholders from each community involved to discuss on the future and the importance of small communities as "Custodians" of European Heritage and the need to launch a European campaign for their valorization, exchanging ideas and suggestions that are useful for the letter proposal that will be addressed to the European Commission and the Council of Europe asking them to support the European campaign "Small, Great! Europe". The workshop was held under the guidance of Ms. Chiara Bianchizza, an expert of the International Sociology Institute from Gorizia.
- Suggestions from "Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society" and opportunities based on examples of good practice: presentation of Ms. Julie de Muer, an expert on Heritage who lives in Marseilles, France and who is part of the "Hôtel du Nord" experiment, a residents' cooperative founded in 2011 and inspired by the Faro Convention. Although there is no significant built heritage to mark or market the territory, the work that has been carried out in Marseilles since 1995 by residents, associations and businesses with a heritage conservator for the city has, over time, led to active experimentation of the principles and tools that constitute Faro. Julie de Muer talked about this experience, recounting the principal stages from the field, and took a few present-day examples that could open up prospects for using Faro to respond to the contemporary challenges of democratic renewal and urban development.
- Presentation of each delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia, with the active involvement of young participants and the opening of the joint exhibition "Small, Great! Europe" made by Adriatic GreeNet with selected photos and text that have been sent from each involved community during the preliminary activities.
- Welcome dinner prepared by local associations from Rakovica with traditional songs, dances and old way of combing wool presented by the local Cultural and Performing Society "Izvor" from Rakovica.

The day of 14/05/2016 was dedicated to:

- Sightseeing of Plitvice Lakes National Park (UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979). Participants were divided into groups of mixed nationalities and ages, and they visited the Plitvice Lakes with committed guides of the Park.
- Discussion and implementation of the results and suggestions from the workshop

The day of 15/05/2016 was dedicated to:

- Sport games / competitions in traditional sports and games between young people in teams of mixed nationalities genders (Sports Hall of Primary School in Rakovica)
- General Meeting with special guests Ms. Alina Tatarenko, Deputy Head of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Council of Europe and Mr. Daniele del Bianco, Director of the International Sociology Institute from Gorizia
- Presentation of the website dedicated to the project <http://smallgreateurope.wix.com/euheritagecustodians> and the Dissemination plan.