

The project «EPICURO - European Partnership for Innovative Cities within an Urban Resilience Outlook» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

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

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EPICURO “European Partnership for Innovative Cities within an Urban Resilience Outlook”

6 international events have been carried out within this project under the period 04/04/2016 – 03/04/2018

Event 1: Public International Conference - Kick off meeting

Participation: The first event involved 101 EU citizens, including 23 international citizens notably 2 participants from Mancomunidad Integ. Sierra de San Pedro (Spain); 3 participants from Municipality of Vicenza (Italy); 2 participants from the city of Valka (Latvia); 2 participants from the Municipality of Niepolomice (Poland); 3 participants from the city of Alba Iulia (Romania); 3 participants from the Province of Potenza (Italy); 2 participants from the city of Svilengrad (Bulgaria); 2 participants from the city of Valga (Estonia); 1 participants from the city of Bonn (Germany); 3 participants from the city of Skopje (Republic of Macedonia).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Virovitica, Virovitica-Podravina County from 16/05/2016 to 18/05/2016

Short description:

The day of 16/05/2016 was dedicated to arrival of representatives of partner organisations to Virovitica (Virovitica- podravina County - VPC). Welcom dinner was organised and it was a chance for all representatives to get acquainted. During the evening representatives of VPC presented the participants the detailed work plan for the next two days of the visit.

The day of 17/05/2016 was dedicated to the Public international conference that was held in the conference hall of Poduzetnički inkubator Virovitičko-podravske županije starting from 10:00 a.m. During the conference participants were informed on project EPICURO, main goals, partners and planned activities. Also, during the conference there were presentations held on topics related to climate change; human impact on nature and consequences of the same and later activities in order to minimize the negative impact; adaptation policies at urban level.

After the Public international conference, partner representatives participated in a study tour of City of Virovitica. During the tour were presented the most interesting parts of the city and the historical facts related to the formation of the city with a professional guidance of tourist guide. In the evening, as planned, presentation of partner cities was organised. It was a chance for all representatives of partner organisations to present their towns/municipalities/counties and in particular their best practices in relation to climate change adaptation policies.

The day of 18/05/2016 was dedicated to partnership meeting during which representatives of the applicant organisation presented all other participants details about future planned project activities. During the meeting a Skype conference call was organised with the responsible agency for project communication, which explained to partners the dissemination project plan. Also, during the meeting a final timetable for future project events was set.

Main decisions taken – deliverables produced :

Project EPICURO was presented to the public;
Best practices and knowledge exchange session between the international partners on topic of resilience and adaptation policies at local level: this allowed exchange among 10 different EU Countries
Future developments of the project were discussed, timetable for the future project events was set;
Study tour of City of Virovitica

Event 2 : Transnational Technical Meeting I

Participation: The project involved 51 citizens, notably 29 participants from the Municipality of Niepolomice (Poland) and 22 international so divided:

2 participants from Virovitica-Podravina County (Croatia),
2 participants from the city of Valga (Estonia),
3 participants from the city of Valka (Latvia),
2 participants from Mancomunidad Integral Sierra de San Pedro (Spain)
2 participants from the city of Skopje (Republic of Macedonia)
1 participant from the Province of Potenza (Italy)
3 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy)
3 participants from the city of Svilengrad (Bulgaria)

2 participants from the city of Bonn (Germany)
2 participants from the city of Alba Iulia (Romania)

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Niepolomice (Poland), from 26/09/2016 to 28/09/2016

Short description:

The day of 26/09/2016 was dedicated to a first networking session among international representatives, which discussed organizational details for the following 2days work

The day of 27/09/2016 was dedicated to the outline of resilience in the context of cities and communities; presentation of citizens engagement channel and methodologies used by partners; study visit to the Community House run by Inspiro NGO – as a positive example of co-operation of the local government with citizens in creating an innovative approach to managing public life

The day 28/09/2016 was dedicated to planning local citizens engagement activities to be performed from September 2016 to August 2017 (local activities part I); working international tables for drafting a common strategy for key actors selection and involvement; summary of the meeting, planning of next activities and deadlines; presentation of the project website; study visit in the city of Niepolomice with a focus on places and institutions related to citizens involvement, amongst them: Social Activity Lab Open Space – a place where citizens with an idea to organize a meeting, network, workshops etc. can meet free of charge, as well as a new library that was designed and arranged according to the results of the consultations with citizens.

Main decisions taken – deliverables produced:

Each partner will start planning at least one activity/event/action focused on building resilience using citizens' involvement. Timeframe for the realization of this undertaking will be from September (actually October) 2016 until August 2017. In particular for the first part of year 2017, partners will have the role of selecting key actors which will participate to the 2 training sessions planned for February and June 2017. Key actors will be the team of support for the partner cities, in disseminating resilience concepts among citizens and in organising involvement activities.

Event 3 : Transnational Training Session I

Participation: The project involved 52 citizens, notably 29 participants from the municipality of Valka (LATVIA), and 23 international, so divided:

2 participants from the municipality of Svilengrad (BULGARIA)
1 participant from the city of Bonn (GERMANY)
2 participants from the municipality of Niepolomice (POLAND)
3 participants from the municipality of Vicenza (ITALY)
2 participants from the municipality of Alba Iulia (ROMANIA)
2 participants from the city of Skopje (MACEDONIA)
2 participants from the municipality of Mancomunidad integral Sierra de San Pedro (SPAIN)
2 participants from the Province of Potenza (ITALY)
2 participants from Virovitica-Podrovina County (CROATIA)
5 participants from the city of Valga (ESTONIA).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Valka Municipality Council (Valka, LATVIA), from 21/02/2017 to 23/02.2017.

Short description:

The day of 21/02/2017 was dedicated to arrival of participants, small excursion in Latvian capital Riga and networking dinner in Valka.

The day of 22/02/2017 was dedicated to official welcome of participants in Valka Municipality Council, brief presentation of EPICURO project (strategy, objectives, activities, expected results) to attending key actors, presentation of goals of the first International training session, presentation of the concept of resilience, climate changes, climate change adaption, EU strategies and policies, presentations of best practices

linked to urban resilience processes, interactive session among participants and study visit in the city of Valka.

The day of 23/02/2017 was dedicated to summary of this International training session, end-of-training test to check the level of acquisition of the basic knowledge and local activities, planning of future activities.

Main decisions taken – deliverables produced:

52 key actors trained (of which 23 international)
1 final-test about training session #1
10 key actor groups presented
2 days networking session among 10 different Countries

Event 4 : Transnational Training Session II

Participation: The project involved 60 citizens, notably 36 participants from the municipality of Bonn, and 24 international, so divided:

2 participants from the municipality of Svilengrad (BULGARIA)
3 participant from the city of Valka (LATVIA)
3 participants from the municipality of Niepolomice (POLAND)
4 participants from the municipality of Vicenza (ITALY)
2 participants from the municipality of Alba Iulia (ROMANIA)
2 participants from the city of Skopje (MACEDONIA)
3 participants from the municipality of Mancomunidad integral Sierra de San Pedro (SPAIN)
2 participants from the Province of Potenza (ITALY)
3 participants from the city of Valga (ESTONIA).

Representatives of the Croatian delegation (Virovitica-Podrovina County) participated remotely, making their presentations and interacting with the other participants by Skype, in order to cope with travelling problems that impeded them from being physically present.

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Bonn, Germany, from 12. June 2017 to 14. June 2017.

Short description:

Effective citizens involvement strategies and communication methodologies to be adopted, cases of success.

Trainers such as Verena Schwarte (City of Bonn), Daniela Baum (NGO Germanwatch), Evgenia Mitroliou (ICLEI), Alessandro Attolico e Rosalia Smaldone (Potenza Province), discussed about policy, tools and networks for citizens' involvement.

In particular, Evgenia Mitroliou (ICLEI) presented the benefits of global networks for urban resilience; Verena Schwarte (City of Bonn) shared her experiences within the pilot project "Global sustainable municipality" in relation to the civil society involvement for the development of a sustainability strategy on municipal level; Alessandro Attolico e Rosalia Smaldone (Potenza Province) brought to the project consortium the knowledge gained within the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.

During the third day of the event, Giovanna Brunelli (EPC srl , partner of EPICURO DG ECHO funded project), presented project strategy and state of the art, in order to enhance projects' networking and cooperation among EU cities.

Main decisions taken – deliverables produced:

60 people trained of which 24 international.
Increased knowledge and capabilities of local key actors in transferring to citizens info about disaster risks and resilience, in an effective way and testing different modalities of involvement and communication.
Good practices exchange among EU cities

Event 5 : Transnational Technical Meeting II

Participation : The event involved 51 citizens of which 32 locals and 19 internationals, so divided :

2 participant from the city of Bonn (GERMANY)

3 participants from the municipality of Niepolomice (POLAND)
3 participants from Mancomunidad Sierra San Pedro (SPAIN)
2 participants from the municipality of Alba Iulia (ROMANIA)
1 participants from the Province of Potenza (ITALY)
3 participants from Virovitica-Podrovina County (CROATIA)
2 participants from the city of Valga (ESTONIA)
3 participants from the city of Valka (LATVIA)
Representatives of both Macedonian (City of Skopje) and Bulgarian delegations (Svilengrad Municipality) participated remotely, making their presentations and interacting with the other participants by Skype, in order to cope with travelling problems that impeded them from being physically present.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Vicenza**, from 20/11/2017 to 22/11/2017

Short description:

Day 1: Nov 20th – partnership dinner and recap of activities undertaken so far

Day 2: Nov 21st morning session: public conference “ Public administrations and citizens cooperating for co-development of local strategies for climate change adaptation” with the participation of European Project Consulting - EPC srl; Remigio Rancan - Certified expert in Urban Resilience with HAZUR® ; Maurizio Minicuci from Agenda 21 Padua; Filippo Magni - IUAV

Day 2: Nov 21st afternoon session : public administrators and officers working tables with presentation of mid term results obtained with citizens engagement local activities; analysis of the effectiveness of the common Key actors local involvement strategy; individuation of the common guidelines for the establishment of the EU Resilient Communities Network (functioning, roles and responsibilities), definition of the Resilience Manager role.

Day 3: Nov 22nd : drafting of the Resilient Communities Agreement through working tables of discussion in order to select the main contents that need to be inserted in the agreement. Planning of future activities to be undertaken at local level. Planning of project final event.

Main decisions taken – deliverables produced:

Co-Drafting of the Resilience Manager / Referent profile, with common features which can easily adapt to partner cities local needs

Detection of the best methodologies for citizens involvement and engagement, selecting the best experiences on the basis of partner cities description of their local activities done within EPICURO project

Event 6 : Public International Conference - Final Event

Participation: The event involved 103 citizens, among which 30 internationals, so divided :

3 participants from the municipality of Svilengrad (BULGARIA)
2 participant from the city of Bonn (GERMANY)
4 participants from the municipality of Niepolomice (POLAND)
3 participants from the municipality of Vicenza (ITALY)
3 participants from the municipality of Alba Iulia (ROMANIA)
3 participants from the city of Skopje (MACEDONIA)
3 participants from the Province of Potenza (ITALY)
3 participants from Virovitica-Podrovina County (CROATIA)
3 participants from the city of Valga (ESTONIA)
3 participants from the city of Valka (LATVIA)

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Cáceres and Valencia de Alcántara (Spain)**, from 12/03/2018 to 14/03/2018

Short description:

The day of 12/03/2018 was dedicated to arrival of partners to Cáceres. A networking dinner was organized.

On the day of 13/03/2018 took place a public conference in Cáceres, where the Project aims and main results were presented to local citizens and authorities. More than 10 speakers (local and regional

authorities, international experts and researchers) shared their knowledge and experience about resilience and climate change matters with all the participants. A “Slowfood” breakfast and lunch were organized, and in the end of the afternoon, the European Resilient Communities Network Agreement was officially signed by all partners. After a guided tour of the city of Cáceres, the day ended with a networking dinner.

The day of 14/03/2018 was dedicated to the final meeting of the partners, in Valencia de Alcántara. All partners presented their main actions and results, and each one officially presented its Resilience Referent.

Main decisions taken – deliverables produced:

Signature of the European Resilient Communities Network Agreement by the 11 partners
Presentation of the international network of local Resilience Referents
Public information and awareness about the EPICURO Project and about the resilience’s concepts.