



Invitation to join the project within the Europe for Citizens program called “European regions developing European Citizenship”

Action: Networks of twinned towns/ regions

Coordinating body: Lodzkie Region (central Poland) which already is a coordinator of a thematic network of 25 cities and regions with the support of the Europe for Citizens program. Lodzkie’s project was successfully approved last year.

Partners needed: regional and local authorities, towns/municipalities or their twinning committees or networks; non-profit organisations representing local/regional authorities, other non-profit civil society organisations.

Project duration: 22 months, starting from 1 June 2015

Project objective:

The main objective is to develop thematic and long-lasting cooperation between EU local and regional authorities, and civil society organisations dedicated to the development of the regional dimension of the European Citizenship.

What is the regional dimension of the European Citizenship?

The regional dimension of the European citizenship manifests itself by the **distribution of information** on the EU political agenda, EU programs and funding opportunities in regions and cities; **the promotion** of civic freedoms, rights and obligations which result from being a European citizen; and **concrete actions that mobilise citizens**.

It includes:

- communication and information strategies
- building synergies of using different EU funding in regions and towns
- mobilising citizens to debate on European matters
- setting up adequate institutions, agencies and giving support to civil society organisations that contribute to it.

Why should regional/local authorities promote European Citizenship?

Local and regional authorities are close to citizens, they are ideally placed to promote a better understanding of EU citizenship and make people more aware of its real benefits for individuals in such ways as:

1. **Active citizenship:** local and regional authorities can promote active participation in the life of local and regional communities, especially young people, who move around more within the EU – **fostering active participation**.
2. **Civic citizenship:** local and regional authorities can play a role in informing and raising awareness among citizens preparing them to actively exercise their rights and use opportunities that the EU gives – **providing information**.
3. **Social citizenship:** local and regional authorities can boost European-level initiatives in support

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS - PROJECT PARTNER SEARCH

of social citizenship, running counter to the principle of equality and equal treatment provided for under European law – **promotion of social rights**.

4. **Culture of citizenship:** with a view to the European elections in 2014, local and regional authorities can increase awareness among all EU citizens of their rights, in particular their electoral rights in the Member State where they reside, and to facilitate the exercise of those rights – **awareness raising**.

/resource: CIVEX-V-044, Committee of the Regions' opinion „EU Citizenship Report 2013”, CDR3536-2013_00_00_TRA_AC/

Project goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To show how the European Citizenship is supported in different EU regions and how European policies are disseminated by regional authorities, institutions and citizens. 2. To promote and facilitate the use of programmes in support of the European Citizenship and EU-related opportunities – finding synergies between different programs, such as: Horizon 2020, Creative Europe and Erasmus+ . 3. To compare tools and models of acting for the sake of the EU Citizenship in in regions and cities – how information on the EU political agenda, EU programs and EU funding opportunities are communicated and promoted? 4. To enable the exchange of good practices on the EU Citizenship between EU regions that would not be possible without such a project. 5. To encourage European partners and stakeholders to conduct cross-institutional and cross-sectoral dialogue to strengthen civic participation. 6. To contribute to maximizing the impact of the Europe for Citizens Programme by strengthening the regional development of European Citizenship. 7. To find other fields of common interest between partners and their stakeholders, possibilities of cooperation– support an exchange of volunteers, students and employees.
Project events	<p>Between July 2015 and October 2016 FIVE international events have been planned within this project. The events will gather an equal number of representatives of all the project partners accompanied by their stakeholders, trade associations, businessmen, experts and CSOs and will be followed by information/dissemination events on partners' territory.</p> <p>The five international events will have the following themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Kick off meeting – a preparatory event for the project partners in order to get to know each other and plan in details project tasks and responsibilities. Participants: 1 delegate from each international ones + 10 local ones The venue and date: Lodzkie Region, July 2015 2) Voting rights from local to European level – political participation of EU citizens in constructing the community. Type of the activity: seminar with experts, debates and workshops. Participants: 3 delegates per each international partner + 40 local ones The Venue and date: ... , October 2015 – we are a looking for an international partner to host this event (the costs of organising an event will be covered by the grant). 3) Entrepreneurship and Union – EU citizens as entrepreneurs on the common market. Type of the activity: seminar with experts, debates and workshops. Participants: 3 delegates per each partner + 40 local ones

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS - PROJECT PARTNER SEARCH

	<p>The venue and date: Lodz, February 2016</p> <p>4) European identity building – transnational civic education. Type of the activity: seminar with experts, debates and workshops. Participants: 3 delegates per each partner + 40 local ones The venue and date: ..., June 2016 – we are a looking for an international partner to host this event (the costs of organising an event will be covered by the grant).</p> <p>5) Closing event the future of the European Citizenship (held in the heart of the EU) Type of the activity: seminar with experts, debates and workshops. Participants: 3 delegates per each partner + 50 local ones Venue and date: Brussels, October 2016</p>
<p>Communication tools and dissemination</p>	<p>Communication tools will be managed by the European Projects Association (EPA). The organization will offer support for analysis, dissemination and exploitation of results of activities agreed between partners.</p> <p>The exchange of good practices will be facilitated thanks to the use of the dedicated web space on MyEuropa Platform, the e-learning material will be available on the e-Academy tool of My Europa Platform.</p> <p>Transnationality will be achieved by ensuring that the project is targeted directly to a public from different countries and by disseminating the results of the project across borders, thereby reaching indirectly a European audience.</p>
<p>Programme guidelines on the strand</p>	<p>Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation: civic participation in the broadest sense with a particular focus on activities directly linked to Union policies, with a view to concretely participate in the Union policy-making process in areas related to the objectives of the Programme.</p> <p>This can include: agenda-setting activities, advocating during the preparation phase and negotiation of policy proposals, providing feed-back on relevant initiatives that are implemented.</p> <p>Projects “Networks of Towns/Regions” are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate a range of activities around the subject(s) of common interest to be addressed in the context of the Programme’s objectives or annual priorities. - Have defined target groups for which the selected themes are particularly relevant and involve community members active in the subject area (i.e. experts, local associations, citizens and citizens’ groups directly affected by the theme, etc.). - Serve as a basis for future initiatives and actions between the towns involved, on the issues addressed or possibly on further issues of common interest.
<p>Grant amount and financing your participation</p>	<p>The maximum grant per project is: 150 000€.</p> <p>Lodzkie Region is planning to apply for a grant of around 120.000€. The grant will cover management costs, training materials, communication tools. Seeing a very limited budget of the EU funding, the partners are requested to co-finance the project by covering travel expenses of their delegates to the international events.</p> <p>The grant will fully cover so called “subsistence costs” (food and accommodation) of delegates in the international events, as follows: 1st international event in Lodzkie: 1 person per partner 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th international events: 3 persons per partner per meeting</p> <p>Each partner is asked to involve directly at least 13 delegates that will participate in the events.</p>
<p>Eligibility period</p>	<p>22 months – June 2015-March 2017</p>

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS - PROJECT PARTNER SEARCH

Type of partners needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – REGIONAL AUTHORITIES, towns/municipalities or their twinning committees or networks; – Other levels of local/regional authorities; – Federations/associations of regional/local authorities. – Non-profit organisations representing local/regional authorities. – Other non-profit civil society organisations. <p>The applicants and partners must be established in one of the countries participating to the Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom. • Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates. • EFTA countries party to the EEA agreement (unfortunately without Norway) <p>Lodzkie Region is inviting around 10 European partners to join this project.</p>
Deadline for applications	1 September 2014, 12:00 noon (Brussels time)
Involvement in the project	<p>Once you have decided to participate in the project as a partner, you will be asked to provide us with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Details of a contact person. 2. A short presentation of your organisation relating to the domain covered by the project (max. 1000 characters) 3. Your experience in the area of the project and expectations – issues and questions that you would like to raise (shortly). 4. Your role in the project – how can you contribute to it? (max. 1000 characters). Can you involve any other local/regional partner from a different sector? Attention: Would you like to host one of the international events described above?
Contact persons	<p>Please express your interest to join the project before THURSDAY 24th July to:</p> <p>Gosia Wochowska, malgorzata.wochowska@lodzkie.pl Polish phones: 0048 42 291 97 17, or 0048 42 291 98 98 The Regional Office of the Lodzkie Region in Brussels</p>
WHAT TO DO NEXT?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact Gosia with a brief e-mail that you are interested in the project. 2. Register your institution in the ECAS Portal to receive a PIC number https://ecas.ec.europa.eu – this is a necessary step to start the application, we can help you with the registration if needed.