

The project « Ask the Locals! Enhancing Resource Accessibility through Local Empowerment » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

The following events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1 – Kick-off Meeting & Capacity building activity (CBA)

Participation: The kick-off meeting involved 9 project coordinators from 6 partner organizations from Athens (3) (GR), Belgrade (RS), Bacau (2) (RO), Sofia (BG), Krusevo (MK) and Caltanissetta (IT). The CBA involved 80 persons – 30 participants in the CBA and 50 local citizens. In detail: 6 participants from Athens and the region of Arta (GR), 5 participants from Bacau (RO), 4 participants from Sofia (BG), 2 participants from Belgrade & 3 from the towns of Vranje and Bujanovac (RS), 3 participants from Skopje & 2 from the town of Krusevo (MK), 3 participants from the town of Caltanissetta & 2 from Enna (IT) and 50 citizens from the region of Arta (GR).

Location / Dates: Kick-off meeting: Athens, 7/11/2015 to 9/11/2015; CBA: Skoulikaria (GR), 10/11/2015 to 15/11/2015

Short description: The aim of the kick-off meeting was to build the project team; Get partners agreement; Enhance enthusiasm & trust in the project. The aims of the CBA were to: a. familiarize participants with the contemporary discourse on corruption in Europe emphasizing on the challenges faced by small communities and the available tools for addressing them; b. transfer knowledge & skills for carrying out field-research and create a common methodological framework; c. lift participants negative self-images and images of others; d. raise awareness and interest of the local community of Arta about the project and its purpose.

Event 2 – Info-day & Field research

Participation: The events involved an aggregate of 580 citizens. In detail: 120 people from the region of Arta (GR), 120 from the town of Krusevo (MK), 90 from the village Chavdar (BG), 50 from the town Bujanovac and 50 from the town of Vranje (RS), 60 from the town of Caltanissetta (Italy), 90 from the town of Bacau (RO).

Location / Dates: Info-day: Arta (GR) on 11/03/2016; Krusevo (MK) on 16/1/2016; Vranje & Bujanovac on 29/1/2016 & 01/02/2016; Caltanissetta (Italy) on 30/1/2016; Chavdar (BG) on 25/1/2016; Bacau (RO) on 25/02/2016. Field research: Arta (GR) from 12/03/2016 to 14/03/2016; Bujanovac (RS) 01-21/02/2016; Caltanissetta (IT) from 01/12/2015 to 31/1/2016; Bacau from 26/2/2016 – 30/4/2016; Krusevo (MK) from 01.02.2016 – 15.03.2016; Chavdar (BG) from

Short description: The aim of the info-day was to facilitate the involvement of local communities in the project and the process of data and footage collection. The aim of the field research was to extract information on EU resource allocation, perceptions about corruption and mentalities regarding collective action of local citizens in the involved communities with a view to: a. single out eligible interviewees for a documentary movie and b. get a clearer perspective on small communities' potentials for tackling fund abuse.

Event 3 – Awareness campaign, Session no. 1

Participation: The event involved 250 citizens. In detail: 40 participants from the village Skoulikaria (GR), 50 from the city of Skopje (MK), 50 from the village Chavdar (BG), 30 from the town of Bujanovac (RS), 40 from the city Bacau (RO), 40 from the town Caltanissetta (IT).

Location / Dates: Skoulikaria (GR) on 14/10/2016; Skopje (MK) on 29/11/2016; Bujanovac (RS) 23/11/2016; Chavdar (BG) on 21/12/2016; Bacau (RO) on 16/12/2016; Trabia (IT) on 22/1/2017

Short description: The aim of the event was to foster problematization and collective reflection on the topics of the project. Attendants (citizens, stakeholder, policy-makers) were informed about existing practices of fund abuse and shared their own stories thus extending the pool of available information.

Event 4 - Awareness campaign, Session no. 2

Participation: The event involved 350 citizens. In detail: 120 participants from the town of Arta (GR), 30 from Krusevo (MK), 40 from Sofia (BG), 40 from Belgrade (RS), 40 from Cluj Napoca (RO), 40 from Caltanissetta (IT).

Location / Dates: Arta (GR) on 27/1/2017; Krusevo (MK) on 11/1/2016; Belgrade (RS) 27/11/2016; Sofia (BG) on 1/12/2016; Cluj Napoca (RO) on 27/1/2017; Caltanissetta (IT) on 27/1/2017.

Short description: The aim of the event was to foster problematization and collective reflection on the topics of the project. Attendants (citizens, stakeholder, policy-makers) were informed about existing practices of fund abuse and shared their own stories thus extending the pool of available information.

Event 5 – Final event & Evaluation meeting

Participation: The final event involved around 250 citizens, including 240 participants from Athens (GR) (mainly Greeks but also from other nationalities); 3 from Skopje and Krusevo (MK); 3 from Sofia and Chavdar (BG); 2 from Belgrade (RS); 4 from Bacau (RO); 2 from Caltanissetta (IT). The evaluation meeting involved 8 project coordinators from 6 partner organizations from Athens (3) (GR), Belgrade (RS), Bacau (2) (RO), Sofia (BG), Krusevo (MK) and Enna (IT).

Location / Dates: The final event took place in Athens (GR) on 3/11/2016. The evaluation meeting took place in Athens from 3/11/2016 to 5/11/2016.

Short description: The aim of the final event was to attract a large number of individuals from different fields, thus communicating project results to a wide and diverse audience, promoting reflection of challenges of partner countries with fund abuse and potential responses through collective action, fostering networking between attendants from different sectors (private, public, non-for-profit). The evaluation meeting aimed at assessing the deliverables and the quality of project design and partners' cooperation throughout the project.

Event 6 – Mid-term meeting (preparatory activity)

Participation: The mid-term meeting involved 9 project coordinators representing partner organizations from Athens (2) (GR), Belgrade (RS), Bacau (RO), Sofia (3) (BG), Krusevo (MK) and Caltanissetta (IT)

Location: The event took place in Sofia (BG) from 21/4/2016 to 22/4/2016.

Short description: The aim of the mid-term meeting was to agree on the findings, their meaning and optimal use; Manage potential disagreements; Get fresh inputs for the following phases; Conduct analytical planning of the awareness campaign and the details of launching it. Enhanced transparency and trust among partners.