



Funded by the  
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PROJECT

## **Strengthening European Identity in times of crisis**

CERV Programme

**Network of Towns • Red de Ciudades**

**EVENT III**  
**Kirkop (Malta)**  
**13-16 December 2023**

## **GOOD PRACTICES ON THE FIELD OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**



MUNICIPALITY OF PADRÓN  
(SPAIN)



MUNICIPALITY OF KIRKOP  
(MALTA)



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The good practices were chosen by the partners of the project listed on the back cover. The content was only edited to create this publication.



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES - PROGRAMME (CERV)**

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values has the general objective of protecting and promoting the rights and values enshrined in the Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the applicable international human rights conventions, in particular by supporting organizations of civil society and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national and transnational levels, as well as fostering democratic and civic participation, in order to promote and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies, founded in the rule of law.

Networks of Towns will give towns and municipalities the possibility to deepen and intensify their cooperation and debate, develop sustainable networks and outline their long-term vision for the future of European integration.

The Commission expects Networks of Towns to reflect on a new narrative for Europe, one that is people-riented, forward-looking and constructive, and that would be more engaging for the younger generation in particular. Projects may be based on the outcome of citizens' consultations and may lead to debates about specific ways to create a more democratic EU, to encourage citizens to re-engage with the EU and help them develop a stronger sense of ownership of the European project.

### **PROJECT. STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN IDENTITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS**

"Strengthening European Identity in times of crisis" is a project of Network of Towns framed in "Citizens, Equality, Rights and values" programme, promoted by the City Council of Padrón, Spain, whose main objective is to promote the sense of belonging to the EU, offer the opportunity to know EU Citizenship's rights, our common values and democratic norms to all citizens of different European realities, as well as reinforcing mutual understanding through intercultural dialogue and support good local governance for an optimal role in the Europe of the Future.

In cooperation of partners from 16 countries, the project will be carried out around 5 thematic meetings in five different cities: Padrón (Spain), Burdeos (Francia), Hal Kirkop (Malta), Andrychow (Poland) and Kekava (Latvia); in which more than 5000 people will participate directly and indirectly, guaranteeing equal access, without any type of scrimination, ensuring equality between genders and also offering the opportunity to citizens who have never been involved in similar projects. In line with the objectives and priorities of the CERV programme, the project will focus on promoting active participation at local and european level, by carrying out activities with an innovative methodology: data collection, focus groups, workshops, EU storytelling, cultural visits or exhibitions. It is also intended to bring together young people, who will eventually have a greater knowledge of political processes, institutions and history of the European Union, addressing current issues.

All of this will generate a great impact on citizens since it offers municipalities of all sizes the opportunity to develop and participate in these types of projects and forge true and lasting bonds of friendship between them. Finally, the project will look for alternatives to the challenges it faces, through experiences, opinions and good practices, in order to formulate solutions and propose new ideas.

## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

CROWDFUNDING LIQUID BIOPSY



SPAIN



MUNICIPALITY OF PADRÓN

## THE INITIATIVE

On January 12, 2017 Oncomet started a crowdfunding campaign that lasted three months, until April 12, 2017. This campaign aimed to raise funding to carry out a project focused on liquid biopsy with which to generate knowledge and useful tools for oncologists to have more accurate and real-time information on the molecular characteristics of the tumors they face every day in the consultation.

This ambitious project included several sub-studies, focused on different types of tumors and clinical scenarios. The development of these studies required the purchase of equipment, the hiring of personnel and money for the purchase of reagents. The overall budget amounted to 500,000 euros.

During the campaign, more than 25 informative talks were given and more than 30 information tables were set up at which researchers and oncologists from the group explained to the public the importance of advancing in the field of liquid biopsy studies and of public collaboration in setting up the project. The collaboration of more than 150 volunteers (students, patients, representatives of different associations and researchers) who helped to prepare and organize all the activities was essential. Galician citizens, in an unprecedented response, organized various activities throughout Galicia (more than 100) to raise funds and donate them to the campaign. The support of more than 90 popular celebrities from different fields, such as culture, sports, television, etc., was very important in the dissemination tasks. It was also very important the support of the media and communication companies that helped us in a totally disinterested way.

At the end of the three months, a total of 612,749 euros were raised from more than 11,000 donations from companies and individuals.

Subsequent activities, such as the donation of the 2017 Festival de la Luz ticketing income, have increased that figure to a total of €762.365.



## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Restoration Funding Scheme.



MALTA



HAL KIRKOP LOCAL COUNCIL

## THE INITIATIVE

Starting in 2019 the Ministry of National Heritage, Arts & Local Government launched a scheme with the aim to assist financially in the restoration of buildings and monuments in localities around Malta and Gozo.

The scheme which is now in its sixth year has helped various Local Councils and Voluntary Organisations to revitalise the invaluable monuments and increase their accessibility to the general public.

The Hal Kirkop Local Council has been one such beneficiary of this scheme. In 2021 we submitted an application to restore the St. James Historic Arch which was once the site of an important Church that served the nearby localities in the 16th Century. The project was completed in 2022 to the delight of many residents who had been wanting this site to be restored.

Following the success of the previous project the Local Council applied once again for this scheme with the aim of restoring the town's Dejma Cross which was erected in 1641 as part of a nation-wide fortification plan by the Knight's Hospitalier of St. John to serve as a rallying point for soldiers in the defense of the island from Ottoman raids. The work on the Dejma Cross started in 2022 and was completed in 2023.

The Hal Kirkop Local Council in concert with the residents of Hal Kirkop has always been on the forefront of protecting and promoting our cultural heritage, as said heritage is a priceless gift that allows us to not only help bridge our understanding of where we come from but also informs our connections to the future.

Historical Sites like these serve as reminders of what we have achieved in the past and what we can seek to attain in the future.



## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

CLEAN BESKIDS MOUNTAINS”, “RUN FOR THE HEART OF THUG FROM THE GOLDEN HILL”, “FINAL OF GREAT ORCHESTRA OF CHRISTMAS CHARITY



POLAND



GMINA ANDRYCHÓW URZĄD  
MIEJSKI W ANDRYCHOWIE

## THE INITIATIVE

Volunteering can take many forms, but the goal is one – TO HELP.

There are 3 forms of volunteering in Municipality of Andrychów: NGO, EVENT AND NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

1. NGO volunteering – Andrychów strongly cooperates with NGOs, of which there are 41 in the Commune. This year, we have signed 46 agreements with NGOs, where most of them deal with charitable tasks involving a large group of volunteers. The CLEAN BESKIDS MOUNTAINS action – a form of ecological and tourist volunteering is one of the initiatives carried out by the NGO – Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society in Andrychów. Andrychów is located in the beautiful area of the Little Beskid mountains. To take care for the surrounding nature and environmental protection, we have joined an ecological initiative to clean up selected and popular tourist trails within the Andrychów Commune, promoting the idea of volunteering among residents, young people and children. Armed with bin bags and gloves, school students, NGOs, entrepreneurs and residents set off to clean up Beskid trails, paths and wilderness, carrying tons of rubbish from them. Clean Beskids action is the largest mountain clean-up campaign in the region. The Clean Beskids action is an annual undertaking that aims to preserve the beauty of the Beskid trails and raise environmental awareness.
2. EVENT volunteering – an example of such volunteering operating in the municipality is the annual "RUN FOR THE HEART OF THE THUG FROM THE GOLDEN HILL" – a form of sports and charity volunteering. It is a charity and recreational event in which a huge number of volunteers, organizations, companies, education and local government are involved. It is a unique event because it brings together the entire Municipality for a good cause. Everyone can take part in the race, regardless of age, health or physical condition. Importantly, it is not the pace that counts, but the number of laps of a given route, because the bank gives a certain amount of money for each lap completed. Every year, we select one child from the entire Municipality who needs help the most. All the money from the starter packs and the number of laps is donated to his treatment. Volunteers help organize the run. Their tasks include: traffic management, providing information, servicing the race office and catering stands. It is a big event that brings together thousands of people with a love for sport and good hearts. We have already collected hundreds of thousands of zlotys and helped the most needy children in our Municipality.
3. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL Volunteering – FINAL OF THE GREAT ORCHESTRA OF CHRISTMAS CHARITY (GOCC) – a form of social and charitable volunteering. The organizer of this event is the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity Foundation, whose primary goal is to operate in the field of health care, consisting in saving the lives of sick people, especially children, the purchase of medical equipment and more. In 2020, it was estimated that every fifth piece of equipment in hospitals comes from the GOCC. The most well-known form of the foundation's activity is the annual, nationwide entertainment and media event of a charitable nature, called the Final of the GOCC. Each Final of the GOCC has a specific theme – that is, a medical goal for which the money collected during the Final will be allocated, and a slogan that promotes and explains the medical purpose of the fundraiser. So far, these have been, for example, the fight against heart disease, sepsis or help in diagnosing newborns. The Final of the GOCC falls on the second Sunday of January, with over 170,000 volunteers involved in it, working not only in Poland but also in countries such as England, Australia and the USA. Anyone can become a volunteer by signing up on the official website of the GOCC. The Finale consists of events organized by the Staffs for local communities (such as concerts, fairs, artistic performances, workshops, meetings, sports events, actions and public collections. The next 32nd Grand Finale of the GOCC will take place on January 28, 2024. The funds raised will be used to purchase equipment for diagnosing, monitoring and rehabilitating lung diseases of patients in pulmonary wards for children and adults.

## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Youth 2030 Movement...



SWEDEN



Haninge  
kommun

## THE INITIATIVE

We have a deadline. Until 2030, we must tear down the barriers between youth and power, and take society a few steps closer to a democracy where everyone has power – regardless of age.

The democratic system is built by, with and for adults, which leads to children and young people lack power, influence in social development and the opportunity to influence their own life. The result is an exclusionary social model that affects everyone negatively and leads to a weak democracy.

Therefore, we mobilize young people and decision-makers to create a democracy there together young people can participate and act on equal terms and where their interests are secured.

We work with system change in three ways:

- Model development and scale-up where we test, develop and accelerate the work of municipalities, regions and authorities in creating influence and participation of young people in social development
- Policy and advocacy to bring about a systemic shift in view of
- Young people and adults in democracy and thereby expand democracy
- Strategic partnerships where we challenge and support civil society and funders to strengthen the position of young people.

Youth 2030 Movement...

Seeks to create an improved democratic system where children and young people have an obvious place.

Mobilizes young people to be involved and drive the change.

together with decision makers from all sectors.

Works where the needs are greatest.

Accelerates good examples, drives innovation and tests new ones methods where necessary.

Strengthens other actors to be able to drive change themselves.

## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Participatory budget in Lanškroun.



CZECH REPUBLIC



MESTO LANŠKROUN

## THE INITIATIVE

This participatory budget initiative in Lanškroun has been in existence since 2019. Since then, it has provided a platform for citizens and local organizations to actively engage in the decision-making process regarding the allocation of funds for various projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life in the city. The initiative reflects a sustained commitment by the Lanškroun City Management to involve the community in shaping the development and priorities of the city through democratic and inclusive means.

Here are the key points and steps of the participatory budget process in Lanškroun:

### Financial Scope:

- The city of Lanškroun allocates 1.000.000 CZK for projects, to be selected through participatory budgeting.
- Citizens and local organizations can propose projects with a maximum value of 800.000 CZK.

### Types of Projects:

- Projects can be either investment (so-called "hard" projects) or non-investment ("soft" projects) for community, recreational, cultural, or sports activities.

### Dates and Process:

- Citizens can submit proposals from May to the end of July.
- In August and September, the city administration assesses and refines the projects.
- In October, projects are presented to the public on websites, social media, and in municipal newspapers.
- The voting will take place in the first half of November.

### Voting:

- Citizens aged fifteen and above can participate in the voting.
- Voter identity is verified to prevent repeated voting.
- Citizens can vote for, against, or choose not to vote for projects.

### Project Implementation:

- Projects are selected based on the order of votes.
- The winning projects are included in the budget for the following year and are also implemented this year.

In the past, within the framework of the participatory budget, projects such as greenery planting, sidewalk enhancements, the addition of benches and bins for separated waste in public spaces, and the modernization of playgrounds have been implemented.



## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

“Budapest Bike Maffia”.

## THE INITIATIVE

The Budapest Bike Mafia was created in 2011 out of social apathy and the will to do something. We started the work by preparing and collecting food donations, while distributing the donations we visited the homeless people living on the street and in social care by bicycle. Our goal was to help their lives.

### **BBM Gardens, The idea**

In 2018, with the involvement of volunteer specialists, we created experimental vegetable gardens in the gardens of four hostels, where the residents can care for and grow their own vegetables after the initial training and planting. These can later be important and healthy additions to their daily meals, but here it's not just a few stalks of arugula.

Taking care of plants on a daily basis is a task that can and should be taken seriously. This is a source of joy for many residents – it restores the structure of their previous lives: tasks, work, results.

### **Why is it important?**

The BBM Gardens project is not only a nice and innovative initiative. It gives the residents of the hostels a daily task and goal, and in return, healthy and nutritious staple foods. You can also rehabilitate the typically ugly courtyards of hostels in typically bad neighborhoods and return a pocket-sized amount of nature to the suburbs.

### **Results so far**

The project, which started in 2018, is doing better every year. So far, we have created gardens next to a total of eight hostels and donated seedlings to six institutions or helped plant them.



HUNGARY



TAR KOZSEG  
ONKORMANYZATA



## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Action Z

## THE INITIATIVE

The municipality of Glabušovce, with the help of municipal council, organizes voluntary activities/initiatives several times a year under the name "Action Z". On this occasion, it addresses the residents of the municipality to volunteer for the protection of the environment, for the improvement of municipal property, and for cultural and social events. It also addresses younger generations to have a positive attitude towards the environment where they live and to value and protect what our ancestors built. As part of such voluntary actions

- garbage is collected within the municipality's cadastral territory
- buildings are repaired/reconstructed
- public spaces are cleaned.

The municipality as the owner of surrounding forests and lands, cooperates with the land association "URBÁR Glabušovce", and organizes clearing works of overgrown trees and bushes, maintains and marks the boundaries of forest vegetation.

These activities not only contribute to the protection of the environment and property, but also strengthen the sense of belonging and coexistence of the residents of the village.

"If everyone thinks about a few things that they can do for their environment, that fits into their lives, that they feel like doing and even do it so: that's a huge thing."



SLOVAKIA



OBEC GLABUŠOVCE



## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Let's send a child to a camp!

## THE INITIATIVE

The municipality of Turnu Magurele has been involved year after year in humanitarian actions, such as the organization of camps for children, with a good school situation, who come from families with modest incomes and who cannot afford to go to summer camps.

Free services were provided: entrance to tourist attractions, accommodation, meals for children, with the support of Ciuperceeni Secondary School and Slobozia Mandra Secondary School.

Such a camp was organized between 17-24.07.2023, in which the Palace of Culture in Arad, the history museum, a boat trip on the Bega, a visit to the Metropolitan Cathedral and the art museum in Timisoara, the Oradea fortress, the Cave Ursilor were visited, Salina Turda, and on the last day of the camp, Dumbrava Alba Monastery was visited, a wonderful place.

The purpose of these camps is a motivational one, by participating in them, the children are encouraged to achieve the best possible results at school.

Other humanitarian actions carried out with the support of the Town Hall of Turnu Magurele were those organized on the occasion of Easter 2023 and Santa Nicolae (December 6), for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

I am attaching some relevant photos, with the children who participated in the actions specified above.



ROMANIA



MUNICIPIUL TURNU MAGURELE



## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

“Smart City” regista marco histórico no concelho da Figueira da Foz.

## THE INITIATIVE

The Municipality of Figueira da Foz has been investing in the energy efficiency of public lighting systems and tourist infrastructures.

Smart City – consider dealing with “a great challenge, developed in sustainable cities with people in mind, where social progress and well-being are the motto for the incorporation of urban projects and solutions, given that the sustainability of the economy, society and the environment depend on this vision.”

The implementation of LED technology will allow more light “where there was no sun”, along with significant annual savings at municipal level (approximately 2.8 million euros).

July 22 marked a historic milestone for the municipality of Figueira da Foz, with national and international relevance, as the milestone of 10,000 installed UMICS (modular lighting, communications and sensing units) was materialized, forming the world's largest network of devices IoT connected to an LPWAN network with interconnection of several verticals, such as water and energy.

The project was completed in September, representing annual savings in municipal coffers of around 2.8 million euros and, simultaneously, placing the Municipality of Figueira da Foz in compliance with the goals defined by the Council of the European Union by the year 2030.

Furthermore, a substantial improvement in the quality of light is obtained, substantially increasing visual comfort and with a direct impact on the rhythm of life of those who live here and visit us, in the substantial improvement in the efficiency of the public lighting system, performance through of the digitalization of all public utility infrastructures in the municipality of Figueira da Foz, without forgetting the enormous step, in the scope of sustainability:

- Reduction in the levels of use of the resources that nature makes available to us,
- Reduction of the ecological footprint,
- Decarbonization of the economy,
- Confidence and predictability for a low carbon trajectory and reduced vulnerability to climate change

In more technical language, the Municipality of Figueira da Foz is implementing a “Smart City” through the municipality’s public lighting infrastructure, available via

- 22,125 smart luminaires;
- 65 green space supervision controllers;
- 280 solid waste level sensors;
- 4 air quality monitoring sensors;
- 12 parking sensors;
- 1,770 conventional luminaire drivers, already existing and installed by E-Redes



PORTUGAL



FREGUESIA DE BUARCOS  
E SAO JULIAO



## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Blowing in the wind for Ederly ...



FRANCE



## THE INITIATIVE

À vélo sans âge is a transgenerational initiative created in 2017 by volunteers to allow elderly citizens, disabled, to have social contacts and to be able to move and visit the city and to take part to some events. They build and bought Triporteurs bikes, and volunteers offer to disabled and elderly to travel, visits, and social contacts

Volunteers drive the elderly, mainly living in retirement houses and drive them to trips to parks, city center, and some social events. There are around 30 drivers, including volunteers from House of Europe.

The association À vélo sans age has been developing for several years in France, to “offer dependent people rides on a three-wheeled bicycle, in the fresh air and in complete safety” by advocating for all “the right to have the wind in their hair”

The structure now has around fifteen branches in France, notably in Bordeaux, where around ten volunteers organize outings with three EHPADs, accommodation establishments for dependent elderly people.

In order to increase the number of walks, the association is looking for volunteers in Bordeaux to accompany the outings. No prerequisites are necessary, other than knowing how to pedal!



Volunteers drive the elderly, mainly living in retirement houses and drive them to trips to parks, city center, and some social events.

## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Participatory Budget.



LATVIA



## THE INITIATIVE

For the first year, to promote the development of society, the Kekava Municipality Local Government announced an idea competition for participation budget projects with a total budget of 170,000 euros (including VAT). Participatory budgeting is a democratic process that gives citizens the opportunity to determine how part of the municipal budget is spent.

In the first round of the competition, 18 proposals were received, which were evaluated by the competition committee for compliance with the competition regulations. 15 ideas submitted to the competition were submitted to the second round (for the citizens' vote).

The ideas were divided into three voting groups:

- city;
- territory with more than 500 inhabitants;
- territory with less than 500 inhabitants.

Each resident of the district entitled to vote had three votes - one in each voting group. The vote was counted only when all three votes were cast. Persons who have reached the age of 16 and are registered in the territory of Municipality of Kekava could participate in voting. Those entitled to vote could vote electronically or in person at one of the customer service centers.



In total, 1372 people voted for the projects in each of the three voting groups during the voting, which took place throughout the month of August.

The committee of the participatory budget ideas competition approved the results of the citizens' vote and, accordingly, funding was allocated for the implementation of the six ideas submitted in the competition.

The municipality will implement the approved projects within 2 years.

According to the Local Government Law of Latvia- financing for participatory budget shall be provided for in the annual local government budget starting from 2025:

“A council shall provide for the financing of the participatory budget in the annual budget of the local government at least in the amount of 0.5 per cent of the average actual revenue of one year of personal income tax and immovable property tax of the local government calculated for the last three years.”

## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

A remarkable initiative of an NGO.



GERMANY



Education and Mobility in Europe

## THE INITIATIVE

In 1989, a visionary group of students and educators from the Freie Universität Berlin laid the foundation for what is now known as the Gesellschaft für Europabildung (GEB), initially named the "Romanisches Büro." This transformative initiative underwent a significant evolution, culminating in its rebranding in 2005. The underlying motivation of the association's founding members was not merely organizational; it was a profound commitment to affording individuals a unique opportunity to forge personal connections that transcend geographical borders. Their purpose extended beyond the conventional, aiming to dismantle ingrained prejudices and collaboratively contribute to the grand tapestry of European unification.

The Society for European Education stands today as a dynamic assembly of allies and advocates, encompassing impassioned individuals, corporations, public institutions, and non-governmental organizations, all united by a shared dedication to the European idea.

The intentional ambiguity embedded in the association's name signifies a deliberate and multifaceted mission. The term "society" encapsulates not only the members themselves but also the ardent promoters of the European vision within the organization. Their collective ambition extends beyond conventional educational endeavors; it encompasses a simultaneous commitment to construct and advance the very fabric of Europe.

In alignment with this expansive mission, the GEB actively supports individuals and both public and private educational institutions in fostering intimate cross-border connections. Leveraging the resources offered by national and European educational programs, the GEB actively engages in the formulation of collaborative projects. These initiatives are designed not only to educate but also to empower, ensuring that a broad and diverse array of individuals can actively participate in and benefit from these transformative programs.

Operating against the backdrop of an ethos promoting tolerance towards diverse cultures, the GEB becomes a catalyst for opening up new perspectives. Beyond the conventional educational paradigm, the GEB aspires to empower individuals, providing them with the tools and insights needed to lead lives that are not only informed by cultural awareness but are also self-determined and enriched by a global perspective.

## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022.

## THE INITIATIVE

In 2017, Kaunas was selected as the European Capital of Culture for 2022.

Kaunas 2022 used the slogan “From temporary to contemporary” encapsulating well the city's aspiration to showcase its past, but not neglect its present potential.

Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022 was a community project and most of the effort, time and resources were devoted to involve as many citizens as possible in culture.

Kaunas 2022 held more than 3,000 events. Everything was delivered by Kaunas 2022's team of 100 people, alongside 80 local and 150 foreign partners. The formula for cultural success involved 141 cities in Lithuania and the world, 2,000 artists, 80 communities, and more than 1,500 volunteers. The organizers chose a quite long „path of programme“ and started implementing it in 2017 already, instead of a one year programme in 2022.



LITHUANIA



KSJMC

KAUNO SUAUGUSIUJU IR  
JAUNIMO MOKYMO CENTRAS





## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

“Broodje burger” – “Citizen sandwich”.



BELGIUM

Asturia vzw

ASTURIA

## THE INITIATIVE

Avansa Kempen sets up projects in the region Kempen (Belgium) in which people build the world together. Avansa Kempen wants to let people discuss social challenges and problems and - if possible - tackle them.

Avansa Kempen wants to involve people in the process of change. Individual citizens, but also policy makers, civil servants, entrepreneurs or members of organizations.

To reach this goal, Avansa Kempen has started the project “Citizen sandwich” to involve citizens because a lot of

local governments are starting projects to strengthen the bond with their inhabitants. In recent years, Avansa Kempen has supervised and advised various participation processes of local authorities, libraries and municipal advisory councils.

Therefore, Avansa Kempen keeps on offering tailor made training series. After all, strong participation processes require a good approach. With information on the organisations' website <https://avansa-kempen.be/burgers-betrekken/aan-de-slag/> and the accompanying e-zine, Avansa Kempen wants to give stakeholders some extra fuel with tips, ideas and stories.



## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Community-Led Budgeting in Participatory Democracy.



ITALY



ASSOCIAZIONE  
CIRCUM VITAE

## THE INITIATIVE

Participatory democracy is a governance model that emphasizes the active involvement of citizens in decision-making processes. One exemplary practice within participatory democracy is Community-Led Budgeting (CLB). CLB empowers community members to directly influence how public funds are allocated, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration. Here's a brief overview of this practice:

### **Community Assemblies**

Establish regular community assemblies where residents gather to discuss local issues and collectively identify priorities. These assemblies serve as a platform for open dialogue, ensuring diverse voices are heard.

### **Education and Information**

Provide accessible information about the budgeting process, financial constraints, and available resources. Conduct workshops and informational sessions to enhance citizens' understanding of fiscal matters.

### **Task Forces and Working Groups**

Form task forces or working groups composed of community members, experts, and local officials to delve into specific budget-related topics.

These groups facilitate in-depth discussions and research, allowing for informed decision-making.

### **Deliberative Decision-Making**

Employ deliberative methods, such as consensus-building and voting, to arrive at collective decisions. Encourage active participation by all community members, ensuring that marginalized voices are taken into account.

### **Transparent Budget Proposals**

Develop transparent and easy-to-understand budget proposals that reflect community priorities. Clearly outline how funds will be allocated across various sectors based on community input.

### **Feedback Loops**

Establish mechanisms for ongoing feedback and evaluation. Regularly update the community on the progress of budget implementation and address concerns promptly.

### **Digital Platforms for Engagement**

Utilize online platforms and social media to broaden participation, especially among those who may face barriers to attending physical meetings.

### **Capacity Building**

Invest in capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of community members in areas such as financial literacy and project management.

## **Benefits of Community-Led Budgeting**

### **Increased Civic Engagement**

Fosters a sense of community ownership and responsibility. Encourages citizens to actively engage in decision-making processes.

### **Responsive Governance**

Enables governments to address the real needs and priorities of the community. Enhances the responsiveness of public services to local demands.

### **Transparency and Accountability**

Builds trust through transparent budgeting processes. Holds both community leaders and officials accountable for decisions and resource allocation.

## TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE

Participatory Budget.

## THE INITIATIVE

CERB, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, is running two educational programs this year:

Training for Municipalities and Health Personnel:

Focuses on educating municipal employees and healthcare professionals on facilitating access and services for individuals with visual impairments (VI).

Aims to enhance awareness and sensitivity, ensuring equal service and inclusion for VI citizens.

Education for Primary and Secondary Educators:

Program titled "Education and Students with Visual Impairments in the Modern Greek Educational Framework:

Challenges and Prospects."

Equips educators with essential knowledge and skills for effective teaching and inclusion of visually impaired students.

Challenges Faced by the Visually Impaired:

Individuals with visual impairments encounter daily challenges in mobility and accessing various services.

Urban environments, especially in cities, are often unfriendly not only to people with disabilities but also to the general population.

Goals of Educational Programs:

Empower municipal and health personnel with knowledge and skills for effective service to VI individuals.

Ensure equal access to services and information, providing training on guide techniques and best practices for VI individuals.

Logistics:

Programs conducted under the auspices of the General Secretariat for Social Solidarity and Combating

Poverty and the Ministry of Health.

Free participation for municipal employees, health personnel, and educators.

Participants receive a certificate upon completion.



GREECE



ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΚΠΕΔΕΦΣΙΣ ΚΕ  
ΑΠΟΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΙΣΤΙΦΛΟΝ (C.E.R.B.)



# PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



MUNICIPALITY OF PADRÓN  
(SPAIN)



Funded by the  
European Union



MUNICIPALITY OF KIRKOP  
(MALTA)

