



Metropolitan Europeans in Active Network, Inducing Novelities in Governance

### Local Activity

#### *Title of the activity*

within the framework of the project

### **Metropolitan Europeans in Active Network, Inducing Novelities in Governance MEANING**

#### Context/localization of the intervention

Theme and Workshop Concept: The themes of the workshop are "Participation of Citizenship and Coexistence in European Metropolitan Areas Today" and "Managing European Funds by Local Communities and Inclusion of Social and Economic Stakeholders". The logic of linking these two themes is actually related to the fact that EU funds provide to community funds / tools to create projects / activities that can actively contribute to social and economic development at local, regional and European level. This then can strengthened the role of civic participation because they have the ability to create interventions themselves. In addition, citizens have the opportunity to participate actively through political mechanisms and processes. This makes these two mechanisms complementary, and the participation itself becomes tangible to individual citizens. City of Zagreb has implemented activities and events in the past which included a wide range of citizens and stakeholders to define priority projects for local development to be implemented in cooperation with stakeholders, using EU funds. The workshop was to present these examples and reinforce importance of citizens involvement in various aspects of local development for sustainable interventions. City of Zagreb has various strategic documents which implementation can be significantly supported through such joint projects and therefore the active citizens involvement in steering the implementation of these strategies becomes an important sustainability factor.

#### Objectives of the action implemented

In line with the above context for the approach in implementing the local activity, the workshop has had several objectives and topics to be covered:

- Present importance of citizens participation in leading local development initiatives also in relation to the local government
- Present various methods for citizens participation on local level with examples of previous activities
- Present examples of citizen participation in the EU



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- Active participation of citizens for local development through EU projects
- Key current challenges at local and EU level
- Interactive Workshop - formulation of possible interventions
- Presentations of intervention ideas

With these topics covered, the workshop should increase understanding on importance of citizens participation, how and why this participation can be ensured and actively involve in conceptualisations of local interventions which are based on citizens participation.

#### Activities carried out

Following activities were implemented through the local activity:

- 1-day workshop for minimum of 25 participants from Zagreb area on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Workshop covered two themes:
  - Active citizenship
  - Management of EU funds by local communities
- Overview of themes presented, best practices
- Discussion among participants and development of local intervention concepts including active citizen participation and EU funds management
- Entry and exit questionnaire

The workshop included a wide range of participants, including staff from different departments of City of Zagreb administration, civil society organisations, employer representatives, education institutions and others. This mix of participants ensured that in the interactive segment of the workshop quality discussion and contribution would be achieved.

#### Results

During the interactive segment of the workshop participants raised in an open forum issues with transportation in City of Zagreb. Two groups were formed to jointly define concepts of local interventions to improve transport in the city while incorporating active citizenship. They developed basic concepts alongside the following two intervention ideas, which incorporated citizens participation activities:

1. Increasing and motivation of citizens to use of public transportation, bicycles in their daily commute;
2. Better communication on local needs and participation in solution finding through a neighbourhood mobile app and network of tenant representatives and local boards

The entry and exit questionnaires which were filled out by the workshop participants demonstrated that the workshop has increased their understanding in all the areas covered in the questionnaire. In relation to the topic of the workshop and the interactive work, some participants gave following comments, proposals for increasing in general citizens participation:

- Roundtables for all stakeholders in the political process, questionnaires of the population of a certain area, greater communication of the politicians with the population



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- Communicating on social networks, through local committees, etc.
- Representatives of neighborhoods and politicians - meeting themes to discuss the problem and solve the problem

#### Good lessons learned\*

There was a clear interest of all participants to be actively involved in the process of definition on how local issues are to be addressed, especially by local administration. The workshop has raised their awareness on the tools that are at their disposal and in addition the availability of EU funds to enable such actions.

#### Bad lessons learned\*

The presented video clips which demonstrated examples and results of lack of citizens participation stimulated the discussion on how in some important aspect of managing local development there is lack of citizens involvement, which results in resistance from the citizens and sub-optimal solutions for addressing local activities. This emphasizes the need to further deepen the link between the citizens and local administration through more systematic citizens participation throughout all areas of work of local administration.

***\*considering not only the results achieved vs objectives, but also the process which led to the definition of the activity and its implementation, i.e.: involvement (or lack of involvement) of local population in the identification of issues to tackle; involvement (or lack of involvement) of other key stakeholders in the definition/implementation of the activity; factors which facilitated/hindered planning and implementation***



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