

FINAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE PROJECT MEANING- *Metropolitan Europeans Active Network, Inducing Novelty in Governance*

As part of EU project **MEANING- *Metropolitan Europeans Active Network, Inducing Novelty in Governance*** the final international conference took place on **13 September 2018** in Zagreb, in the premises of Zagreb Innovation Center, on the topic: ***Sustainable urban transport and civic participation in metropolitan cities.***

The City of Zagreb was the host and the organizer of the final international conference which was attended by the lead partner *Città Metropolitana di Milano*, *ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy* and partner cities: *Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona*, *Métropole de Lyon*, *Città Metropolitana di Bari*, *Riga City Council*, *Área Metropolitana do Porto* and *City of Zagreb*.

The project, launched in 2016, brought together a number of metropolitan cities and gave them the chance to exchange experiences about the management of European Metropolitan Cities and discuss their role in the future of European governance, with a specific focus on active citizenship.

The final international conference focused on how citizens' participation in the Metropolis can improve dialogue and decision-making in the field of urban public transports. Sharing the experience of Zagreb and debating with the participants helped to find new ways to improve and enlarge these processes.

Conference presented sustainable urban mobility projects as example of a good practice: ***Project Urban E, Project Multi E, Project Greenway and Project Civitas Elan*** and examples of international good practice through presentations by partner cities on sustainable urban mobility.

Deputy Mayor Olivera Majić pointed out that the City of Zagreb supports this and similar projects as the strategic goal of Zagreb is to improve public transport and the quality of life of citizens.

Within the project were held local workshops attended by citizens and associations, and participation was related to making proposals which will be implemented and suggested to the city authorities, with the aim to actively involve them in the decision-making process of metropolitan cities. Participants also discussed further initiatives to improve civic participation.

The objectives of the project are to establish a network of Metropolitan Cities from different European regions that will focus on the inclusion of citizens in the decision-making project, exchanges of experience and preparation of a platform for further international cooperation.

So far, four conferences have been held within the project and on the fifth final conference the final outcomes of the project have been presented and experiences of all partner cities were exchanged.

The project is funded from the *Europe for Citizens Program*, Subprogramme 2: *Democratic engagement and civic participation*, and the total value of the project is **150.000,00 €**, of which EU financed 70% of the value.

Project MEANING should help to seek answers to the political, institutional and social crisis in the EU by encouraging citizens to participate in decision-making.