



CitiPart

*Cities' partnership for the defence of the fundamental rights of the EU
against extremism and populism*

Under the high patronage of Alain Lamassoure, MEP of the Ile-de-France region

***"In our diverse European societies, dialogue is essential to create a community in which
everybody can feel at home."***

(Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission)

"We must be able to disagree and still live together."

(Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Parliament)

Introduction

CitiPart "Cities' Partnership for the defence of fundamental values of the European Union against extremism and populism" is meant to be an interactive network, discussing and reacting on current social and political events on local as well as on European level. The eight members of the network are towns, Europe Houses, European organisations well known in their countries for their involvement in active citizenship, town twinning committees and youth organisations.

An extremely low turnout in the European and other national elections, a bad social and economic situation, growing unemployment, especially youth unemployment, and a general tendency not to trust politicians any more are a fertile soil for the constant raise of various populisms and extremisms. *CitiPart* wants to react against those increasing tendencies throughout discussions and interactive workshops about the three fundamental European values which are SOLIDARITY, TOLERANCE and PEACE, to foster the intergenerational dialogue and revitalize the exchange between citizens and their local councillors. In this way, they are enabled to identify problems together and to search together for solutions in order to improve the situation on the European level.

The joint reflections on the three fundamental values of the European Union- SOLIDARITY, TOLERANCE and PEACE- will take place during three multilateral during three multilateral meetings.

The participants: young people and adults, members of various associations in the participating towns, members of town twinning committees, teachers, local representatives, etc.

Duration: The project *CitiPart* will last 24 months. It will take place between the 27th of September 2015 and the 26th of September 2017.

Partners' activities: creation of a steering group representing the sociocultural fabric of their city. This group will organise the following activities with the assistance of local partners:

- debate-meetings and conferences fostering the exchange with elected politicians and experts. These debates prepare a reflection on a national/European level during the meetings
- Workshops to discuss and further develop new ideas



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Scy-Chazelles





Specific activities for each topic

- Street interviews (soundtrack, video) on SOLIDARITY
- forum theatre on TOLERANCE
- publication of a newspaper on PEACE

Afterwards, the results of these exchanges will be discussed and compared during multilateral meetings.

Multilateral meetings: they will take place in Warsaw about SOLIDARITY, in Potsdam about TOLERANCE and at the Robert Schuman European Centre in Scy-Chazelles about PEACE. During these meetings the national steering groups present and compare their results and suggestions. After their discussion, a catalogue of suggestions will be presented to the European Commission and to the European deputies. Back in their home country, the members of the steering group think together with local elected politicians on how and by which means the suggestions can be put in practice.

Aims: sustainable partnership and enlargement of the *CitiPart* network, strengthening the democratic and civic participation on all levels in the area of social, intercultural and volunteering fields within the European Union, identification of obstacles and research for solutions contributing to European citizens' well-being.

Schedule: a precise schedule containing the dates of the local and multilateral activities is established by the Europe House in the Yvelines and will be validated or, if necessary adapted during the first multilateral meeting at the end of September 2015 in Saint-Germain-en-Laye. The project partners also discuss on how to approach the three topics. Video-conferencing software can be used for preparation meetings and midterm reviews. The CitiPart project will be closed with the last multilateral meeting end of September 2017 in Villach (Austria). During this meeting all results of the previous thematic meetings will be presented, as well as the reflections and suggestions. A discussion on the future and the enlargement of the network will take also place.

Partner organisations

- Europe House in the Yvelines (France) and its local partners
- Europe House in Nîmes (France) and its local partners
- Robert Schuman European Centre in Scy-Chazelles (France) and its local partners
- Robert Schuman Foundation in Warsaw (Poland) and its local partners
- Townhall of Sosnowiec (Poland) and its local partners
- BBAG in Potsdam (Germany) and its local partners
- Europe House in Dubrovnik (Croatia) and its local partners
- GEMMA youth organisation in Villach (Austria) and its local partners

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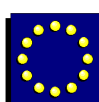


Yvelines
Le Département



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