

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project "The European Union - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" aims to raise awareness of the European Union's history and show the benefits of EU membership, especially for young people. Thanks to the participation of organizations from countries with different experiences of European integration (Italy - founding member), Poland (member since 2004), and North Macedonia (candidate country), young people learned about different perspectives of integration and approaches to the Union itself. What is equally important, our actions did not take place in large cities but in smaller locations, so we could reach people who have limited access to information.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Europe for Citizens is an EU grant program supporting non-governmental organizations and municipalities, and other non-profit organizations/institutions active in the field of civil society, culture, and education, in the implementation of civil society projects, local initiatives on social engagement, democratic participation, and European remembrance.



SUMMARIZING BROCHURE



ABOUT ORGANIZATIONS



Since 2018, we have been cooperating and working with young people from the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship in Poland, who have a wide range of interests, from film, photography, and international relations to sports and music. Young people who create and work in ROE come from various backgrounds and have extensive experience in cooperation with young people and the implementation of European projects. We focus on increasing knowledge about the European Union - its history, activities, and values, increasing youth participation in social, civic, and political engagement and decision-making, creating opportunities for dialogue, meetings, and exchange of experiences, involving young people in the informal educational process and promoting intercultural dialogue.



Founded in 2018, Youth on Board is a youth-driven non-profit organization based in the University town of Shtip, North Macedonia, striving to promote youth development and empowerment through philanthropy. Run by youths, for youths, we plan and execute events to show the impact one can make in the community while encouraging the act of giving back. We believe in the power of education to transform young people's lives, families, and communities for better. We promote best practices in youth development by giving young people and people working with young people advice, training, and resources. Our organization develops and promotes Active Youth Citizenship. This is young people using knowledge, skills, and experience to participate confidently in their communities.



ETV EuroTreviso (ETV) is a non-profit organization established in 2016 by a group of young professionals promoting active citizenship and human rights as well as social inclusion, volunteer activities, and international cooperation. The Staff of ETV already had experience in international mobility programs in different fields, such as volunteering, training, and education projects (LLP Leonardo, Erasmus+, ESF). ETV aims to develop and implement strategies and local, national, and international programs giving young people the basics and the tools to address their future in a multiethnic society. For this reason, we are establishing international partnerships with similar organizations to create knowledge exchange and to improve practices in non-formal education.

AIMS OF THE PROGRAM:

- to contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity
- to foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at the EU level
- to raise awareness of remembrance, common history, and values
- to encourage democratic participation of citizens at the EU level, by developing citizens' understanding of the EU policy - making-process and, by promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at the EU level.



CONTACT

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

• PREPARATORY MEETING IN POLAND

A preparatory meeting was a very important part of the project after a long time of online meetings and postponing activities caused by the pandemic Covid-19 and after starting a war in Ukraine. We met with partners from North Macedonia and Italy in Kielce and Starachowice to discuss the future timetable, agenda of EU Events in each country, the contest for youth, final conference, technical and financial arrangements, and what was crucial – risk analysis and what to do to avoid and solve potential problems and challenges.



[REPORT FROM PREPARATORY MEETING](#)

• EU FESTIVAL IN POLAND

On June 7-10, a conference was held as part of the project. We return to talks about the European Union among young people. The event was attended by experts who supported young people throughout the event and took part in the debate on the future of Europe: Joanna Jendroška from Schumann Foundation, Katarzyna Gruszko from University in Kielce, Juan Luis Ballesteros – Representative of the European Commission and Michał Sęk from the Geremek Foundation and representatives of Europe Direct Kielce. Young people could ask questions via the Mentimeter platform and took part in a word cafe workshop on the EU from the perspective of 3 countries: Poland, North Macedonia, and Italy. At the very end, we conducted a contest of knowledge about the European Union on Kahoot, in which you could win gadgets and a voucher for the Empik store, funded by Europe Direct Kielce. We have also started training for young people in English conducted by Piotr Kaczyński.



[REPORT FROM EU FESTIVAL IN POLAND](#)

**MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED
IN THOSE ACTIVITIES!**

• EU FESTIVAL IN ITALY

On July 7-10, project activities occurred in the Italian city of Treviso. During the meeting, our association was represented by Dominika, Ola, Mikołaj and Julia, who took part in the trip thanks to winning the competition for a poster/film/photo presenting the future of the EU through the eyes of young people. The first day began with an event in which representatives of our project partners participated. During the meeting, the subject of European values, youth policy and activity as well as challenges facing the EU were discussed. The subject of youth was particularly often present during a conversation with a former member of the local youth council. The next day, project participants had a chance to hear about the history, functioning and institutions of the EU. In addition, a simulation of the European Parliament session was carried out – each participant assumed the role of representative of a specific EU country.



[REPORT FROM EU FESTIVAL IN ITALY](#)

• EU FESTIVAL IN NORTH MACEDONIA

On September 19-22, we participated in the penultimate meeting with our partners in the city of Štip, North Macedonia! Together with Stefan Andonovski, we discussed international relations, the future of the European Union and the chance of North Macedonia joining it. We also developed a vision of Europe in 15 years and shared our thoughts about our future. We spent the second day of the workshop creating a referendum simulation. Four groups – political parties – had the task of convincing citizens on the issue of lowering or increasing the voting age, respectively. After the presentation of the political campaigns, real elections took place which revealed the winning side. The visit also had its cultural side, we visited the House of the first president of North Macedonia located in the town of Štip, and we managed to visit the beautiful capital – Skopje.



[REPORT FROM EU FESTIVAL IN NORTH MACEDONIA](#)

• FINAL CONFERENCE IN POLAND

The event consisted of the following elements:

- summary of the project results
- expert debate on topics proposed by the participants of the event by Mentimeter,
- competition for knowledge about the EU,
- 3 workshops in international groups (past, present, and future of the EU),
- summary of activities and presentation of posters developed by the groups.
- presentations of competition work from the entire project
- discussion about the EU with seniors

"I, EUROPEAN" CONTEST

The "I, European" competition was conducted by each partner organization on the occasion of an event in their country, and consisted of presenting the vision of young people from the perspective of a young citizen of the European Union. As part of the prize, the winners of each contest traveled abroad for specific events with their partners. Through this element, young people from partner countries had the opportunity to express themselves, get involved and take an interest in the European Union and the winners had the opportunity to visit a new country and experience a new perspective.



[FULL SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT](#)

TESTIMONIALS

„Taking part in the Macedonian meeting was a unique experience. During our three days meetings, we took part in different workshops which allowed us to discuss with youngsters from different countries. In particular, during the project we had the opportunity to chat with Macedonian youngsters and find out more about the political situation, about their culture and about their daily lives. This project allowed me to know more about a country which wished to enter the European Union, and it also allowed me to realize the benefits I have as an European citizen.” - **Maria from Italy**

„This is my very first international project and I really enjoyed it. The debates, the games, the city it was loving, full with information that we needed to discuss about the EU. The people were lovely and always trying to make us feel like we were citizens of Starachowice. It's my first time in Poland and in 5 minutes everyone made it feel like a dream country, with lovely people. My favorite thing about the project was debating about the EU and the future of the EU with us, the youth, in it. Can't forget the amazing memories and people I've met here.” - **Elena from North Macedonia**

„I learned a lot through these meetings. I feel that this knowledge will be useful to me. We often focus on what is now and what will be later, but in order to understand the meaning of the existence and functioning of the European Union you also need to know what was once and how it all began. The unusual thing about this project is that it encompasses all these things.” - **Julia from Poland**

