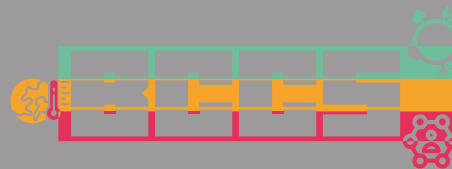


BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE & STACKHOLDERS CONFERENCE



From the 13th to the 19th of November, the International Meeting related to the Town Twinning Project GREAT - Growing Resilient Engagement Activities Together, funded by Europe for Citizens Programme, took place in the municipality of Gżira. The municipality of Gżira, was the leader partner that coordinated a partnership composed by the municipality of Derineya (Cyprus), the organisation Stowarzyszenie Aktywni dla Lajsk (Poland), the association Kelmės Miesto Vietos Veiklos Grupe (Lithuania) and the organisation Balkaniko Institouto Epixeirimatikotitas MKO (Greece).

The International Meeting of GREAT allowed delegations from geographically distant countries in Europe to discuss and exchange different opinions in a cooperative environment, in which European common values were shared and applied in the dialogues. The meeting assumed the structure of seminars, group activities, best practices sharing and guided visits, in order to give to the delegates the opportunity to discover the local culture.

The International Meeting begun with the presentation of the programme by the members from Gżira Local Council, then the delegates had the opportunity to interact and to present to each other during the welcome dinner.

The subsequent day was dedicated to the Seminar held by the Stakeholders and Experts on the topics "Biodiversity, Climate Change, Stakeholders"(BCCS): during this seminar the delegates enlarged their knowledge on these topics and to express their opinions during the discussion on the results of the Seminar.

The insights given by the seminars were used during the group activity with the topics "Biodiversity in Urban Zones", "Urban Heat Islands" and "Nature Based Solutions in Urban Spaces": this activity was particularly important because of the team building and the ideas resulting from different point of views.

The following days the delegates had the opportunity to participate in guided researches and to discuss on the topics regarding the theme of the Meeting, such as the role of volunteers in the actions tackling the Climate Change.

The sharing of best practices assumed particular significance during the International Meeting: each delegation made a presentation on the topic "What measures are being taken by the locality/municipality in preserving biodiversity and what initiatives can be taken to support plans set during COP26 with regards to Climate Change?". The sharing of local actions and policies represented a moment of enrichment for all the participants. In addition, during these International Meeting days, the delegates had the opportunity to visit Gżira and the cities of Valletta and Mdina, discovering the local culture and history and tasting the typical food.



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



“ I am grateful to my community and my colleagues, who welcomed delegations from various parts of Europe, and I would like to thank all the delegates who attended. Unfortunately, I had to attend the event online, but being able to share knowledge and ideas with people from places that are geographically distant but close in values and interests has enriched me greatly and has enriched our community. ”

Conrad Borg Manché
Gzira Mayor



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The project « ... » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.1 "Town-Twinning"

Participation: The project involved 262 citizens, notably 82 participants from the ci of Gzira (**Malta**), 35 participants from the city of Deryneia (**Cyprus**), 37 participants from the city of Łajski (**Poland**), 34 participants from the city of Gradoli (**Italy**), 39 participants from the city of Kelme (**Lithuania**), 35 participants from the city of Kalamata (**Greece**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Gzira (**Gzira, Malta**), from 13/11/2021 to 19/11/2021

Short description:

The day of 13/11/21 was dedicated to the arrival of delegations, and the presentation of the official programme of the International Meeting. Then, the delegates were presented to each other and a welcome dinner was held. The first activity of the day 14/11/21 was the presentation of the partners' municipalities and organisations, then the Seminar on the topic "Biodiversity, Climate Change, Stakeholders" followed. The third activity of the day was the Show&Tell on the topic "Cooperation bonds among countries", thereafter the delegations had the possibility to visit the City and meet the councilors, then the results of the Seminar were discussed.

The day of 15/11/21 the delegations were involved in the Group Work activity with the topics "Biodiversity in Urban Zones", "Urban Heat Islands" and "Nature Based Solutions in Urban Spaces". Then, the delegations had the opportunity to participate to the art exhibition "The visual – non visual world".

The day of 16/11/21 the delegates were involved in the guided research on the topic "The History of the Union", then the seminar on the topic "Union's values and aims, why is the Union so important for us?" followed, therefore the discussion on the topic "The importance of Volunteering in Climate Change" was held, then a guided visit to La Valletta city followed.

The day of 17/11/21 was dedicated to the topic of "ECHR and Climate Change: how the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is connected to the Climate Change " first, the EU policy-making process was introduced, thereafter a discussion on Agenda 2030 followed. In the second part of the day the conclusion was discussed and a Cultural tour of the Mdina city followed. The day of 18/11/11 was dedicated to the sharing of the best practices among the delegations. Each delegation made a presentation on the topic "What measures are being taken by the locality/municipality in preserving biodiversity and what initiatives can be taken to support plans set during COP26 with regards to Climate Change?" sharing the actions put in place to foster the tackling of the main issues debated at their local and community level. The official dinner and the gifts exchange followed. The day of 19/11/21 was dedicated to the GREAT's follow-up plan and to the greetings.