Project number: 101214190 CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT

Co-funded by the European Union

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	Comune di Polla- Municipality of Novska- Muncipality of Konche
PIC number:	Polla: 876415080- Grad Novska: 911440131- Town of Konche: 876190137.
Project name and acronym:	Proud to be European Citizens- PEC

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Kick off meeting
Type:	Project presentation- workshop- seminar
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Novska Croatia
Date(s):	From 11 to 13 December 2025
Website(s) (if any):	Konce.gov.mk/pec https://novska.hr/hr/vijesti/novosti/novska-polla-i-konche-povezani-projektom-%E2%80%9Eproud-to-be-european-citizens%E2%80%9C,8040.html https://comune.polla.sa.it/argomenti/argomento-dettaglio/2722801
Participants	
Female:	24
Male:	27
Non-binary:	0

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From country 1 Croatia:	26		
From country 2 Italy:	11		
From country 3 North Macedonia:	14		
Total number of participants:	51	From total number of countries:	3

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The PEC (Proud to be European Citizens) project aims to strengthen the sense of belonging to the European Union through intercultural dialogue and active citizenship. The initiative brings together three communities with diverse yet interconnected histories within the European landscape: Polla (Italy), representing a founding member state; Novska (Croatia), as an example of recent and successful integration; and Konche (North Macedonia), currently engaged in the pre-accession process. Through a series of transnational events, the project explores shared EU values, the benefits of the CERV program, and the role of town twinning as a tool for peace and democratic participation, with the goal of reducing Euroscepticism and promoting a shared vision for the future of Europe.

Activity 1 (December 11, 2025): Opening and the European identity of partner cities.

The inaugural session focused on the presentation of the PEC project and the narration of the European journeys of the three territories. Polla (Italy) represented the perspective of a founding member state; Novska (Croatia) shared its experience as a recent and successful example of EU integration; and Konche (North Macedonia) served as a symbol of commitment within the pre-accession process. Through documentary videos, participants analyzed how EU membership (or the aspiration toward it) has shaped the urban, social, and cultural development of these three small communities, establishing a common ground of European identity.

Activity 2 (December 12, 2025): Twinning as an engine for peace and integration.

An in-depth seminar on the historical role of Town Twinning. The session explored the evolution of these partnerships: originally established to reconcile nations after WWII (with a focus on Italy), they became essential tools for facilitating the integration of new Member States (focus on Croatia) and supporting democratic values in candidate countries (focus on North Macedonia). The debate highlighted how solidarity between municipalities is the first step toward lasting European peace.

Activity 3 (December 12, 2025): Programmatic transition and CERV opportunities.

A technical analysis of the transition from the "Europe for Citizens" program to the current CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights, and Values) program. The discussion focused on the Union's new priorities: protecting fundamental values, promoting equality, and fighting all forms of discrimination. Participants explored how twinning projects can translate high-level EU directives into concrete local actions to stimulate citizen engagement.

Activity 4 (December 12, 2025): Active citizenship workshop.

A practical workshop exploring the tools of participatory democracy. Participants discussed how "Town Twinning" is not merely a cultural exchange but a bridge to bring the concerns of European peripheral areas (such as Polla, Novska, and Konche) directly into the heart of the Brussels debate, allowing citizens to influence Union policies through structured dialogue.

Partnership coordination (December 13, 2025):

before the final departures, an informal operational roundtable was held between the project partners. The partners shared strategies to involve Macedonian youth and discussed the logistics for the upcoming event in Konche (March 2026), specifically focusing on promoting a debate on EU enlargement. The session concluded with institutional greetings and farewells, reinforcing the shared commitment to the project's success.

OBJECTIVES REACHED

- Strengthened dialogue between citizens from different stages of EU history (founders, new members, and candidates).

- In-depth understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to European Union enlargement.
- Consolidation of an operational network for the management of future CERV projects.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES.

To ensure maximum visibility and engagement during the first event in Novska, a comprehensive communication strategy was implemented in accordance with the CERV program guidelines. The activities focused on promoting EU values, showcasing the project's progress, and fostering a shared European identity among the local and international communities.

The following communication actions were successfully carried out:

https://novska.hr/hr/vijesti/novosti/novska-polla-i-konche-povezani-projektom-%E2%80%9Eproud-to-be-european-citizens%E2%80%9C,8040.html

https://www.radionovska.hr/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Novljanski-vjesnik-657-1.pdf

https://vallopiu.it/2025/12/16/polla-guida-il-gemellaggio-europeo-con-novska-e-konce-firmato-il-protocollo-c-e-r-v/

https://www.ondanews.it/polla-sottoscrive-un-gemellaggio-con-la-citta-croata-di-novska-e-con-konce-comunita-macedone/

https://www.facebook.com/p/Proud-to-be-European-Citizens-61585415256524/?_rdr

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2297016550807100

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).