

THE THIRD EVENT OF BRIDGE PROJECT

23rd- 26th MAY 2022

BRIDGE – Building Relationships into a Democratic Goal for Europe – is a European Project, part of the "Europe for Citizens 2014-2020" programme, in particular of the “democratic engagement and civic participation” strand, action “Network of Towns”. It was funded in 2019 by the European Commission to the municipality of Vila Nova de Cerveira (PT).

Its partnership is composed by organizations that belong to two different Countries but that are situated on the border with each other, in particular:

Vila Nova de Cerveira (PT) – Tomiño (ES); Sdruzhenie na Yugozapadnite Obshtini (BG) – Dimitrovgrad (RS); GECT GO / EZTS GO (IT); Borsod-abaúj-zemplén county government (HU) - Rozsnyó város (SK); Panevezio (LT) – Daugavpils (LV); Lighthouse Languages (IT); Deryneia (CY).

The Project aims at promoting cross-border citizenship and social cohesion across borders, focusing on two of the main phenomena affecting Europe in recent times: Euroscepticism and xenophobia. The main theme of this project is to promote cross-border citizenship and cross-border social cohesion, as well as to share best practices among neighboring partners. Each organization involved will need to be able to develop strong and effective cross-border practices to share with other partners.

BRIDGE foresees the realization of five different events in the locations involved in the initiative and chosen during the design phase. So far, three of them have been carried out: the first one in Vila Nova de Cerveira/Tomiño in October 2021; the second one in Borsod-abaúj-zemplén county government/Rozsnyó város in March 2022; and the third one in Gorizia/Nova Gorica in May 2022.

In particular, this third international meeting of BRIDGE Project took place from 23rd to 26th May 2022, in the cities of Gorizia (IT)/Nova Gorica (SI).

The meeting was organized by EGTC GO (European Group of Territorial Cooperation)

Organization: it is an Italian public body with legal personality, founded by the Municipalities of Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba in 2011, to identify and address challenges in order to make the cross-border territory more competitive and attractive.

The meeting was focused on a specific topic: “Cross-border cultural events/projects already done and projects that are not yet cross-border but could become”.

All the participating organizations were asked to prepare a presentation to share with each other, in order to create space for the exchange of best-practices and cross-fertilization.

During the meeting, the partners held as well a conference on cross-border cultural collaboration / European capital of Culture 2025.

Beside the conferences and the institutional moments, the participants had the opportunity to be involved in cultural visits in the cities of Gorizia and Nova Gorica, tasting the local products and discovering their traditions and culture. They could learn about the historical peculiarities of the territory, which is situated straight on the border between Italy and Slovenia, getting in touch with local communities and discovering the local and natural beauties. This ensured a direct confrontation between the participating delegations, an exchange of ideas, objectives and best practices for the future of the European Union.

The Project assumes a strong importance for the participating delegations, offering them the opportunity to open up to Europe, interact with other communities and enhance their local characteristics.

The next scheduled event, namely the fourth International Meeting, will be held in Bulgaria/Serbia in June 2022.