

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



MUNICIPALITY OF PADRÓN
(SPAIN)



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Promoted by:



MUNICIPALITY OF PADRÓN
(SPAIN)

Hosted by:



Strengthening European Identity in times of crisis

CERV Programme

Network of Towns • Red de Ciudades

EVENT V

Kekava & Riga (Latvia)

19 - 22 September 2024



Citizens, Equality, Rights
and Values programme

Financial support:



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European Union

GREETINGS



Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

As we gather here in Riga for this final meeting, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of our shared journey. In a world marked by challenges and uncertainties, our commitment to European values—solidarity, democracy, and human rights—becomes more crucial than ever. We have recently witnessed the power of these values through the European elections, where citizens across our continent were able to celebrate the festival of democracy and choose the future direction of Europe for the next five years. This event was a powerful reminder of our collective strength and our common commitment to shaping a brighter future together.

I urge each of us to use this opportunity to reaffirm our dedication to these ideals, to work tirelessly for peace, and to remember that our strength lies in unity. Europe is more than just a collection of nations; it is a community of people with shared hopes and dreams. Now is the time to harness the energy and passion of our citizens and channel it into building a Europe that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

An essential part of this future lies in empowering European women, recognizing and celebrating their talent, bravery, and work. It has been an honor to witness so many examples of female entrepreneurship at the meeting in Andrychow and for sure the ones here in Kekava. Their dedication and innovative spirit are driving forces in our communities and a testament to what we can achieve when all voices are heard and valued.

This project has shown us the power of collaboration, transcending borders and bringing together diverse perspectives. It is my sincere hope that what we have started here will not end today. Let this be a stepping stone for future initiatives—initiatives that will build bridges between young people, artists, entrepreneurs, and students from across Europe. They are the ones who will carry forward the vision of a united, peaceful, and prosperous Europe.

Let us also recognize the need to engage our younger generations, inspiring them to be active participants in the European project. By fostering dialogue and cooperation among young minds, creative artists, innovative entrepreneurs, and passionate students, we can create new networks of understanding and solidarity that will strengthen our common future.

Let us be ambassadors of these values, ensuring that the spirit of cooperation and understanding continues to grow. May our efforts inspire others to believe in the possibilities of a stronger Europe, where peace and progress are shared goals.

Let us continue to work together for a brighter future.

Anxo Arca, Mayor of Padrón.

Dear participants,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Kekava for the final event of our European Program. Over the past several months, we have come together as representatives from 16 different countries, sharing our experiences, knowledge, and cultures. I am delighted to see you all here in Latvia for this final gathering, where we will continue to build on the connections we have made, reinforcing the bonds of friendship that have developed throughout our journey together.



As we come together in this beautiful part of Europe, I wish you all a warm and memorable stay in Riga and Kekava. Our two cities are steeped in history and brimming with cultural treasures that we hope will offer a vibrant backdrop for our program. I encourage each of you to take the time to explore the unique character of Riga, with its stunning architecture and lively atmosphere, as well as the natural beauty and community spirit of Kekava.

This program has been a testament to the strength of our shared European identity. Through the four previous events, we have engaged in meaningful discussions, stimulating debates, and enriching study visits. We have delved into important topics, from fostering active citizenship to understanding the significance of European values such as democracy, solidarity, and human rights. These discussions have not only broadened our perspectives but also brought us closer as a community.

As we gather here for this final event, let us take the opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved together and to consider the path forward. The activities planned for this week are designed not just to educate but to inspire – to foster deeper understanding, mutual respect, and a commitment to our common European future. I hope that each session, each conversation, and each encounter will serve as a bridge, strengthening the ties that bind us across borders.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the challenges facing Europe today. We are living in a time of uncertainty, with ongoing crises and complex issues that test our resilience and unity. Economic difficulties, political tensions, social divides, and external threats continue to challenge the very fabric of our Union. However, it is precisely in times like these that our unity becomes even more critical. Our strength lies in our ability to come together, to engage in open dialogue, and to find common solutions that benefit all.

As you participate in the activities throughout this week, I urge you to think about how we can collectively address these pressing challenges. Let us use this event to reaffirm our commitment to the European project, to the values that unite us, and to the idea that we are stronger together.

I am confident that the experiences and relationships forged here will have a lasting impact, and I hope that you leave Riga and Kekava with renewed optimism and a deeper sense of connection to your fellow Europeans.

Thank you, and I wish you all a successful and inspiring event.

Warm regards,

Andra Vanaga, president of Solis Tuvāk NGO.



SPAIN



MUNICIPALITY OF PADRÓN



POLAND



GMINA ANDRYCHOW URZĄD MIEJSKI W ANDRYCHOWIE



FRANCE



Mouvement Européen Gironde



MALTA



HAL KIRKOP LOCAL COUNCIL



LATVIA



Solis Tuvāk Biedrība



SWEDEN



Haninge kommun



GERMANY



GEB Education and Mobility in Europe



CZECH REPUBLIC



MESTO LANSKROUT



LITHUANIA



KAUNO SUAUGUSIŲJŲ IR JAUNIMO MOKYMO CENTRAS



HUNGARY



TAR KOZSEG ONKORMANYZATA



BELGIUM



Asturia vzw



SLOVAKIA



OBEC GLABUSOVCE



ITALY



ASSOCIAZIONE CIRCUM VITAE



ROMANIA



MUNICIPIUL TURNU MAGURELE



GREECE



KENTRO EKPEDEFSIS KE APOKATASTASISIFLON (C.E.R.B.)



PORTUGAL



FREGUESIA DE BUARCOS E SAO JULIAO



SPAIN



FEDERACIÓN DE ASOCIACIONES JUVENILES PARA LA MOVILIDAD EUROPEA

THURSDAY 19 OF SEPTEMBER

ARRIVAL OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO RIGA:

- Czech Republic
- Romania
- Hellas
- Slovakia
- Malta
- France
- Lithuania
- Germany
- Italy
- Poland
- Sweden
- Belgium
- Hungary
- Portugal
- Spain

Check in at the HOTEL MERCURE RIGA

Dinner at the HOTEL MERCURE RIGA

FRIDAY 20 OF SEPTEMBER

08:30 h. Breakfast

09:00 h. Departure from the hotel

10:15 h. Visit to the European Union house in Riga. Getting to know the functions and work to promote European citizenship

10:30 h. Conferences:

- European Democracy Action Plan by **Ms. Zane Petre**, Head of the European Commission in Latvia
- Integration and cooperation in the EU as a solution by **Mr. Reinis Poznaks**, Member of the EU Parliament

11:30 h. Getting to know democratic institutions: visit to the National Parliament of Latvia. Guided visit to the historical building

13:00 h. Lunch

16:00 h. Official meeting at the Latvian Parliament **Mr. Edmunds Cepuritis**, Chairmen of the European Affairs committee. Discussion about gains of Latvia on the 20 anniversary of being in the EU.

17:00 h. Guided visit around the places of Old Riga- symbols of EU

18:00 h. Updating social networks – free time in the city

20:00 h. Dinner

SATURDAY 21 OF SEPTEMBER

08:30 h. Breakfast

10:00 h. Departure to Kekava Municipality

10:45 h. Example of empowered woman in Kekava, discovering their careers: meeting with **Mrs. Ginta Logina**, owner of health products company in her office Konfelade in Kekava

11:20 h. Departure to Mellupi

11:45 h. Coffee break in Mellupi, social enterprise **Dabas zirgi**

12:00 h. Example of empowered woman in Kekava, discovering their careers: meeting with **Mrs. Liga Broduza**, owner of social enterprise Dabas zirgi in Mellupi

13:00 h. Official meeting with representatives from Kekava municipality, deputies and entrepreneurs in Mercendarbes manor, Baldone

Mr. Anxo Arca, Mayor of Padrón

Ms. Viktorija Baire, Mayor of Kekavas

13:30 h. Lunch

14:30 h. Example of empowered woman in Kekava, discovering their careers: **Mrs. Kitija Daktina**

15:30 h. Presentation of Kekava and Latvia. Getting to know the territory, visits around Kekava

18:00 h. Back to Riga

19:45 h. Final evaluation and future cooperation

20:30 h. Dinner

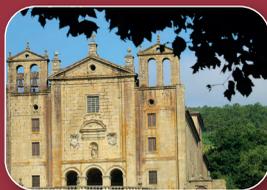
SUNDAY 22 OF SEPTEMBER

BREAKFAST

DEPARTURE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

EVENTS

EVENT 1 PADRÓN - SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (Spain)

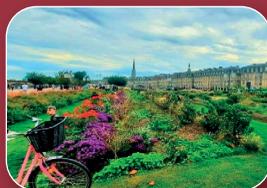


Padrón



Santiago de Compostela

EVENT 2 BORDEAUX (France) Mouvement European France Gironde



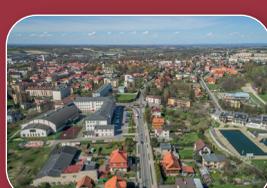
EVENT 3 KIRKOP (Malta) Municipality of Kirkop



EVENT 4 ANDRYCHOW & KRAKOW (Poland) Municipality of Andrychow



EVENT 5 KEKAVA & RIGA (Latvia) Solis Tuvak NGO



CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES - PROGRAMME (CERV)

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values has the general objective of protecting and promoting the rights and values enshrined in the Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the applicable international human rights conventions, in particular by supporting organizations of civil society and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national and transnational levels, as well as fostering democratic and civic participation, in order to promote and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies, founded in the rule of law.

Networks of Towns will give towns and municipalities the possibility to deepen and intensify their cooperation and debate, develop sustainable networks and outline their long-term vision for the future of European integration.

The Commission expects Networks of Towns to reflect on a new narrative for Europe, one that is people-oriented, forward-looking and constructive, and that would be more engaging for the younger generation in particular. Projects may be based on the outcome of citizens' consultations and may lead to debates about specific ways to create a more democratic EU, to encourage citizens to re-engage with the EU and help them develop a stronger sense of ownership of the European project.

PROJECT. STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN IDENTITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

"Strengthening European Identity in times of crisis" is a project of Network of Towns framed in "Citizens, Equality, Rights and values" programme, promoted by the City Council of Padrón, Spain, whose main objective is to promote the sense of belonging to the EU, offer the opportunity to know EU Citizenship's rights, our common values and democratic norms to all citizens of different European realities, as well as reinforcing mutual understanding through intercultural dialogue and support good local governance for an optimal role in the Europe of the Future.

In cooperation of partners from 16 countries, the project will be carried out around 5 thematic meetings in five different cities: Padrón (Spain), Burdeos (France), Hal Kirkop (Malta), Andrychow (Poland) and Kekava (Latvia); in which more than 5000 people will participate directly and indirectly, guaranteeing equal access, without any type of discrimination, ensuring equality between genders and also offering the opportunity to citizens who have never been involved in similar projects. In line with the objectives and priorities of the CERV programme, the project will focus on promoting active participation at local and European level, by carrying out activities with an innovative methodology: data collection, focus groups, workshops, EU storytelling, cultural visits or exhibitions. It is also intended to bring together young people, who will eventually have a greater knowledge of political processes, institutions and history of the European Union, addressing current issues.

All of this will generate a great impact on citizens since it offers municipalities of all sizes the opportunity to develop and participate in these types of projects and forge true and lasting bonds of friendship between them. Finally, the project will look for alternatives to the challenges it faces, through experiences, opinions and good practices, in order to formulate solutions and propose new ideas.

GREETINGS - PROJECT