

The project « Europe in the trap of the immigrant crisis » 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 259 citizens, notably 132 participants from the city of Shtip (Macedonia), And 127 participants from the city of Strazhitsa (Bulgaria).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in the city of Strazhitsa (Bulgaria), from 19/06/2018 г. to 22/06/2018 г.

Short description:

The day 19/06/2018 was dedicated to an organized conference where experts from both municipalities presented their social policies in the part of integrating vulnerable groups, helping and encouraging citizens to seamlessly coexist with all persons on the territories of the two municipalities. Were presented key aspects of policies and their work on the development of education and healthcare, ways to achieve higher levels of employment through the application of innovative approaches in the economy, and last but not least, the leading role of citizens in the development of these policies. The project partners shared their experience in encouraging and engaging local citizens in all aspects of their community life.

On 20 June 2018, a debate was held, all participants identifying issues, exchanged experience related to integration policies, shared practice of the non-governmental sector and employers in this field. The existing Co-operation and Partnership Network will continue to assist in resolving different situations and issues in the subject areas.

The day 21/06/2018 was dedicated to the round table of volunteers from the participants, representatives of citizens, NGOs, employers and experts from the municipalities of Shtip and Strazhitsa, summarized the information from the debates, analyzed the attitudes, the fears, the potential risks and proposed methods to overcome the crisis, and discussed further steps and actions.

Day 22/06/2018 - the participants took part in the round table where the collected information was discussed at expert level. Specific, follow-up actions were planned to make them feasible. Experience was also exchanged with the negative phenomena of the refugee wave, the consequences and risks of mass migration were analyzed, and the practice of the non-government sector in this area was shared by both partners. The participants in the event decided - the built and active network of twin cities will continue to provide mutual assistance to the participants in the future.