



# EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

## Democratic engagement and civic participation sub-programme

### FINAL REPORT form

Programme	EUROPE FOR CITIZENS
Sub-Programme	Democratic engagement and civic participation
Action	Network of Towns
Sub-Action	N/A
Call for Proposal	Programme Guide 2018
Project number	600964-CITIZ-1-2018-1-BE-CITIZ-NT
Agreement/decision number	20181312
Project Title	European Accessible Sustainable Young TOWNS II

# Contractual Data

## Dates and Beneficiaries

### Dates

Project Start: 01/10/2018	Project End: 30/09/2022
Activities Start: 01/10/2018	Activities End: 30/09/2022
Project Duration(months):48	

### Beneficiary Data

Role	PIC	Name	Country
Coordinating Organization / Beneficiary	938895108	GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	Belgium
Management Contact Person	938895108	GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	Belgium

## Legal Representative

### Organisation Legal Address

Name: GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	
Street: KERKPLEIN 17	
Post Code: 2220	City: HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG
Country: Belgium	

### Department

Name: Mayor's Office	
Street: KERKPLEIN 17	
Post Code: 2220	City: HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG
Country: Belgium	
Local Address:	
Internet site:	

### Contact

Title: Mr                      Function: Mayor

Name: Jan  
Phone Number 1: 00 32 1522 86 50  
Fax Number:  
Email: bernadetteecat@gmail.com

Last Name: Moons  
Phone Number 2:  
Mobile Number:

## Contact Person

### Organisation Legal Address

Name: GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	
Street: KERKPLEIN 17	
Post Code: 2220	City: HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG
Country: Belgium	

### Department

Name: Culture, Europe, Education, Tourism	
Street: KERKPLEIN 17	
Post Code: 2220	City: HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG
Country: Belgium	
Local Address:	
Internet site:	

### Contact

Title: Mrs	Function: President of Community Council
Name: Bernadette	Last Name: De Cat
Phone Number 1: 00 32 477 78 80 11	Phone Number 2:
Fax Number:	Mobile Number:
Email: bernadetteecat@gmail.com	

# Implemented Activities

## Short description of the project's results in English, French or German

English - 1	<p>The activities built on cultural heritage &amp; aspects of daily life to promote debate on EU values, policies &amp; efforts in building a more united &amp; open-minded society. Meetings &amp; events were held in Malta, Croatia, Italy &amp; Poland, in public spaces to attract people, using music &amp; poetry, (Rijeka), theatre (Malta &amp; Italy), &amp; folk elements (Heist-op-den-Berg). Poland showed efforts to deal with war refugees from Ukraine, namely mothers &amp; children with traumas from war, violence, fear, loss. Croatia worked on freedom &amp; independence, underground activities of artists &amp; press in times of repression. Heist-op-den-Berg worked on cultural heritage with primary schools' children &amp; their community. A project week in all primary schools gave information on European values (respect, peace, learning from the past). A project week on "Our village" with theatre music, design of the village in cardboard, was presented to the public. All partners focused on Youth &amp; tackled the risk of youths being influenced by extremist movements. Fanatical views led to cruel extremes in the past, &amp; these were discussed when (Heist-op-den-Berg organized a visit to the War Memorial Breendonk; &amp; Niepolomice organized a visit to Auschwitz. The partners got the chance to exchange experiences &amp; emotions, both during &amp; after site visits. Discussion groups focused on peace at risk &amp; respect for inclusion ideas through natural &amp; digital cultural heritage. Young people, youth workers, members of local youth councils participating in the project events &amp; meetings, together with administrators &amp; politicians came to an increasing citizens' understanding of the Union's policy-making process. Social media communication &amp; digital production helped transnational cooperation &amp; long-lasting relations &amp; friendships. Despite Covid restrictions, all planned topics were implemented in local activities. A list of good &amp; bad practices from Easy Towns I was taken up again &amp; the new initiatives focused on inclusion &amp; connection. Heist-op-den-Berg involved schools (950 pupils) in information sessions on Europe, creative workshops to build a "village", monitoring newcomers &amp; refugees in language lessons, job trainings, buddy projects. Integration &amp; diversity was the objective: promoting local food, shops &amp; local shopping, &amp; confronting it with new ideas &amp; unknown traditions brought in by refugees. This was the focus for Heist-op-den-Berg during the project FINALE in September 2022 (33 persons). Another example: Sentjur, organized a quiz "Do you know your community?" an event in a local cultural hall where young representatives from 6 local schools (30) used board games to share their knowledge on their cultural heritage &amp; community in Sentjur (155 young people). An escape room event for learning purposes was built through which youth learnt about cultural heritage (90 young people). In 2020 &amp; 2021 online zoom workshops were held in schools presenting local heritage (160 pupils up to 13years). A strategic game "The Knights of Sentjur" was developed in August 2021 and was used in a school tournament in new strategic cultural heritage games. Rijeka organized a visit to a new cultural district, a visit to the Maritime &amp; History Museum of the Croatian Littoral, an EASY TOWNS digital, opening of the anarcho-communist exhibition from the collection of Giovanni Morbin, a concert of partisan &amp; anti-fascist songs, cooking for the community heritage travelling exhibition, &amp; a panel on youth &amp; independent publishing ("Antifascism then &amp; now"). All project activities clearly showed that cultural diversity requires intercultural dialogue, which foster exchange of views between cultures that can create a strong common ground of empathy between different cultures, communities &amp; different generations.</p>
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## Description

### Impact and Citizen Involvement

The biggest achievement of this wonderful project is, apart from creating and confirming friendship with new and old partners, the growing awareness that a profound knowledge of your own cultural heritage can lead to a better knowledge and understanding of "new" people's cultural heritage. With new people we mean new inhabitants of the own community, new fellow citizens wherever they come from, in which way they arrived, whichever culture they bring with them.

## Direct testimonies/stories from participants collected during the events.

-“Schoolchildren love their village”  
-“Even on corona times creativity is possible by meeting on line” -“An EU project can surprise EU citizens in a most unexpected way”

## Key message(s) of citizens involved in the project

“Inclusion is made possible by young people on condition they are aware of their own cultural heritage and are willing to understand and accept the newcomers’ cultural heritage”.

## Description of implemented activities

5 International events have been carried out within this project:

### Event 1

Participation: The event involved 41 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy), 4 participants from the city of Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium), 4 participants from the city of Pula (Croatia), 4 participants from the city of Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), 4 participants from the city of Arad (Romania), 3 participants from the city of Niepolomice (Poland), 3 participants from the city of L’Alfas del Pi, (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Rijeka (Croatia), 4 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Pforzheim (Germany), 4 participants from the city of Sentjur (Slovenia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in La Valetta, Malta, from 27/11/2018 to 30/11/2018.

Short description: The aim of the event was to focus on inclusion in the widest way. To explore how cultural heritage can contribute to inclusion in the debate and the policy-making process regarding diversity. Visiting Specialized Schools within the network of schools within the Schools of Art, Music and Drama (Malta and Gozo) offered a showcase to the kick-off of this project. Believing that the visual and performing arts are a good medium/tool to bring people together and create inclusive communities in the Maltese and Gozitan schools.

### Event 2

Participation: The event involved 45 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium), 4 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy), participants from the city of La Valetta (Malta), 4 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of Niepolomice (Poland), 4 participants from the city of L’Alfas del Pi (Spain), 8 participants from the city of Pula (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Arad (Romania), 2 participants from the city of Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), 4 participants of the city of Pforzheim (Germany), 4 participants of the city of Sentjur (Slovenia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Rijeka (Croatia) from 02/05/2019 to 05/05/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to pay a pre- “Rijeka 2020 European Capital of culture” visit to Rijeka. The whole program focused on a first taste of the festivities planned in “Rijeka 2020”.

Like “Never mind the mainstream: surviving censorship, police repression (punk, graffiti), “Art in the public space: contemporary art installations, a new oasis of peace in the urban space of Rijeka), a place of meditation , prayer, introspection, open to everyone regardless of religion “, “exhibitions”, “Festival of foreign and Croatian music , experimental music, performance and art projects”, Festival of the European short story”, “Festival of world music and gastronomy”, “Communication workshops- panel on youth and independent publishing” (Antifascism, then and now”, Concert of Partisan and Anti-fascist songs”, “Cooking for the community”

### Event 3

Participation: The event involved 33 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium), 3 participants from the city of La Valetta (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Pula (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), 3 participants from the city of Arad (Romania), 3 participants from the city of Niepolomice (Poland), 3 participants from the city of L’Alfas del Pi (Spain), 3 participants from the city of Rijeka (Croatia), 3 participants from the city of Knezha Bulgaria), 3 participants from Pforzheim (Germany), 3 participants from the city of Sentjur (Slovenia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Vicenza (Italy), from 24/10/2019 to 26/10/2019

Short description: The aim of the event was to get to know each other in team building activities, to make a point and check what has been done so far in the framework of Easy Towns, to hold a public round table with local authorities, students and stakeholders on how to insert inclusion policies into cultural heritage preservation policies, to learn from a workshop on youth communication and languages, to be guided on a tour in Vicenza city center by local students and discover new paths in the city center by local associations

### Event 4:

Participation: The 4th International Meeting / event should have been organized by Banska Bystrica (Slovakia) but this happened to be impossible. So, Niepolomice (Poland) took over. The total number of participants should have been 33 but because of the beginning of the war in Ucrain some partners did not feel like travelling . So 4 delegations took part with 12 participants in all. The event involved 13 citizens , including 4 participants from the city of Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium), 2 participants from the city of La Valetta (Malta), 3 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy), and 3 participants from the city of Sentjur (Slovenia) .

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Niepolomice (Poland), from 27/04/2022 to 29/04/2022

Short description: Niepolomice planned this meeting to get into touch with science, culture and history as our common heritage. First and the Royal Castket the heritage for youth was touched upon by visiting Niepolomice itself, the Youth Astronomical Observatory, Phonography Museum, The Sound and Word Center and the Royal castle. with its Portrait

chamber; A visit was paid to the Community House Siedlisko where young people are taught about the natural heritage. The group visited the city of Krakow, one of the first sites chosen for the UNESCO World Heritage List. Dinner was taken in the old Jewish ghetto. And, of course, a deeply touching visit was paid to Auschwitz- Birkenau to confront young people with the fatal r

#### Event 5 FINAL MEETING:

Participation: The 5th and final meeting of EASY TOWNS involved 32 citizens, including: 4 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 4 participants from the city of La Valetta (Malta), 4 participants from the city of L'Alfas del Pi (Spain), 2 participants from the city of Rijeka (Croatia), 2 participants from the city of Sentjur (Slovenia), 3 participants from the city of Knezha (Bulgaria), 3 participants from the city of Niepolomice (Poland), 3 participants from the city of Vicenza (Italy), 1 participant from the city of Banska Bystrica (Slovakia) 2 participants from the city of Pforzheim (Germany) and 3 participants from the city of Pula (Croatia).

Location : Dates: The final event took place in Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium) from 25/09/2022 to 28/09/2022.

Short description: This final meeting was intended to present the "best practices and experiences" by the Easy Towns partners. The first day was devoted to "Arrival of the guests and Welcome". The second day was a day full of "Cultural heritage" in the course of which local activities and examples of inclusion were planned as well: a visit to the "multicultural" local market, a lunch at a school for vocational local school (GO! Atheneum) also offering dual training. A walk along cultural highlights and new accomplishments of Heist-op-den-Berg (all realized after a process of participation and focusing on inclusion, (open to everyone): the Sports Center, the new Swimming Pool, the recently restored Hnita Jazz Club, the Hof van Riemen (the oldest civic building in Heist), the new Academy of Arts and other local heritage highlights such as the Church Square, The Saint-Lambert's Church, The Town Hall, the famous "hill" of Heist-op-den-Berg. Ending with a multicultural dinner! And for those who were not too tired the film "Flee" the extraordinary journey of a child refugee from Afghanistan, Amin Nawabi. The third day was planned as "The day of Youth, Discrimination and Inclusion, Human Rights" starting with a workshop on art heritage and inclusion, a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Dossin Kazerne in Mechelen, a guided tour, a "human rights" walk around the former concentration camp "the National Memorial of the Fortress of Breendonk" A visit to an icecream atelier made in Heide Atelier" or children, work to young people with a brain damage. An interesting tour along initiatives for children and youth: Biekorfstraat, Averegten, Hobbeldonk, Skatepark, Bio park... All built after a long participation circuit and open to all. Ending it all with an official reception at the town hall, with all politicians and administrators, collaborators in the project Easy Towns, ngo and school members, leaders of a gym club for handicapped, hosting families... The last project day was "A Day of Evaluation and General Conclusion".

-In Heist-op-den-Berg (Belgium) schools worked on Cultural heritage. The elementary school organized a project week on "My village". They worked for a very long period and in several lessons on the history of their village. The method? They wrote a play and performed it in front of a public of parents, teachers and local press and politicians. They rebuilt their whole village in paintings, maps and plans, and "maquettes" showing every local shop, doctor, pharmacy, school, church, wood, farms and fields etc. A local Kindergarten even worked on Cultural heritage by creating a lake with white swans (the swan is the symbol of their village).

-A forum discussion led to a clear insight in the needs of the actual multicultural society. To discussion as well, explaining prejudices, fears and misunderstandings.

-Other partners worked in the same way: creative contributions, research on attitudes and opinions, quiz, walking tours, equates

Conclusion: Participation: about 100 pupils from primary schools in Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium+ 5 headmasters + 5 teachers During the presentation of this exhibition and theatre all pupils of the school, teachers and lots of parents came to watch the play and to visit the exhibition. It was also presented in the local press.

- Location: The preparation of this event took place in the primary schools of Groolo, Hallaar (both suburbs of Heist-op-den-Berg) and the center of Heist-op-den-Berg,. The open schoolweek on "My village" took place in the school of Hallaar. The discussion on the needs in the actual multicultural society and the EU values, the need of a clear view on "cultural heritage" and its values were all discussed in the aula of CC Zwaneberg, the local cultural center.

Dates: Wednesday mornings in Spring 2019, and the beginning of 2020, right before the Corona lockdown

#### Changes in relation of the original application

-The most important change in the course of the project was, of course, the impact of Covid on travelling, on mobility and on organizing local events. This turned the project into a 'handicapped' one. The goodwill among the partners was immense but so were the restrictions.

-Another change was the post Covid decision of Banska Bystrica not to organize the 4th International meeting. Luckily Niepolomice took over, coping with Covid as well so that, thanks to the extension procedure we could finally meet in Poland and prepare the Finale in Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium.

#### Dissemination and visibility of your project

The visibility and the dissemination of the project as such was ensured through regular messages in local newspapers. And by publishing actions, activities, ideas, plans! also on the site of the local municipality. By going out in the open spaces and presenting the project.

See : site of Heist-op-den-Berg [www.heist-op-den-berg.be](http://www.heist-op-den-berg.be)

FB EASY TOWNS <https://www.facebook.com/EasyTowns/>

FB coordinator Bernadette De Cat : <https://www.bernadettedecat/b>

Local newspapers „Het Reklameklokje“, De Zondag, Hallo Heist, C-magazine, Gazet van Antwerpen.

## Visibility of the Europe for Citizens Programme

Every time an action was taken, a trip abroad was made, an initiative was on the press was invited. Every time the context of Europe and the "Europe for citizens" was stressed. The European flag was always there. It made people wonder why. So, this offered a unique occasion to explain!

**Additional information** -In future projects we hope for no limitations like Covid, of course.

-It is and remains a constant struggle to communicate the importance of European projects to create more awareness of the need of uniting, the need of facing conflicts, the effects of war, discussions, disagreements.

-Creating awareness and goodwill with the local authorities is and remains the biggest issue, at least according to my experience.



Jan Moons  
Mayor Heist-op-den-Berg

# Statistics

## Direct Participants

Name of Organisation/municipality	Country	Participants by target group			Disadvantaged participants	Women	Men	Total
		below 30	30-65	above 65				
GEMEENTE HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG	Belgium	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
Ayuntamiento de L'Alfàs del Pi	Spain	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
COMUNE DI VICENZA	Italy	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
GMINA NIEPOLOMICE	Poland	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
MUNICIPIUL ARAD	Romania	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
OBSHTINA KNEZHA	Bulgaria	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI COLLEGE	Malta	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA KOZJANSKO	Slovenia	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
Stadt Pforzheim	Germany	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
UNIVERZITA MATEJA BELA V BANSKEJ BYSTRICI	Slovakia	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
GRAD PULA - POLA	Croatia	7	9	1	1	10	7	17
RIJEKA 2020 DOO ZA PROVEDBU PROJEKTA RIJEKA EUROPSKA PRIJESTOLNICA KULTURE 2020(DVIJE TISUCE I DVADESETE)	Croatia	5	8	1	1	10	4	14
		<b>74</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>189</b>

## Indirect Participants

### Indirect Participants

Number of indirect participants **165**

## Other Information

### Activities of the project

Project start date **08/10/2018**

Project end date **29/09/2022**

### Venues of the activities

#### Venue of the activities

Country	City
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Belgium	Heist-op-den-Berg
Poland	Niepolomice
Italy	Vicenza
Croatia	Rijeka
Malta	Valletta

### Information template

Direct link to the webpage of the municipality where the duly filled out information template is located/published.  
Reminder: acceptance of the Final Report is conditioned upon the publication of the information template with project-related information.

[www.heist-op-den-berg.be](http://www.heist-op-den-berg.be)

[www.comune.vicenza.it](http://www.comune.vicenza.it)

<https://education.gov.mt/en/Pag/educ.aspx>

<http://www.kneja.acstre.com/>

[www.niepolomice.eu](http://www.niepolomice.eu)

[www.lalfaq.es](http://www.lalfaq.es)

[www.pula.hr](http://www.pula.hr)

[www.primariaarad.ro](http://www.primariaarad.ro)

[www.rijeka2020.eu](http://www.rijeka2020.eu)

[www.umb.sk](http://www.umb.sk)

[www.pforzheim.de](http://www.pforzheim.de)

[www.ra-ko](http://www.ra-ko)

### Citizens' understanding of the EU

To which extent have the project's activities increased citizens' understanding of the EU?

#### Please give an example

A "good" understanding by the citizens of the EU, especially during the period of the mobilities, meetings, activities. Thanks to communication in the local press and visits to local activities.

### Short description check

I hereby confirm that the information provided under the "Short description of the project's results" is written 'S' in EN, DE or FR and clearly indicates the main results/achievements of the project, topics covered, countries involved; number of direct/indirect participants.

I am aware that this information can be used for publication purposes.

### Duty to keep documents/obligation to provide information check

I hereby confirm that I'm aware about contractual obligations set out in the Articles n° 27.2 and n° 27.3 of General Conditions to keep all original documents, especially accounting and tax records, stored on any appropriate medium, including digitalised originals when they are authorised by its national law and under VI the conditions laid down therein, for a period of 5 years starting from the date of payment of the balance.

Therefore, the evidences of the project implementation (e.g. participants lists and/or photos and/or catering & travelling invoices and/or boarding passes and/or any other proves) have been kept and will be provided upon request in the context of checks, audits, evaluations and on-the-spot visits.

# Financial Sheet

## Final Grant Requested

Item	Contractual	Declared
<b>Executive Agency - EACEA</b>	80 640,00	80 640,00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>80 640,00</b>	<b>80 640,00</b>

## Attachments

Type of File	Name of the File
Declaration on Honour	Easy Towns Change legal representative.pdf
Financial Final Report - Grant calculation sheet	totaaloverzicht kosten organisatie slotconferentie.xlsx
Project's pictures (if you could summarize the project in 3 pictures what those would be?). Please note that these pictures might be used for publication purposes - picture 1	_MG_0655.JPG
picture 2	20180911094656.pdf
picture 3	LOGO_Facebook.png