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European Decades (EdUcade project)

Remembrance Report

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Sub-programme: Strand 1: European Remembrance (REMEM)

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Introduction

This report is an attempt to summarize all the events and activities that implemented in the frame of the “EdUcade” project and to highlight some citizens’ conclusions and recommendations emerged through these events. As a result of the debates during the EdUcade international events, these conclusions and recommendations could be forwarded to the European institutions and especially to the representatives of the Europe for Citizens Programme in each partner country.

Project description & objectives

The “European Decades” project (**EdUcade**) gathers citizens from different horizons and backgrounds in debates directly linked to the European historical events, with a view to raise their awareness of remembrance, common history and the aim of the EU to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its people.

Young people, CSOs, public authorities and a big number of disadvantaged citizens (unemployed, migrants, ethnic minorities, etc.) from 5 Member States and 1 EU candidate country reflect together at local and European levels on major historical turning points in the European history from the last century.

The project aims at:

- encouraging the development of long-lasting networking between organisations active in the field of societal engagement and volunteering at Union level,
- promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination principle and intercultural dialogue,
- fostering European citizenship and encouraging tolerance, mutual understanding and democratic participation of citizens at EU level,
- contributing to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity.



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EdUcade Partnership

Partner No	Role	Organisation Name	City	Country
P1	Applicant Organisation	FUNDACION ALTIUS FRANCISCO DE VITORIA 	MADRID	SPAIN
P2	Associated Partner	POLSKA FUNDACJA IM. ROBERTA SCHUMANA 	WARSZAWA	POLAND
P3	Associated Partner	HELSINKI COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SERBIA 	BELGRADE	SERBIA
P4	Associated Partner	BERLIN-BRANDENBURGISCHE AUSLANDSGESELLSCHAFT EV 	POTSDAM	GERMANY
P5	Associated Partner	MUNICIPALITY OF SERRES 	SERRES	GREECE
P6	Associated Partner	EUROPEAN INFORMATION CENTRE 	VELIKO TARNOVO	BULGARIA



EdUcade Activities

The EdUcade activities are summarized below:

- creation of EdUcade website to share knowledge and experience from the project with the general public,
- establishment of EdUcade Facebook page to provide free access to project events and invite citizens to take part in the project debates,
- delivery of EdUcade Remembrance Report to the local and regional public authorities, and to the EU institutions,
- organising of EdUcade public exhibition in Potsdam, Germany, focusing on the project historical events,
- EdUcade evaluation to reflect the participants' satisfaction with the implemented activities.

Target Groups

- young people under the age of 30 - university students, NEETS, volunteers from formal (students, teachers) & non-formal (clubs, interest groups) education structures,
- volunteers registered in the European Solidarity Corps,
- disadvantaged citizens as people with fewer opportunities, vulnerable groups, migrants, unemployed,
- CSOs, youth associations, local and regional public authorities, European institutions and policy makers.



EdUcade Events

1. International Workshop: *“The 1917 social and political revolutions and the fall of empires – one century later”*

Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. November 16th, 2017



Bulgaria hosted the first event under the Educate project that took place in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria on November 16th, 2017. The event was dedicated to the fall of the empires and the historic events that took place after the WWI. The title of the international workshop was “Fall of empires and 1917 social and political revolutions”.

The event consisted of two integral parts. The first one was dedicated to the social and political revolutions at the beginning of 20th century, their reasons and circumstances and their manifestations in real societal, political and public lives. The representatives of six countries and communities shared the impact of the WWI and the fall of the world empires in their countries. Each country representatives had shared a PPP on the influence of October revolution and WW1 on the respected country political development, the preconditions and consequences. Special accent was to be found and presented the impact of the October revolution/WW1 in the country art development, movie/literature and on monuments. The first part of the international workshop took place in a special hall. The building now is the home of district governance but before the start up of the democratic transitions in Bulgaria, it was a home of the Oblast Committee of the Communist Party. Young people



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had the possibility to have a tour around and to get acquainted with the typical Soviet style of architecture that were typical for the administrative buildings from that period.

The second part of the international seminar was organized as a History hunt rally. The young people were divided into three international groups and had visits to find and discuss the examples of Veliko Tarnovo selected examples and pieces of art/painting, literature and monument, influenced by the WWI and the October revolution. One of the groups visited the Literature house, where the movie "The peach thief" was pictured presenting the love story between a Serbian imprisoned soldier and the wife of the head of the Bulgarian military prison. The group had the chance to follow the story on video. The second group visited the city gallery and found there examples of the influence of WWI in paintings. The third group had heard the story of the opening of the Monument Mother Bulgaria in the city centre.

After the impressive history hunt, the students gathered back in the hall and had a world coffee workshop, presenting the influence of the world revolutions in art/painting/sculpture, in monuments and in literature and movies. The participants had a detailed presentation of comparative examples of these three impact researches.

Each one was happy to get certificate and also to have so much lovely memories.

Conclusions and recommendations on the discussed topics by the participants

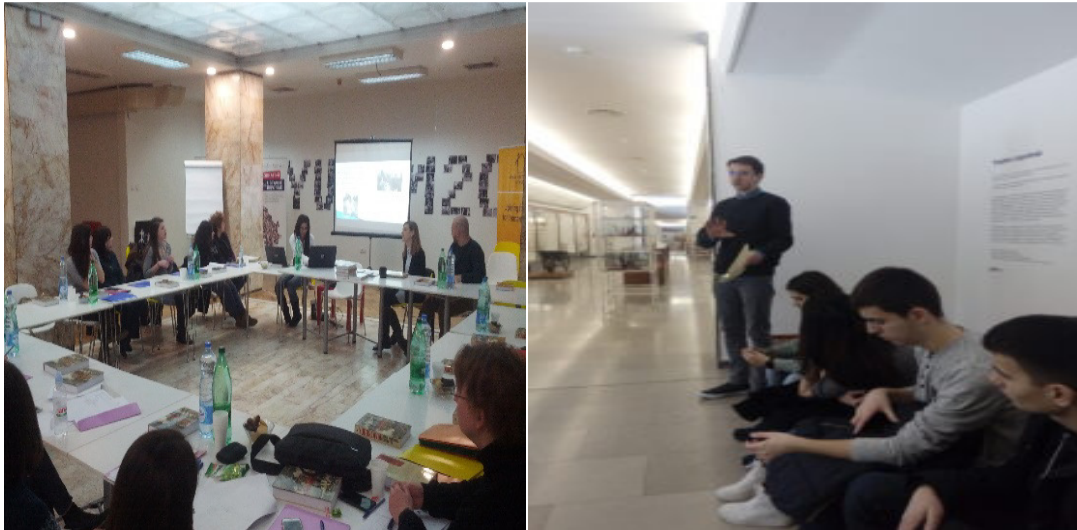
Main conclusions and recommendations from the event in Veliko Tarnovo are the following:

- ✚ European Community (EC) is the most stable and peace-keeping organization on the European continent,
- ✚ European Community (EC) guarantees and protects the peace, security and freedoms on the continent,
- ✚ European Community (EC) should encourage the knowledge of EU history in order the young generations to know the most important achievement of the European leaders.



2. Public Forum Debate: *“The beginning of the Second World War 1938/1939 – 8 decades later”*

Belgrade, Serbia. February 26th -28th, 2018



On February 26th-28th, 2018 participants of all project partners met in Belgrade to discuss difficult topic of the Second World War and its results for project partner countries.

After welcoming the participants, presenting the project and the agenda of the meeting, historian Srdjan Milošević delivered a short lecture about history of whole Yugoslavia in discussed period. This lecture opened the topic about the situations in partner countries and societies during the beginning of the Second World War and its results, each partner country delivered their input. Topics as collaboration regimes, propaganda machinery, destruction of the countries, Holocaust were raised. Participants concluded that the fear, instability and misinformation were common characteristics of their countries during the Second World War.

Group from Poland explained the aftermaths of the beginning of Second World War, destruction of the country and extinction of Jews population in Poland followed by strong collaborationist government support.



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Spanish group explained the role of Falanga and confronted sides in Spanish Civil War, connections of the Franco regime with Nazi ideology and rising of the authoritarian regime in post-war Spain.

Participants from Germany explained the public pool and opinion in German society during the WW2, massive misinformation and widespread state propaganda in the all aspects of public life.

Participants had the chance to visit two places connected with the topic – the Museum of Yugoslavia (“House of Tito/Flowers”) and ex-concentration camp “Staro sajmište”.

Conclusions and recommendations on the discussed topics by the participants

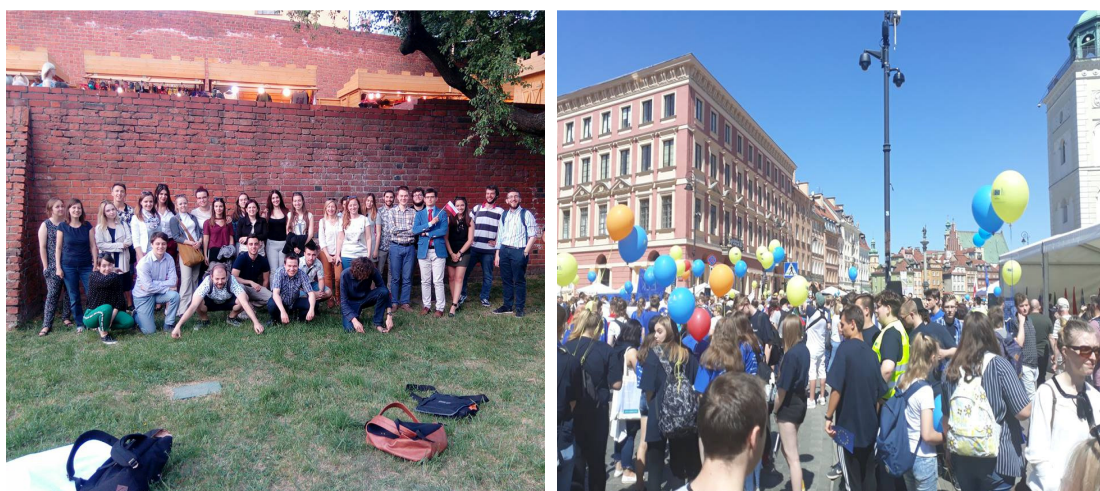
Main conclusions and recommendations from the event in Belgrade are the following:

- ✚ The fear, instability and misinformation were dominant characteristics of their countries during the Second World War,
- ✚ Citizens must have confidence that the EU is the right organization in which to place trust for the future, especially its institutions and deciding bodies,
- ✚ Only by learning history we can avoid mistakes that were already made and predict what will happen in the future,
- ✚ Each country has its own narrative of history, with focus on different events and perception of the history of others, even contradictory on the regular basis. Those differences are the most visible in the formal education, public spaces, mainstream culture, conflicts and wars. Only mutual acceptance of different “histories” guarantee peaceful co-existence in the multicultural and diversified environment, what also creates a space for discussion and debate,
- ✚ The exchange of cultural and historical knowledge between citizens should be further supported by the EU,
- ✚ History and the Second World War had showed us that there is no alternative for unified Europe and its citizens.



3. International seminar + Street event: “1968 Protest and civil rights movements”

Warsaw, Poland. May 10th-13th, 2018



On May 10th-13th, 2018 in Warsaw we discussed the events of 1968 in Europe with participants from six partner organizations from different countries – Fundación Altius Francisco de Vitoria from Spain, European Information Centre from Veliko Tarnovo in Bulgaria, Berlin-Brandenburgische Auslandsgesellschaft (BBAG) from Germany, the Municipality of Serres in Greece, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights from Serbia and the the hosts from the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation and members of the local project partner in Poland – the Polish Forum of Young Diplomats.

The meeting was held with the support of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The meeting was aimed to enable young people discussion about events of the recent history of Europe and exchange views, to become aware of the differences in perception of the same events. The meeting was also an attempt to look for analogies between the history and present situation.

Three intense days were full of various activities – from workshops, through activities in the urban space to the analysis of museum and photographic exhibitions.



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Workshop on May 11th, 2018 was the main place for exchanging knowledge between the participants about the events of 1968 in their countries and comparing similarities and differences of those events. At first participants in national groups created spatial installations which presented the socio-political situation in their countries in 1968. The ideas were very various – from the first page of the Bulgarian newspaper to the figure of Josip Broza Tita in the Serbian group. To create the installations, the researches carried out by all participants before the meeting and materials collected were used. Then, in international groups, the participants guided each other around the installations, telling each other about their symbolism and historical events.

As the meeting took place in Warsaw, there had to be an educational tour in the footsteps of the events of March 68 '. We visited Church of St. Cross, main campus of the University of Warsaw, exhibition "Personal baggage. After March" at the municipality of Warsaw, we passed the Presidential Palace, Adam Mickiewicz monument, the National Theater and the Old Town walls. During the walk the participants had to perform many tasks, such as interpreting photographs presented at the exhibition or recite „ Forefathers' Eve" – play written by Adam Mickiewicz which was taken off the theatre in 1968 and what caused protests in Poland.

The participants also got to know Polish experiences thanks to the visit to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the exhibition "Estranged: March '68 and its aftermath". Each participant was given a list of questions to be answered during the exhibition and which were discussed after leaving the museum.

On Saturday May 12th, 2018, participants got to know Krakowskie Przedmieście – street where the protests in March 1968 were concentrated – from a completely different perspective. The street became a heart of the pro-European manifestation on the occasion of the Europe Day. We took part in the Schuman Parade, to which we prepared earlier banners together.



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Conclusions and recommendations on the discussed topics by the participants

Main conclusions and recommendations from the event in Warsaw are the following:

- ✚ Learning history is really important because while knowing it we can avoid mistakes that were already made, learn how social processes develop, predict what will happen in the future,
- ✚ In each country history is taught in a different way, with highlighting different events, introducing different persons - every country/region has “their own history” and imaginations of the history of others, and those imaginations can be different, also contradictory. It is easy to notice those differences in public debates, conflicts and wars. To be able to live together we need to learn other “histories”, be open for discussion with other and for the fact, that their point of view might be different than ours. It is great the EU provides us the possibility to meet in an international group and discuss our history,
- ✚ Social protests are a strong message from the citizens and can have a great influence on the politics and international corporations. It is good to express our opinions and it is great that the EU is guarding freedom of speech and freedom of gathering as it is crucial for democracy. The EU should strongly guard these values.



4. Round Table Open Debate “1957, The Treaty of Rome and the beginning of European Economic Community”

Serres, Greece. September 10th-12th, 2018



The Municipality of Serres organized the Round Table Open Debate on the topic “1957 The Treaty of Rome and the beginning of European Economic Community – 60 years later” on 10-12 September, 2018 at the Prefecture of Serres Building with participation from six partner organizations from different countries, as Spain, Germany, Serbia, Bulgaria, Poland and Greece. It is mentioned that the meeting was organized with the active support of E.M.E.I.S. Association (Study and Research of Serres History Association) and the Local Youth Group of Serres.

The event concerned the beginning of the EU integration process. Presentations about the Treaty of Rome, round-table discussions focusing on the atmosphere of this decade were organized. All participants had the opportunity to share their experience with this major historical occurrence, see how the history reflects itself in the present and how history likes to repeat itself.

On the first day of the meeting, after the Mayor’s welcome speech (Mr. Petros Aggelidis), greetings from municipal councillors and representative from E.M.E.I.S. Association, as well as the presentation of the project by the coordinator in Serres, each partner country presented its organization.

On the 2nd day of the meeting, each working group made a short presentation on the main topic from the perspective of the partner’s



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country with research on: political, social, economic situation in partner's country in 1957, the effect of the signing of the Treaty of Rome on society/social groups, political parties, etc., the media coverage of the Treaty of Rome signing impact, rights, obligations and opportunities promoted through the institution of the European Union.

A debate and integration activities on the relevant topic followed with the participation of all partners' representatives. Furthermore, a presentation of the Europe for Citizens Programme was made by Dr. Antonios Karvounis, representative from the Hellenic Ministry of Interior/National Contact Point of the Europe for Citizens Programme on the topic "The Greek participation in the Europe for Citizens Programme".

During this meeting, the participants had the opportunity to get to know part of Serres by visiting the Saint John Prodromos Holy Monastery, Acropolis (Koulas) – Byzantine Castle, Bezesteni Archaeological Museum of Serres, Serres Racing Circuit, Sarakatsani Folklore Museum and tasting traditional flavors.

The meeting was concluded with the discussion on the next project activities and the evaluation of the meeting.

Conclusions and recommendations on the discussed topics by the participants

Main conclusions and recommendations from the event in Serres are the following:

- ✚ The European Union promotes democracy, social justice, peaceful coexistence between its countries and for this reason it should remain in its fundamental principle: a Europe that focuses on people,
- ✚ As citizens of the European Union, we have to understand that more things unite us than divide us,
- ✚ Euroscepticism (also known as EU-scepticism) is constantly expressed in every country by extremists. Nowadays, the youth enjoys acquisitions that have been fought for in the European Union. There is an urgent need for tackling the phenomenon of



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Euroscepticism and keeping young people informed about the functioning of EU institutions can contribute to this,

- ✚ It is imperative that young people get acquainted with European history in order to realize that most war conflicts are due to prejudices,
- ✚ As citizens of Serres, studying local history and therefore European history (with the support of E.M.E.I.S. Association/Study and Research of Serres History Association), we learn to think and active global, to respect cultural diversity and be more open-minded in differences.



5. International workshop and public exhibition “1989 Democratic Revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin Wall”

Potsdam, Germany. December 3rd-5th, 2018



From 3rd to 5th of December 2018, the international workshop with the topic „The 1989 Democratic Revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the Fall of the Berlin Wall“ took place in Potsdam, Germany, which involved about twenty participants from Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Serbia, Spain and about fifty youngsters from Germany. The participants exchanged about the different perspectives of their countries in the late 1980s and experienced various activities linked to the topic.

On the first day, participants got to know each other, learned more about the BBAG e.V. and dealt concretely with the historical topic by creating poster for an exhibition with some material prepared and printed out in advance.

The second day was dedicated to specific historical events in Germany and the countries of the participants. Therefore, youngsters from a vocational training school in Potsdam presented pictures from the late 1980s and their meaning they had been done the research for.

With the help of a so-called Actionbound (an application for smartphones for interactive scavenger hunt), participants were split up in smaller, international mixed groups to discover together places connected to the 1989 events in Potsdam (for instance the Glienicke Bridge or an old piece of the Berlin Wall at the former border to Berlin). The impressions were shared with the others and discussed.



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The project „EdUcade“ as a whole as well as the results of the exhibition from the first evening were presented and explained to all participants. Afterwards, some free time allowed the participants to discover Potsdam by themselves.

The third day was dedicated to the evaluation of the meeting and to discuss further steps. Afterwards, the group visited the „Palace of tears“ in Berlin. This building is a colloquialism for the former border crossing at Berlin Friedrichstraße station, where East Germans said goodbye to visitors going back to West Germany. From 1962 to 1989 it was the border crossing for travelers by S-Bahn, U-Bahn and train between East and West Germany. After the guided tour through the exhibition in the „Palace of tears“, the participants experienced typical German food.

The meeting was held with the support of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation.

Conclusions and recommendations on the discussed topics by the participants

Main conclusions and recommendations from the event in Potsdam are the following:

- ✚ The advantages of the European Union should be more „promoted“ at a local, national and European level,
- ✚ The exchange of knowledge of cultural and historical knowledge between citizens should be more supported by the EU,
- ✚ The European Union with its history and with its values and way of life is a global model for change and democratic evolution and should be better reevaluated,
- ✚ War within the EU is undesirable; Eastern and Western Europe are united. Our common European home safeguards peace. We should be extremely thankful and fight for common values and rights,
- ✚ Continuation and extension to promote universal values, seeking more effective ways to advance democracy, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.



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6. International Conference “2004, 15 years of EU enlargement into Central and Eastern Europe”

Madrid, Spain. March 6th-8th, 2019



Between 6th and 8th March 2019 the EdUcade project partners gathered in Madrid, Spain for the closing project event. According to the scheduled activities, a big International Conference was celebrated on Thursday, 7th March, commemorating the 2000 decade, and especially the 15 years of the biggest EU enlargement into Central and Eastern Europe in 2004.

Representatives of the EdUcade partners from Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Poland and Serbia assisted to the conference, accompanied by secondary school students from the Salesianos Estrecho School – Madrid and local CSOs and stakeholders.

The event was opened by the representative of the European Citizenship Point in Spain at the Ministry of Culture and Sport, Mr. Augusto Paramio, the Director of the Salesianos Estrecho school, Mr. Óscar Vázquez and the Director of Altius Francisco de Vitoria Foundation, Mr. Pablo Aledo, as a project coordinator.

Short presentation of the EdUcade project, its main objectives, target groups and activities followed, enriched with video presentations of the project events celebrated in the partner countries:

Bulgaria: The 1917 social and political revolutions and the fall of empires

Serbia: Beginning of WWII 1938/1939

Poland: 1968 Protest and civil rights movements



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Greece: 1957 The Treaty of Rome and the beginning of European Economic Community

Germany: 1989 Democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin wall

Students from the Salesianos Estrecho School made an introduction and artistic debates on the challenges for the EU countries since the 2004 enlargement.

All together – project partners and students from the Salesianos Estrecho School shared their opinions and feelings on how the EU transformed their countries – Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Poland and Spain. Some elderly participants in the Conference had the word on this topic, as eyewitnesses of the historical moments of acquisition and changes lived in their countries.

Then the main contributions to the European Union, according to the year of accession of the country were presented by the secondary school students and discussed among all conference participants.

Germany–1957

Greece–1981

Spain–1986

Poland–2004

Bulgaria– 2007

The programme was complemented with artistic performances from participating countries. Everyone was invited to the stage to learn together typical folk dances from the partner countries and get to know each other's cultures better. The Conference was closed with the Spanish performance of famous songs and dances, prepared by the students from the Salesianos Estrecho school.

A tourist visit to Madrid followed in the afternoon. All participants were provided with free tickets for the City Tour Madrid Bus to learn more about the Spanish capital and enjoy their stay in Madrid.

The event finished with a colourful night party, especially organised for the international participants and the host partner.



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Conclusions and recommendations on the discussed topics by the participants

Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 countries to 28. Over the past 60 years, widening EU membership has promoted economic growth and strengthened democratic forces in countries emerging from dictatorship.

Was a positive or negative experience to join the EU?

Main conclusions and recommendations from the event in Madrid are the following:

- + Boost the image of EU as a key conjunction of similar cultures and values that will carry a civic and cultural, and not only political and economic union,
- + The common values have to be submitted by every society that wants to join the EU, independent from its traditions, history and religion,
- + The EU identity, the spirit of feeling European should reach all citizens, and especially the people with fewer opportunities – those living in rural areas, with migrant or ethnic minority origin, refugees and asylum seekers, elderly people, those with economic obstacles, educational difficulties or cultural differences,
- + The EU should create the same working conditions and rules for all EU citizens; it should include the principle of equal pay for equal work between men and women as well as workers from other EU Member States,
- + Citizens must have confidence that the EU is the right organization in which to place trust for the future, for which information and communication should be improved at local level,
- + In important debates at European level, evidence is required that the citizens are involved with a meaningful consultation that facilitates the taking of decisions that affect their lives,
- + Improve the transparency of the European Union and make citizens part of the creation and design of strategies, programmes and activities related to the EU daily life.