

# Transeuropa Caravans: The roads to European democracy

## Good practices collection



In the year of the 2019 European Parliament elections, a group of young activists of Transeuropa Caravans travelled throughout 15 European countries on board five caravan cars, reaching out in Initiatives of struggle and resistance. They travelled to meet European citizens directly, connect their stories and their struggles, and mobilize together to promote electoral rights and participation of EU mobile citizens throughout Europe.

In the course of 2019, Transeuropa Caravans reached over 80 locations in 38 cities! At each of the stops the Caravan teams engaged with the local people and mobile EU citizens on the theme of European rights and free movement with a number of engaging techniques to attract their attention.

In this summary we will be highlighting 26 good practices - local or regional initiatives that the Transeuropa Caravans identified and met in person across Europe in spring and autumn 2019. We believe that these stories and initiatives can inspire policy makers and active citizens in other EU countries - particularly with regard to freedom of movement, migration across Europe and voting rights.

If you wish to learn about more initiatives taken up by Transeuropa Caravans in 2019, visit our website: <https://transeuropacaravans.eu>.



This publication is funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020). The content of this publication represents only the views of the author and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

## Transeuropa Caravans 2019 routes

The core of the project consisted of a group of activists and trainers travelling through all fifteen European countries on five different routes. Each route had their specific focus, on top of the topic of EU mobile citizens' rights:

<b>Visegrad</b>	Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia <b><i>Culture and Theatre</i></b> <a href="https://transeuropacaravans.eu/visegrad-route/">https://transeuropacaravans.eu/visegrad-route/</a>
<b>Baltic</b>	Sweden, Finland and Estonia <b><i>Sustainability and Climate Change</i></b> <a href="https://transeuropacaravans.eu/baltic-route/">https://transeuropacaravans.eu/baltic-route/</a>
<b>Western</b>	France, Spain, Portugal <b><i>Cities of Solidarity</i></b> <a href="https://transeuropacaravans.eu/western-route/">https://transeuropacaravans.eu/western-route/</a>
<b>Central Eastern</b>	Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia <b><i>Civic spaces under pressure</i></b> <a href="https://transeuropacaravans.eu/central-eastern-route/">https://transeuropacaravans.eu/central-eastern-route/</a>
<b>Mediterranean</b>	Italy, Slovenia, Croatia <b><i>Migration and borders</i></b> <a href="https://transeuropacaravans.eu/mediterranean-route/">https://transeuropacaravans.eu/mediterranean-route/</a>

Each good practice showcased below has been described directly by Transeuropa Caravans' trainers and activists who met all these local activists, public bodies and organisations in person. This is why the good practices have been presented through personal experiences and observations made by the Caravans' members, and through interviews of mobile citizens, activists and politicians.

You will also read what type of activities the Transeuropa Caravans used in order to engage with locally run initiatives and build synergies with the local hosts. At times, the synergies between local hosts and the Caravans were so interesting that these activities became new good practices of actions supporting EU mobile citizens' rights.

# Good practices from: Visegrad Caravan

## Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia

Special focus: Culture and Theatre

Team members describing good practices: Alicja Borkowska, Łukasz Wójcicki, Justyna Chmielewska, Magdalena Roszkowska, Igor Stokfiszewski

### 1

Initiative	POLAND, Wałbrzych <b>Polish Orthodox Church</b>
Contact	Polish Orthodox Church, Adama Mickiewicza str. 31, Wałbrzych
Description	We met a community of the Polish Orthodox Church in Wałbrzych which consists of people mainly of Polish and Ukrainian origin. As there are no NGO's or organized by the municipality support for work migrants - the church community is the one that collects money for the language courses and creates a network of people willing and being able to help newcomers in Poland to organize their stay in Wałbrzych, get to know the juridical procedures, people, and the city.
Activity with TEC	Discussion table: How to organize grassroots support for migrant workers?
Activity format	During the event we met an orthodox priest, a journalist and Ukrainian workers living in Wałbrzych. The discussion concerned the conditions in which they work and issues connected with their organization of stay, documents, permits. We talked about how difficult it is for the Ukrainians in the EU to do actually a work which they were studying for in their country. In the same way we were discussing the EU citizens' rights regarding employment comparing them to those of the bordering countries.

Who did you target with your activity?	The participants of the meeting were Ukrainian migrants living in Wałbrzych.
Outcome of the action	<p>The Initiative that we visited is a kind of shelter and socially important centre for all those coming from Ukraine without knowing the Polish language, law and regulations. The good atmosphere of a church and the community spirit is a chance to network with other migrant workers and people that see their future in Poland. Thanks to the church meetings the network is created.</p> <p>As there are no NGO's or support for migrants organised by the municipality, the church community is the one that collects money for language courses and creates a network of people willing and able to help newcomers organise their stay and become familiar with legal processes.</p>
	We can consider it a best practice of a bottom up organization of citizens that without the governmental and municipal support are able to help migrants coming to work in Poland. The activity promotes tolerance and understanding for the Ukrainian community as well as does an actual integrational work with the newcomers. The group, leaded by a priest is planning to establish an NGO so they can act in more formalised way for a change of the situation of Ukrainians in the entire region of southern Poland.

<p>Describe the good practice with your own story</p>	<p>Sveta worked as a journalist in Poltava, a city in central-eastern Ukraine. Since the war started, she constantly heard combat aircrafts taking off and landing in the airbase located near the city. Battles were taking Initiative far away, but still she couldn't overcome the fear that someday she and her two sons would wake up in a war zone. Her husband found a Polish job agency specialized in sending Ukrainians to work in Polish factories. They decided that first he would go abroad alone. After three months, Sveta with their sons joined him.</p> <p>"We didn't know whether they would send us north or south, it didn't really matter. I just wanted to wake up without hearing the noise of combat aircrafts." says Sveta.</p> <p>They ended up in Piaskowa Góra, a huge housing estate in Wałbrzych, where many Ukrainian workers live. The job agency outsourced them to Cersanit, a Polish factory producing ceramic sheets. Her husband works in the warehouse where he prepares the ceramic sheets to be sent away. Sveta works in the main hall, at the producing line, she puts lacquer on polished ceramics. If she makes a mistake, the ceramic sheet becomes useless. In order to earn the minimum wage (10 złoty per hour) the quality rate of her work has to reach 90%. If she works less efficiently, the factory's manager reduces her monthly salary. She could earn more if she was hired directly by the factory, as the job agency takes 1/3 of her wage. The working system in the factory is divided in two twelve hours shifts. The first one starts at 6 AM, the second at 6 PM. The factory stoves operate non-stop. Sveta and her husband see each other mostly on Sundays as they have to take different shifts in order to take care of their children."Life is hard. I am not working in my profession. But still it is better than it used to be. All I wanted is a better life for my sons. The older one goes to a Polish primary school and he has adapted really easily. The other one is in a nursery school," says Sveta.</p> <p>Although she has been in Poland for eight months, she is still waiting to obtain her temporary residence permit which would entitle her to travel. For Ukrainians in Poland, waiting for documents is one of the major problems. Some of Sveta's friends have already waited almost two years to get them. The second problem is loneliness. "For a couple of months, I met Ukrainians only at work. A few days before Easter, my friend asked me if I was going to the church service. I was shocked that in Wałbrzych there was an Orthodox church. How come I didn't know about it for all those months?" – Sveta looks surprised as we sit with other members of the Ukrainian community gathered around Mariusz Kiślak, a Polish Orthodox priest.</p> <p>"Sadly the majority of Ukrainians in Wałbrzych do not know about the church, and the sense of being part of a community that shares similar problems is extremely important when you are an immigrant." Sveta adds.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Lately Olga and Sasha have become grandparents. Their grandson was born in Ukraine as his parents still live there. Two years ago Olga and</p>
---	--

	<p>Sasha, who were living in a small town in Crimea, decided to go abroad. They wanted to make some savings for the future. Sasha's brother was working in Wałbrzych as a bus driver, they joined him as the public transport service was seeking for more drivers. Olga, who worked as vet in Ukraine, had to find another job because her qualifications weren't valid in Poland.</p> <p>"I worked as a cleaner in several drugstores. They fired me today. Do you want to know why?" she asks as we listen to her and her husband's story during the meeting in the local authorities' office, where Ukrainian migrants attend a Polish language course. "They fired me due to the conflict that I had with a pharmacist in the drugstore – Olga continues. – She had been very nasty towards me for several months. For a very long time, I didn't know why, I became a target of her malicious remarks. Until the day when she shouted at me: 'My grandfather was murdered during the II World War by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army!' How can I take responsibility for the history I wasn't even part of? I submitted an official complaint to the head of the drugstore arguing that she doesn't have the right to mob me because of her family's history. Instead of solving the conflict, they fired me," Olga complains.</p> <p>Unfortunately, her case is not unique as many Wałbrzych citizens are descendants of the people who after the II World War were resettled here from the Eastern borderlands which then became part of the USSR. The historical context of turbulent Polish-Ukrainian relations is still vital here. Unlike Olga, Sasha is satisfied with his job as a bus driver. He works eight hours a day, six days a week. During his leisure time he plays guitar and sings Ukrainian songs with his friends from the Polish language course. Olga dreams about opening her own Ukrainian restaurant. "I hope someday it will happen, yet I don't know whether in Wałbrzych or somewhere else," she adds.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"Sadly the majority of Ukrainians in Wałbrzych do not know about the church, and the sense of being part of a community that shares similar problems is extremely important when you are an immigrant."</p> <p>Sveta</p>

Read more about life of newcomers in Wałbrzych:

<https://transeuropacaravans.eu/walbrzych-new-life-in-a-postindustrial-city/>

## 2

Initiative	CZECH REPUBLIC <b>Perlex, Centre of Mlada Boleslav</b>
Contact	FB group „Polish in Mlada Boleslav“
Description	Before the trip we made a research on the cities in Czech Republic with the biggest amount of foreign workers. Between them we found Mlada Boleslav, called a Skoda city, because the majority of the Mlada habitants are employees of Skoda Factory or of other factories operating nearby and manufacturing car elements used in the Skoda factory. During the research we found out that there are many Polish people among the foreign workers of the factory there are many Polish people. We contacted them by FB group for Polish inhabitants of Mlada Boleslav and arranged a meeting with some members of the group as well as individual interviews.
Activity made with TEC	Discussion and workshop: Voices of migrant workers in Mlada Boleslav
Activity format	Interviews, open discussions with Polish workers of Skoda factory
	The participants of the meeting were Polish workers of Skoda factory. Many of them, before working in Czech Republic worked in other EU countries, so during our discussion we could compare the working conditions between Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Austria. We discussed how the EU citizenship make it easier to fix all the documents and permits and how the work conditions are better for the EU citizens.
Who did you target with your activity?	Polish workers of Skoda factory and factories near Mlada Boleslav.



Outcome of the action	<p>Thanks to the meeting we got a lot of precious information for our research about the migrant workers in EU. We could compare, together with the participants of the meeting the working conditions of foreigners and Czech citizens as well as of EU and non-EU citizens. We learned a lot about the whole system of employment which is organized mainly by the agencies that connect the big companies and foreign workers. We discover the accommodation conditions of the workers, the relations between different nationalities of the workers as well as we could discuss the importance of the trade unions in Czech Republic and in big companies which operate there.</p> <p>During our stay in Mlada Boleslav we visited also an NGO and an office helping newcomers in Czech Republic with permits, language courses, juridical problems. As the workers that we met had no idea about the existence of such a non-governmental and official help we connected them with the migrant workers, so in the future they can get some help.</p>
	<p>During our discussion with the workers and during the individual interviews we discovered that comparing to other big companies Skoda factory seems really well organized and respectful for the workers' rights. The workers unions are strong and act not only for the benefit of the workers employed directly by the Skoda company but for the benefit of workers employed through the system of work agencies, most of whom are foreigners.</p>

Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>The factory has its own rules. It's never a non-stop job. There's lots of technology involved, so often something stops or brakes. I have 45 seconds to check if the fragment of the material for a car has no defects. – Krzysztof during last years learnt how to do his work properly. Now he's on time not only with checking what he needs to but he even has time to read the info written on a small screen above his work initiative, indicating where the car on which he is working will end up. He can learn to which country and city it shall go and what's the name of a client.</p> <p>Krzysztof comes from Zgorzelec in southern Poland. He used to work as a miner. He had a wife and two kids. The mine closed and his wife asked for a divorce. So he left as nothing kept him in his country anymore. He worked in Great Britain, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In Switzerland the wages were definitely the best. But in the Czech Republic it's also fine. He works here, in the Škoda factory in Mladá Boleslav together with many other Poles and foreigners. – We often make jokes that the Škoda factory was built first, and the rest of the city was constructed afterwards. This Initiative really lives in the rhythm of the factory. – Krzysztof looks for the defects on the tin ware. If he finds something he cannot fix on his own, he stops the production line. There is a small suggestion from above not to stop the line, but everybody knows that it is really needed if there is a serious flaw. – The human mistake. It's normal. There are some robots in the factory, but our job is for humans. While putting a door to the car, you press the car with your knee too strongly and immediately there is a defect. Especially when you are new to this job.</p> <p>Krzysztof has worked in the factory for two years now. Soon he should pass from being employed by the external work agency to being a "škodoviak", which means that finally he'll be employed directly by the company. Employment by an external agency (in the case of Krzysztof it's the Manpower company) is very common among migrants working in the Czech Republic. – My experiences are good, but I heard about some cases in which the workers were exploited or they signed documents for less hours than they were supposed to do in reality. In our factory it does not happen often as since some years the workers' unions of Škoda are taking care also for the agency workers. Before they cared only about škodoviaks. Now they fight for our rights. – Krzysztof adds. He is also a member of the unions. While signing the contract with the job agency, together with other documents, he received a application sheet to join the unions. – The škodoviaks sometimes don't like agency workers as we can take more extra hours. Actually we have to do them to get paid the contracted sum of money. Then we have a hostel or apartment assured by the agency, so we do not have to pay it anymore. The agency takes a part of our salary to pay these expenses. Then they give us clothes, some cleaning products, maybe stupid things, but these are gestures that means that somebody cares about us. – During the last 7 of working abroad Krzysztof has learnt to appreciate the social conditions, as he says. Since last year he lives together with other five Polish workers in a private apartment and he hopes not to get back to the workers' hostel anymore. The conditions in the hostels provided by the agencies usually are really bad, the sanitary level is low. Then, many times coming back to the hostel he was afraid that his stuff would be stolen. Even if today he describes his working conditions as very good, when we ask about the feeling of safety, he thinks for a while and says:</p> <p>– I don't feel safe. I am aware that they can fire me anytime. In the Czech Republic it's not worth getting sick. For the first three days you're not getting paid at all, then you get 60% of the salary. So even if I am ill, and</p>
--	---

	<p>I have fever, I just put on the warm clothes and I go to work anyway. I do not ride a bicycle after drinking beer, if I would break my leg it could be a big problem. Strange: in Poland I was getting ill. Here I am basically always healthy. In Poland I had plans. Now I do not make them anymore.</p> <p>Krzysztof is one of the workers of the Škoda factory in Mlada Boleslav with whom we talked during our stay in the city.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	„I am not afraid of remaining without job. I will always find something. If not here, in another country. These hands know how to work. Arek, Skoda Factory worker of the Polish origin

Read more about “Life in Skoda’s Factory Town” in [Political Critique](#)

### 3

Initiative	<p>CZECH REPUBLIC, Mlada Boleslav</p> <p><b>Centre pro Integraci</b></p>
Activity made with TEC	Being a foreigner in Mlada Boleslav, part I
Activity format	<p>Interview and discussion.</p> <p>Once again one of the subjects of the meeting/interview were the rights and mobility of the workers from EU and from outside of EU. The Centre pro Integraci organizes series of integration meetings, language lessons, activities and consultations both – for EU and non-EU citizens.</p>
Contact	<p>Centrum pro integraci cizinců, o.p.s</p> <p>Dukelská 1093, 293 01 Mladá Boleslav</p> <p><a href="http://www.cicpraha.org/cs/kontakty/kontakty.html">http://www.cicpraha.org/cs/kontakty/kontakty.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/centrumprointegraciczincu/">https://www.facebook.com/centrumprointegraciczincu/</a></p>
Description	The organization helping newcomers: it organizes language courses, cultural activities and social assistance.
Who did you target with your activity?	The meeting was an interview with Petra Baborovska about her organization’s activities.

Outcome of the action	<p>Thanks to the meeting we could see how the NGO oriented towards providing support to migrants in Mlada Boleslav is operating and what are the ways of dealing with different kind of problems in terms of contacts with foreigners and funding of the activity. The result of the meeting was also a creation of contact between the workers that we met in Mlada Boleslav and the NGO.</p>
	<p>Centrum pro integraci is the only centre of this type operating in Mlada Boleslav. In the small office it organizes language courses, integrational activities that involve both – migrants and local community, it helps them with juridical problems and job issues.</p> <p>As the Municipality propaganda is putting foreigners in a negative light the work that Petra Baborovska does together with her colleagues and volunteers is essential for the wellbeing of the entire city community.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>Petra Baborovska from Centrum Pro Integraci in Mlada Boleslav:</p> <p>- Our company was established in 2003 in Prague, where is the main office. In Mlada Boleslav we have been since 2011. For 7 years our activity was limited to social counselling once a week, which was paid by the municipality. Though in November 2018 we received three year grant from EU, which enabled us to widen our offer. I work as an education coordinator and my colleague helps migrants with problems such as employment, work conditions, housing, social security, insurance, family status. We provide Czech courses for 30 clients and other 30 people are on the waiting list. Each half a year our students get language certificate. We also offer job clubs four times a year, during which we talk about work related issues such as: what should be in contract, how to build your CV etc. In order to integrate Czechs with migrants we organize various activities such as movie screenings.</p> <p>In Mlada Boleslav there is 15 000 foreigners mostly migrant workers, who work manually in local factories such as Skoda. Our initiative is dedicated to all migrants - EU and non-EU citizens, and those who are here illegally. We don't judge them. We are here to help. Many migrants are from Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, China, India, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria. Many of them came through job agencies. Around 30 agencies operate in our region. Not all of them are trustworthy, some exploit their workers.</p> <p>Many of our everyday activities are coordinated by volunteers, for example if a migrant needs individual help with language or other issues we connect them with our volunteers.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"Our Mayor does not present positive and open attitude towards migrants. Unfortunately some of our citizens are influenced by his propaganda. We are trying to change this view by organizing events for migrants and Czech people"</p> <p>Petra</p>



*The activities offer on the wall of Centre pro Integraci*

## 4

Initiative	CZECH REPUBLIC, Mlada Boleslav <b>Centrum pro integraci cizinců</b>
Activity made with TEC	Being a foreigner in Mlada Boleslav, part II
Activity format	Interview and discussion
	The subjects of the meeting/interview were the rights and mobility of the workers from EU and from outside of EU. The Centre, which is organized by the state and supported by the fund for Asylum and Migration of the Third Country citizens, provides help for non-EU citizens, so we could exchange the knowledge about the difference of the workers conditions on two sides of the borders.

Contact	Integracni Centra <a href="http://www.integracnicentra.cz/">http://www.integracnicentra.cz/</a>
Description	Centrum pro integraci organizes a juridical help for the non-EU citizens, asylum seekers and migrants. Support application for documents as: long stay permission, permanent stay permission, long term visa, temporary stay of a family member, EU citizen, or they are in the process of granting visa as a permission to remain in the Czech territory, in the process of granting permission for long term stay, in the process of granting permission for permanent stay, in the process of granting permission for temporary stay of a family member who is EU citizen or persons who have been granted international protection (asylees and persons with subsidiary protection). They offer social counselling, legal counselling, Czech language courses, interpreting services, sociocultural courses, operation of the internet station and library, community workers, education, cultural, and social events.
Who did you target with your activity?	The meeting was an interview with a director of the Mlada Boleslav office of Centrum Pro Integraci. The aim was to compare the organized help for EU and non-EU citizens based in Mlada Boleslav.
Outcome of the action	We got to know what is a help provided to migrants in Czech Republic from the side of the State. We could compare it with the initiatives of NGO's and their offer. After the meeting we visited also a migration police office and migration office to learn about the whole infrastructure for migrants in Czech Republic. We saw that it is always quite essential to have a translator and that the migrant worker will not be able to fix anything without help of a Czech speaking person as the public officers can communicate only in Czech and do not understand nor speak English. That causes the dependence of the workers of the work agencies coordinators who in many cases are helpful and take care about everything but in some cases can give a space for the exploitation of the foreign workers. The state offices through the Centre pro integraci are aiming to inform, help, connect and act for avoiding exploitation of workers by collaborating often with the job agencies.
Describe the good practice with your own story	Even if the way in which the office function could be better, we can consider a best practice a situation in which at the state level the help for migrants is provided and it is not only left for the NGO's.

## 5

Initiative	CZECH REPUBLIC, Mlada Boleslav <b>Skoda Factory</b>
Activity made with TEC	Migrant rights in the factory work
Activity format	Soundscape field recording, sound research
	The big percentage of the Skoda factory workers are foreigners – many from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and other EU countries. The activity took into consideration the mobile EU citizens.
Contact	Skoda factory, Mlada Boleslav <a href="https://www.skoda-auto.com/company/about">https://www.skoda-auto.com/company/about</a>
Description	Skoda factory in Mlada Boleslav started production in 1905. Now it produces 400 a day. It employs workers directly or by the work agencies. For Skoda work Czech citizens as well as many foreigners from EU and non-EU countries.
Who did you target with your activity?	After hearing the stories of the workers we wanted to see what the factory actually look like, what are the working conditions. During the walk we collected sounds and information for the performative installation to be organized at the conclusion of the project in Autumn 2019.
Outcome of the action	We got the chance to see the work Initiative of many workers with whom we talked a previous day. We could also interview the Skoda manager about rules and profits for the factory workers.
	We talked with many workers of Skoda factory and saw the working conditions. The workers were interviewed anonymously and still – they opinions about the work conditions, treatment of the foreigners and benefits for the employees were more than positive. They are satisfied with the payment, the way their work is organized. From the information that we got, and after having the possibility to compare Skoda factory to other big companies factories which we visited on our further way within the Visegrad Route, we can consider Skoda model of employment as a good practice, also because the management take into consideration the trade unions' opinions and the Skoda factory trade unions (Covo pobory) are famous all over Czech Republic as an example of well-organized and effective workers organization.



Quote to remember about this good practice	„The factory doesn't like silence“ Skoda factory PR manager
--	--

*ManufacTurist performance, Transeuropa Festival, Palermo, 8 November 2019*





Initiative	CZECH REPUBLIC, Prague <b>Intercultural Centre of Prague</b>
Activity made with TEC	Organize and mobilize - trade unions and migrants, part 2
Activity format	Open discussion, interview
	As the Multicultural Centre in Prague is working often researching a migrant condition in Czech Republic during the meeting we discussed a lot mobility in range of the European Union as well as the social awareness of the EU rights in the Czech society and between the foreign workers.
Contact	<a href="https://mkc.cz/">https://mkc.cz/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MKCPraha/">https://www.facebook.com/MKCPraha/</a>
Description	The Multicultural Center Prague (MKC Prague) is a non-profit organisation engaged in the pursuit of educational and research activities in the fields of international migration, social inclusion of Roma, and global development. Founded in 1999, they have strived for a Czech society based on respect for human rights, political equality, and intercultural competence and understanding. The work of MKC can be considered a best practice as it's a great example of good research and education practice about migrants conditions of work and life in Czech Republic.
Who did you target with your activity?	The meeting was an interview with: - coordinators of international projects on labour migration and working conditions; - executive director of MKC; - ex-Toyota factory worker, workers' rights journalist.
Outcome of the action	We learnt a lot about newcomers' situation in Czech Republic, especially of those of non-EU origin, as the last research of the centre was focused on the Ukrainian community. We could also discover more about the employers abuses in different factories thanks to the personal testimonies of Adrian who shared his experiences and texts that he wrote on that theme. We discussed as well a fundamental role of the school education and need of the discussions of migrant, workers and human rights with children and teenagers. As we discovered a lot of common interests we would like to collaborate with the MKC in the future.

<p>Describe the good practice with your own story</p>	<p>Justyna Janowska, a member of Intercultural Centre in Prague:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our organization was established in 1999. At the beginning we were concentrating on the inclusion of Roma people, later we broadened our research on topics such as multicultural society, minorities, LGBTQ community and migrant workers. Recently we have started to work with students in primary and secondary school on introducing democratic processes to schools.</li> </ul> <p>Although one of our major interest is work migration. We created a web portal devoted to migration in Central-Eastern Europe (migrationonline.cz). We are also providing workshops about intercultural communication for companies that are hiring migrant workers. I must say that many of well-known companies such as Skoda are interested in improving their relation with foreign workers. Of course it is a way to present themselves as ethical business.</p> <p>As opposed to other organizations, we don't work directly with migrants, but we are conducting researches on work migration. Our publications are presented to legislators and other authorities who have power to change law and improve situation of migrant workers. Our main goal is to make real change and work with Czech society on widening conscience about the reality of migrants in our country.</p> <p>In Prague every fourth worker is a foreigner. In Czech Republic – every tenth. The biggest group are Slovaks, but we have Vietnamese, Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Mongolians, Romanians and Bulgarians. They are working in food-processing plants, car factories, agriculture, construction, healthcare and gastronomy. Vietnamese are running small food stores.</p> <p>Our politics on migration are rather conservative. If you are not from the EU, you can work here due to particular programs dedicated only for certain countries or only for specific jobs. In 2017 foreign police reported 3000 illegal migrants. The biggest case concerning this problem was with Ukrainians working here using Polish visas. It was much easier to get visa to Poland than to Czech Republic, but here migrants can earn more, so the job agencies located in Ukraine and Poland came with the idea that their workers can apply for Polish visa and then they will outsource them directly to Czech companies. These phenomena created huge grey zone in the market, but it ended with no-visa law. Since then many Ukrainians come here as tourists, they work illegally for three months and after that they go back home.</p> <p>What is very interesting is that not only foreigners are hired through job agencies but also Czech citizens. The main explanation for this phenomena is money: on freelance contract you can take as much extra hours as you want. On the other hand you are first to be fired if the company experiences crisis.</p> <p>It is said that job agencies are deteriorating work conditions, but on the other hand they activated brokers and middlemen, who often had relation with mafia and gangs and were exploiting people even more.</p>
---	--

# Good practices from: Baltic Caravan

## Sweden, Finland and Estonia

Special focus: Sustainability and Climate Change

Team members describing good practices: Maria Pia Sternativo, Luca Michele Piscitelli, Paolo Pizzolo, Marie Rosenkranz, Ninnu Erkkilä, Tony Venables, Petar Markovic

### 7

Initiative	SWEDEN, Hässleholm <b>Europaforum Hässleholm</b>
Activity made with TEC	Down to Hässleholm: Europaforum!
Activity format	Discussion and interviews from a stand at the forum next to political parties and local organizations. Participants were asked to express what they think about European Union, freedom of speech and freedom of movement and European elections. Participants got involved with the petition of "Genuine freedom of movement" and with the topic of EU mobile citizens' rights.
Contact	Hässleholms kommun Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/eufhlm/">https://www.facebook.com/eufhlm/</a> <a href="http://www.hassleholm.se">www.hassleholm.se</a> and <a href="http://www.eu-forum.se">www.eu-forum.se</a>
Description	Europaforum Hässleholm started as a half day seminar in 2003 by Lorenz Pucher. Since then the forum has grown and is today Sweden's leading venue for European affairs. Today's main partners:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EP Information Office in Sweden</li> <li>• European Commission's Representation in Sweden</li> <li>• The Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies</li> <li>• The Government Offices of Sweden</li> <li>• Europe Direct Hässleholm</li> <li>• Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions</li> <li>• Folk och Försvar (People and Defense)</li> <li>• Lunds universitet, Centre for European Studies</li> </ul>
Who did you target with your activity?	Panellists, participants and political parties - there were more than 700 participants.
Outcome of the meeting/ action (including any critical reflection)	This Forum promotes an open dialogue between the public and decision-makers, which is the reason why it should be welcomed and imitated by other Member States. Clearly all events are free and open to the public and it was encouraging to see the participation of many young people. We had the chance to actively participate from a stand the organizers have given to us and thanks to one of our team member who speaks Swedish, it was possible to take part at the panel discussions.
	The Europaforum conference is an annual event that takes Initiative in the small town of Hässleholm. The conference sees the participation of ordinary citizens, politicians, experts and scientists to discuss current political affairs from a European perspective. It may be considered an example of best practice since it is an event where leading politicians and ordinary citizens can meet each other and talk together with no power distance. Moreover during our route, we discovered that nowadays Finland has borrowed this format from Sweden and they organise the Europa Forum in Turku event for discussion around the future of Finland and Europe. The event promotes open, science-based dialogue between citizens and policymakers.
<b>Describe the good practice with your own story</b>	<p>Since 2004, Hässleholm, a small town in southern Sweden, hosts an annual conference called Europaforum that sees the participation of ordinary citizens, politicians, experts and scientists to discuss current political affairs from a European perspective. In the run-up to the 2019 European elections, the conference promoted several meetings and panels to discuss about the key debated issues. Our Caravan decided to find out more about it.</p> <p>Once we arrived, we spoke with Freja Hagsund, Project Manager of the Europaforum Hässleholm. She told us that this year's conference was entirely devoted to European elections. The conference, which is divided into several panels, targets the general public, including students, senior citizens and workers, with the aim to connect in a direct and non-hierarchical way politicians to voters. It also tries to fill in the potential gap between EU institutions and the ordinary people, who often perceive the European Union as distant and out of reach.</p> <p>This year, Europaforum offered the opportunity to meet representatives of the main Swedish political parties, who – despite the different party affiliation – engaged in a polite and well-mannered debate. The</p>

	<p>discussion covered a broad spectrum of themes, including environment, defence policy and housing policy.</p> <p>Though yet somewhat little known throughout the rest of the country, Europaforum has become a real institution in the city of Hässleholm. In Sweden, all people that work for EU-related agencies know about the event and use it as an opportunity to meet, share ideas and debate about pressing issues. For instance, people that work for the European Commission office in Stockholm or the European Parliament representation in Sweden view the meeting as a chief occasion to discuss about EU topics.</p> <p>After speaking with the Project Manager, we met two representatives of the Swedish Feminist Initiative, a political movement that together with the other political forces of Sweden runs for the upcoming European elections. The first person we met is Tokta, a social worker who lives in Malmö where she established a shelter for refugees. Tokta is proud of campaigning for the Feminist Initiative, believing that today it represents the only Swedish party which really pays attention to women's needs. However, Tokta expresses her deep concern about the fact that many migrants who have settled in Sweden do not show a deep interest for voting. She said that elections are often perceived as a hopeless and useless tool that will not provide for change. A sense of indifference and fatalism vis-à-vis national and European elections is widespread among young people and migrants. One strategy that Tokta wishes to endorse is to use the native languages of migrants – e.g. Arabic, Romanian, Turkish, Polish, etc. – along with Swedish when promoting political advertisements.</p> <p>The other candidate of the Feminist Initiative we met was Soraya. Soraya told us with pride that she was the only member of the Swedish Feminist Initiative to be represented in the European Parliament. In her opinion, the key worries about the upcoming elections refer to climate change and the general rise of extremism and nationalism.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"Every time you don't vote, somebody else votes against you"</p> <p>Tokta, Social worker based in Malmö</p>

Initiative	<b>SWEDEN, Stockholm</b>  Crossroads
Activity made with TEC	How easy it is to move to Sweden? Crossroad answers!
Activity format	We interviewed some members of the agency to know more about how they work with EU citizens and third-country citizens
	Crossroads is an agency which helps EU citizens who move to Sweden.
Contact	<a href="https://www.stadsmissionen.se/">https://www.stadsmissionen.se/</a>
Description	Crossroads is an advice and support center based in Stockholm which deals with issues related to mobility of both EU and non-EU citizens, in order to help them in moving and working in Sweden. They provide assistance in job search and get information about how Swedish society works. Since they offer different services, they strongly collaborate with other associations or external people, for example doctors who give medical consultations and help.
Who did you target with your activity?	Meeting with officers from Crossroads.
Outcome of the action	Fruitful discussion to have a better understanding of the Swedish system. It was an opportunity to understand the heterogeneous nature of Member States' process to assign a social security number and the reasons behind it. Olivia showed us interesting statistics to see for example the differences of people who move to Sweden in terms of nationality. We have been welcomed very warmly at the agency and after a more formal session, in the second part we have been invited to follow the same tour that people do when they arrive at the agency, from the info desk to the kitchen, bathroom, classrooms and computer rooms. It was good to establish a connexion with people who work there as well as those who arrived to receive support. This is an example of best practice since on one hand it provides for useful tools to help migrants find a job, purchase or rent a house, deal with tax system, write CVs and cover letters and on the other it delivers basic assistance including food and dress supply. The organization is well structured and funded; currently, the working organic includes 16 volunteers and eight employees.
Describe the good practice with	Olivia, an EU advisor for the information desk, hosted us in the headquarters of Crossroads, an agency that strives for helping migrants to integrate in the Swedish society. Specifically, Olivia deals with the

<p>your own story</p>	<p>collection of statistic data, reporting the results of the agency's activity throughout the years.</p> <p>Crossroads began its activity in 2011. Since then, it has facilitated the efforts of people looking for a new life in Sweden. The two main groups of people it interacts with are EU citizens and third country nationals, both regular and irregular. According to Swedish law, regular and irregular workers enjoy different rights and obligations.</p> <p>Crossroads is divided into two main sections. The first is the basic needs section. This section offers short-term assistance to people that have just arrived in Sweden and that need to be supplied with elementary goods and services. These include food, shelter, shower, and dresses. For this purpose, the Crossroads office is equipped with complete facilities. It has a living room with a fully-equipped kitchen where guests eat, a vast area devoted to personal hygiene – with showers and bathrooms –, and a living room where guests can rest and entertain themselves with books or board games. The office also comprises a Swedish language school, an Internet point, and a room dedicated to prayer. The second is the information section, where employees and volunteers provide for services. These services are aimed at the integration of migrants in the Swedish society by including them in the local labour market. The key services encompass assistance on how to write a successful CV or cover letter, how to find a house for rent or for sale, how to get access to healthcare and how interact with the Swedish legal and fiscal system. In this sense, Crossroads overcomes the linguistic and juridical barriers that avert foreign migrants from accessing the Swedish society with ease.</p> <p>In 2014, Crossroads became a full-fledged agency, dealing with more and more migrant workers. Sometimes, it has also dealt with asylum seekers and refugees, but just for basic assistance, since other agencies in Sweden are in charge of looking after these other categories.</p> <p>Today, 40 percent of the people that Crossroads interacts with are nationals with Swedish citizenship, whereas 60 percent originates from third countries. The ratio between men and women that benefit from the services provided by the centre is strongly in favour of the former. The people that work for Crossroads include 16 volunteers and eight employees, who succeeded in finding a job to over 100 people in the year 2018. In terms of funding, the organization perceives one-third of the incomes from the city of Stockholm and two-thirds from private donors.</p> <p>After the description of the purpose, aims, and practices of Crossroads, Olivia introduced us to Mazin, who is currently involved in delivering assistance to people who knock at the door of the organization. Mazin's job is not easy. When people arrive to the centre, they are often dirty and hungry. Mazin's task is to ensure that everybody takes a shower and gets a hot meal. Many guests need to receive a proper education on how to clean themselves and their dresses. For instance, learning to respect the queue for showering is the first step to espouse social norms and develop civic behaviour.</p>
-----------------------	---

	<p>Migrants are often obliged to leave their family and children in their homeland. Usually, a migrant comes to Sweden, visits agencies like Crossroads, finds a job and accommodation, and only then calls back the family and makes it move in. Without the help of organizations like Crossroads, migrants could be separated from their families for much longer.</p> <p>Migrating may be painful and uncertain. People who decide to – or are forced to – leave their homes and search for a new future face many vulnerabilities. They need to integrate in a reality that is alien to the standards and custom they are used to. It is not easy to start a new life when you face linguistic, cultural, religious and social barriers. Crossroads aim is to pull down those barriers: so far, it was a success.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>“Without social security number, you’re working for a system but you don’t receive services from it and the problem is in high number of applications, not society” Olivia (Information sector)</p>

## 9

Initiative	<p>SWEDEN, Stockholm</p> <p><b>Humlegården</b></p>
Activity made with TEC	Green picnic: eating and voting! The early elections system in Sweden
Activity format	<p>We organized a green picnic within Humlegården and from our spot we engaged people in the park. Before we interviewed one candidate who in the end could not attend the event because of the hectic schedule of her European campaign.</p> <p>We also performed the “Red line” action at the same time as the other Caravans.</p>
Who did you target with your activity?	Passersby in the park and particularly citizens who entered the library to vote
Outcome of the action	<p>Before the picnic, we’ve been received by Emma Wiesner, a young candidate from the Centerpartiet. Energy engineer, she has focused the campaign on green issues, targeting young people who, as confirmed also from our route, are the most interested in this issue. Confirming her “Millennial’s power”, she showed us an interesting app “electricityMap”,</p>



	<p>available on Google Play and App Store. The app provides a live visualization of where our electricity comes from and how much CO2 was emitted to produce it. This showed us how different political campaigns can be in different countries and different ages. She also mentioned that, as it is becoming common among millenials into politics, she is inspired by the American Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez. Lastly, the candidate mentioned how challenging is to campaign in Sweden because of the single constituency and the vastity of the territory. Unlikely, she could not join us at the picnic, therefore after the meeting we moved at the parc.</p> <p>The picnic idea was a strategic idea to reach people in the streets. The only negative thing is that May in Sweden was not so friendly for an outdoor activity.</p> <p>Another action that took Initiative was the “Red line”, an action that we did at the same time as the other routes. We wrote down the words “Red line” and ask people who physically cross this line which is the “Red line”, the line that we don’t want to cross as a society. The message which emerged was that our red line that cannot be overcome is freedom of movement and freedom of speech.</p>
	<p>Sweden allows its citizens to vote days before the elections through the system of early elections. Usually, early elections take Initiative in different kinds of public spaces such as libraries, schools and even supermarkets. The main asset of early elections rests on the chance of boosting voting participation, since citizens can select the most suitable day for voting in harmony with their daily activities and businesses.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>While our team was engaged in a street activity that involved a picnic, we noticed that many people were entering a public library. Our curiosity led us inside. Once there, four people dressed in a yellow suite welcomed us and asked us in Swedish – but we understood the point – if we were there for voting. We began explaining to them the purpose of our project and what led us to Sweden. We talked to them about the upcoming European parliamentary elections and how the Baltic route was committed to spread the voice for the need to vote. At this point, we asked them whether the elections that were taking Initiative were for the European Parliament, to which they replied positively. We pointed out that the elections would have been regularly held at the end of May, but then they interrupted and introduced us to a concept that left us positively impressed: early elections</p> <p>Early elections consist of allowing electors to vote days – even weeks – before the official electoral date. As a citizen, you have the right to visit a public space that is lawfully considered to be an electoral circumscription, present a document, and vote. What surprises most is the variety of public spaces used for this purpose. Citizens may vote for example in public libraries or even at supermarkets. This simplifies the life of the electors allowing them to vote whenever they want within a certain timespan and wherever they want as far as public spaces are concerned. Allowing early elections could be one of the most significant tools to increase voter turnout. in a library – while perhaps reading an interesting book –, in schools, in several administrative offices and – last but not least – in a supermarket!</p>

	<p>Early elections are incredibly useful. The reason is simple: people can choose when they feel more comfortable to vote. Given the fact that nowadays people are often very busy, when a country limits the voting dates to just one or two days there is the risk that people may not be able to show up in the ballot place on the grounds of distance, unavailability or inconvenience. The early elections system simplifies the life of the electors allowing them to vote whenever they want within a certain timespan and wherever they want as far as public spaces are concerned. Allowing early elections could be one of the most significant tools to increase voter turnout.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"My vote is going to make a difference because I recognize how important is to vote for European elections. Moreover, I can tell you that personally I vote for the party and I don't express preferences on candidates" (Oscar, Swedish citizen)</p>



*Photos from this initiative*

Initiative	FINLAND, Helsinki <b>Pohjola-Norden, Fredrikinkatu</b>
Activity made with TEC	A long-standing cooperation: freedom of movement and the Nordic Council
Activity format	We were invited in the office of the organization Pohjola Nordic to speak about freedom of movement and EU mobile citizens in a round table discussion. The Nordic Council has launched a freedom of movement area that could definitely be considered by the EU as a possible good practice or model to follow. In addition, we can notice a strong and well-established mechanism of support for those who wish to move, work and study in another Nordic country.
Contact	<a href="https://www.pohjola-norden.fi/suomeksi/alkuun/">https://www.pohjola-norden.fi/suomeksi/alkuun/</a> <a href="https://www.norden.org/en/nordic-council">https://www.norden.org/en/nordic-council</a>
Who did you target with your activity?	The team has participated at this discussion and interview with people who have worked in the Nordic Council.
Outcome of the action	The Pohjola Norden association has about 700 members and their aim is to act as a channel for Nordic membership among its members and other interested parties. The association aims to increase the knowledge of the Nordic region in the Helsinki metropolitan area, to promote interest in Nordic co-operation and social issues and to strengthen Nordic contacts. Therefore, we notice how strong the connection and cooperation between Nordic countries is and how this could be an example for regional cooperation in other parts of Europe. The Nordic Council is an official body for formal cooperation among the Nordic countries. The Council, which was founded in 1952, represents an early example of deep regional integration that launched – even before the European Union – a common market among member states and a freedom of movement area. The European Union could adopt some practices that the Nordic Council has enhanced like introducing a common passport for its citizens and a common banking system.
Describe the good practice with your own story	Pohjola-Norden, an NGO based in Helsinki that cooperates with the Nordic Council in relation to issues connected to migration, childcare, and freedom of movement. Once we arrived in the office, Markus Lyrä, the NGO's spokesperson, described the aims of the organization and specifically how it interacts with the Nordic Council.

	<p>Soon, Mr. Kimmo Sasi, a Finnish politician, lawyer and member of Parliament who served as President of the Nordic Council in 2012, joined us and started talking more in detail about the Nordic Council's features and purposes.</p> <p>Founded in 1952, the Nordic Council represents the official body for formal inter-parliamentary cooperation between Nordic countries. It currently includes five states – namely Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland – and three autonomous territories – namely the Åland Islands, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands. As parliamentary assembly, the Nordic Council comprises 87 members nominated by their respective political parties and elected by their national parliaments, since it does not envision a direct election procedure. The Council is run by a Presidium and comes together at two annual meetings. The Presidency – which alternates between the member countries – and the members of the Presidium are elected at the yearly ordinary session. Since 1971, the Nordic Council has been accompanied by the Nordic Council of Ministers, which represents an intergovernmental forum to foster interstate cooperation.</p> <p>The main goal of the Nordic Council is to integrate as much as possible the Nordic countries, gradually eliminating borders. The historical model used by the Council as ideal paradigm of integration is the so-called Kalmar Union, a personal union that from 1397 to 1523 joined under a single polity Denmark, Sweden, Finland Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The Council is involved in various forms of cooperation with neighbouring areas, including the Baltic states, the Benelux, and Russia. Specifically, the three Baltic states find the Nordic Council as an attractive organization that they would join.</p> <p>Currently, the Nordic Council is active in implementing several policies. The main policy areas it interacts with are digitalisation, disability, environment, sustainable development, youth, energy, art and culture, education and research, gender equality, healthcare, and mobility.</p> <p>The key achievements obtained so far have been the creation of a free market of goods, labour and capitals and a freedom of movement area. One of the concrete initiatives promoted by the Council was the creation of the Nordic Passport Union, which allows citizens of Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland to travel and reside in another Nordic country without any travel documentation or a residence permit. Another successful initiative has been the creation of a common banking system among member states. Clearly, the absence of major language barriers has helped the integration to be effective.</p> <p>The EU could consider the Nordic Council as one of the most successful examples of cooperation organizations, which strives for facilitating as much as possible the freedom of movement of people to contrast unemployment and make the labour market more accessible to all.</p>
Quote to remember	<p>"After the recent refugee crisis, there has been a big discussion in Finland because of documents' control at the border Sweden-Denmark.</p>

about this good practice	But every Nordic country wants to have freedom of movement and now also Baltic countries are interested in the benefits of our cooperation." Markus Lyyra
--------------------------	--

## 10

Initiative	FINLAND, Helsinki <b>Ministry of Justice</b>
Activity made with TEC	Ministry of Justice and the Finnish Presidency: knowing more about the electoral system and European citizenship
Activity format	We were received in one meeting room in the Ministry of Justice and we had a pleasant conversation with officers about how elections are prepared in Finland and a focus on the next points in agenda of the Finnish Presidency to see how important they perceive the subject of European citizenship.
Description	The Ministry of Justice in Finland is The supreme election authority, giving guidelines for electoral laws, promoting democracy and civic participation. In May 2019 they are also involved in the preparatory works for the next EU Presidency. In Finland, mobile EU citizens migrants receive their voting rights extremely quickly – perhaps quicker than in any other EU member state.
Who did you target with your activity?	We had a round table discussion in the Ministry of Justice with some specialist of EU and International Affairs who work there to speak about freedom of movement and EU mobile citizens, European elections and the next Finnish Presidency.
Outcome of the action	The meeting was very interesting as they first explained the process of elections in Finland and all the mechanisms and tools put in practice in order to make people go to vote and fight abstention. They have different policy programme to enhance civic and electoral participation and they are mainly focused on young people (especially male young and migrants). The Ministry stressed out their commitment to get in touch with voters, from local citizens initiative to hearing open to everyone. Digitalisation is another strong point for them and they mention the website <a href="http://www.demokratia.fi/en/home/">http://www.demokratia.fi/en/home/</a> which can be used by citizens to make their voice count. But they also invest in more “traditional” tools, such as sending letters to first time voters to encourage and inform them about the democratic and voting process. During the interview, we could also present our project and also the first results we got along the route and our interlocutors were very satisfied on the fact that they can count on this kind of projects and campaigns which are complementary and as important as institutional efforts to inform and engage citizens.



	<p>In conclusion, the meeting was an opportunity not only to promote our projects and our commitment to European elections, but also an opportunity to draw the attention of the Finnish authority on issues related to European citizenship and mobile citizens once they take over the EU Presidency.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>Finland is a cutting-edge country in terms of democracy and civic participation. The Ministry of Justice of Finland, which is the chief election authority in the country, introduced several initiatives to enhance civic and electoral participation. These initiatives have chiefly focused on young people, migrants and people with disabilities. Finland makes profitable use of the Internet to spread electoral awareness. Likewise, Finland is one of the European that interacts more with its local NGOs, which participate actively in the negotiations for law drafting. Accordingly, Finland is a cutting-edge example of best practice for promoting and encouraging both national and European elections. While staying in the spectacular city of Helsinki, our team was invited to a meeting with some representatives of the Ministry of Justice of Finland. In Finland, the Ministry of Justice represents the supreme authority entitled to deal with electoral matters. The Ministry of Justice delivers guidelines for the implementation of electoral laws and stimulates democratic and civic participation. For instance, it introduced a targeted policy programme aimed at enhancing electoral participation of categories that tend to have little interest in voting, including youngsters and migrants. Finland acknowledges the existence of a strong divide between the younger people – especially males – without higher education and migrants on one hand and the rest of the population on the other.</p> <p>In Finland, migrants who belong to other EU countries receive their voting rights extremely quickly.. Moreover, local initiatives that deal with electoral matters are open to everyone, without any restrictions. Webservices exist – e.g. the website Demokratia.fi (<a href="http://www.demokratia.fi/en/home">http://www.demokratia.fi/en/home</a>) – that permit people to be informed about EU citizens' initiatives, petitions to the European Parliament, EU policies, etc.</p> <p>In terms of voting practice, voters are automatically registered to vote and receive their voting certificate at home. During the election campaign they are kept constantly informed of the parties' programmes through various channels and initiatives. Most of the useful information for the elections is advertised in three languages: Finnish, Swedish, and English. Informative data on the elections is sent through separate letters to young people, to migrants – expressing the how and why voting is relevant – and to people with disabilities through special formats including audio recordings. Usually this information – albeit formal – is easy to read and catching in the content.</p> <p>Another very interesting topic discussed with the spokespeople of the Ministry of Justice was the role of the civil society and NGOs in the electoral process. Currently, Finland cooperates with a significant number of local NGOs – especially when related to the country's</p>

	<p>population: today, there are around 104.000 registered NGOs in Finland. Since the time of its independence from the Russian Empire after World War One, Finland established closed connections with civil society organizations. Finland may be described as a corporatist democratic system where NGOs contribute in negotiating and drafting laws. A specific organ, namely the National Board of Civil Society Affairs, gathers Finland's several NGOs and civil servants. Basically, exponents of the civil society and NGOs contribute in planning the national agenda for law making, while negotiating with the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>After this constructive conversation, we were impressed by Finland's approach towards elections. It may be affirmed that the country represents a cutting-edge example of best practice for promoting and encouraging both national and European elections.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"Even if many young people consult the internet on a daily basis and we have a high rate of educated people, still the EU Affairs don't necessarily end up in the top web pages where young people would go and sometimes there is a lack of information. We need to work on this, that's why we push for awareness raising, democracy and transparency".</p> <p>Anna Aurora Wennäkoski (Specialist, EU Affairs)</p>

## 11

Initiative	<p><b>ESTONIA, Tallinn</b></p> <p>Estonian Green Movement</p>
Activity made with TEC	Transeuropa joins forces with the Estonian Green Movement!
Activity format	The team joined two members of the Estonian Green Movement and one supporter of the association and together we make a public engagement in one Tallinn's park using the Wheel of fortune.
Contact	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/TriinSaag106/">https://www.facebook.com/TriinSaag106/</a>
Description	The Estonian Green Movement is a non-profit organisation which wants to improve the environmental situation in Estonia and to guide society to sustainable, green thinking. They also actively collaborate with organisations abroad, as Friends of the Earth International, Coalition Clean Baltic, Taiga Rescue Network. Moreover, they are founder members of several Estonian co-operation platforms, as the Estonian Council of Environmental NGOs (EKO), Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation (AKÜ) and Tartu Environmental Education Centre.

Who did you target with your activity?	We targeted the Estonian Green movement to exchange expertise and best practices and the joint-action was for people in the streets of Tallinn
Outcome of the action	<p>The park we chose for the joint-action turned to be the perfect spot, as it was very crowded. The 15 was also Tallinn City Day, therefore many people were out in the streets to attend several cultural events organized in the city. The collaboration with the Estonian Green Movement was very productive, because we could count on them for their knowledge of green issues and the language to easily communicate with people.</p> <p>The only critical reflection is that when it came to speak about European elections with young people, it seemed to us that they were a bit detached and not interested at the democratic participation. We really hope to have given our contribution to awareness raising as we were able to reach many people in only two days.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>In this activity we used a facilitation method called 'The Wheel of Fortune' - a fun and engaging way to understand the level of awareness that people have about the European Union. We asked people on the streets who agreed to play the game to turn the wheel and answer one of the questions connected to one of the numbers of the wheel. We prepared two sets of questions, one referred to general knowledge on the European Union and elections and the other focused on environmental issues and climate change. Whoever gave the right answer was rewarded with a gadget like a pin or a pen.</p> <p>During our trip our team built a small wheel of fortune. The wheel of fortune is a rotating wooden instrument with numbers connected to questions. We prepared 12 questions on the European Union to verify the level of knowledge that European citizens have about the union itself. The citizens who wanted to participate in the game had to answer to open questions or to pick one option. To give an example of questions related to the EU, we report some here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was Spain a founder of the EU? A) yes or b) no</li> <li>• Which of the following is a EU institution? A) European Council or b) Council of Europe</li> <li>• In what year did Finland adhere to the EU? A) 1995 or b) 2004</li> </ul> <p>While at the moment we made the joint-action with the Estonian Green Movement, we proposed issues related to climate change and in particular environmental issues of the Baltic region, as the pollution of the Baltic sea. To give some example related to green issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the name of the famous Swedish green activist?</li> <li>• Which is the most endangered fish in the Baltic sea?</li> <li>• Which is the most polluting element in the Baltic sea?</li> </ul> <p>The people that wanted to play had to spin the wheel of fortune and wait for it to stop at a certain number. That number was connected to one of the abovementioned questions. If people we played with would get the correct answer, they would be rewarded with a gift such as pins and pens of Transeuropa Caravans, as well as the material from This Time I'm Voting</p>



	<p>campaign, available in the local language, thanks to the collaboration we kept in each country with the EP Liaison Offices.</p> <p>We could notice that the average person that wanted to play was generally a teenager or a young adult – between 18 and 35 years old – randomly walking by. They are more prone to stop and play a game. Despite this tendency, we were satisfied in seeing that older people in the park in Tallinn were amused by our enthusiasm in playing a game. It's important to notice that without the help of our Estonian friend, it would have been difficult to communicate with older people, because the level of English is not so high among this age group we met.</p> <p>After having played with about 80 people along the way, we found out that most of the people – who were mainly EU citizens – could not answer the correct question. Probably, one person out of four could answer correctly. This trend was basically the same in all the EU countries we visited throughout our travel.</p> <p>This game may be considered a best practice since it stimulates the will to know more about the European Union through a fun game and a small reward. The European Union could spread the practice of quizzes and games in order to spread the knowledge of the basic features of the EU among European citizens, which is still somewhat undersized.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"It is incredible how the March for Climate movement grew from nothing. Now I sit with young people in Tartu. I'm very proud of them."</p> <p>Peep Mardiste</p>

# Good practices from: Western Caravan

**France, Spain, Portugal**

Special focus: Cities of Solidarity

Team members describing good practices: Doina Elena Craciun, Emma Esini, Claraluz Lannes Keiser, Adriana Díaz Martín-Zamorano, Antje Scharenberg

## 12

Initiative	PORTUGAL, Lisbon <b>Humans before borders</b>
Activity made with TEC	Tastes Beyond Borders: First Aid Kit Against Hate Speech
Activity format	Participatory picnic where people brought food from the Initiative they feel at home. Participants express their feelings about hate speech, notably related to racism, and the way one could act against it. The discussion starts from concrete situations that participants have lived, all the participants bring in possible solutions, trying to co-create a “kit”, a step by step way of non-violently fighting this speech.
Contact	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/hubb.humansbeforeborders">https://www.facebook.com/hubb.humansbeforeborders</a> <a href="mailto:humansbeforeborders@gmail.com">humansbeforeborders@gmail.com</a>
Description	Humans before borders is a group of activists organising actions in public space against inhumane and illegal treatment of migrants and refugees.

Who did you target with your activity?	15-20 participants between 25 and 40 years
Outcome of the action	<p>Very good discussion, everybody participated to some extent. The moderation and facilitation was very important: people took turns in speaking and everybody listened to each other, nobody had the monopoly of speech. The initial moment when we shared the food was very important to establish a connexion and familiarity within the group. The meeting created a perfect chance to discuss social situation of migrants. The topic of EU mobile citizens was considered in the reflection and discussion about mobility, racism, hate speech and tolerance.</p>
	<p>This action should be considered a best practice for its form and content. The idea of sharing diner and discussing as well as the evolution of the training and its results were very satisfying.</p> <p>Sharing diner is very important in creating a group dynamics, in connecting the participants and allowing everyone to feel safe and listened. Moreover, starting the discussion from concrete examples that participants bring in and searching for solutions step by step worked very well. We went beyond identifying the problems and the group found solutions in a participatory way. The action allowed participants to go back home with some concrete ideas to a problem that they all encounter on a daily basis.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>This action was not just about eating, it was about sharing food, about bringing in a specialty from the country where one feels « home ». That is, bringing in a piece of you and offering it to the others, revealing yourself in a way, allowing yourself to be vulnerable. What we realized during this action is that people have enough of identifying problems in society, they need to find and share the positive solutions to those problems and stay away from what doesn't work.</p> <p>This activity showed how important it is to discuss not only about the content of an action against hate speech, but also about the conditions to do it. It is essential to appreciate when it is a good moment to speak against hate, and when it is safer not to do it, even if we profoundly disagree with the statements one makes. Also, activists as well as hate speakers can easily get emotional and it is very important to consider those emotions.</p> <p>On the one hand, as activists, we need to understand when we are too tired or too weak to fight against the violence of hate discourses. It is essential to know our limits and respect them. Feeling uncomfortable standing up for human rights in a public way when dealing with hate speech, either as a victim or as a witness, is natural. And we don't need to do it all the time!</p>

	On the other hand, it is important to address our hate speakers' emotions when we feel that they are taking over. Sometimes it's all about emotions, about a bad experience they lived, we can not know how they got to that discourse, but we agreed that we should not judge, we should instead ask neutral questions, find arguments, positive examples or other emotions that might counterbalance theirs.
Quote to remember about this good practice	"it maybe won't change much when I try to stand up against the way the racist person thinks, but if we all do it, then that person will really start considering what we said"

## 13

Initiative	PORTUGAL, Lisbon <b>A avó veio trabalhar</b>
Activity made with TEC	Building an intergenerational Europe
Activity format	Brunch and discussion with old ladies from the organisation "A avó veio trabalhar (Grandma comes to work)" about how elderly people could get engaged in their local community and in Europe.  The old ladies explained to us the importance of them being able to travel in Europe without a visa and the importance of EU citizenship for young people studying abroad.
Contact	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/AAvoVeioTrabalhar/">https://www.facebook.com/AAvoVeioTrabalhar/</a> <a href="http://www.fermenta.org">http://www.fermenta.org</a>
Description	The organisation "A avó veio trabalhar" fills the gap between generations offering old ladies a Initiative where they can meet, discuss and learn from each other. The ladies create unique handmade products and participate in other projects.
Who did you target with your activity?	A group of 13 old ladies
Outcome of the action	The discussion was very interesting and the old ladies pointed out very important issues concerning Europe. They notably shared their fears of growing racism and xenophobia and their wishes for a more solidary and sustainable Europe, that strongly fights poverty.

	<p>They changed our perspectives on ageing and made us realize how this population is still active and a model for active citizens. We also realized the importance of community and mutual help, that, on a larger scale could also be applied to Europe.</p>
	<p>The work of the organization should be considered a best practice because it shows how caring for the others, creating community and intergenerational links can be a way of indirectly building a more solidary and inclusive Europe.</p> <p>Thanks to the work of the organization, the old ladies seemed to have a new sense in life and a wonderful energy, they seemed to see their age with new eyes, feel useful and empowered. This well-being is not benefic just for them, but it has effects on the entire society, as their discourses are always around caring about the others, against poverty, racism and xenophobia, for opening frontiers, solidarity on a European level and sustainability.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p><b>This best practice is about intergenerational love and solidarity.</b></p> <p>When we went into the shop in the centre of Lisbon, where the grandmas meet, work and teach, we instantly felt that very strong positive feelings were reigning. We had a hard time leaving this Initiative, it stayed in our hearts for the whole trip and afterwards. The care for one another was everywhere, among the grandmas, between them and the managers, in regards to us. Many of them said that when you get older, you lose family, but there they have won family. They really came across like an ideal family, taking care of each other, supporting each other emotionally and also in their work.</p> <p>Besides creating a Initiative and an activity that favored this feeling of community, the organization also worked on their feeling of usefulness. The grandmas seemed to be empowered by their capacity to produce things that had a value, by the possibility to learn from one another and to teach the younger generation ("the grand-daughters"). Besides doing crafts, give workshops, promote their art in music festivals, they have been models during the Lisbon fashion week and generally are enacting an idea of active grandmothers. The fact of being old, but still motivated and active and to feel that you belong to society and that you are not excluded was extraordinary. It is very important that as a society, we make sure these people are included, and that we realize that there are so many things we can learn from them.</p> <p>After understanding what made them feel so accomplished, we talked about Europe, about the good parts of it and also about what they would like to change. This discussion made us realize a fundamental thing we never thought about before. There is no Initiative for hatred in a world filled with love!</p> <p>Everything they said about Europe, about contemporary society and its problems, about what they would like Europe to be like, about what young people should do, absolutely everything was free from egoism and hatred. It was all about solidarity, acting against poverty and racism,</p>

	accepting differences, letting migrants live wherever they want, caring for the environment, letting people travel without visa, supporting each other for a better world. We really had the feeling that in a world full with whatever made the lives of these old ladies beautiful, the right wing could never win any election.
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"isso é a vida, essa é a conquista, aqui dentro mas também lá fora" (this is life, this means conquering, in here but also out there)</p> <p>"aqui conseguimos ver a metade cheia do copo, não viver no passado, mas no presente" (here we manage to see the full half of the glass, not to live in the past, but in the present)</p> <p>"Old is the new young" (<i>the motto of the association</i>)</p> <p>"Idade é uma coisa linda. Aqui, aprendi a ter orgulho dos meus anos e rugas" (Age is a beautiful thing. Here, I have learnt to be proud of my age and wrinkles)</p> <p>"Now, I can do everything I couldn't do when I was younger"</p> <p>"Now, I see the sun"</p>

Photos with A avó veio trabalhar





## 14

Initiative	<p>SPAIN, A Coruna</p> <p><b>Marea Atlantica</b></p>
Activity made with TEC	Romaria, Vivir na Coruna
Activity format	<p>Discussions in 2 groups on the subject of our ideal Europe, on mobile citizens rights and what could each of us do on a local level to reach those ideals. We had a flipchart for each group, on which participants would write down the ideas and the solutions that the group came up with. At the end the two groups came together and one member of each group presented to everyone the main proposals.</p> <p>Mobile citizens rights was a topic that both groups brought in the discussions on an ideal Europe. The Europe most of participants wanted included freedom of circulation and residence for Europeans and non-Europeans.</p>
Contact	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/mareAtlantica/">https://www.facebook.com/mareAtlantica/</a>
Description	Marea Atlantica is a political party that won the municipal elections in A coruna in 2014 and they run for a new mandate in 2019. They have a very



	horizontal governance and citizens participation is at the core of their actions.
Who did you target with your activity?	Around 20 people, participants at the event, locals from A Coruña and members of the party.
Outcome of the action	<p>The action worked very well, all the people of the two groups actively participated in the discussions and reflexions. Even if their first concern was acting on a local level, they seemed to appreciate imagining a better Europe with us.</p> <p>We learned a lot concerning alternative governance and participatory democracy and managed to create a very useful and pleasant activity. They were very open and there is definitely a possibility to create things together in the future.</p>
	<p>The format of the action but also the organization should be considered best practices.</p> <p>Marea Atlántica is a political party that won the local elections in A Coruña in 2015 and ran for a second mandate in May 2019. Their program is focused on an inclusive and solidary city, ecological issues and participatory democracy.</p> <p>The action of the Western caravan took Initiative in a public park during an event Marea Atlántica was organizing as part of their campaign for a second mandate. We consider that the process and the results of the training were very promising. At the end of the training, the two groups seemed to see Europe in a more concrete way, and seemed to consider it as something that they can build individually and locally.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>This practice is about going from small to big, about how we act individually and locally in order to build the Europe we dream of.</p> <p>On a local level, in the last four years, the actions of Marea Atlántica were quite remarkable.</p> <p>While many have heard of the municipalist movement changing the local way of doing politics in big cities like Barcelona or Madrid, not that many have heard of a similar case in A Coruña, a middle-sized city in Galicia, in the North West of Spain. The 15-M movement, which strongly mobilized against austerity and for more democratic politics throughout Spain in 2011, marked the start and set the right inspiration for the launch of Marea Atlántica, a grassroots movement and now also a political party in power in A Coruña. In 2015, they gathered the necessary strength and motivation to run in the municipal elections of A Coruña and, to the surprise of many, they won, and even achieved the Mayorship. Four years later, Marea Atlántica have proven that a more participative, feminist and sustainable approach to local politics is possible.</p> <p>While we were there, we really felt that this was not a common way of making politics. There was no scene even if the Mayor spoke, we felt no hierarchy but a real team speaking to people they care for. Participants at the meeting were all in a circle, at the same level, women and men</p>



	<p>spoke equal time and ended their discourse with hugs. Doing our training on Europe in this atmosphere was such a delight!</p> <p>After a brainstorming on what would be the ideal Europe, the participants came up with three main dimensions: they want a Solidary and Responsible Europe, a Green Europe and a Feminist Europe. Based on these goals, we focused on coming up with solutions and proposals that we, as citizens, can do in our daily lives in order to be part of the change we want to see in society. Even if the European Union is often perceived as a project distanced from its citizens and even if Marea Atlántica for now mostly focuses on local politics, the outcome of the discussion proved that there are in fact small but significant day-to-day decisions and measures that we can take as citizens that can have an impact in contributing to a better Europe.</p> <p>It was beautiful to see how all the participants got involved in the discussion and that each of them had such ambitious but also concrete ideas about a better Europe. It was important to pass from these ideas that one can feel far or abstract, to the concrete solutions, that participants to the training could come up with (individually and as a group), and later apply. They seemed sometimes surprised to realize that Europe was not so far and that on an individual or local level we can do so many things to turn it into what we want.</p> <p>The presence of one facilitator in each group was very important, but we intervened as little as possible, only to be sure that the discussion reached its goal. For the rest, the participants were the ones writing down their proposals, deciding who will present them to the whole group at the end, giving suggestions to one another. This empowerment of the group was important for participants to feel concerned and included, and definitely eased communication.</p> <p>The A Coruña recipe for a better world is made out of: a subject that encourages participants to connect different levels of their thought (individual-local-european) and a format of activity that encourages participation (small groups, facilitator, Initiative planned for in a circle, public space).</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"we don't want a city where the only way of participating is voting every 4 years"</p> <p>"we want an enormous city that is able to include the life and the will of all"</p> <p>"we want more trees, more stars, more books in the library, less cars"</p> <p>"a city must be governed collectively, not like an administration council where the only aim is to earn money"</p>

Initiative	SPAIN, Barcelona  <b>Institut Català de les Dones</b> and <b>Fundacio Aroa</b>
Activity made with TEC	Building a feminist European network
Activity format	We had a meeting with women from various organizations working on women's rights and discussed their best practices, difficulties and ways they could create networks in order to facilitate their work and have more impact. Some of the associations of women that participated at the meeting worked with migrant women or with different other issues concerning mobile citizens rights. This topic appeared in the discussion various times.
Contact	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/fundacioaroa/">https://www.facebook.com/fundacioaroa/</a> <a href="https://fundacioaroa.org/en/">https://fundacioaroa.org/en/</a>
Description	Fundacio Aroa is an organization that struggles to put women rights at the core of the European politics. They recently launched the platform Feminist Europe (fem_eu.org) that gathers concrete proposals for a feminist Europe. They are also building an international network of feminist organizations. They work with Institut Català de les Dones that gathers 400 organizations that work on women's rights.
Who did you target with your activity?	Around 25 women, members of different women's rights organizations in Barcelona.
Outcome of the action	The organization with Fondacio Aroa was very interested in the Transeuropa Caravan's project and in the possibilities of cooperation to create a European network. The activity itself was very successful, all women participated and exchanged best practices. We think everyone left the meeting with a lot of good ideas to improve their own activist practice. The organizations were very interested in keeping contact and organizing something in the future. Wonderful human connection.
	Both the organization that we worked with and the action should be considered best practices.  The organization (Fundació Aroa) is noteworthy because they understood the importance of creating a transnational women network to fight against gender discrimination and push for a feminist agenda on a European level. They are very active in creating this network, they created a campaign in view of the European elections and work with various other organizations in Barcelona and around the world.

	<p>The action is a best practice because it allowed the 15 organizations present at the meeting to know each other better and to exchange best practices in their own activities.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>This best practice is about finding what is common in different fights, learning from the others and joining forces to become stronger.</p> <p>The actions of Fundació Aroa to make women be heard at a European level started more than a year ago. Keeping in mind the constant discrimination that women suffer in different fields, and in view of the 2019 European elections, the FEM EU campaign was born in May 2018 from the synergy between Fundació Aroa and the Eurolocal consultancy in Barcelona, weaving an alliance between the feminist and pro-European movement joining efforts to include the feminist perspective in the European sphere and its institutions.</p> <p>The campaign believes that there is a need to advocate to ensure that women's rights and gender equality are core in building the future of Europe. Now the elections have passed and the ultimate goal of FEM EU is to create a European-wide feminist network, in which organizations working for women's rights and gender equality throughout Europe come together to make sure that this topic is a top priority in the agenda of the next European Parliament and European Commission.</p> <p>All the organizations present at our meeting in Barcelona were members of the Consell Nacional de les Dones de Catalunya, a body of the Women's Catalan Institute made up of organizations and collectives working in programs for gender equality and female empowerment, covering specific topics such as the inclusion of migrant women or the promotion of female entrepreneurs. It was interesting to see how these women are connected and how they really work towards the same aims with 400 organizations in this network and on a transnational level. It was a truly inspiring and engaging event that made evident the need to create a strong European-wide feminist network, in which collectives fighting for the same goal across borders can cooperate and support and empower each other to make the movement stronger.</p> <p>The catalan women's recipe for a better Europe is made of mutual learning and connecting feminist struggles transnationally.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>"basic feminist movement has difficulties on having a voice on the european level"</p> <p>"sharing experiences and lobby making is strengthening our capacities"</p> <p>"A feminist Europe is a Europe for all. It is time for you, the youth, to raise your voice to create a better Europe, a Europe that guarantees women's human rights"</p>

Initiative	FRANCE, Saillans <b>Town hall of Saillans</b>
Activity made with TEC	Exploring alternative governance
Activity format	Long talk with Jean-Baptiste Marine, person in charge of the urban planning in Saillans. The discussion focused mainly on citizen participation in the decision making process in the village.
Contact	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Commune-de-Saillans">https://www.facebook.com/Commune-de-Saillans</a>
	The interview showed that Saillans has a system of alternative governance that includes citizens in all decisions. As our interviewee Jean-Baptiste Marine said, they did not win the elections for their program, they did not even have one, but for their method, that is, the citizens' participation. In their decision-making method, Saillans goes beyond common democracy that is sometimes felt as the dictatorship of the majority, and tries to keep citizens debating until they find a consensus. Voting is their last solution, as they try to avoid having winners and losers. Generally, citizens are at the heart of political life.
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>This best practice is about giving the word and the power to citizens.</p> <p>Saillans is a village one hour south of Lyon where democracy seems to be seen with whole new eyes than what we are used to. It all started in 2014, after a strong mobilization of citizens against the building of a supermarket (wanted by the mayor) that would have destroyed local commerce. A list of citizens "Saillans ensemble" (Saillans together) participated to the local elections and won, without having a political program, but having one method: the citizens' participation in decision making.</p> <p>Since then, politics in Saillans follows 3 principles: collegiality, transparency and participation. They were forced by law to elect a mayor and a mayor assistant, and to give the former a higher salary, but that is the only concession they made to classical politics.</p> <p>The collegiality principle means that decisions are taken by the whole team, after consulting the citizens. Elected people are working in groups of two, on specific themes, and put the participation of the citizens at the heart of their work. A participatory commission meets every year to discuss the major themes and decide the main lines of action. A group action-project constituted by citizens will then take over, and find the best ways to apply the decisions taken by the participatory commissions. At every level, discussions and decisions are made public in very detailed reporting documents, that one can find on the village's website, on its</p>

	<p>facebook page and in numerous Initiatives in the village dedicated to public display of municipal information.</p> <p>This inclusive politics seem to be very attractive for people from everywhere. As Jean-Baptiste said, since this new political system, the population of the village has increased by <math>\frac{1}{4}</math>, going from 1200 to 1500 inhabitants. This care for integrating citizens at every level of decision making seems to be very appropriate for this community, where civil engagement is very strong. Besides citizens participating in decision making, they are also particularly active in other struggles: the village has 57 NGO's for 1500 inhabitants.</p> <p>The Saillans recipe for a more democratic Europe includes direct participation of citizens in decision-making, abolition of hierarchy and relations of domination as well as transparency.</p>
--	--

# Good practices from: Central Eastern Caravan

**Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia**

Special focus: Civic spaces under pressure

Team members describing good practices: Katarzyna Deka, Lia Hamminga, Georg Blokus, Irene Dominioni, Antje Scharenberg

**17**

Initiative	GERMANY, Munich, Marienplatz <b>Another Europe is Possible</b>
Activity made with TEC	„Europe Day”
Activity format	Taping art action  During the event we have been collecting signatures for the petition. We have also been talking with passersby about EU citizenship, especially in the context of the European Elections in 2019.
Who did you target with your activity?	With this action we targeted the inhabitants of Munich as well as town’s visitors. We wanted to reach people of different ages (kids, youth, adults, seniors) and backgrounds. We also planned a meeting with a local EU elections candidate and representative of DiEM25, Beate Lippmann.
Outcome of the	The outcomes of this action was ercome is freedom of movement and freedom of speech. Thanks to this activity, we could talk with passersby

action	about EU citizenship, rights of both EU and non-EU citizens, the message which emerged was that our red line that cannot be over EU citizens, especially in the context of the European Elections in 2019.
	<p>We have chosen the taping actions as one of the best practices within the facilitation techniques because during our Transeuropa Caravans route, this type of action was one of the most visible, long-term and available for a really big amount of people (it can have a really big impact and reach a lot of people in a relatively short time). The taping art action was very visible on the main square in Munich and it opened up the space for conversations with passersby and visitors of the official Europe Day celebrations.</p> <p>We have made the taping actions twice along our way (on the main square during Europe Day in Munich and in front of the theatre in Bautzen). Both of them were a success in the sense that they have been very visible and during the time we were present in the area of the taping action - we could clearly see that the passers by were really interested in and intrigued by it - they were reading what has been written and - if they were walking with somebody else - they were often commenting on it.</p> <p>In the case of our route - we have chosen the sentences: „Another Europe is possible” - for the Europe Day in Munich and „Protect antifacism” as a part of Red line action in Bautzen. Our reflection afterwards was that the sentence has to be carefully chosen - in our case, the action in Bautzen occurred to be controversial due to the chosen sentence - this has to be taken into consideration while planning this type of action.</p> <p>What's more, the benefits of this facilitation technique are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It's easy to do - anybody can make it, no particular skills are needed.</li> <li>2. The materials are easy to arrange - strong tapes of different colours are available in any bigger building shop.</li> <li>3. It's „uniting people” - especially if you want to make a big sign - it will take a lot of time for one person to make it - that's why taping action can be a nice way of team building and team cooperation.</li> <li>4. It's universal - you can choose any sentence/statement you want, which will suit the bigger context of the planned action, you can also go creative and tape something else than a sentence.</li> <li>5. It's very visible in the city, the sentence / statement taped - in our case on the pavement - can reach many people in the short amount of time.</li> <li>6. It's attractive - our experience shows that many people were interested in and intrigued by our statements.</li> </ol>
<b>Quote to remember about this good practice</b>	(Lia) “When talking about disobedience I always think about Oscar Wilde: ‘Disobedience, in the eyes of any one who has read history, is man's original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made,

through disobedience and through rebellion.”



Taping action by Central Caravan

## 18

Initiative	GERMANY, Munich, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich <b>“Citizens of Nowhere” book presentation</b>
Activity made with TEC	“If Europe is a fortress, then we are all in prison”
Activity format	During the action we were spreading the leaflets promoting the “Citizens of Nowhere” book released in German. With this activity we wanted to refer to the <i>White Rose</i> - a resistance group of students from the times of the Third Reich. The group conducted an anonymous leaflet and graffiti campaign that called for active opposition to the Nazi party regime (please find more information here: <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Rose">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Rose</a> )



	<p>On the leaflets used by us during the activity and distributed afterwards at different Initiatives of the University was written: "When Europe is a Fortress, we are all in prison".</p> <p>By this action we wanted to spark the discussion about this dimension of EU citizenship and also the connected topic of EU mobile citizens rights.</p>
Who did you target with your activity?	With this action we have targeted the students and professors of the LMU as well as the recipients of our social media (Instagram, facebook, website, blog) etc.)
Outcome of the action	<p>The outcomes of this activity are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The leaflet action held at the Ludwig Maximilian University (also recorded).</li> <li>2. The story of Marie Solange met at the entrance of the L.M. University heard, connected to, recorded by the team of CEE route and described afterwards by Antje on the blog: <a href="https://transeuropacaravans.eu/the-woman-with-the-white-rose/?fbclid=IwAR3o3TyMdRuES4oxwApWgXoCBaWytVfGP4OdklNZ2AbLKgQch-Y5uNNuDS8">https://transeuropacaravans.eu/the-woman-with-the-white-rose/?fbclid=IwAR3o3TyMdRuES4oxwApWgXoCBaWytVfGP4OdklNZ2AbLKgQch-Y5uNNuDS8</a></li> <li>3. Wide coverage of this action on social media - Instagram, Facebook, website - blog.</li> <li>4. This story was shared afterwards by the team as one of the most inspiring during our route.</li> </ol>
	<p>The CEE route team went to Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitet in Munich and did a was a symbolic re-enactment at the very same balcony where back in 1942 Sophie and Hans Scholl, as part of the student movement Weiße Rose, threw flyers to protest against the Reich during the Nazi-regime. They were arrested because of their gesture, and later killed for it. The CEE route team made the action inspired by the events held by White Rose as a symbolic sign of protest against all new forms of fascism spreading in Europe by throwing cards saying "If Europe is a fortress, then we are all in prison" - its a Quote to remember about this good practice to remember about this good practice? to remember about this good practice? from the "Citizens of Nowhere" book written by Lorenzo Marsili and Niccolo Milanese. This action opened up the space for a historic reflection on the present and made it possible to produce strong visual material (see videos). Beside we had a spontaneous encounter with Marie Solange who is an individual activist taking care of the White Rose memorial. She shared her story with us.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	"If Europe is a Fortress, we are all in prison"

Learn more about the action from [this article](#) by Transeuropa Caravans.

Initiative	GERMANY, Friedrichshafen <b>Fridays For Future</b>
Activity made with TEC	Fridays For Future Demonstration, public speech & interviews
Activity format	Along the way, during the speech in the amphitheater Georg was mentioning the aspects of EU citizenship such as social and political engagement (also through the elections) and active participation of young people in particular and others. There we were also collecting signatures for the petition.
Contact	friedrichshafen@klima-streik.de <a href="https://www.facebook.com/fridaysforfuture.bodensee/">https://www.facebook.com/fridaysforfuture.bodensee/</a>
Description	In order to get enthusiastic about climate protection you need not much more than a common sense. Numerous reports have since proven how urgent the topic is - and the inactivity of politics puts us in fear and rage. People involved in the Fridays for Future movement in Friedrichshafen do not want to accept this state of affairs and instead do everything they can to increase the pressure on policy makers.
Who did you target with your activity?	In this case we targeted young people especially, as Fridays For Future brings together mainly young people but not only. The participants of the action were also adults and seniors of different backgrounds.
Outcome of the action	The outcomes of this action are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our active participation in Fridays For Future demonstration in Friedrichshafen</li> <li>2. A lively and inspirational speech delivered by Georg Blokus and addressed mainly to the young people gathered on the manifestation but also other participants including local politicians.</li> <li>3. An activity for young people consisting of writing messages to the citizens of Austria and Hungary on the banners which we would carry with us further on the way</li> <li>4. Collected signatures for the petition.</li> <li>5. A message to the other activists by Cindy Paulick.</li> <li>6. Wide coverage of this event on social media (photos &amp; description)</li> <li>7. A video message recorded during the action: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjWNWKVkpYU;">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjWNWKVkpYU;</a></li> </ol>
	We would like to list Fridays For Future in Friedrichshafen (and also FFF initiative in general) as a best practice because we were really impressed by the energy, motivation, enthusiasm and engagement of young

people in the topic of climate change or - according to the new naming - climate crisis. It was really inspiring to see how youth dedicates their time and energy to fight for the changes on local, national and global level regarding climate policies. The demonstration was a success - the local youth was manifesting their statements and singing the songs along the way. At the certain point, gathered participants stopped in front of the local amphitheater and young people could ask questions and receive answers from the representatives of local political and activist scenes. After the Q&A session, the team of central eastern route presented the Transeuropa Caravans project and Georg - team's facilitator gave a moving and motivating speech about the current situation of Europe, the challenges we are facing also in the context of the European Elections, how important and necessary is the active participation of young people already now but also for the future of Europe. In our name, Georg also expressed how great is it to see that young people are uniting and really act for a systemic change that they would like to see in their country, Europe and the world. In the end, we addressed the need for self-representation in local, regional, national and european parliaments, because the older generation of politicians doesn't listen to them.

Our visit to the local climate activists from Fridays For Future was very empowering for them, because we gave them the feeling to be connected with other localities and reality. As mentioned before - we held a speech during the demonstration and tried to motivate them to face future struggles and reframed the debate for climate justice also as a struggle for migrants and workers and the need for intergenerational solidarity.

We think that Fridays for Future movement in general but also this specific edition in Friedrichshafen (Germany) deserves to be promoted as a good practice because we believe that this initiative can bring together and spark the motivation for activism in young generation. We can already see that the movement is growing and spreading and that- after Greta Thunberg - young people around the world are willing and ready to go out on the streets of their cities and protest against the policies and politics which lead to the current climate crisis. We also had a reflection, that if young people will get motivated by any topic of - in this case - climate crisis and this spark of activism will be lighten in them - then in the future they should be also more open and willing to be active also in different spheres of social life. Already now some of the manifests were saying: „Don't take away our future" - the future is in their hands, in the hands of these smart, aware, motivated and brave young people. We really hope that the „new" is coming and that is starting now!

Initiative	AUSTRIA, Lustenau <b>W*ORT</b>
Activity made with TEC	Das W*ORT from Lustenau / A W*ORD from Lustenau
Activity format	Job shadowing, organisation's presentation, video recording, meeting with local authorities.
Contact	<a href="mailto:info@w-ort.at">info@w-ort.at</a> <a href="https://w-ort.at/cms/kontakt/">https://w-ort.at/cms/kontakt/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pg/wortlustenau/about/">https://www.facebook.com/pg/wortlustenau/about/</a>
Description	W*ORT is a special Initiative in Lustenau, where adults give children their time and try to meet with kids at eye level. Language is the center of this coexistence. A number of volunteers organize creative writing workshops and a number of other activities dealing with education and self-confidence building. Creative potentials are awakened, ideas are generated, and not infrequently, good products are created from this interaction.
Who did you target with your activity?	In Lustenau we met the mayor of the city - Kurt Fisher. With our visit we have also targeted the creators of W*ORT - a local cultural youth centre as well as this organisation's beneficiaries.
Outcome of the action	As the outcome of this action we have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting with the mayor of Lustenau - Kurt Fisher to stimulate reflection on how to support freedom of movement, migrants in general and democratic participation, working closely with civil society organisations.</li> <li>2. Participation in a meeting where the creators of W*ORT and the local volunteers were explaining the process of making this space, what is currently going on there etc.</li> <li>3. The meeting widely covered on social media (Facebook, Instagram etc)</li> <li>4. Informing about the Transeuropa Caravans project with a special focus on the Central Eastern route, planned actions, places to visit or already visited places - best practices shared.</li> <li>5. A video (with Antje) recorded in W*ORT: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mAput9Djzk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mAput9Djzk</a></li> </ol>
	We have chosen W*ORT because in our opinion it's a great example of a good practice located in a small city. W*ORT is a Initiative open for people of different ages, genders, nationalities and backgrounds. Children will find there toys, books written and dedicated specially for them as well as modern and functional space to play together. Older kids and teenagers

	<p>may join interesting workshops on diverse topics (art and culture, ecology and more). Adults and seniors may enjoy poetry evenings, concerts, workshops. What's more - some of the activities are organised at the school, so W*ORT has a big impact not only in its initial location, which is an open social centre but also outside. What we also liked about W*ORT is that this Initiative is inviting people with migrant background to share their skills and abilities and run an open (for the local community) workshop or a training session. In this way, the organisation is contributing to the integration of the local community - we found this element another good practice, which could be an inspiration for other organisations and/or institutions with a similar profile.</p> <p>The strong points of this best practice are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integration and inclusion of migrants into the structures of the local community.</li> <li>2. Wide offer of interesting and tailor-made activities, events, workshops for the locals representing diverse age range, gender, nationalities and backgrounds.</li> <li>3. Activities implemented not only in W*ORT location but also in schools.</li> <li>4. Strong cooperation with and therefore - many benefits from the city.</li> <li>5. As a member of <a href="#">„International Alliance of Youth Writing Centers“</a>, the team of W*ORT brings the trends from the world to Lustenau and constantly develops and improve their work and offer for young people.</li> </ol>
--	--

## 21

Initiative	<p>AUSTRIA, Salzburg</p> <p><b>Omas gegen rechts</b></p>
Activity made with TEC	<p>„Vote Europe! - why do we have to fight for freedom, democracy and human rights” - a discussion with Susanne Scholl from Omas Gegen Rechts, Philippe Narval and Oliver Scheiber</p>
Activity format	<p>Discussion, active participation</p> <p>During this training, we introduced and promoted the petition on the „Genuine freedom of movement and European citizenship for all” and collecting the signatures. What's more, the aspects of EU citizenship were present and discussed during the debate.</p>
Contact	<p><a href="https://omasgegenrechts.at">https://omasgegenrechts.at</a>  <a href="mailto:entroy@yahoo.de">entroy@yahoo.de</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OMASGEGENRECHTS.SEITE/">https://www.facebook.com/OMASGEGENRECHTS.SEITE/</a>  <a href="https://twitter.com/OMASGEGENRECHTS">https://twitter.com/OMASGEGENRECHTS</a></p>

	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/omasgegenrechts/">https://www.instagram.com/omasgegenrechts/</a>
Description	OMAS GEGEN RECHTS (Grandmothers against right) is a civil society platform, founded in November 2017 on Facebook by Monika Salzer. Grandmother of the first our became Susanne Scholl. In the meantime OMAS have been created in all states in Austria and Germany. In May 2017 an association was founded in Austria.
Who did you target with your activity?	With this action we've targeted mainly the representatives of Omas Gegen Rechts, and the local audience present on the discussion.
Outcome of the action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participation in a public discussion on the conditions of civil society in Europe</li> <li>2. Distribution of Transeuropa Caravans PR materials and petition signing.</li> <li>3. Meeting with Omas Gegen Rechts Salzburg, discussing their demonstration methods and visibility through the knitted hats.</li> <li>4. Social media coverage of the meeting and short interview with local grandmothers.</li> <li>5. We could inform and exchange with the participants of this activity about freedom of movement and EU mobile citizens in a friendly environment.</li> </ol>
	<p>We have chosen OMAS GEGEN RECHTS (which can be translated as: „Grandmas against far right”) as our best practice because of few reasons.</p> <p>One of them was that this initiative has been chosen by us in the very first voting about which Initiatives/events/initiatives should we visit as the Central Eastern route of Transeuropa Caravans. OGR got most of our votes and became our absolutely favourite initiative. When at the stage of planning one of the movement's representatives told us that unfortunately they will not be able to meet with us - we were really sad and disappointed. Luckily, a bit later it occurred that the Grandmas will be present at one of the pre- European Elections debates in Salzburg, where Susanne Scholl - one of the OMAS GEGEN RECHTS founders will be a panelist and we decided to do whatever it takes to be there and ... we did! :) The debate entitled: „Vote Europe! - why do we have to fight for freedom, democracy and human rights” was - in our perspective - a bit disappointing. The invited guests: Susanne Scholl, Philippe Narval and Oliver Scheiber didn't bring many new perspectives on what has been already said about the topic before. Also their interaction with the audience and especially young people present at the debate (representatives of the local Amnesty International group) was not impressive - we got the impression that the panelists want to suggest to young people that „it's interesting what the are saying but they - the panelists - know better anyways”. The group of grandmas present during the debate made however, a completely different impression on us. Grandmas had a little stand prepared with their gadgets and small souvenirs. The members of OMAS GEGEN RECHTS were open and ready to talk. Always smiling, the seniors were showing their vitality, political and social engagement and great charisma! Before and after the debate,</p>

	<p>the ladies were very engaged in the promotion of their group and the idea behind. We could see their involvement and commitment to the cause of the upcoming European Elections - the ladies were showing and explaining how voting for the far right can be dangerous now and in the future. With a smile on the faces of OGR members were showing that no matter how young or old you are - you should still be active and care about the world around as well as the current political and social situation. We got a really great impression, energy and inspiration coming from this group and we would like to nominate Omas Gegen Rechts as one of best practices (which can be easily implemented in other European countries).</p> <p>Strong points of this best practice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Charisma and openness of its members - the Grandmas show us that no matter how old you are, you can and should still act towards positive changes and protest against inequality, discrimination, violence etc.</li> <li>2. The concept &amp; its branding - the name OMAS GEGEN RECHTS is catchy and cool, the grandmas have their own buttons and other „attractive” promotional materials, their „trademark” is a knitted hat - this whole concept „sells well” in the sense that the movement is always visible, visually attractive, attractive to people and media.</li> <li>3. Impressive dedication, open-mindedness, knowledge of the OGR members.</li> </ol>
--	---



*Transeuropa Caravans and Omas gegen Rechts*

# Good practices from: Mediterranean Caravan

**Italy, Slovenia, Croatia**

Special focus: Migration and borders

Team members describing good practices: Chiara Organtini, Maria Laura Mitra, Alice Priori, Irene Beltrame, Jelena Batelić, Elena D'Amato



Initiative	CROATIA, Zagreb: <b>Right to the city</b>
Activity made with TEC	"Beyond Walls - The political, social and artistic scene in Zagreb" Interview Pogon and Right to the city
Contact	Pogon: <a href="https://www.pogon.hr/">https://www.pogon.hr/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PogonZagreb">https://www.facebook.com/PogonZagreb</a> Right to the city: <a href="http://www.pravonagrad.org/">http://www.pravonagrad.org/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PravoNaGrad/">https://www.facebook.com/PravoNaGrad/</a>
Description	Pogon is a Center for Independent Culture and Youth, a cultural institution based on the new model of civil–public partnership. In 2008 it was jointly founded and is managed by the Alliance Operation City and the City of Zagreb. Right to the city is an organization engaged in advocacy and public campaigning against the economic overexploitation of spatial resources, corruption of public governance for the benefit of private interests, and the disenfranchisement of citizens in spatial planning processes in the city of Zagreb and Croatia. The initiative was established as a collaboration between civil society organizations working in the fields of culture and youth, and later formalised as NGO.
Who did you target with your activity?	Representatives of the local organisations and institutions: Pogon and Right to the city
Outcome of the action	We discussed with the two organizations the challenges that their city faces and their proposed solutions to overcome them and foster participation and inclusion in Zagreb.  Zagreb is quite similar to other cities, but they have noticed a big problem in providing for themselves due to what they have defined low quality of life in the city: inefficiency in the public services, their infrastructure, big projects that make it impossible to have a normal life.  Their answer to face the struggles within their city is to engage in the political conversation with the knowledge and skills that are coming from grassroots work, with a particular importance given to <b>arrange democratically the decision-making processes</b> . Right to the city is also connected in this terms with other EU movements, to communicate with and learn from them.

	<p>What is also very interesting about their strategy in overcoming these struggles is the way they collaborate and connect with other organizations, no profits and movements: they feel all part of the <b>same ecosystem</b>, each organization is independent but they all support each other, sharing spaces, joint activities, putting funds together in order to have a bigger outreach, sharing skills and leaning on each other's expertise to work on different issues. When asked about the situation of migrant citizens in Zagreb, they have mentioned how their work for a more participative decision-making in the city governance reflects their focus on providing equal chances to all and fostering the inclusion on migrants into the city.</p> <p>In the migrant route 2015, they all dedicated their work to and volunteered in helping migrants, also adjusting their programmes and scheduled activities towards the topic of migration. Since then, they closely cooperate with organizations such as the Centre of peace studies and Are u Syrious.</p>
--	--

Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>Pogon experience is very interesting in terms of the model they have used to open a <i>social cultural center</i>. In fact, it is the direct result of the advocacy and activism of the organizations focused on finding a solution to the problem of insufficient infrastructure for independent cultural activities in Zagreb. After several public discussions, media activities and protest actions as well as various formats and forms of artistic expression in order to put pressure on this relevant matter, the coalition of organizations managed to establish in 2008 a civic-public partnership with the city council to run a cultural space in Zagreb. Stemming from the same idea of “private - public partnership”, the organizers proposed a working model to the city council in which the civil society would have taken the Initiative of a “private” entity, therefore making it a civic-public space, that would ensure an open space for the citizens and artists of Zagreb to work in, free of charge.</p> <p>Pogon is now an “<i>open platform</i>”: they provide the use of its facilities for cultural and youth programmes of the Zagreb-based organisations free of charge and not defined by any aesthetic criteria or an articulated programme/curatorial concept. They offer the space to anyone who wants to foster the values and aims they promote, and there is no “quality check” to overcome in order to be involved in the space: in fact, the idea is to make space to both emerging and established artists, and to work parallelly and allow for contaminations between the two.</p> <p>The users of Pogon’s resources implement their programmes in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contemporary art and culture;</li> <li>• educational and information programmes vital for improving the quality of life of young people and youth work;</li> <li>• educational programmes aimed at the development of capacities of civil society organizations in the culture and youth sector.</li> </ul> <p>The experience of Pogon might now be at risk, since the former owner of the space is the City of Zagreb and the space is going to undergo some renovation works - the NGOs currently working there have to bid and compete in an open call to get it assigned again.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>“We work as an ecosystem, we lean on each other and share skills and expertise to do bigger joint activities”</p>



Photo from the training

## 23

Initiative	SLOVENIA, Ljubljana <b>“Mediterska Pot”</b>
Activity made with TEC	Interactive workshop - Creative exploration of the “euro-mediterranean” identity and roots. Migrant citizens and asylum seekers took part in the workshop.
Contact	Multivizija Project by Povod and Institute Apis <a href="https://www.multivizija.si/o-projektu?lang=en">https://www.multivizija.si/o-projektu?lang=en</a> Povod Institute <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pg/Povod-249963391841863/about/">https://www.facebook.com/pg/Povod-249963391841863/about/</a> Institute Apis <a href="http://www.instituteapis.org/">http://www.instituteapis.org/</a>
Description	Povod Institute Povod Institute is a NGO that works in the field of culture and international development cooperation towards the development of international relations in culture. They work in the field of intercultural learning, aiming at inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. They advocate, mediate and promote the implementation of the sustainable development goals. They are the national coordinator of Anna Lindh Foundation for Euro-Med dialogue in Slovenia.

	<p>Institute Apis</p> <p>APIS is a private non-profit institute that aims at the production, education, innovation and collaboration tied to social engagement, memory preservation, and human rights. The work of the institute promotes social inclusion and empowerment of the most vulnerable and the marginalized, while making sure to develop non-formal educational programs for the people with fewer possibilities. These are, for example, migrants, Roma, and youth hailing from a migrant background. The tools of empowerment they employ involve primarily video, photography, music and multi/trans media, offering education in video, photography, audio recording, journalism, and oral history.</p>
Who did you target with your activity?	<p>Participants of the Multivizija Project - people with disabilities, people from a migrant background, asylum seekers.</p> <p>Total: 10 participants</p>
Outcome of the action	<p>Participants have reflected about intercultural dialogue especially in the Euro-Mediterranean area, which is the essential key to the coexistence of different peoples and cultures, as well as the key to co-create new visions of civil society, democracy and human rights.</p> <p>In triads, participants have explored the meanings they have attached to their cultural identities, sharing a moment in which they felt that their cultural identity has made a difference in their lifetime. This activity has opened the discussion to the topic of <i>"belonging in Europe"</i>, with the exchange of stories of moments they felt (or didn't) that they belonged to Europe or to the Euro-Mediterranean region.</p> <p>Stemming from this exchange, participants have identified the aspects of their (cultural) identity that they would like to see more in Europe, including: curiosity, irony, inclusion and empathy, diversity as unity and not as division, care, equal opportunities for all, no racism, an attitude of "my neighbours before my house".</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>The Multivizija Project is a unique example on ways to engage in a meaningful way those groups that are defined as "vulnerable" or "at risk". One example of innovation of this project is the process of selection of the participants.</p> <p>The participants have been selected with a deep understanding of the intertwined relationships between different aspects of one's identity and this intersectional framework has opened the path for a deeper dialogue and exchange between the participants, creating connections beyond the identity(ies) on the forefront.</p> <p>Another feature of the originality of this project is the type of activities they engage in: participants engage in different forms of artistic language, from theatre of the oppressed to photo-biography, to dance therapy.</p> <p>All these alternative educational tools are based on theater and art techniques.</p>

	<p>Through these different languages, participants are challenged to be vulnerable in front of each other and express their stories, identifying similarities in the patterns of stigmatisation due to differences(culture, disability/handicap, immigration, refuge status) and the accompanying victimisation, exploring options of how artistic forms can be used as a device for empowerment, a means of gaining new skills for improved employability, an instrument of mobilisation, motivation, and advancement of proactive operation of vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The last important feature to underline about this project is indeed the focus on future employability of their participants: the trainings strive to enhance their concrete options of employability by strengthening their language proficiency in Slovenian and providing them with specific skills in the audio-visual, artistic, cultural production and management fields, as well as social integration and cooperation.</p> <p>The project itself employs people from the same background as the participants.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>“There is a saying in my country that says “my neighbours before my house”. It’s an attitude that promotes the good relationships between people, helping each other’s out (like good neighbours) instead on focusing on property and material goods”.</p>

## 24

Initiative	<p>ITALY, Padova</p> <p><b>Valide Alternative</b></p>
Activity made with TEC	<p>Meeting “Valide Alternative (Valid Alternatives)”</p>
Activity format	<p>One on one interview and training</p>
	<p>The president of the organisation is a mobile citizen herself, a Romanian citizen working and living in Italy, and her organization targets mobile and migrant citizens.</p>
Contact	<p><b>Valide Alternative per l’Integrazione</b>  <a href="http://validealternative.org/">http://validealternative.org/</a></p>

	<a href="https://it-it.facebook.com/validealternative">https://it-it.facebook.com/validealternative</a> <a href="mailto:associazionevalidealternative@gmail.com">associazionevalidealternative@gmail.com</a>
Description	<p><b>Valide Alternative per l'Integrazione</b> (Valid Alternatives for Integration) is a civil society organization founded in 2013 in Padua, by Mihaela Chirvasa and her closest friends and relatives.</p> <p>The aim of the organization is to help people of foreign countries in their integration process in the Italian culture and society, promoting a welcoming climate and dialogue between immigrants and the local population.</p>
Who did you target with your activity?	The president of the organization - Mihaela Chirvasa
Outcome of the action	<p>The aim of the meeting was to gather the story and the practices of this organization. In fact, we got to know this organization as a perfect example of mobile citizens self-organizing in order to help each other, targeting not only EU mobile citizens but also extra-EU mobile citizens. The result of the conversation with the president of the association resulted in the best practice storytelling down below.</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>Valide Alternative per l'Integrazione was founded in 2013 by Mihaela Chirvasa and a group of her closest contacts. Mihaela had moved to Padova after her Journalism degree and got involved in volunteering as a way of <b>giving back to the community</b> all the help and the support that she had found along the way, while settling in a new country.</p> <p>A few years after those first volunteering experiences, she decided to start a new organization because she was not satisfied of the formal/rigid ways some cooperatives carried out their work. For her, <b>volunteering should be spontaneous</b>, a way of giving purpose to your life by helping out other people.</p> <p>Keeping these values in mind, and still with the goal of sharing the support received very close to her heart, she began the journey founding Valide Alternative per l'Integrazione, with the aim of helping mobile and migrant citizens while creating a safe space for expression and for mutual listening and understanding.</p> <p>The first year of life for the organization wasn't as smooth as expected: Mihaela reported the difficulty of finding support from institutions, even to only have a space to hold their meetings in. A few months after their establishment, they managed to connect with a students' organizations operating in Padova, who hosted them for a few years in their headquarters. Some of the students joined the association as volunteers and the numbers of the organization started growing.</p> <p>From an initial small number of people attending their meetings (mostly from the Romanian community, Mihaela underlined), their growth engaged increasingly more Italian in the process - building up a team now made of around 15 volunteers.</p>

	<p>At the beginning, their activities focused more on technical support to incoming citizens (especially Romanians), but with the years and the growing number of volunteers the breadth of their activities grows, as well as the outreach to new members of community.</p> <p>Many more refugees and asylum seekers got involved in the organization, and Valide Alternative welcomed this connection as they felt a need for support more radical and deep from refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>As for the activities, the association implemented language training courses at different level of Italian (as it is one of the first requests migrant citizens have made themselves), computer literacy courses, resume writing sessions as well as meetings of self-narration.</p> <p>This safe meeting represented an unique occasion to address simple yet dense matters (such as “What is home to you?”, “What is love”, etc) in a safe way, within a group of people that come from different countries and may or may not have undergone the same experiences.</p> <p>This specific type of activity stems from the need of hosting a space where newcomers can freely express themselves, be listened to and be embraced, since there is a very high need of stimulating intercultural dialogues.</p> <p>In recent years, the organization has gained the trust of public institutions and they are enlisted as point of reference for newcomers by the Municipality of Padua.</p> <p>One of the struggles that Valide Alternative has faced in the past is the high turnover in people involved, since everything is on a volunteer basis. However, the volunteering component is also a very precious one in the organisational culture: one of the biggest efforts is the challenge to emphasize the human capital, finding strategies to lead the organization in an horizontal and participatory way, where every volunteer can be proactive, express their point of view and suggest new activities, but is also aware of the struggles the organization might face. It is only through transparency and shared coordination that it is possible to create a deep connection between the people and to ensure continuity to the organization.</p> <p><i>(answering the question on why it's called “Valide Alternative per l'Integrazione”)</i></p> <p>“The name “Valide Alternative per l'Integrazione” gathers two components: “<i>valid</i>” for the accuracy and reliability we carry out this project with (and also because we wanted a name that could work in Romanian); and “<i>alternatives</i>” to express the flexibility and the adaptability of the organization”.</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p>“To me Europe means freedom, freedom to move, above all. I believe that every person has the right to move in total freedom to seek their fortune elsewhere, if they deemed necessary.</p>



	Multiculturalism is the basis of all the activities of the association that take Initiative in the spirit of interculture, meeting and mutual exchange."
--	--

## 25

Initiative	ITALY, Bologna: <b>Fondazione Innovazione Urbana headquarters</b>
Activity made with TEC	Citizens engagement with Fondazione Innovazione Urbana
Activity format	Interview with local authority Stefania Paolazzi, in charge of Projects Management and Facilitation at Fondazione Immaginazione Urbana
Contact	Fondazione Immaginazione Urbana <a href="https://www.fondazioneinnovazioneurbana.it/fondazione-innovazione-urbana-home">https://www.fondazioneinnovazioneurbana.it/fondazione-innovazione-urbana-home</a> <a href="#">FIU - FB Page</a>
Description	<p>The Fondazione Immaginazione Urbana (Foundation for Urban Innovation) is a centre for analysis, communication, elaboration and co-production on urban transformations to face social, environmental and technological challenges.</p> <p>It has been founded by a joint effort from the Municipality of Bologna and the University of Bologna.</p> <p>The Foundation's objectives and actions are developed along four main thematic axes: (1) Welcoming City, (2) New Urban Welfare, (3) Urban and Digital Democracy, (4) Sustainable City.</p>
Who did you target with your activity?	Local Authority: one on one interview with the representative of Projects Management and Facilitation
Outcome of the action	<p>We gathered a report about the key activities, opportunities and challenges that the Foundation is promoting and facing in terms of Civic Imagination. They activate paths of listening, collaboration, participation and co-production in relation to projects and policies of the city and its districts, with specific attention to the care and regeneration of urban common goods.</p> <p>The Civic Imagination Office operates as a laboratory for development and research and connects the resources, choices and projects of Bologna city council with the needs, potential and capabilities of citizens and communities.</p> <p>The objective is to imagine new solutions so that the government of the city is the result of shared responsibilities in caring and activating</p>

	<p>local spaces and Initiatives, based on principles of sustainable and fair use of local resources.</p> <p>To reach these objectives, the Foundation is facilitating the activation and development of participatory processes with local citizens. Key approaches are campaigns, organisation of initiatives and events in the area in close collaboration with its members, with Neighbourhoods and other public and private institutions.</p> <p>The approach is focused in the co-creation and participation in the decision-making processes between the administration and citizens on both processes and projects for the city of Bologna. For example using the Participatory Budget method, deciding about the use of abandoned buildings, explore and exchange on topics of interest to the city (e.g. mobility, air quality, management of public spaces, etc.).</p>
Describe the good practice with your own story	<p>Fondazione Immaginazione Urbana constitutes one of the first experiences in Italy in terms of participatory approach to the public goods.</p> <p>The key best practices/values of the Foundation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity approach: activating Neighbours Labs where citizens can share about their most pressing issues at the local level (street, closed area, whole neighbour);</li> <li>- Desk Research to collect all available information about each area</li> <li>- Multidisciplinary teams (philosophers, architects, sociologists,..)</li> <li>- Long-term relationships with local level (citizens, associations, communities)</li> <li>- Mutual exchange and learning between administration and citizens</li> <li>- Experimenting and making use of available local resources</li> </ul> <p>Main challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a sense of collective responsibility, not to think only on the individual level</li> <li>- Build alliances among the different involved actors</li> <li>- Reach out to marginalized sectors of the inhabitants</li> <li>- Intergenerational conflicts</li> <li>- Spread concept of participatory democracy instead of representative democracies</li> <li>- Need for cultural mediators and youth educators</li> <li>- Active involvement of squats in the participated decision-making while evictions are carried out by the administration</li> </ul> <p><i>What are you doing and why?</i></p> <p>The objectives and actions of the UIF, the Urban Innovation Foundation, are developed along four main thematic axes: welcoming city, new urban welfare, urban and digital democracy, sustainable city. Within the Foundation I work in the field of public policy innovation: I deal with project management and define strategies for involving associations, communities and citizens in decision-making processes designed to co-produce urban development actions and projects. What motivates me most in my work is the idea that democracy and policies are a public good and must pursue the objective of fair, inclusive and sustainable development.</p>

	<p><i>What does Europe mean to you?</i> For me, Europe is an area of exchange, confrontation and growth.</p> <p><i>What value would you like to see more present in this Europe?</i> Proximity (relational).</p>
Quote to remember about this good practice	<p><i>"What is democracy today and who can afford to participate?"</i></p>

Read more about this best practice: [Cafebabel](#)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to warmly thank all the local hosts who welcomed the Transeuropa Caravans in May and in October/November 2019. It is thanks to your work, determination and expressions of solidarity that the Transeuropa Caravans project could be so inspiring and interesting for a broader public across Europe.

These good practices were collected thanks to the collaboration and contribution of:

Hundreds of volunteers and activists encountered by the Transeuropa Caravans in 2019

Trainers and activists engaged in the Transeuropa Caravans Central, Western, Visegrad, Mediterranean and Baltic routes

<https://transeuropacaravans.eu>  
#transeuropacaravans  
[Facebook.com/EuroAlter](https://www.facebook.com/EuroAlter)  
[Twitter.com/EuroAlter](https://twitter.com/EuroAlter)  
[Instagram.com/european\\_alternatives](https://www.instagram.com/european_alternatives)



This publication is funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020). The content of this publication represents only the views of the author and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.