

**The project « From Citizen Involvement to Policy Impact – U-Impact »
was funded with the support of the European Union under the
Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation
Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"**

10 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1 - Launch Event : Turning Policy Initiatives into Policy Impact

Participation: The event involved 92 citizens, including 82 participants from the cities of Sofia, Radomir, Kiustendi, Pleven and Kula (**Bulgaria**) and 10 participants from **Belgium, Italy, Romania, Albania, Spain, Estonia, Cyprus, FYROM, Iraq and Peru.**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 07/04/2015 to 09/04/2015

Short description: The aim of the event was to launch the project and set out the plan for cooperation between the partners. This three-day event included a Conference on Civil Society Policy Impact in Europe and a workshop on effective international coordination of civic engagement for the partners of the project. The Conference was attended by MEP's from Bulgaria and representatives of public authorities and CSO's. A special session was organized for and by the underrepresented – refugees and ethnic minorities. A two-day follow-up workshop was focused on communication training and collaborative planning.

Event 2 – Roundtable and webinar on a Cross-Border Initiative on “Citizens in Limbo” - Improved Enforcement of Citizen Rights for EU Citizens Residing in Another EU Country

Participation: The event involved 44 citizens including 38 participants from Bulgaria and 6 participants from **Belgium, Italy, Malta, Romania and Spain**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Sofia, Bulgaria on May 29, 2015

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and discuss problems with the implementation of citizens' rights in the EU, to debate the desired policy changes and impact and agree on the next steps for policy change. The debate was attended by citizens, national MEP's and public authorities and 6 participants from another network and other EU member country. It was broadcast live on the Internet for interactive international participation and included an international part with live video participation from partners in **Spain, Belgium and Albania.**

Event 3 Roundtable and webinar: The Refugee Crisis and The Schengen Dilemma

Participation: The event involved 53 citizens, 48 participants from Romania and 5 participants **from the UK, Poland, the Czech Republic and Ireland**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Bucharest, Romania on September 18, 2015

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and discuss a study of the problems Romanian citizens meet when travelling in Schengen countries and problems citizens of other EU countries meet when staying in Romania. The participants debated the desired policy changes and impact and agree on the next steps for policy change. The debate was attended by citizens, national MEP's and public authorities and 5 participants from another network and other EU member country. It was broadcast live on the Internet for interactive international participation and included an international part with live video participation from partners in **Bulgaria, Belgium, Sweden and the UK.**

Event 4 Roundtable and webinar: Initiative on Improved Representation of Civil Society in the EU

Participation: The event involved 45 citizens, including 37 participants from Cyprus and 8 participants from the **UK, the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Romania, France, Spain and Lithuania**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Nicosia, Cyprus on January 22, 2016

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and discuss policy proposals for increased citizen participation in the EU. The participants debated the desired policy changes and impact and agree on the next steps for policy change. The debate was attended by citizens, national MEP's and public authorities and 8 participants from another network and other EU member country. It was broadcast live on the Internet for interactive international participation and included an international part with live video participation from partners in **Italy and Spain**.

Event 5 Roundtable and webinar: Citizen Education for Participation

Participation: The event involved 72 citizens, including 67 participants from Spain and 5 participants from the **UK, Poland, France, Italy and Romania**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Merida, Spain on November 6, 2015

Short description: Fundación Ciudadanía discussed the importance of the education for the citizen participation in the decision making process in the EU and its policy proposal in that area. Various public authorities such as Isabel Gil, spokesman of the Board of Extremadura and Blanca Martin, President of the Assembly of Extremadura participated in the event, encouraging us to continue building Europe together. The debate was attended by citizens, national MEP's and public authorities and 5 participants from another network and other EU member country. It was broadcast live on the Internet for interactive international participation and included an international part with live video participation from partners in **Bulgaria, Estonia, Cyprus and Albania**.

Event 6 Cross-Border Initiative on Improved MEP - Civil Society Communication with a special focus on the Refugee Crisis

Participation: The event involved 41 citizens, including 35 participants from Estonia and 6 participants from **Germany, Poland, Romania, Spain, Finland and Lithuania**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Tallinn, Estonia on February 10, 2016

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and discuss policy proposals how to make national MEPs work in Brussels and Strasbourg better known in their home countries. The participants debated the desired policy changes and impact and agree on the next steps for policy change. The debate was attended by citizens, national MEP's and public authorities and 6 participants from another network and other EU member country. It was broadcast live on the Internet for interactive international participation and included an international part with live video participation from partners in **Bulgaria, Italy and Cyprus**.

Event 7 Cross-Border Initiative on Social Enterprises in EU

Participation: The event involved 57 citizens, including 54 participants from Albania and 3 participants from **Germany, Austria and Spain**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Tirana, Albania on February 26, 2016

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and discuss policy proposals for increasing the role of social enterprises in the economic development and employment in Europe. The participants debated the desired policy changes and impact and agree on the next steps for policy change. The debate was attended by citizens, policy makers and public authorities and by 3 participants from another network and other EU member country. It was broadcast live on the Internet for interactive international participation and included an international part with live video participation from partners in **Belgium, Netherlands and France**.

Event 8 Roundtable and webinar: Improved Patients' and Travelers' Rights Protection in the EU

Participation: The event involved 46 citizens, including 42 participants from Italy and 4 participants from the **Netherlands, Cyprus, France and Belgium**.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Rome, Italy on March 4, 2016

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and discuss policy proposals for improved patients' rights protection and for improved travelers' rights protection in the EU. The participants debated the desired policy changes and impact and agree on the next steps for policy change. The debate was attended by citizens, national MEP's and public authorities and 4 participants from another network and other EU member country. It was broadcast live on the Internet for interactive international participation and included an international part with live video participation from partners in **Malta, Belgium, Spain and Hungary**.

Event 9 Roundtable and webinar: Initiative on Stronger Civil Society Involvement in the formulation of EU Foreign Aid Policy

Participation: The event involved 30 citizens, including 25 participants from France and 5 participants from **Bulgaria, Italy(2), Germany and Spain.**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Lyon, France on March 12, 2016

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and discuss policy proposals for increased citizen impact on the decision-making about foreign aid in the EU with a special focus on the changes envisioned as a result of the refugee crisis. The participants debated the desired policy changes and impact and agree on the next steps for policy change. The debate was attended by citizens, national MEP's and public authorities and 5 participants from another network and other EU member country. It was broadcast live on the Internet for interactive international participation and included an international part with live video participation from partners in **Bulgaria and Belgium.**

Event 10 International Conference on Effective Citizen Impact on EU Policy

Participation: The event involved 71 citizens, including 42 participants from Belgium and 29 participants from **Albania, Bulgaria, Italy, UK, Spain, France, Germany, Denmark, Romania, Turkey, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Finland, Ireland, Cyprus, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Sweden and the Netherlands**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Brussels, Belgium on May 18, 2015

Short description: ECAS' Conference "24 Years of EU Citizenship: What We Stand to Lose" analyzed the main achievements and challenges of EU Citizenship close to 25 years after the concept was first enshrined in the EU Maastricht Treaty. It also summed up the achievements of the U-Impact policy initiatives and featured presentations from the partners and from citizen organizations, MEPs and policy makers on the EU level. More than 70 participants took part in the event and over 100 watched it online.