

The project «MUSTER» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"
Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"
Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"**

In this project five events have been carried out:

Event 1 – Citizens for a Sustainable Europe

Participation: The event involved 103 citizens, including 25 participants from the partner **City of Città di Castello (Italy)**, 2 participants from the partner **City of Lörrach (Germany)**, 3 participants from the partner **City of Joué Lès Tours (France)**, 1 participant from the partner **City of Sighisoara (Romania)**, 2 participants from the partner **City of Smolyan (Bulgaria)**, 70 participants from the partner **Practical Utopia Agency (Italy)**.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Città di Castello, Italy, from 15/10/2015 to 17/10/2015

Short description:

The meetings provided the partners with the knowledge of the state of arts in the cities involved in the project, in particular innovative forms of citizens' participation, selecting actions to work on together and construct so step-by-step a lasting network. The basis are some pre-existing collaborations, the similarity in problems to be tackled and a strong European commitment of all partners.

On Friday, October 16 the meeting on "**The City of Tomorrow. What role for Europe?**" was opened by the Mayor of Città di Castello with a formal welcome to all participants. The Deputy Mayor for economic development Enrico Carloni, as moderator of the meeting, introduced a Lectio Magistralis held by Alberto Grohmann, Professor of Economic History at the University of Perugia. Alberto Grohmann spoke of the central role of cities from the middle ages to this very day for the development of Europe and vice versa, the role of Europe as the frame of urban development. "Cities are the place of the European spirit", prof. Grohmann argued, historically they thrived in close contact and exchange among each other. These exchanges today continue to be of great importance in particular for small and medium sized urban centres to promote and guarantee social and economic innovation and good services to the citizens. The meeting continued with multimedia presentations of the five MUSTER cities.

World café: projects and initiatives for the cities of tomorrow. The first session brought together stakeholders from Città di Castello with the delegations discussing in the world café format around two thematic round table: **Thematic Round Table n.1 Integrated Participation, Culture and Tourism.** The table on integrated participation, culture and tourism started with the presentation of the tourism activities of the City of Sighisoara (Romania). Then the Municipality of Smolyan presented the main activities realized in the field of integrated planning and participation. **Thematic Round Table n.2 Agenda 21, Energy and Climate Policies:** The round table on Agenda 21, Energy and Climate Change started with the presentation of the City of Joué lès Tour (F). The delegation illustrated how they developed their integrated participation mechanism in order to better involve citizens in the process decision. Then the delegation of Lörrach, presented the sustainable mobility policy and the citizens' participation in Lörrach. The meeting continued with contributions and questions from the participants.

Sharing Lab: "My City in the EU of 2020. In which Europe do we want to live?" The workshop saw two fifth classes from the Technical Institute "Franchetti Salviani" and one second class from the gymnasium "Plinio il Giovane" meeting the delegations of the MUSTER cities. In the preceding months the three classes had worked on the basis of a concept note and under the guidance of the Practical Utopias Agency on two key questions for the future of Europe: the common currency and managing the refugees. Each class formed a group around these issues which again was divided into supporters and adversaries. The four groups had to develop an argument to present in five minutes or less on: -

- The currency union is good for the members of the European Union versus The sooner we get out of the euro the better for the citizens of Europe.
- We have to make every effort for enacting a culture of welcome to refugees versus We have to raise the barriers for immigrants entering Europe as high as possible.

The students participated with enthusiasm be it in the preparatory work be it delivering their short but precise presentations. The second part of the encounter the students asked the delegations questions on these two subjects, i.e. how do the different cities deal with the problem of immigration, how is the situation for the Eastern European cities Sighisoara and Smolyan, having high rates of emigration and more recently being also destinations of immigration, their countries and the future of the common currency, etc.?

Dr. Schibel from the Practical Utopias Agency, introduced the final round laying out the work program in the present phase of the project: the first meeting served for getting an idea on what could be possible fields of collaboration between the five cities. The second meeting in Lörrach will be dedicated to looking at some exemplary solutions and narrowing down further the fields of interest. The result should be a vision of ones own city and in what direction it should be going: as a tourist, industrial, service-oriented or cultural town. The process would strive towards developing a guiding idea that is widely shared by citizens and reaches over and goes beyond the political mandate of single administrations. The delegations agreed on "participation" as an issue of common interest and Lörrach as the next meeting town is a fortunate coincidence because the city will start the elaboration of a common vision of the town in a wide participatory process in January 2016.

Exposition: The many Faces of Local Sustainable Development: During the days of the first MUSTER meeting an exposition was mounted in the entrance to the meeting hall. All five cities contributed posters on the principal projects of sustainable development they are working on.

Event 2 - Advanced Solutions of Local Sustainable Development

Participation: The event involved 51 citizens, including 3 participants from the partner **City of Città di Castello (Italy)**, 39 participants from the partner **City of Lörrach (Germany)**, 2 participants from the partner **City of Joué Lès Tours (France)**, 3 participants from the partner **City of Sighisoara (Romania)**, 2 participants from the partner **City of Smolyan (Bulgaria)**, 2 participants from the partner **Practical Utopia Agency (Italy)**.

Location / Dates: The event took place Lörrach, Germany, from 18/02/2016 to 20/02/2016

Short description:

The five partner cities, coordinated by the Practical Utopias Agency met in the German tri-border region town to study advanced solutions of local sustainable development. At the centre of attention was the on-going participatory process in Lörrach "Design Lörrach. Together" that started in January 2016 and aimed at the elaboration of a new mission statement with a vision for the development of the urban community in the next years. Another field of interest was intelligent energy and climate policies, given the fact that Lörrach has been award gold thrice in the European Energy Award, and intends to become climate neutral by 2050. The partner cities met in Lörrach to study and discuss cases of good practice above all in a perspective of transferability and replicability in collaboration between the five towns. Because this is the sense of the measure "Networks of towns" in the European program "Europe for citizens": to give municipalities an opportunity to work on a common theme in a long-term perspective. With MUSTER, civic participation is evolving as a common theme and energy and mobility could be the concrete fields in which to apply participatory forms of democratic engagement. The common theme the five cities could develop in a long-term perspective could be local energy and climate policies and their implementation also through civic engagement. This requires to reframe climate and energy policies in a wider context of local sustainable development. Mobility in the sense of better accessibility to public transport and high quality service, making communities safer and easier to walk in, offering regional

products on the local market are issues citizens will want to engage in, not primarily for climate protection reasons, but because they improve the quality of life. One common denominator between four of the five cities is that Lörrach, Città di Castello, Sighisoara and Smolyan have all adhered to the European initiative “Covenant of Mayors”, have all elaborated a Sustainable Energy Action Plan and the first two towns have also handed in their action monitoring report. Ideally the formal agreement among the cities for a long-term collaboration would take the form of a resolution of the five city councils.

Workshop 1: Participation policies in the MUSTER cities. In the first round of the morning meeting the guest partner cities presented their processes of participation: procedures, results and problems. The discussion among the delegations on the basis of the five presentations confirmed the general interest to put civic participation at the centre of the MUSTER collaboration between the five cities.

Guided tours- Best practice on Energy & Mobility in Lörrach The first point of interest of the guided visit tour to cases of excellence in mobility and energy in Lörrach was the mobility hub at the Central station. All the elements are well-known, what makes the hub an important reference point for sustainable mobility in Lörrach is the quality of the elements and their integrated organisation. The next stop of the guided visit took the delegations to the Dreiländerbrücke in Weil am Rhein. Using the public transport system the delegation had a first-hand experience of its excellent services. In addition the delegations were able to make use of their “Gästekarte”, a ticket for the public transport for all visitors who stay at least two nights in Lörrach and who can use the ticket for all public transport in the Black Forest region. The following stop was the district heating plant of the ratio Neue Energie GmbH which offers heat to the north of Lörrach from two burners, 1 MW heat each. The network is 3.5 km long and heats 1.250 households with 10,000 MWh/year. The hook-up is not obligatory, but the conditions are favourable, given the fact that the user need not install and maintain an own boiler. The city of Lörrach and the ratio Neue Energie GmbH consider it preferable not to introduce an obligation to hook-up, which is widely being practiced in other cities. The final stop of the afternoon was the quarter of Dammstrasse / Am Bahndamm, which used to be a troubled neighbourhood in terms of security and social cohesion. The municipal real estate management Wohnbau Lörrach, together with the city of Lörrach developed a restructuring concept that united social and energetic goals. The houses were energetically retrofitted and modernized, rendered aesthetically more attractive and equipped with some low-cost conflict-reducing features. To change the social composition in each block two pent houses were added on in order to add upper medium class families to the quarter.

Workshop 2: Energy and mobility policies in the MUSTER cities. During the second workshop delegations presented their respective situations in the energy, mobility and urban agenda

Workshop 3: Expectation, proposal, conclusion The discussion of the morning was dedicated to the program of the next meeting in Joué lès Tours and more in general the dynamics of the MUSTER project as a whole. The four subject areas that met interest among the discussants were: Adaptation to Climate Change, New Covenant of Mayors and participation, Mobility, Local products and zero kilometres. Joué lès Tours proposed the theme “Limiting greenhouse gas emissions, preserving resources and protecting biodiversity”. On the basis of the exchange among the cities up to now the “Covenant of Mayors” could provide a framework for these subjects. Four cities have adhered to this European initiative, all have elaborated a Sustainable Energy Action Plan. A possibility could be that all five cities adhere to the Integrated Covenant of Mayors launched in October 2015 which foresees a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) that outlines strategy and actions for reducing greenhouse gases 40% by 2030 and develops an adaptation plan on the basis of the territorial vulnerabilities. Lörrach would be interested in this approach, because, as Mr. Wilke explained, while the city has done much in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as mobility, with adaptation to climate change it is still in the beginning.

Exposition: Processes of citizens’ participation, Projects Energy and Mobility: The city of Lörrach had mounted in the atrium of the first floor of the town hall an exposition that was presented to the delegations on Saturday morning by Dr. Wilke and Ms Staub-Abt. The exposition took up all the themes that had been discussed during the preceding days, mobility, energy, the climate strategy of the city that is striving to become climate neutral by 2050, the European Energy award which the city has taken thrice in gold. One of the themes which was not part of the debate until now, was biodiversity, where the city has an action plan to promote the variety of the flora in the public areas.

Event 3 - From Masterplan to Urban Agenda – Putting the Pieces together

Participation: The event involved 45 citizens, including 3 participants from the partner **City of Città di Castello (Italy)**, 2 participants from the partner **City of Lörrach (Germany)**, 33 participants from the partner **City of Joué Lès Tours (France)**, 3 participants from the partner **City of Sighisoara (Romania)**, 2 participants from the partner **City of Smolyan (Bulgaria)**, 2 participants from the partner **Practical Utopia Agency (Italy)**.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Joué Lès Tours, France, from 06/07/2016 to 08/07/2016

Short description:

The third meeting of MUSTER the theme was: **From Masterplan to Urban Agenda – Putting the Pieces together**. The five partner cities, coordinated by the Practical Utopias Agency met in Joué lès Tours in Central France to do just what the title of the meeting said: putting the pieces together. The “pieces” being the big variety of good practices that had been presented by all in the first two meetings and some of which the delegations had an occasion to see first hand. The idea being to get a common understanding of how these pieces fall into place in the perspective of an integrated sustainable territorial development. This third meeting enriched the knowledge of the project partners as to good practices in the MUSTER cities in order to assemble these good practices in a more comprehensive picture of integrated sustainable local development. The morning was dedicated to reports from the MUSTER cities as to the state of affairs in integrated planning and integrated development.

The European Commission and many national programs attribute a high value to integrating the various territorial planning processes and the resulting plans into an encompassing, overreaching project of sustainable local development. What is happening in this respect in the partner cities? Do they succeed in having inter-departmental planning processes, integrating urban, environmental, social aspects? During the workshop the delegations presented their respective situations and solutions.

Guided Visits: recreation and local products. After the morning session the delegations took a walk around the “Lac des Bretonnières”, an artificial lake embedded in the Park by the same name that offers a variety of recreational activities in proximity to the city of Joué lès Tours. The surface of the lake is currently estimated at approximately 19 hectares. The second guided visit took the delegations to les Vergers de Charlemagne, where the owner, Atoine Idzik showed the orchards where he grows apples and pears and explained the commercialization of his products which he distributes directly to the supermarkets in the region. On the way back the delegations stopped at “Les Etangs de Narbonne” a Sensitive Natural Area, located south of Joué-lès-Tours, with an area of 30 hectares. It belongs to the UNESCO protected area.

Round table on the initiatives in the partner cities on farmers’ markets, green areas, biodiversity:

The afternoon session saw the presence of a group of interested citizens, part of them from the district councils or other participatory organisations. In its report on Green areas and biodiversity Joué lès Tours illustrated how the improved management of public spaces contributes to the preservation of diversity. The idea of the community-supported agriculture is to present a locally based alternative to the dominant model of food production and distribution, promote organic farming and guarantee fair prices to the producers. The “Tours de Fermes” is a collective management structure for the direct sales of products by the producers who have to respect a quality charter and be located not further than 80 km from the point of sale. Città di Castello presented its Farmers’ Market, which every Tuesday takes place in the city square in front of the town hall and close to the Bishop’s Palace, the Cathedral and the Civic Tower. The location was chosen to value the social content of the market that is dedicated to local products, certified organic with zero kilometres. In Lörrach the market in the centre of the city, which the delegations visited on their 2nd meeting, takes place on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. To promote biodiversity the city of Lörrach has an action plan that the city council voted in 2010.

Round table on sustainable mobility and the bike:

The third session returned to the subject of the mobility policies in partner cities. The hosting city, Joué lès Tours opened the morning with a contribution on the tramline and mobility. During the round table the delegations presented their respective situations

Discussion of the Draft of the “Memorandum of Understanding: The Practical Utopias Agency, presented the draft of a Memorandum of Understanding that could provide the basis for a formal agreement for the future cooperation between the five cities. Point of departure of the future cooperation should be the fields of interest where all or most partners are active, i.e. Intelligent Climate and Energy Policies, Sustainable Mobility, Culture, Tourism, Urban Development and Social Cohesion. The parties

will commit themselves to evaluate favourably all proposals that are being presented by one of the parties.

Citizens' Meeting: Participation and decision-making In Joué lès Tours, there are 3 levels of participatory democracy: In France, district councils are required in cities of at least 80.000 inhabitants. It was not an obligation in Joué lès Tours. They were created in 1996. District councils are governed by internal rules of 7 articles defining purpose, scope, composition, operation, budget. There are 2 main goals: Towards the city government they give their opinion, develop projects, make suggestions, and ask elected officials if they want to be consulted. Towards the citizens they encourage expression, develop social relationships and partnerships, and facilitate communication.

Exposition: Processes of citizens' participation, Projects Energy and Mobility The city of Joué lès Tours had mounted in the atrium of the Espace Malraux an exposition on its Agenda 21 activities

Event 4 - Collaboration and participation for smart innovation

Participation: The event involved 153 citizens, including 93 participants from the partner **City of Città di Castello (Italy)**, 2 participants from the partner **City of Lörrach (Germany)**, 1 participant from the partner **City of Joué Lès Tours (France)**, 3 participants from the partner **City of Sighisoara (Romania)**, 4 participants from the partner **City of Smolyan (Bulgaria)**, 50 participants from the partner **Practical Utopia Agency (Italy)**.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Città di Castello, Italy, 26/01/2017 to 28/01/2017

Short description:

The theme of the fourth meeting was: **Collaboration and participation for smart innovation.**

The five partner cities, coordinated by the Practical Utopias Agency dealt in two workshops and two guided visits with the contribution of collaboration between the public and the private sector to sustainable territorial development.

Where are we? Where do we want to go? In the morning session, the delegations presented the European Projects and Initiatives in the partner cities to get an idea what kind of work each one is involved in and how it might come to bear on possible European Programs to apply for to give continuity to the MUSTER network.

On-site visits - Collaboration and participation for smart innovation: the first part of the guided visit tour to look at cases of excellence in innovation and collaboration private-public was the company Ponti Engineering. The company is a case of excellence be it as a successful example of public-private collaboration with public bodies, banks, companies as partners in the consortium, be it for the advanced technological innovations it has developed over the years in particular in the field of packaging. After lunch, the guided visit continued to the Bottega Tifernate with the founder and executive director Mr. Stefano Lazzari. Bottega Tifernate was created with the ambition to "recreate exactly a painting to communicate the essence of the original." A choice dictated by the passion for art with the intention of rediscovering the ancient pictorial traditions. The professionalism of Bottega Tifernate is required by museums or private collectors who will not or cannot render the original accessible to the public (British Museum, Vatican Museums, Uffizi Gallery, Louvre Museum, Metropolitan Museum of New York).

Workshop: collaborative approaches local government – economic sector: each city presented the situation in its territory.

Meeting the Students of "Pliny the Younger": On Saturday, January 28, at the Aula Magna of the State High School Pliny the Younger, two classes presented their work of the preceding months on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 (ensure everyone access to low-cost energy systems, reliable, sustainable and modern) and 12 (Ensuring sustainable patterns of production and consumption), indicated in the Agenda 2030. In particular, the students illustrated the results of a survey they conducted interviewing their fellow students, parents, neighbourhood shop keepers, companies. They wanted to know to what extent these two sustainable development goals found some correspondence in the everyday lives and in the work of the persons interviewed. The presentations by the two classes were followed by a question and answer session where the students asked the delegations from the guest cities about their activities in favour of sustainable energy, production and

consumption but also wanted to hear about projects of environmental education in the partner cities comparable to be ones they presented.

Concluding discussion: What focus could the follow-up project have? The final session was dedicated to the possible continuities of the collaboration by the partner cities after the end of MUSTER August 30, 2017. What was somewhat of a surprise, a very good one at that, was the strong desire by all the cities to continue in the framework of reference that MUSTER has been using until now. Deputy Mayor Fouquet had started this train of thought the day before, clearly indicating that the city of Joué-lès-Tours would like to continue the collaboration with the partners with the preference of aiming for a strong involvement of citizens, be it students, associations, economic actors, or simply interested persons. So, the collaboration would not be pointing at technical projects (like for example the common elaboration of plans for the adaptation to climate change), but at the exchange of good practices and a deeper understanding of how the partners confront the challenges they have as city governments, involving the stakeholders in the hosting city.

Event 5 - Signing of Memorandum and Future Cooperation

Participation: The event involved 164 citizens, including 3 participants from the partner **City of Città di Castello (Italy)**, 3 participants from the partner **City of Lörrach (Germany)**, 2 participants from the partner **City of Joué Lès Tours (France)**, 4 participants from the partner **City of Sighisoara (Romania)**, 149 participants from the partner **City of Smolyan (Bulgaria)**, 3 participants from the **Practical Utopia Agency (Italy)**.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Smolyan, Bulgaria**, from 21/06/2017 to 24/06/2017

Short description:

The fifth and final meeting of MUSTER took place under the theme: “**Democracy in smart cities**” – **the role of digital technologies for the interactions between administration and citizens**. In the four preceding meetings the partners got to know the state of arts in the other cities, study some solutions in-depth, experience and practice innovative forms of citizen's participation, select actions to work on together and construct so step by step a lasting network. The basis were some pre-existing collaborations (Joué lès Tours, Sighisoara), the similarity in problems to be tackled and a strong European commitment of all partners. On the work programme of this final meeting there was an exchange between the partner cities as to the use of digital technologies in their communities, what the applications are, to what extent they contribute to rendering the administrations of the cities simpler, quicker, more efficient, transparent and sustainable. The second subject area were possible future collaborations between the five cities, a theme which was already discussed in the preceding meetings and which in Smolyan found its culminating moment in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. Smolyan revealed itself a splendid host which made the last meeting one of the high points of the MUSTER project. A collaborative spirit of confidence rendered the work fruitful and pleasant. A true network of towns has come out of these two years of MUSTER.

In the morning of Thursday, June 22, the 5 delegations visited **the Regional History Museum of the city of Smolyan and the gallery of contemporary art**. The museum is the largest in the Rhodope Mountains and preserves the memory of the inhabitants of the area in different historical periods, from prehistory to our days

Opening of the 5th Muster Meeting: in the city hall, the proceedings of the last meeting were officially opened by the host city in the person of Deputy Mayor Marin Zahariev who welcomed the delegations of the other four MUSTER cities. Each city presented itself, Città di Castello, Lörrach and Joué lès Tours included a summary report of the highlights of the meetings they hosted, supported by videos and illustrative materials. The coordinator of the project Karl Ludwig Schibel revisited in his presentation the important stages of this two years project, starting from the first meeting in Città di Castello, the second in Lörrach, the third in Joué lès Tours and the fourth again in Città di Castello. In their activities the five cities again and again made the experience that in all their diversity they have many points in common especially in what they consider a desirable future and as to the problems they need to resolve. From the cities' analyses Practical Utopias Agency has produced a report of good practices divided into eight sections: Energy, Mobility, Climate, Innovation, Culture and Tourism, Participation processes, Social cohesion, Urban Green, Urban Integrated Planning, Governance, Trans Border cooperation. In this last meeting, the main theme to be discussed was digital innovation in public administrations as a means for

being more transparent, more efficient and user friendly for citizens and enterprises and also more sustainable.

Visit to the Orthodox church of Saint Vissarion and to the Smolyan Planetarium: In the afternoon, the five delegations first visited the Orthodox church of Saint Vissarion, the third largest church in the country and the largest church in Southern Bulgaria, then went to the Planetarium of Smolyan, Bulgaria's most important one. The planetarium began its activity in 1975 and is one of the most visited sites in the city

Democracy in smart cities – the role of digital technologies for the interactions between administration and citizens, each city presented the situation in its territory.

Lessons learned from MUSTER the goals of the project and one or two things that each partner has found most interesting and possible for replication in her or his city. In the second part of this session the participants talked about the goals of the project and one or two things that each partner has found most interesting and possible for replication in her or his city.

Meeting the students: My future in Smolyan, in Bulgaria, in Europe - Presentations by the students and discussion with the delegations on what activities their cities are engaged in to render them attractive for young people and slow down the brain drain. The Smolyan high school students of Language High School Ivan Vazov presented the results of their research about what should be done to render their city more attractive. The NGO Eco World Association presented the environmental

The perspectives of future cooperation, presentation of Memorandum Official Signing of the Memorandum: The Practical Utopias Agency presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding which forms the basis for future cooperation between the five cities. Starting points for future cooperation will be areas of interest where all or most partners are active, like smart climate and energy policies, sustainable mobility, culture, tourism, urban development and social cohesion. The Memorandum of Understanding makes explicit a common position on possible future cooperation. The memorandum was signed by the political representatives of the five participating cities.

Guided visit- Shiroka Lucka Village, old Rhodopean village, National heritage, Snezhanka Tower: On Saturday morning, the five delegations visited the traditional village of Shiroka Lucka. Shiroka Lucka is a well preserved village in the central Rhodope Mountains. The first stop that morning was a visit to the ancient Orthodox church "Assumption of Virgin Mary", where interesting frescoes are visible. Subsequently, the delegations headed to the Ethnografic Museum of Shiroka Lucka, an old rural house whose furniture is typical of the late 19th century. The last visit was to the National Folklore School. The delegations were honoured by the students with traditional songs and dances typical of various areas of Bulgaria - an enchanting performance. After lunch the group headed for the Pamporovo natural area where Snezhanka tower is located. Snezhanka Tower is a 156-metre-high television tower built of reinforced concrete with an observation deck near Pamporovo, Bulgaria.