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MUNICIPALITY OF MOLETAI
(LITHUANIA)



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MUNICIPALITY OF
MEZDRA (BULGARIA)



30 YEARS OF MAASTRICHT

Reflections on the past, present and future of Europe

NETWORK OF TOWNS - CERV PROGRAMME - 101138899 - CERV-2023-CITIZENS-TOWN

CERV Programme . Network of Towns

MEETING 3

Mezdra & Sofia (Bulgaria)

12 - 15 September 2024



• PROJECT SUMMARY •

"30 years of Maastricht: reflections on the past, present and future of Europe" is a project framed in the program CERV, promoted by Molėtų Rajono Savivaldybės administracija, as coordinator of the project and in cooperation with 8 partners from 7 different countries of the EU: Lithuania, Portugal, Bulgaria, Spain, Greece, France, Malta and Italy.

In line with the priorities of the CERV program and the European Commission, this project of Network of Towns, have as general objectives:

1. Encourage citizen participation in decision-making related to digitization and the future of the EU.
2. Promote digital rights and the protection of privacy and personal data of citizens of the European Union.
3. Analyse the impact of digitization on society and the economy of the European Union, including its effects on equality, diversity, and social cohesion.
4. Promote the understanding of European citizens about the Maastricht Treaty and its importance in European integration.

Since an event will be held in each one of the countries, the impact and visibility, as well as the program, will be fully guaranteed throughout the life of the project. One of the most significant impacts will be to actively stimulate citizens, encouraging them to participate vividly in European social life, having greater awareness; the creation of a strong long-term cooperative relationship, giving the opportunity to broaden perspectives, enrich oneself culturally and respect all kinds of differences.

All planned activities such as workshops, seminars, debates, conferences, workshops, round tables, video forums, exhibitions and cultural visits will be open to all citizens with the intention of obtaining maximum involvement and visibility. All this with the addition of innovative activities such as multiculturalism in schools, social networks and social equality, or new forms of integration and cooperation, which will help to develop an open and constant debate to facilitate the exchange of best practices.

• GREETINGS •



Dear Esteemed Guests,

As the Mayor of Mezdra, it is my great honor to welcome you to Bulgaria and, more specifically, to our cherished city. It is a privilege to host distinguished politicians, youth workers, and project managers from eight different countries, all united by a shared commitment to the future of Europe.

This event is particularly significant as Bulgaria celebrates the 20th anniversary of its accession to the European Union. This milestone is a source of immense pride for us, marking two decades of progress and development that have dramatically improved the quality of life for our citizens. Bulgaria's journey within the EU has been transformative, opening doors to new opportunities and strengthening our ties with the rest of Europe.

The foundation for this progress was laid many years ago with the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, which not only established the European Union but also set in motion the processes that would shape the continent for decades to come. The treaty's focus on economic and political integration has been crucial in creating the stability and cooperation we enjoy today.

Furthermore, the recent changes within the Schengen Area are a testament to the EU's ongoing commitment to improving the lives of its citizens. By enhancing the ease of movement and fostering closer ties between member states, the EU continues to demonstrate its ability to adapt and respond to the needs of its people. These developments underscore the importance of unity and collaboration in building a Europe that is not only stronger but also more inclusive and connected.

During your time in Mezdra, I encourage you to explore our city's unique cultural heritage and natural beauty. Our community is known for its hospitality, and I trust you will feel the warmth and friendliness that define our way of life. Let this environment inspire our discussions and collaborations as we address the challenges and opportunities ahead.

I am confident that this gathering will foster meaningful dialogue, forge strong partnerships, and pave the way for innovative solutions that will benefit our nations and the broader European community.

Welcome to Mezdra, and may your time here be productive, enriching, and filled with the spirit of cooperation.

Warm regards;

Ivan Asparuhov, Mayor of Mezdra (Bulgaria).

• PROGRAM •

THURSDAY 12 SEP

Arrival at Sofia Airport.

Check in at the hotel.

20:00 h. Bulgarian welcome dinner & Presentation of the participants

FRIDAY 13 SEP

08:00 h. Breakfast

09:00 h. Departure from the hotel

09:15 h. Presentation of the project to the participants, authorities, media and civil society.

09:30 h. Official reception with **Ms. Yordanka Chobanova** Head of the local office of the European Commission in Bulgaria:

CONFERENCE: 2024 EU Elections results and last campaign: Use your vote.

"2024 EU Elections: Identifying barriers to participate and how to overcome them"

Knowing your rights: "Education on the importance of voting in the European elections"

11:00 h. Official reception at the National Parliament of Bulgaria. Explanation of the functioning of the democratic institution.

11:15 h. Meeting with a National Deputy
WELCOME CONFERENCE: 20 anniversary of Bulgaria joining the European Union.

13:00 h. Lunch

16:00 h. Intercultural knowledge – guided visit around the old town of Sofia.
Entering in the Cathedral of Sofia – Alexander Nevsky

18:00 h. Uploading information on social networks regarding the participation

20:00 h. Dinner

SATURDAY 14 SEP

08:30 h. Departure from Hotel

10:30 h. Arrival in Mezdra

10:45 h. Official reception in the Municipality of Mezdra: welcome to the participants.

• PROGRAM •

11:00 h. Coffee Break

11:30 h. **Workshop and debate:** "Education on the importance of voting in the European elections". Summarising the results of the EU Elections and its importance in the upcoming future

13:00 h. Lunch

14:00 h. Excursion, knowing the territory

17:00 h. Back to Sofia

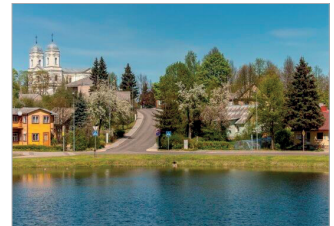
20:00 h. Evaluation of the project

20:15 h. Presentation of the next event in Malta

20:30 h. Good bye dinner

SUNDAY 15 SEP

- Breakfast
- Check out at the hotel
- Departure of the participants



• MEETINGS •

EVENT 1

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
(SPAIN)

4-7 February 2024



EVENT 3

SOFÍA
(BULGARIA)

12-15 September 2024



EVENT 2

MOLETAI
(LITHUANIA)

18-21 April 2024



EVENT 4

SLIEMA
(MALTA)

15-18 December 2024



• MEETINGS •

EVENT 5

GONDOMAR
(PORTUGAL)
30 January /
2 February 2025



EVENT 7

FORT DE FRANCE
(FRANCE)
10-14 May 2025



EVENT 6

GAVOI
(ITALY)
12-15 March 2025



EVENT 8

THESSALONIKI
(GREECE)
10-13 September 2025



• PARTNERSHIP •



MUNICIPALITY OF
MOLETAI (LITHUANIA)



KUNSILL LOKALI
TAS-SLIEMA



MUNICIPALITY OF
SLIEMA (MALTA)



MUNICIPALITY OF
PILEA-HORTIATIS



MUNICIPALITY OF
PILEIA HORTIATIS
(GREECE)

Association "La Didine"



ASOCIACIÓN LA DIDINE
(MARTINIQUE – FRANCE)



MUNICIPALITY OF
MEZDRA (BULGARIA)



ASOCIACIÓN XUVENIL
TIRABOLEIROS



ASOCIACIÓN
TIRABOLEIROS (SPAIN)



UNIAO DE FREGUESIAS
D FOZ DO SOUSA
E COVELO (PORTUGAL)



MUNICIPALITY OF
GALLODORO
(SICILY – ITALY)



ASSOCIAZIONE
TUMBARINOS
(SARDINIA - ITALY)