

## Citizens of macro-regions for a stronger Europe project

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| Project period:                   | August 2018-November 2019  |
| Project coordinator:              | Hungary: European House Budapest/Danubiana Network   |
| Project Partners:                 | <p>Austria: The World of NGOs<br/> Denmark: New Europe<br/> France: Maison de l'Europe de Paris<br/> Germany: Danube Connects<br/> Italy: European Movement<br/> Poland: Baltic Institute for Regional and European Concern<br/> Romania: Pro Democracy Association<br/> Serbia: Local Democracy Agency Subotica<br/> Slovakia: Slovak Foreign Policy Association</p>  |
| Short description of the project: | <p>"Citizens of macro-regions for a stronger Europe" is a project building on the still unused potential of a relatively new EU policy-making framework, the macro-regional strategies (MRS). The 10 project participating CSOs from AT, DE, DK, FR, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS and SK cover in balanced manner all the 4 macro-regions: the Baltic Sea, Danube, Adria-Ionian and Alpine Regions.</p> <p>The novelty of the project is that it brings together for the first time CSOs from all the macro-regions thereby increasing their potential of influencing macro- and EU-level policy-making processes. This will be achieved by</p> <p>a) a joint contribution to the elaboration of the biannual Commission's Report on MRS (released by the end of 2018) and assisting the implementation of its recommendations and</p> <p>b) attending the Annual Forums and other macro-regional programmes of the MRS.</p> <p>CSO and citizen involvement is assisted further by organising in public spaces 6 thematic events in 6 different locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. investing in democracy and values (Paris)</li> <li>2. human connectivity (Budapest)</li> <li>3. increased voters turnout at the 2019 EP elections (Ulm)</li> <li>4. creating citizens' friendly EU institutions (Bratislava)</li> <li>5. challenging EU scepticism (Milan)</li> <li>6. discovering the value of citizens' participation (Bucharest)</li> </ol> <p>As appropriate the following issues will also be referred to during the debates in a macro-regional context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contribution to citizens understanding of the Union and shaping its future</li> <li>• euroscepticism</li> <li>• A positive narrative for Europe</li> <li>• Active European Citizenship</li> </ul> <p>Project activities reaching out well beyond the circles of "usual suspects" confirm that MRS can have a bridge-building function and be successful as an interface between the EU institutions and the citizens reducing the distance between them.</p> <p>The project is co-financed by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Commission.</p> |