

**The project «LABOUR, Labour across Borders of the United Regions of Europe» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.1 *"Town-Twinning"***

**Participation:** The project involved 111 EU citizens from the invited countries, notably 39 participants from the city of Dobra (Poland), 42 from the City of Crest (France), 1 from the City of Guetersloh, 11 from the City of Sheffield (Great Britain), 9 from the City of Medvode (Slovenia), 9 from the City of Baja (Hungary) and a total of 204 from the local community.

**Location/ Dates:** The meeting of the I Gemellaggi Association and the EU citizens who joined the project took place in Ponte San Nicolò (Padova, Italy), from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Short description:**

The LABOUR project, Living and Working in Europa, consisted of an open debate among citizens of 7 member states on issues like European citizenship, mobility and employment from the point of view of the development of the EU and the opportunities offered to youth, with a focus on the socially disadvantaged ones. The local disadvantaged target group was formed by the NEETs, Not in Education, in Employment and in Training youth of Ponte San Nicolò.

In their speeches the conference speakers dealt with the themes of the right to mobility, to employment, to health and to education. They talked about how to relocate and to obtain assistance and protection, as well as how to claim their rights as European citizens.

Specific presentations, debates and workshop dealt with the following EU Desks:

- The Eures Network: The European network of the Eures Desks was introduced to the participants by advisors who explained whom to contact and how to obtain a customized job-seeking advisory service at EU level. The experts described the Your First Eures Job website and showed how to enter personal data through the website of [www.cliclavoro.gov.it](http://www.cliclavoro.gov.it). The Youth Guarantee Programme was also explained by the Eures advisors. In the Veneto Region, the government has established Youth Corners at 45 Regional Employment Offices, at the Universities, at the High Schools and at the job centres as well as created a toll free number. Information is available from the website [www.garanziagiovaniveneto.it](http://www.garanziagiovaniveneto.it)

- Europe Direct, the network which connects citizens to EU services, was explained by the desk advisors whose slides pointed out the contacts all over the Member states and their field of action.

- The Eurodesk Network youth policies: experts and advisors from the City of Ponte San Nicolò youth desk offered a detailed outlook on the opportunities for volunteers and community workers in the Member states, or in one of the associated countries. Besides explanations about the search for openings, two European Volunteers were invited to speak about their personal experience and to explain how to find a satisfactory position which can suit the applicant's attitudes in terms of social and cultural environment, and how to contact the Eurodesk advisors.

- The experience of a successful company, the Sacchettificio Corazza, a packaging manufacturing enterprise based in Ponte San Nicolò which believes in the young people and encourages them to invest in their career: beside pointing out that throughout its history this dynamic company has served the community well, the Mayor of Ponte San Nicolò and the CEO underlined which qualities are useful to achieve a successful career and become an entrepreneur.

LABOUR illustrated the best practices implemented in the EU countries, among others, the the social and work insertion model of the German City of Guetersloh to which the Institute for EU Partnerships and the EU cooperation IPZ awarded the "Best European Youth Project 2014" Prize.

The Sheffield Delegation described the City of Sheffield supported project for social insertion and sustainable town development that affected both the British citizens and the immigrants.

The LABOUR unfolded over five days.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 the Association I Gemellaggi dealt with the transfers of the participants between the airports and the hostfamilies but the project official start was on May 8<sup>th</sup> with the arrival and welcome of the delegations by the Association I Gemellaggi with the support of the Province of Padova and the City of Ponte San Nicolò. The evening welcome of the delegations was held by the President Enrico Annoni and the Mayor Enrico Rinuncini at the Roncaglia Parish centre. Dinnertime was when the project participants, predominantly young people under 30, started getting acquainted, networking, getting to know each other.

May 9<sup>th</sup> 2015. The Europe Day was the key event introducing the EURES Services, the European Voluntary Service, the themes of self-entrepreneurship, employment and the Informagiovani desk of the City of Ponte San Nicolò. The event was part of the European Youth Week which in Italy is managed by the Youth National Agency

May 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 was focused on the human rights and the Rights of the European Citizens as outlined in the Treaty of Lisbon's Charter of the Fundamental Rights. Mobility has been a core issue of the Labour project. All the speeches and activities were centred around the right to education within the Member states, and the right to work and to perform the voluntary service in Europe, especially for the young people.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 the lecture held on the Europe Direct Network was followed by a tour of the Venice Town Hall, the seat of the Eurodesk and the Europe Direct desk.

The final day May 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 dealt with the conclusions and the medium and long term effects of the project. The City of Guetersloh's meeting with the high schools paved the way to the agreement to join the German project. The first group of Italian students is planned to stay three weeks in Germany to carry out a training at a German company. Based on the principle of reciprocity, it is expected that the same number of German students will be hosted at families and companies in Padova under the supervision of German and Italian teachers. The key idea that has inspired the project is to persuade and involve into the project institutions, cities and the province on the one side and high schools with their teachers and students as well as their families on the other side, against the backdrop of a twinning agreement for the educational and cultural exchange. The trial step of the project will be kicked off in autumn 2015.

All the participating European delegations expressed their will to keep the exchanges going. The City of Crest hosted a delegation from Ponte San Nicolò at the end of May, the Baja delegation from Hungary gave was positive about joining further school exchange projects and invited to participate in the July fish festival, the Dobra delegation will continue hosting foreign delegations as in the past, Medvode (Slovenia) is looking forward to signing a friendship agreement with Ponte San Nicolò to carry out joint tourism promotion actions. Sheffield (Great Britain) will share its best practices about the immigrants integration.

The LABOUR project was organized by the Association I Gemellaggi from Ponte San Nicolò, with the support of the Province of Padova and the cofinancing of the European programme Europe for Citizens, 2014-2020.