

Lampedusa, Berlin. Travel Journal

DONOR: EU
PROGRAMME: EUROPE FOR CITIZENS
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Oltalom Charity Society participated as a partner in a project supported by the European Union Europe for Citizens program entitled “Lampedusa, Berlin. Travel Journal” (project ID: 577736-CITIZ-1-2016-1-IT-CITIZ-CIV). The background to the international cooperation project was provided by the growing anti-migration voices in Europe in recent years, both socially and politically. Stereotypes in society, lack of knowledge and information about the historical and social causes of migration, contribute greatly to the increasing influence in decision-making processes of movements seeking to exclude “strangers”.

The project had three main objectives:

- (1) Develop proposals for migration policy guidelines through bottom-up initiatives.
- (2) Sensitizing society to the phenomenon of migration.
- (3) Lobbying politicians in decision-making positions on the subject.

The project achieved its goals through events that mobilized larger crowds and through the production of documentation materials that discussed migration from several perspectives, as well as making these materials available to the widest possible public.

The project coordinator was Fondazione Scuola di Alta Formazione per il Terzo Settore, Siena (Italy).

Partners:

- SOS Razzismo Italia, Rome (Italy)
- Sozial.label e.V. Berlin (Germany)
- S.O.S Racismo Gipuzkoa Asociacion, San Sebastian (Spain)
- European Grassroots Antiracist Movement Association, Paris (France)
- Asociatia Tineri Parteneri Pentru Dezvolarea Societatii Civil, Bucharest (Romania)
- Asinitas Onlus, Rome (Italy)
- Citizens in Action, Athens (Greece)
- Towarzystwo Amicus, Bialystok (Poland)
- Oltalom Charity Society, Budapest (Hungary)



During the 18 months of the project, five international conferences (Palermo, Budapest, Athens, Siena, Berlin) were held in different locations, while the final conference of the project was held in Strasbourg at the European Parliament.

The second partner meeting and international conference was organized by Oltaom Charity Society (OKE) at the John Wesley Theological College in Budapest on 27-28 April. The theme of the conference was "How to overcome stereotypes about



migrants?". After the opening of Gábor Iványi, President of OKE, and István Perger, Director of Communications at the European Commission Representation in Budapest, presentations were given by ForTeS, TÁRKI (Social Research Institute), the Artemisszió Foundation and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee. The day after the conference, the topic was worked on in three panels using the so-called Open Narrating Space Methodology, in which, in addition to project partners, refugees, migration NGOs, university students and scientific researchers actively participated in Hungary. The summary of the panels was published in a study.

While visiting Budapest, the project partners also faced the government's poster campaign and its civil counter-campaign. Project partners unanimously stated that Hungary is the only place where negative stereotypes about refugees are aroused by the government level and civil society tries to mitigate it, while in Western Europe it is the other way around, where governments silences xenophobic manifestations of extremist NGOs and political movements.

Products

- documentation and information material on the topics of all five international conferences
- Migration policy package recognised by the participants at the end of the conferences
- multilingual website available in the languages of all participating countries
- Internet documentation portal available from the website created within the project
- communication and research materials (videos, digital interviews, reports) appearing on the Internet documentation portal

