



**The project «Compreender o Passado para projectar o Futuro da Europa » 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*"**

The project "Understanding the Past to design the Future of Europe" has as its main objective to bring Europe and its Citizens closer, through the involvement of 130 participants from 3 countries (Portugal, France, Italy) in seminars, meetings and exhibitions with the purpose of stimulating debate, reflection and development of networks between partners, with a duration of 4 days.

The themes addressed emphasize a future perspective of Europe in the various areas, themes that emphasize the history and diversity of the European Union, fostering the conditions for civic and democratic participation in the EU at all levels. All debates and conferences aimed at debating and reflecting on the process of elaborating the Union's policies. -represented; raising awareness of the importance of exercising active citizenship by local populations, especially younger audiences, in building the EU; and the consolidation of a network for the exchange of cultural, social and professional experiences/knowledge between the European cities involved in the project. Thus, the project presents an axis of valorization as a whole, enabling participants to debate, exchange best practices and exchange experiences on civic and democratic participation in the EU at all levels, promoting knowledge of European history and diversity, with the possibility of replication in other European local communities, with a multiplier effect among young people, women, and under-represented groups, promoting the democratic participation of young people and the participation of women in the political and economic decision-making process. After a detailed analysis of the various planned actions, it appears that the project as a whole meets the general and specific objectives of the program, through themes that promote reflection, awareness, understanding, debate on the history and diversity of the EU, as well as promoting citizenship and improving conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level.

#### **Participation:**

The project involved 130 citizens, notably:

- 10 participants from the city of Madone (**Italy**)
- 34 participants from the city of Dissay (**France**)
- 56 participants from the city of Vila Nova da Barquinha (**Portugal**).

#### **Location/ Dates:**

The event took place in Vila Nova da Barquinha (**Vila Nova da Barquinha, Portugal**), from 18/07/2022 to 23/07/2022

#### **Short description:**

The theme "Understanding the Past to design the Future of Europe" was addressed in all the activities carried out. With the Madone and Dissay Committees as the main actors, who will actively participate together in the various activities, developing new knowledge at both democratic and civic levels. Union, as well as our own country, providing a joint European friendship and enabling the strengthening of ties that already exist between the 3 countries. Topics that emphasize the history and diversity of the European Union were addressed, fostering the conditions for civic and democratic participation in the EU at all levels.

**1st day: 18/07/2022 was dedicated to Arrivals and accommodation.**

**2nd day: 07/19/2022 was dedicated to the Contact with the History of the Discoveries with a visit to the Museu do Oriente** on the theme of the Discoveries in Lisbon, as a strong contribution to the understanding of the European Union, its history and diversity, as well as stimulating reflection on the history and common values of the European Union.

**3rd day: 20/07/2022 was dedicated to Seminar on Templarism in Europe at the Cultural Center of Vila Nova da Barquinha** with a visit to the Interpretation Center Templario do Almourol, aiming at the importance of the Templars in the discoveries. Many are unaware of it, but at that time of great conquests, Portugal made use of the precious services of the Templars, who revealed precious knowledge about the art of war. The history of the Templars in Portugal and Europe was addressed, stimulating the values of the Union and the well-being of the people, encouraging debate and reflection.





**4th day: 21/07/2022 was dedicated to Buddha Eden - Jardim da Paz - Quinta dos Liridos** The Buddha Eden Garden is a space with about 35 hectares, conceived and conceived by Commander José Berardo, in response to the destruction of the Giant Buddhas of Bamyán, in what was one of the greatest acts of cultural barbarism, erasing from memory masterpieces, late period of the Art of Gandhara. In 2001, deeply shocked by the attitude of the Taliban Government, which intentionally destroyed unique World Heritage monuments, Commander Berardo began, yet another one of his dreams, the construction of this extensive oriental garden. Paying homage, in a way, to the colossal Buddhas carved into the rock of the Bamyán Valley, in central Afghanistan, which for centuries were cultural and spiritual references. The Buddha Eden Garden is intended to be a place of reconciliation. Without any religious tendency, we open the doors to all people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, nationality, sex, age, cultural or social condition, inviting union, communication and meditation as a way to rediscover happiness. We therefore aspire to go the opposite way to the destruction of the human being and spread the culture of peace, given that the Fortaleza de Peniche Museum was closed, a place where themes related to Democracy and Fascism would be discussed.



**5th day: 22/07/2022 was dedicated to the Conference on the Consequences of COVID at the Cultural Center of Vila Nova da Barquinha replacing the Conference on the Future of Europe and Euroscepticism. The Iberian Museum and Archeology and Contemporary Art in Abrantes was also visited. Farewell cultural event.**



The day 23/07/2022 was dedicated to departures and flights procedures.

As expected, a link and exchange of experiences between the intervening countries and the local population and local entities was established through the participation and dissemination of joint actions. The activities developed within the scope of the project fit the objectives outlined considering that there is constant contact and an exchange of information on the various topics covered and their importance for the European project.

It is important to continue these actions in the near future with a view to raising the awareness of future generations so that they can assimilate these concepts related to the European Union and be able to do more and better in terms of the multiplier effect of the transfer of knowledge, as well as the need to make participants actively involved in building policies for the European Union.

The citizens involved in the project deepened their knowledge of the importance of the actions planned for the European Project. The Dissay and Madone committees, the Associations, the mayors, the population and the general public who participated in the activities were more enriched at the end of this event, as it promoted knowledge of the history and diversity of the European Union and conditions for civic participation. and democratic, through the transfer of good practices applied to the various intervening communities, in particular to young people, women and under-represented groups. The medium and long term impact that this project creates in the citizens involved are:

- Increase interest of individuals in matters related to the European Union;
- Raising awareness and promoting reflection on decisive moments in European history, especially among young people;
- Stimulation of young people towards European political issues
- Declare the Importance of historical, cultural and intercultural aspects, as well as the existing relations between memory and European identity.
- Enhancement and transferability of results among young people and under-represented groups through the dissemination plan of the planned action and the intervention of the Intervening Committees;
- Make known the future consequences of the COVID19 pandemic.

Participants were involved in the proposed activities through the dissemination of actions and free participation in seminars and debates as well as in activities that fostered contact and knowledge about the various topics addressed.

The actions carried out were widely publicized through a press release, as well as the results of the actions.

The multiplier effect arises from the opening of the actions to the general public, the dissemination of the results of the actions, as well as the commitment of the Committees involved in replicating the actions in their communities.