

[Event description sheet](#) (in English only) [Summary of participant feedback and responses](#)**Event 2 – Ajdovščina, Slovenia**

The event took place over three days (from Wednesday, June 7, to Friday, June 9, 2023) in Ajdovščina, Slovenia. All event activities were held on site. The activities were organized in such a way that the following goals were achieved:

- raise awareness of how intergenerational solidarity builds a sense of belonging to the community and how voluntary activities benefit the entire community
- reflection on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older and younger generations
- to show how solidarity between citizens contributes to the strengthening of local measures

Day 1: The opening ceremony, interactive questionnaire and group activities (breakout sessions) were held on the first day of the event. The opening day of the event was marked by an informative speech by the mayor of the Municipality of Ajdovščina, Tadej Beočanin. He emphasized the diligent efforts of the municipality to promote the involvement of citizens in the formation of local policies. The mayor emphasized the importance of promoting not only economic development, but also promoting the improvement of citizens' quality of life in vital areas such as education, sports, care for the elderly and support for other vulnerable social groups. The event was further enriched by the mayor of the municipality of Cestica, Mirko Korotaj, who also shared insights and experiences from his municipality and drew some parallels between what happened during Covid-19 and the current problems with floods and landslides. After the opening words of the mayors, Patrick Galeski (representative of Cestica) presented the results of event 1 of the project. This was followed by a short presentation of the project partners, who presented their activities and summarized the main lessons learned from their work during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the next activity, the participants answered an interactive questionnaire on their smartphones (via the Mentimeter application), which reminded them of the basic concepts of intergenerational cooperation, solidarity and volunteerism. After the participants completed the questionnaire, the responses were reviewed and discussed to highlight the importance of volunteering (the right way). After the quiz, separate groups followed, in which all participants discussed the topics discussed: 1) Intergenerational solidarity during COVID-19, 2) The role of local authorities and non-governmental organizations during the pandemic, 3) Looking ahead: The groups presented their findings and examples of good practices, which contributes to the formation of new ideas

for the long-term promotion of intergenerational solidarity between partners/participants. **Day 2:** Attended by a large group of enthusiastic participants, the second day of the event offered a wealth of knowledge on bottom-up practices and collaborations that can significantly improve the quality of life in rural communities. The day's program included an exhibition/presentation of free transport services for the elderly, an initiative designed by Zavod Sopotniki. The director of the institution presented how the story of "Sopotnikov" (i.e. Companions) began, how the model of free transportation works, and highlighted the adjustments made by the institution to be able to carry out its activities during the pandemic (installation of Plexiglas barriers, employment staff, delivery of food and medicine, etc.) During the presentation, the information infrastructure developed by the institution, which enables it to work efficiently and transparently, was also presented in more detail. The presentation was followed by a group activity: a demonstration exercise on good and bad practices ("do's and don'ts") in providing support to the elderly during the pandemic and sharing experiences. The second presentation was made by Zavod Dobra pot on the platform "The Lore" (<https://izrocilo.si>), which was developed during the Corona measures, when it was not possible to hold live workshops and activities. The Lore project is based on the need to preserve the heritage of the local areas of Brkinov and Karst. Its goal is to transfer the value of heritage to younger generations, to raise awareness of the importance of preserving the area's rich natural and cultural heritage, and to demonstrate the modern potential of how heritage can be used to develop entrepreneurship in the countryside. The third presentation was dedicated to the ToyotaGO service of Toyota Adria doo (<https://www.toyota-go.si>), a modern mobility solution designed specifically for rural areas where existing public transport may not provide optimal results. In addition to the presentation of the mobile application for booking transport, the presentation described a model for planning and grouping transport, which aims to optimize routes and ensure the sustainability of the solution. Emphasis on key target groups was presented: young people (extracurricular activities), seniors (access to services in the city – free of charge for users of the services of the Sopotniki Institute). The last presentation/activity offered participants a deeper understanding of the participatory processes used by the Municipality of Ajdovščina, which included an explanation/presentation of how participatory budgeting empowers citizens to participate in decision-making and project financing in their local community. It was explained how Ajdovščina allocates funds for the initiative, what are the steps in approving local measures that are financed with participatory budgeting, and examples of projects that are co-financed at the local level with this approach. The day

ended with a guided tour of the Vipava Cross with a culinary dinner at Sinji Vrh, which enabled the participants to become even more familiar with the culture and heritage of Ajdovščina. Such an approach also enabled the participants to cooperate with each other, deepen relationships and exchange knowledge in an informal environment. **Day 3:** On the third day, a project meeting was held at the headquarters of the municipality of Ajdovščina. At the meeting, the participants gave a short assessment of the event. This was followed by an overview of the current status of the project (planning, communication, reporting) and setting a date and tentative content and activities for the third event, which will take place from 27 to 29 September 2023 in Heiningen, Germany. Outside the meeting, the participants enjoyed guided tours of the picturesque village of Vipavski Križ and the lively town of Ajdovščina, thus providing an unforgettable end to the rich three-day event. Sopotniki and the Municipality of Ajdovščina prepared press releases in cooperation with the partnership. This ensured that the media reported on it and that the general public was aware of the best practices of Sopotnik and Ajdovščina in the field of support for the elderly population. With this approach to the organization and implementation of the event, the participants learned: – how to involve and connect older and younger generations (especially in times of crisis such as COVID-19); – learned about the best methods and practices in terms of protecting local heritage and preserving the knowledge and experience of all generations. Participants were also able to collaborate and design new project ideas (related to mobility solutions for the elderly and other people in need). More information about the event and the project is available in the following materials (in English only):

- [Program of the event](#) ;
- presentations from the event:
 - [Presentation – 1st day](#)
 - [Presentation – 2nd day](#)
 - [Presentation – Institute Sopotniki](#)
 - [Exercise – Institute Sopotniki](#)
 - [Presentation – Zavod Dobra pot](#)
 - [Presentation – ToyotaGO](#)
 - [Presentation – Municipality of Ajdovščina](#)
- [Event description sheet](#)
- [Summary of participant feedback and responses](#)

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