



# Project "BEYOND - Rural Communities pushing BEYOND COVID-19" ref: 101091100

#### **Presenters:**

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#### **Project basics**



- The project has been approved for a grant worth €148,015.00 under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme under the call "Networks of Towns"
- The purpose of the project is to enhance citizen engagement in civil society actions and democratic processes in rural communities.
  - \*To show each other how we can improve our communities after the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Total grant: €148,015.00
- **Duration of the project**: 24 months (From 1.12.2022 30.11.2024)

















#### <u>Project basics – Partnership</u>



- 1. Općina Cestica (HR) Applicant and lead partner
- 2. Zavod Sopotniki, zavod za medgeneracijsko solidarnost (SI)
- 3. Municipality of Ormož (SI)
- 4. Comune di Cavriago (IT)
- 5. Gemeinde Heiningen (DE)
- 6. Comune di Usseaux (IT)
- 7. Sásd és Térsége Terület- és Humánfejlesztési Nonprofit Kft (HU)





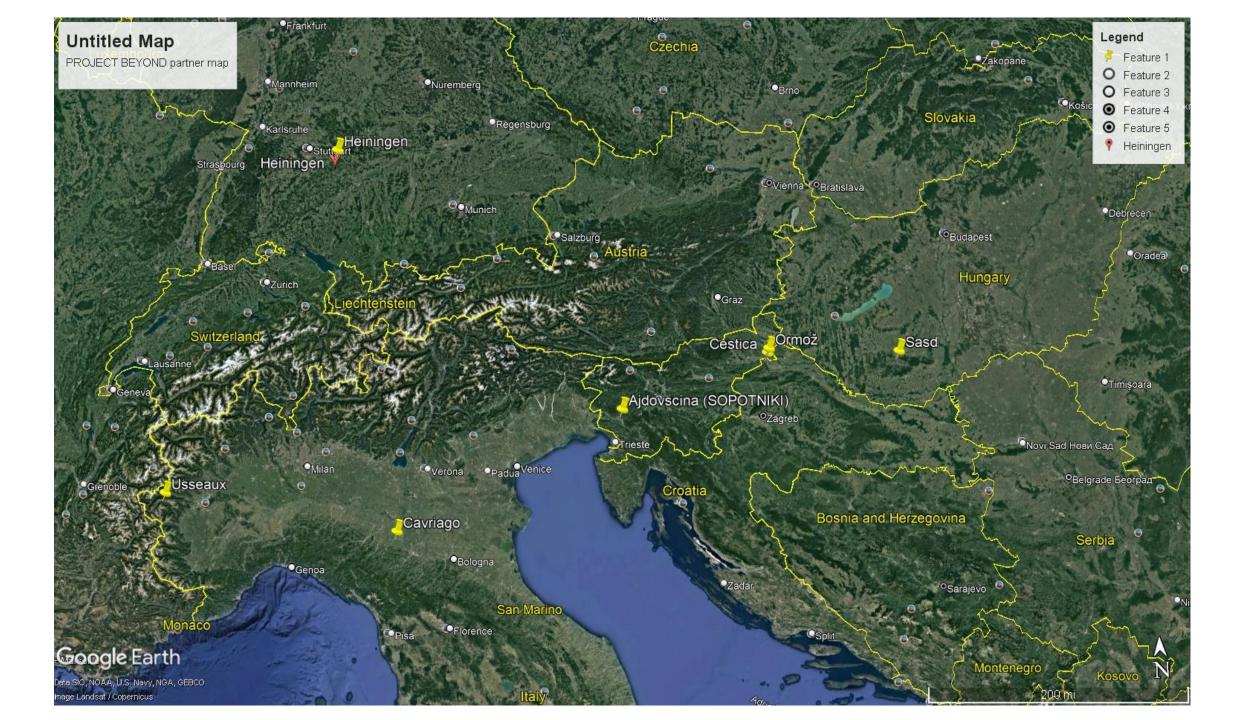














#### **Project Basics – Main Activities**



#### The project has been broken down into 7 3-day events

















#### **Project Basics – Events**



- Kick-off event in Cestica, Croatia: March 29-31, 2023 (Theme:
   Organizing volunteers and civil protection actions);
- Event 2 in Ajdovscina, Slovenia (organized by Sopotniki); June 7-9, 2023 (Theme: Promoting inter-generational solidarity and responding to the needs of the elderly);
- Event 3 in Heiningen, Germany: September 27-29, 2023 (Theme: Organizing actions that enhance social inclusion & environmental protection);

















#### **Project Basics – Events**



- Event 4 in Cavriago, Italy; November 11-13, 2023 (Theme: Enhancing citizen engagement in education actions and the mental well-being of families);
- Event 5 in Usseaux, Italy; May 13-15, 2024 (Theme: Engaging citizens in actions that contribute to preserving cultural and nature assets in remote areas;
- Event 6 in Sásd, Hungary (organized by "Sásd és Térsége Terület": September 18-20, 2024 (Theme: Addressing the mental well-being of the most vulnerable during pandemic elderly persons and persons w/disabilities;

















#### **Project Basics – Events**



• Final event in Ormož, Slovenia and Cestica, Croatia (organized by Ormož and Cestica): October 23-25, 2024 (Theme: Adapting community events so that they promote tourism and solidarity in the community);

\*80-100 participants attended each event from 5 EU countries.

















# Outcomes of Event 1 – Cestica, HR March 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

























#### Outcomes of Event 1 – Cestica, HR





- Participants learned how Cestica continued to assist persons in need in the community - Civil society actions
- Participants learned how people came together in times of crisis
- Participants shared experience and best practice stories relating to civil protection during the pandemic (lessons-Learnt)

















# Outcomes of Event 2 – Ajdovščina, Slovenia June 7th – 9th, 2023







#### Outcomes of Event 2 – Ajdovščina, Slovenia June 7th – 9th, 2023





- how to engage and connect elderly and younger generations (especially in times of crisis such as COVID-19);
- became aware of the best methods and practices in terms of protecting local heritage and preserving the know-how of all generations,
- \*The participants were also able to generate new project ideas (connected to mobility solutions for elderly persons and others in need).









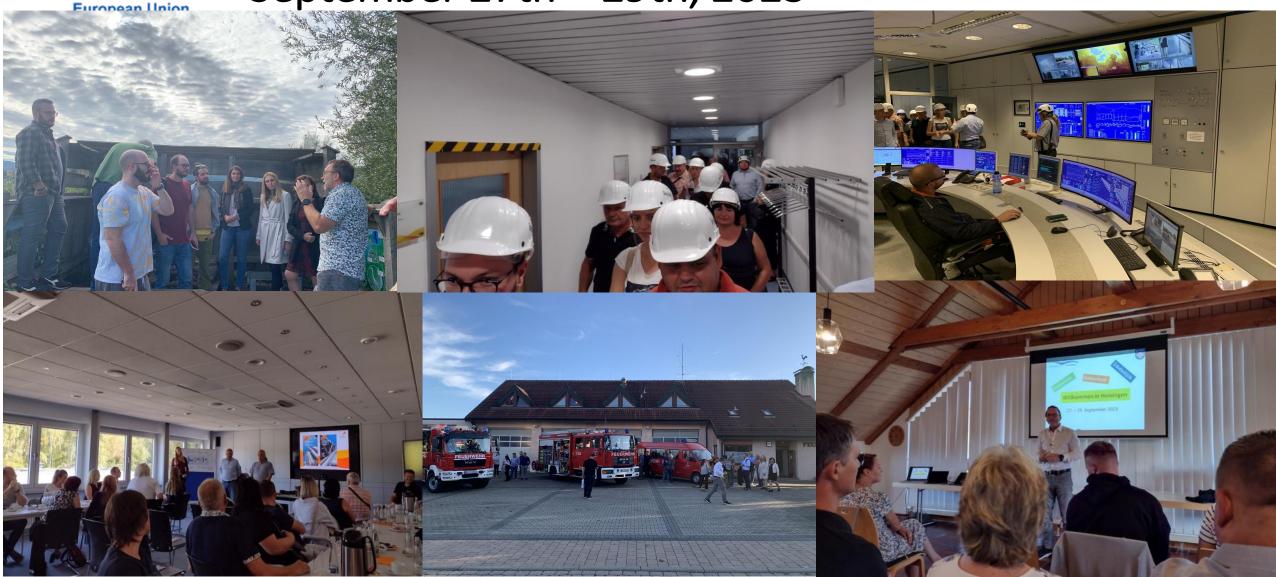






Outcomes of Event 3 – Heiningen, Germany September 27th – 29th, 2023







### Outcomes of Event 3 – Heiningen, Germany September 27th – 29th, 2023





- How citizens managed to continue to make progress towards EU environmental goals during the times of the pandemic
- how to engage and connect elderly and younger generations (especially in times of crisis such as COVID-19);
- Improved awareness of the best methods and practices in terms of protecting promoting diversity, social integration and inclusion of persons from vulnerable groups (elderly persons, third-country nationals, etc.)

















# Outcomes of Event 4 – Cavriago, Italy November 11th – 13th, 2023







# Outcomes of Event 4 – Cavriago, Italy November 11th – 13th, 2023





- How citizen-based actions contribute to the inclusion of youth in the community and enhance the overall mental health of citizens especially during the times of the pandemic
- About the importance of engaging families and youth in the community as a means to promote
- sustainable growth
- About the best methods and practices in terms of promoting mental health in the community.











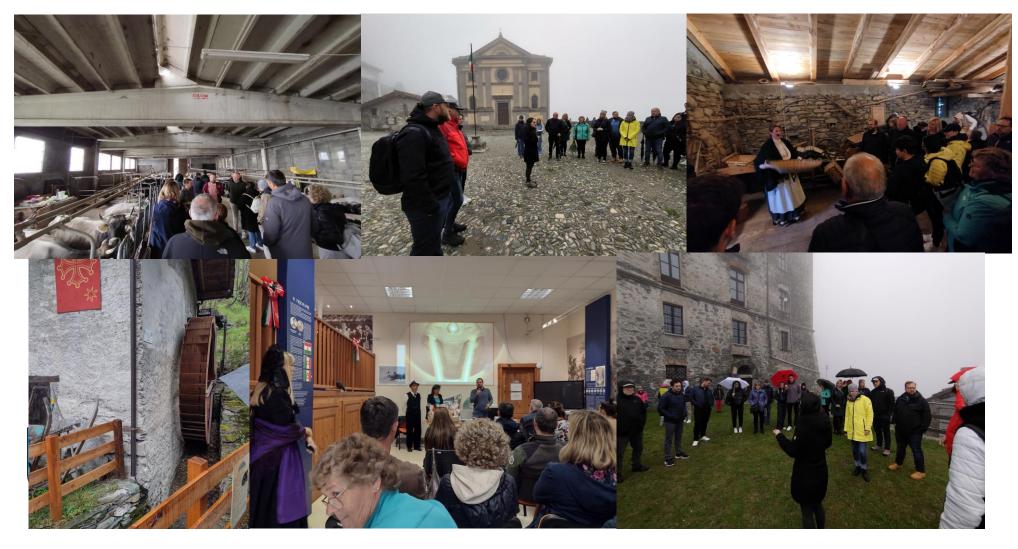






# Outcomes of Event 5 – Usseaux, Italy May 13th – 15th, 2024







# Outcomes of Event 5 – Usseaux, Italy May 13th – 15th, 2024





- How active governance models (such as "MANSIA") that rely on the efforts of volunteers contribute to solidarity, mutual understanding and a sense of belonging in the community (even in times of crisis such as COVID 19);
- How the efforts of volunteers ensure that the cultural assets of rural areas are promoted and preserved;
- How citizens can engage in actions that preserve traditions, nature and cultural assets and that also contribute to EU integration



# Outcomes of Event 6 – Sasd, Hungary September 18th – 20th, 2024







# Outcomes of Event 6 – Sasd, Hungary September 18th – 20th, 2024





- How associations and local governments can work together, promote mental wellbeing and social inclusion via volunteerbased actions;
- How to address mental health issues in rural communities during crisis periods (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) in various settings (education, healthcare, promoting cultural heritage, etc.)
- How European values contribute to the well-being of the community and social inclusion.



# Outcomes of Final Event/Event 7 – Ormož, SI October 23rd to October 25th, 2024







### Outcomes of Event 7 – Ormož, Slovenia October 23rd to 25th, 2024





- How to adjust and use local cultural and tourism assets (e.g. public events) as a means to have citizens remain resilient in times of crisis;
- About methods and approaches that incorporate EU values such as social inclusion, gender mainstreaming, and solidarity; that can be used (relating to tourism, agriculture and cultural heritage) to reinforce a sense of belonging in the community





#### End results of the project?

- Enhanced capacities in rural areas to prepare and participate in actions that contribute to rural communities overcoming COVID-19;
- Improved awareness among citizens in rural communities about how EU policies/values positively impact the quality of life;
- Enhanced cooperation between rural communities

















### Outcomes of Event 7 – Ormož, Slovenia October 23rd – 25th, 2024



#### Big result:

Cooperation agreement concluded among partners. Two new project ideas are included in it detailing how the partnership can continue to cooperate further.





# Thank you for your attention!

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