

The project « Anti EU-rhetoric versus own national interest? Nationalistic populism and its reception in Central Europe » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Strand 2 – Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

8 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 10 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), 2 participants from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 2 participants from the city of Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 2 participants from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**) and 1 participant from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**).

Location / Dates:

The event took place at ÖGfE (**Vienna, Austria**), from 02/10/2017 to 02/10/2017.

Short description: The aim of the event was a preparatory meeting of the partners: The partners deliberated during a joint meeting (= preparatory activities) on the timeline and the main pillars regarding the implementation of the project (events, public opinion polls, methods to be used, programme specific questions).

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 106 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), 1 participant from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from the city of Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 1 participant from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**) and 1 participant from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in the House of EU (**Vienna, Austria**), from 02/10/2017 to 02/10/2017.

Short description:

The aim of the event was

1. A public kick-off event: Presentation of the project »Anti EU-rhetoric versus own national interests? Nationalistic populism and its reception in Central Europe«, short description of the individual country situations and collection of viewpoints from the Austrian audience regarding the reception of EU membership and aspects of nationalistic populism and its rhetoric.

2. A press talk.

- The project adopted a bottom-up approach, which involved the opinions of as many citizens as possible in the countries concerned (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia).
- All panels of the 7 public events included min. 1 representative of the 5 project countries.
- All events were open to the general public, experts, media, representatives of NGOs, and stakeholders.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 146 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**) 1 participant from the city of Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 1 participant from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**) and 1 participant from the city of Vienna (**Austria**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in the Conference Hall of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Ljubljana (**Ljubljana, Slovenia**), from 14/03/2018 to 14/03/2018.

Short description:

One of the major tasks of the project was the implementation of a survey in all five countries on citizens' attitudes towards e.g. EU membership and key issues related to EU policies, anti-migration attitudes, and trust in democracy. The aim of the event was to invite researchers from the participating countries to present and to discuss the main findings with the audience.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 80 citizens, including 3 participants from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**), 1 participant from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from the city of Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 1 participant from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**) and 1 participant from the city of Vienna (**Austria**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in the Central European University, Monument Building, 'Popper Room' (**Budapest, Hungary**), from 19/03/2018 to 19/03/2018.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to present and discuss the project findings based on a representative public opinion survey conducted in all five countries that asked questions relating to e.g. trust in the EU and its policies, antimigration attitudes, and trust in democracy. It aimed to show if/to what extent and why people believe in national-populistic rhetoric and regard it as justified. In addition, it sought to depict to what extent "EU bashing" and isolationist, contrarian policymaking fails to deliver on its own promises, and may even be damaging to an effective promotion of national interests.

Event 5

Participation: The event involved 79 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**), 1 participant from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**), 1 participant from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from the city of Bratislava (**Slovakia**) and 1 participant from the city of Vienna (**Austria**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in the European House (**Prague, Czech Republic**), from 03/04/2018 to 03/04/2018.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to present and discuss the findings of the project based on a representative public opinion survey conducted in all five countries that asked questions relating to e.g. trust in the EU and its policies, anti-migration attitudes, and trust in democracy.

Event 6

Participation: The event involved 87 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 1 participant from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**), 1 participant from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**) and 1 participant from the city of Vienna (**Austria**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Malá scéna STU (**Bratislava, Slovakia**), from 17/05/2018 to 17/05/2018.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to discuss the following topics and questions based on the results of a representative public opinion survey conducted in all five countries.

While the political discourse in Europe is being shaped and influenced by the Eurosceptic rhetoric, the divisions within the societies continue to grow. Central Europe has not been immune to this trend – newly emerged political actors as well as more established political forces have been exploiting recent crises and turmoil both on the EU and domestic level to gain support, especially among the region's most vulnerable groups. Why is Euroscepticism gaining ground? What damaging consequences can it have for the national interests and for the

EU? Do Eurosceptic populists pose a threat to the region? What can we do to counteract Eurosceptic attitudes and behaviour?

Event 7

Participation: The event involved 93 citizens, including 2 participants from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), 1 participant from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from the city of Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 1 participant from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**) and 1 participant from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in the House of EU (**Vienna, Austria**), from 16/03/2018 to 16/03/2018.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to present and discuss the results of the surveys, conclusions and policy recommendations at a closing event in Vienna.

Event 8

Participation: The event involved 108 citizens, including 1 participant from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), 1 participant from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 1 participant from the city of Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 1 participant from the city of Budapest (**Hungary**) and 1 participant from the city of Prague (**Czech Republic**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in the Vienna-House (**Brussels, Belgium**), from 24/10/2018 to 24/10/2018.

Short description:

The aim of the event was to present and discuss the results of the surveys, conclusions and as well as a joint Policy Brief including policy recommendations at a closing event in Brussels.