



„CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL CENTERS: DEPOPULATION CONTROL, DEVELOPMENT – BEST PRACTICES”

Potential Partners: 2nd largest cities, regional centres

Programme: Europe for Citizens program, strand 2: Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation, measure: Networks of Towns

Daugavpils City Council is looking for potential partners for fruitful cooperation in the Project „Challenges of Regional Centers: Depopulation Control, development – best practices” in the framework of Europe for Citizens program, strand 2: Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation, measure: Networks of Towns.

The **main objective** is to develop thematic and long-lasting cooperation between EU 2nd largest cities, which are significantly affected by depopulation in order to promote the exchange of good practices and to develop strategy of depopulation control for stronger local economic structures and raising citizens' awareness about mobility in the European cities.

Partners needed: 2nd largest cities/municipalities, regional centres of the EU countries willing to take an active part in the project.

Furthermore, we are also looking for a city interested to host one of the foreseen international events.

The project shall last 24 months and shall include the organization of at least 4 international events: seminars, practice, workshops, conference.

Please find more details (brief insight description) about the project proposal and the nature of the partnership, as well as information about our city below.

The application deadline of submission is 1st March, so, please, be quick with your answer, as the long holidays of Christmas and New Year are coming!

You are kindly invited to express your interest as soon as possible or **(before MONDAY 22nd December)** to: Coordinator of International Projects Jolanta Uzulina jolanta.uzulina@daugavpils.lv, Latvian phone: +371-654-76800, Daugavpils City Council, Development Department, Office for Strategic Planning and Foreign Affairs.

In your e-mail, please, include:

- 1) PIC code
- 2) Brief info about your city (according to template in attachment)



- 3) Expression of intent (if there is such) to host some of the international events within the project
- 4) Homepage of your municipality and contact person for this project (name, surname, e-mail, tel.number)

Till the end of the December we will inform the selected partners and in January will agree on the role of partners in Project activities for the finalization of the project by the given deadline (1st March, 2015).

For any further information, do not hesitate to contact the coordinator: Jolanta Uzulina jolanta.uzulina@daugavpils.lv jolanta.uzulina@gmail.com

NB! If the information in this e-mail is not actual offer for you exactly, maybe you can re-send it to someone, who would be interested in it! (Thank you!)

Best regards and looking forward to hear from you,

Jolanta Uzulina

Coordinator of International Projects

Office for Strategic Planning and Foreign Affairs

Development Department

Daugavpils City Council

www.daugavpils.lv

www.visitdaugavpils.lv

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Problem: Nowadays, in many European Union countries there is a tendency of the global decrease of population in the cities. Even in some capitals there are such problems. Still, capitals can compete in many different ways to attract people, but the problem is with the cities, which are big, but the competitiveness is not as strong as in the capitals. The main problem of 2nd and other largest cities, which often are also regional centres of the European countries, is depopulation. In the last years it is seen a great reduction of a human population. If there are no people, there is no demand on services, education, there is not enough labour, and there for industry slows down, and enterprises search for other locations. The decrease of population influences all the possible spheres – economy, education, social field, culture etc.

The problem of depopulation is mostly affecting the cities and their territories with weak economic structures or cities, which lost their inhabitants after last crisis few years ago. The European Union, according to goals of the strategy Europe 2020, is paying great attention to this process to address, among other things, the environmental degradation and the risk of hydrological instability of these territories. Very important as well is to promote the protection of cultural identities, traditions, heritage and economic activities at European level of these cities.



To attract people not only to the capitals, but also to the other biggest cities it is necessary to develop the specific network of European cities, which have in common this problem of depopulation and which are interested in the development of the strategy of depopulation control. This strategy should be developed and implemented in aim to share problems, ideas for future and best practices for achieving the challenges to preserve the number of population or even to increase it in the participating cities.

Aim: The project is aimed at creating a network of the largest cities after capitals, which are significantly affected by depopulation in order to promote the exchange of good practices and to develop strategy of depopulation control for stronger local economic structures and raising citizens' awareness about mobility in the European cities.

Objectives:

- Creating and strengthening the relationship between European cities;
- Promoting the European citizenship;
- Sharing good practices in aim to obtain them in other cities
- Developing depopulation control strategy; ...

Target group: citizens, local municipalities, regional centres, research centres (interested in the analysis of this process and in the identification of new initiatives aimed at facing this problem and its negative effects on the territory) ...

Activities:

- opening meeting (kick-off meeting) in participating cities or in lead city
- seminar in participating city or in lead city
- practice and workshops in experienced countries
- final conference on dissemination of the project results

Results:

- enhanced and expanded knowledge about depopulation processes in EU 2nd largest cities;
- created and strengthened the relationships between cities and citizens of EU;
- developed depopulation control strategy;
- organised conference on prevention measures of depopulation



DAUGAVPILS

Daugavpils is a city of national importance in Latvia. It is the largest city in Latgale region and the second largest city in Latvia. Daugavpils is an industrial and educational centre, as well as an important cultural, sports and recreation centre. The motto and strategic goal of the city is: **“Daugavpils – the engine of innovative economy and the capital of well-being in the Eastern Baltics”**. Its development in economics, tourism and other fields contributes to its prime location in relation to neighbouring counties: the distance to the Lithuanian border is 25 km, to the border of Belarus is 35 km, and to the Russian border is 120 km.

Daugavpils is located along the banks of the river Daugava. The total area of Daugavpils is 72.48 km² (27.98 sq. mi), 9.75 km² (3.76 sq. mi) of which are covered by water. A beautiful territory of forests and natural parks and public squares surrounds the city. One important aspect representing the richness of Daugavpils is water, - lakes and rivers abound in the surrounding area.



The population of the city is about 98 thousand. 52% of the population are ethnic Russians, 18% are Latvians, 15% are Poles, 8% are Belorussians. Daugavpils is the native city for more than 70 different nationalities. It is a multinational, multicultural, multi-ethnic city.

In the future Daugavpils plans to develop into a place with a higher standard of living and active environmental protections with a tolerant population; a place with easy access to international services and a centre of economic development; a city with cross-cultural programs, tourism, scientific and educational centres; an example of the ideal city in Latvia and Europe. The priority of the city is its citizens. The municipality works hard on making Daugavpils an attractive place for living and business development. In Daugavpils it is important to promote citizens' understanding of the EU, to foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level.

Daugavpils set 3 future priorities:

- ✓ Society: Satisfied with life, educated, creative, active and healthy residents, who are proud of their city;
- ✓ Economics: Economy in which industries with high added value are developed;
- ✓ Environment: Aesthetically and functionally arranged and developed urban environment.

For more information look here: www.daugavpils.lv www.visitdaugavpils.lv