

Invitation to join the “European Network for the Economic Cohesion and Solidarity in Rural areas (ENSuRe)” under the Program Europe for Citizens

We are looking for:

- towns, municipalities or their twinning committees or networks
- other levels of local/regional authorities
- federations, associations of local authorities
- non-profit civil society organisations representing local authorities (with a written confirmation that they represent a public authority)

coming from: **Germany**.

Project objective:

The project serves the need for a greater involvement of citizens from **rural areas** in the development of a solidary Europe.

More precisely the Network of ten authorities (towns and regions) and civil society organizations from the EU and neighbouring countries will provide opportunities to address issues which are prevalent in rural areas and stand in the way of a solidary Europe, such as: misunderstanding of EU policies, disinformation, and stereotypes. The Network will also empower citizens with the tools necessary to be involved in shaping a more democratic Europe.

Background information:

In general the “Networks of Towns” found in the Programme Europe for Citizens are cooperative projects that facilitate direct contact between local and regional entities in the EU and its neighbouring countries. These networks enable the organization of events where representatives can meet, discuss, and find solutions to common problems (more: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en/)

„ENSuRe“ project will foster European citizenship and democratic participation by making the Union’s policy more understandable and relevant to local territories. In a time where confidence in EU decision making is at an all time low, and where support from rural communities is rapidly declining, this project aims to build European solidarity by giving its people a unique opportunity to meet, discuss, plan and implement initiatives lead by citizens and experts from rural areas in 11 different countries.

Project Leader – the Regional Information Centre (RIC) Slovenska Bistrica

RIC Slovenska Bistrica is a development-supporting institution whose primary purpose is to promote the development of entrepreneurship, economics and tourism in the region. We are active in the field of business development, local and regional development, tourism and rural development. RIC has managed several projects related to local self-sufficiency. In 2015 we achieved 30% growth in the marketing of local products and implemented the locally produced food in schools in our area, which indicates that we are on the right track.

Project framework:

The project duration is 24 months from February 2017. It will consist of five transnational events organized by different partners between March 2017 and October 2018. Each event will gather foreign participants representing all project partners, as well as local citizens. The events will be followed by information and dissemination events on each partners’ territory.

Project events will be dedicated to the following topics:

- agricultural policy and the citizens' perception of the EU on rural areas
- finding common solutions for promoting local development
- food security
- cross-border mobility of workers involved in agriculture
- tools to address crisis management in agriculture policy
- local action groups and Rural Development organisations having an EU perspective
- community-led local development, interaction with the community, local action groups
- the macro and micro economic impact of the TIPP (facts and myths)
- the decline of support of the EU integration process on rural areas.

Preliminary schedule

Each partner is able to send 3 participants to each of the events, beside the first event in Bistrica where 2 persons are expected.

1. Starting event – an organizational event and a study visit
Participants: 51-75 (20 foreign)
Venue: Slovenska Bistrica
Date: March 2017
2. A conference with expert panels, debates and workshops
Participants: 101-125 (35 foreign)
Venue: *to be confirmed*
Budget for hosting this event: around 20.000 euro
3. A conference with expert panels, debates and workshops.
Participants: 101-125 (35 foreign)
Venue: *to be confirmed*
Budget for hosting this event: around 20.000 euro
4. A conference with expert panels, debates and workshops.
Participants: 126-150 (45 foreign)
Venue: Slovenska Bistrica
5. Closing event: a conference with expert panels, debates and workshops.
Participants: 101-125 (35 foreign)
Venue: *to be confirmed*
Budget for hosting this event: around 20.000 euro

The budget

The project will finance:

- The organisation of 5 transnational events
- Practical arrangements during the events – participants' accommodation, food, local transport; as well as external experts, venue, materials
- Project communication tools and social media
- Promotional materials
- Coordination costs of the Leader
- Partners' travel costs – up to 100 euro per person per event. Each partner will take part in each of the 5 events with 3 participants (only in the first event – with 2), getting a reimbursement up to 100 EUR per person/per travel to minimize their costs.

Partner's input:

- In-kind – staff involvement
- In-kind – use of dissemination channels.

Interested to join the Network?

RIC Slovenska Bistrica is going to apply for funds for this project to the European Commission on behalf of the whole partners' group before September 1st 2016.

Please confirm your interest to join the project **by Thursday June 30** or as soon as possible by sending an e-mail to Gosia Wochowska - malgorzata.wochowska@gmail.com, and also provide us with the attached *Partner Identification Form*.

In case of any questions about the Europe for Citizens Program, the action „Network of Towns“, or this specific project, please do not hesitate to contact us and ask for details.

Dear Partners,

The information you put in this table will serve us to prepare a sound project proposal. Please fill in the table in carefully, answering to all the questions below. Thank you.

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS – PARTNER INFORMATION	
A.1 Organisation	
PIC CODE ¹	
Full name of the organisation in Latin characters:	
Full name in national characters	
Department (if applicable)	
Country	
Region	
City	
Web site	
Email	
Telephone 1	
A.2 Contact person	
Title	Mr. /Ms./
First name and family name	
Department / Faculty	
Role in the organisation	
E-mail address	
Address (if the address is different from the address provided in section A.1)	
Telephone 1	
A.3 Legal representative	
First name and family name	
Role in the organisation	
E-mail address	
Address (if the address is different from the address provided in section A.1)	
Telephone 1	
Part B. Organisation and activities	
Status:	Public / private

¹ 1. All partners must have an ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) account. If you already have an ECAS account, you may use this, if not, click on <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/eim/external/register.cgi> to create an ECAS account.

2. Each organisation involved in the project must register in the Participants' portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/register.html> and receive a Participant Identification Code (PIC). The PIC contains of numbers, and it will be requested in the application form. To access the Participants' portal, you will need your ECAS username and password.

3. If you have any problems with this process, please contact the project Leader.

Non-governmental organisation:	Yes / No
Type of organisation (<i>choose</i>)	Local public body Regional public body Twinning committee/network Organisation representing a local authority Federation/association of local authorities Civil Society Organisation

B.2 Aims and activities of the organisation

1. Describe shortly your organisation – its operational area, key activities, affiliations **relating** to the domain covered by the project. Say what is your impact on the local/regional area? (Max. 1000 characters)

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2. Describe the role your organisation would like to take in the project. Would you like to host one of the events? Please say also why you decided to join the project, what you think it can offer to you and your target groups? (Max. 1000 characters)

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3. Point out **operational/technical expertise** your organisation has (project management, previous project experience, good command of social media, management of events, strong dissemination means, etc.), as well as your **expertise in the subject** of the project (rural areas, agricultural policy)?

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-...
-...

B.3 Other EU grants

Please list the projects for which the organisation, or the department responsible for the management of this application, has received financial support from the EU Programme during the last three years (*if it's more than 3, then please add rows*)

Programme or initiative	Identification/contract number	Beneficiary organisation	Title of the project

Please list other grant applications submitted by your organisation, or the department responsible, for this project proposal. For each grant application, please mention the EU Programme concerned and the amount requested (*if it's more than 3, then please add rows*)

Programme concerned	Amount requested
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Thank you for taking your time the more carefully you answer the questions, the better we will be able to prepare the project application.!