

GREETINGS



Dear Esteemed Guests,

As President of the "Give a Hand Association," it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the beautiful cities of Veliko Turnovo and Pavlikeni for our second event within this significant European project. It is an honor to host representatives from across our continent as we gather to engage in vital discussions that will shape the future of Europe.

This meeting comes at a pivotal moment, as we reflect on the recent European elections and look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the new mandate for our institutions. Our collective participation in these elections is a testament to our commitment to democracy and the values that bind us together as Europeans.

Moreover, Bulgaria is also in a celebratory mood, as we mark the 20th anniversary of our country's accession to the European Union. This historic milestone has brought about profound changes, improving the quality of life for our citizens and allowing us to look to the future with great optimism. The past two decades have shown us the strength that unity can bring, reinforcing our belief in a shared European destiny.

In these days together, we will explore how to better engage our communities in the democratic process, ensuring that every voice is heard. It is also an opportunity to deepen our collaboration, fostering partnerships that will strengthen the fabric of our diverse societies.

As you explore Veliko Turnovo and Pavlikeni, I encourage you to immerse yourselves in the rich history and culture of our region. Let the warmth of our communities inspire you as we work together to build a stronger, more united Europe.

I look forward to the meaningful exchanges and lasting connections that this event will undoubtedly foster.

Warm regards,

The board of Give a Hand Association.



"YOUth and democracy: empowering EUrope's next generation" is a project of the Cities Network, framed in the CERV program. The promoter will be the City Council of Santa Comba, Spain, whose collaboration with 17 other countries of the European Union, will have as its main objective to offer citizens the opportunity to express the type of Europe they want in the medium and long term, as well as Investigate and promote measures to increase citizen and youth participation in the 2024 European Elections.

The main characteristic of this project is its strong transnational dimension, because thanks to the participation of 17 countries and 18 partners, a great impact will be generated in the participating territories: Spain, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Portugal, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Poland, Croatia, Greece, Malta, Austria, France, Hungary, Italy, Ireland and Romania. For 18 months, the citizens of these territories will participate on equal terms, by holding 6 events in 6 different countries.

Workshops for reflection, seminars, debates on issues of concern, round tables, conferences with experts and political representatives, exchanges of good practices, visits to public, social and cultural entities, citizen forums... We will also hold meetings with volunteers, public exhibitions and documentary projections with the aim of raising public awareness about values such as the multiculturalism of European citizenship, the benefits of understanding and tolerance to feel like one's own the EU.

The project is expected to have a highly significant impact at all levels, not only in the participating municipalities, but also at the European.

GREETINGS

PROJECT

MONDAY 9 SEP

- Arrival at Sofia Airport
- Check-in at the HOTEL RILA
- 20:00 Bulgarian welcome dinner & Presentation of the participants

TUESDAY 10 SEP

- 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
- 09:00 Check out at the hotel
- 09:15 Transfer to Veliko Turnovo
- 13:00 Lunch at Restaurant Boliari
- 14:30 Check in in the hotel
- 15:30 Presentation of the project to the authorities, press and civil society
- 15:45 Welcome words by the authorities - topic **Why Last European Elections were so important for the future of Europe?**
 - Ivailo Zdravko - Regional president
 - Daniel Panov - Mayor of Veliko Turnovo
 - Patricia Val - Vicemayor of Santa Comba
- 16:15 **Involving European citizens in the European common project** by Olga Stoyanova - Doctor on Political Sciences
- 17:00 Debate on the topics addressed and the results of the European Union elections in each country
- 19:00 Guided tour around the old town of Veliko Turnovo:
 - Museum of Wax - Bazar Samavodska
 - Fortress of Tsarevets
- 20:00 Dinner at Restaurant Chiflika II

WEDNESDAY 11 SEP

- 08:00 Breakfast at the hotel
- 09:00 Check out at the hotel
- 09:15 Transfer to Pavlikeni Local Town
- 09:30 Welcome words by the Mayor: Mr. Emanuil Manolov.
- 09:45 **What changes should the EU make to be more relevant and attractive to young people in Europe?** by Mr. Vencislav Georgiev, president of the Local Council of Pavlikeni
- 10:15 Youth Participatory Democracy: successful good practice by Francisco Javier Ulloa, secretary of Santa Comba Local Town
 - Debate and questions
- 10:45 Coffee Break
- 11:00 Transfer back to Sofia
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Check in at Hotel Central
- 16:00 Free time
- 19:30 Presentation of the next meeting
- 19:45 Evaluation
- 20:00 Dinner

THURSDAY 12 SEP

- Breakfast
- Check out at the hotel
- Departure of the participants

PROGRAM

• PARTNERSHIP •



• PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES •



• EVENTS •

EVENT 1
SANTA COMBA
(Spain)



EVENT 2
PAVLIKENI
(Bulgaria)



EVENT 3
RABAT
(Malta)



EVENT 4
PAIAO
(Portugal)



EVENT 5
PASZTO
(Hungary)



EVENT 6
MEDULIN
(Croatia)



PROMOTER:



HOST:



GIVE A HAND
ASSOCIATION
(BULGARIA)

Youth and democracy:
**EMPOWERING EUROPE'S
NEXT GENERATION**



CERV Programme
Network of Towns – Red de Ciudades

EVENT II

Veliko Turnovo & Pavlikeni (Bulgaria)
9 -12 September 2024



Funded by the
European Union