

OUR LIVING LIBRARY FOR SOLIDARITY & EQUALITY— EQUAL project



Co-funded by the
European Union



Our Living Library for Solidarity & Equality – EQUAL Project is co-financed by the European Union.

The general objectives of **EQUAL Project** are to:

- Integrate a range of activities around the subject of common interest: **Raising awareness of the importance of reinforcing the European integration process based on solidarity**;
- Promote exchanges and solidarity best practices between citizens of different countries;
- Guarantee peaceful relations between Europeans and to ensure their active participation at the local level.

“Raising awareness of the importance of reinforcing the European integration process based on solidarity” is the chosen priority from the CERV program: the main aim is to stimulate debate, reflection and cooperation on the issue of solidarity to create shared values, concrete civic participation and common mechanisms for donations and volunteering. EQUAL Project wants to highlight and assess the existing solidarity mechanisms inside the EU (4 Countries are involved), to focus the issue of solidarity versus responsibility, also increasingly raised in the context of other policy areas, such as migration and policies for gender equality and reinforce the EU integration process. Besides aiming at fostering citizens towards a brotherly future and wellbeing for Europeans, the project wants to foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for social, civic and democratic participation and to encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level as promoted by CERV Program and reloaded by the “Future of Europe” strategy, a roadmap detailing the main steps towards a more united, stronger and more democratic Union.

The Project focuses on the key role of **volunteering and solidarity** as expressions of active European citizenship. One of the project objectives is to produce a fruitful reflection about roles and approaches of volunteers in local governments at territorial level in the 4 involved Countries. It plans activities for generating humanism, common EU values, solidarity and tolerance as tools to fight against populism and extremism, so evidenced in these times of crisis. Moreover, the project promotes gender equality and the women rights.

The partnership is made up of **5 Municipalities from IT, HR, LV, SK**: it brings together various communities, all interested in valorisation and promotion of solidarity in this particular time crisis given by COVID19 outbreak, not only economic but also social, sanitary and of identity.

Applicant: Municipality of Borriana - IT.

Partners: Municipality of Belisce – HR; Municipality of Tahanovce – SK;
Municipality of Sandigliano – IT; Cesis Municipality - LV.

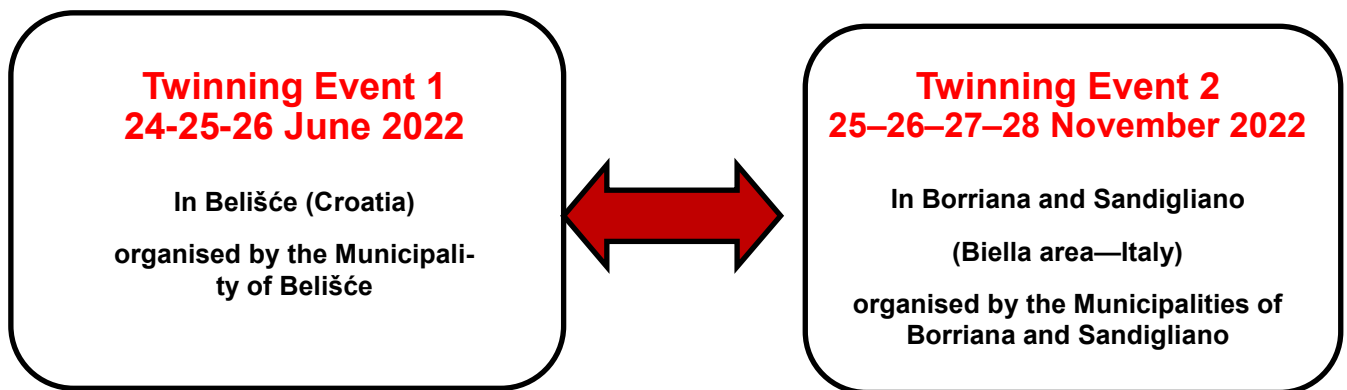
Project duration: 1 February (M1) – 30 November 2022 (M10).

The activities in presence will take place in Italy and in Croatia in occasion of the realisation of 2 Twinning Transnational Events based on the **Living Library approach**.

The project foresees also local and satellite initiatives, in each involved country: local press conferences to launch the project activities and it aims, online and in situ events for debating on **solidarity and equality** in national languages; local interviews for finding testimonials, volunteers and experts for the Living library's appointments; many dissemination initiatives in national language.

EQUAL is focused on the method of the **"LIVING LIBRARY"**. It works just like a normal library: the only difference is that in the Living Library, books are ...**people!** and reading consists of a conversation about solidarity, made above all by girls and women. Living Library concept responds to localised contexts or needs maintaining the original aim: to challenge stereotypes, stigma, prejudice and discrimination. The Living Library innovative approach to promote solidarity and equality shall also be transferable to other European contexts.

The project can create a transferable model for mass, based on social Solidarity, to give a potential impact outside the organisations and individuals directly participating in it.



Applicant:

Municipality of Borriana

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Link to project webpage: <https://www.comune.borriana.bi.it/aree-tematiche/leuropa-nel-nostro-comune/our-living-library-solidarity-equality>

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