



The project «From Helsinki to Berlin. Europe and the Fall of the Berlin Wall» was funded with the support of the European Union under the programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"

Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"

11 events have been carried out within this project:

Preparatory Activity

Participation: The event involved 8 citizens, including 5 participants from Lisbon (Portugal), 1 participant from Helsinki (Finland), 1 participant from Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and 1 participant from Berlin (Germany).

Location/date: The project's in-person kick-off meeting took place in Lisbon on September 9th 2019.

Short description: The coordinating team welcomed the other partners to discuss and agree on the general guidelines for project management and methodological approach. This constituted an opportunity to set up the work plan, indicating which activities were to be developed by each partner and their respective dates, and the project communication and dissemination strategies.

Event 1 - Debating Europe and the end of the Cold War – NOWALL international conference

Participation: The event involved 181 citizens, including 129 participants from Portugal, 5 participants from Germany, 2 participants from Finland, 4 participants from Brazil, 1 participant from Spain, 1 participant from Estonia, 1 participant from the UK, 6 participants from the USA, 2 participants from Angola, 4 participants from Ukraine, 5 participants from the Netherlands, 1 participant from East-Timor, 4 participants from Italy, 2 participants from China, 2 participants from Tunisia, 1 participant from Japan, 2 participants from Guinea-Bissau, 1 participant from Cape Vert, 1 participant from Nigeria, 1 participant from the Czech Republic, 1 participant from Ghana, 1 participant from Turkey, 1 participant from Colombia, 1 participant from Russia, 1 participant from Angola and 1 participant from India.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on November 11th and 12th November 2019.

Short description: This was an in-person conference gathering researchers, professors, and students, as well as the general public, to debate the last years of the Cold War. The conference date was chosen so as to coincide with the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and it was an opportunity to debate the role of European actors (such as the EEC, but also CSOs) from both sides of the "Iron Curtain" in promoting fundamental human rights during and after the Helsinki Conference, and to better understand national, European and international implications of the final years of the Cold War.

Event 2 - People and Borders: Rethinking the Walls around Us

Participation: The event involved 32 citizens, including 26 participants from The Netherlands, 4 participants from Portugal, 1 participant from Germany and 1 participant from Belgium.

Location / Dates: The event took place online (zoom platform), from Amsterdam (The Netherlands) on November 24th, 2020.

Short description: The first online event of the project was set to celebrate "Human Rights Day". It was organised/produced by CAAT Projects and inspired by 3 interactive video performances focused on activism, human rights and walls. The aim of the event was to engage participants in reflecting on citizens' engagement in the fall of the Berlin Wall, but also the debate on different kinds of "walls" present in varying social contexts. It was also an opportunity to reinforce the role of human rights advocates in bringing about positive change, highlighting the importance of citizens' participation in national and European affairs.

Event 3 - Webinar "Europe from the Helsinki Accords to the fall of the Berlin Wall and Beyond"

Participation: The event involved 50 citizens, including 1 participant from Albania, 1 participant from Angola, 1 participant from Austria, 1 participant from Brazil, 1 participant from the Czech Republic, 1 participant from Denmark, 7 participants from Finland, 2 participants from France, 1 participant from Georgia, 4 participants from Germany, 2 participants from Greece, 1 participant from India, 2 participants from Italy, 1 participant from The Netherlands, 3 participants from Poland, 19 participants from Portugal and 2 participants from Romania.

Location / Dates: The event took place online (zoom platform), from Helsinki (Finland), on December 4th 2020.

Short description: The webinar brought together political and economic historians and human rights scholars to discuss interconnected topics that reshaped the international system and government legitimacy between the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Event 4 - Webinar "The political opposition in the GDR and Poland: Solidarność and political opposition before the Fall of the Wall"

Participation: The event involved 49 citizens, including 32 participants from Portugal, 4 participants from Germany, 1 participant from France, 2 participants from The Netherlands, 2 participants from Poland, 1 participant from Romania, 1 participant from Greece, 1 participant from Austria, 1 participant from Belgium, 2 participants from the United Kingdom, 1 participant from Spain and 1 participant from the United States.

Location / Dates: The event took place online (zoom platform), from Berlin (Germany), on 08/02/2021

Short description: The webinar aimed to debate and give insight on how political resistance in East Germany and neighbouring Poland during the Cold War succeeded in making a change leading to freedom and respect of human rights.

Event 5 - Webinar “Dissidents and Human Rights behind the Iron Curtain: Dissidents in the East Germany and in the Soviet Union Partners”

Participation: The event involved 44 citizens, including 27 participants from Portugal, 4 participants from Germany, 4 participants from Poland and 2 participants from the USA.

Location / Dates: The event took place online (zoom platform), from Berlin (Germany), on 22/02/2021.

Short Description: The webinar aimed to present differences of how citizens were opposed to the communist regimes in East Germany and the Soviet bloc countries. Could the way to freedom be less obstructed, if more people were united?

Event 6 - Webinar “Peaceful Revolution as a Resistance Social Movement: the Unknown Citizens and the Fall of the Wall”

Participation: The event involved 108 citizens, including 83 participants from Portugal, 4 participants from Germany, 4 participants from Poland, 2 participants from the USA, 2 participants from Italy, 2 participants from Romania, 1 participant from the UK, 1 participant from Brazil, 2 participants from France, 1 participant from Switzerland, 1 participant from Austria, 1 participant from Finland, 1 participant from Albania, 1 participant from Croatia, 1 participant from Belarus and 1 participant from Angola.

Location / Dates: The event took place online (zoom platform), from Berlin (Germany), on 08/03/2021.

Short Description: One of the manifestations of a well-functioning civil society are numerous active social movements. They testify to the high activity and the ability to self-organize citizens. In this webinar we aimed to present the resistance social movements during the Cold War and before the Fall of the Berlin Wall.

Event 7 - Webinar “Europe, GDR and the Cold War: from the Euromissiles Crisis to the Reunification”

Participation: The event involved 33 citizens, including 19 participants from Portugal, 2 participants from Germany, 1 participant from Poland, 2 participants from the USA, 1 participant from Italy, 1 participant from Albania, 3 participants from the UK, 1 participant from Brazil, 2 participants from France and 1 participant from Finland.

Location / Dates: The event took place online (zoom platform) from Berlin (Germany) and Helsinki (Finland), on 22/03/2021.

Short description: The Cold War began almost the day after the end of World War II, with recent allies on opposite sides of the barricade. It was then that another global conflict would soon break out. Since then there was "peace that is not peace." The webinar aimed to reflect on the Cold War period.

Event 8 - Workshop “Europe, Human Rights and the Fall of the Berlin Wall”

Participation: The event involved 33 citizens, including 18 participants from Portugal, 1 participant from Germany, 4 participants from Poland, 1 participant from the USA, 2 participants from Italy, 1 participant from Albania, 2 participants from the UK, 1 participant from Brazil, 1 participant from Angola, 1 participant from France and 1 participant from Mozambique.

Location / Dates: The event took place online (zoom platform), from Lisbon (Portugal), on 19/04/2021.

Short description: The webinar aimed to debate on the historical events after the fall of the wall.

Event 9 - Workshop “Europe, Human Rights and the Fall of the Berlin Wall”

Participation: The event involved 26 citizens, including 13 participants from Portugal, 4 participants from Romania, 1 participant from Ireland, 1 participant from France, 2 participants from Italy, 4 participants from Poland, 1 participant from Spain and 1 participant from Norway.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Lisbon (Portugal), on 09/05/2021.

Short description: The workshop was based on “counter and alternative narratives” for the promotion of diversity in Europe. The idea is to involve the participants in deconstructing some arguments related to freedom of expression between the two sides of the Berlin Wall and the limits of it as a human right and the use of hate speech as a way of manipulating the masses, in the past and in the present.

Final activity

Participation: the event involved 4 citizens, including 2 participants from Portugal, 1 participant from Finland and 1 participant from Germany.

Location /Dates: The event took place online (zoom platform) from Lisbon (Portugal) on 21/11/2021.

Short description: The final meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the activities developed by each of the partners and to reflect on achievements and challenges encountered during the project.