

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Solidarity Across Towns — SOLIDARITOWN
Participant:	Christmas Cities Network
PIC number:	905027364

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	SOLIDARITY AS AN ANSWER FOR CRITICAL TIMES (TORREJON DE ARDOZ)
Type:	Training session (Local and Europeans) Partners Presentations (8 organisations) Discussion groups (Local and Europeans) Podcasts LAB (Coordination groups)
In situ/online:	<i>In situ - Presential</i>
Location:	Spain, Torrejón de Ardoz (Madrid)
Date(s):	18/04/2024 – 19/04/2024
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://www.christmascitiesnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/EVENT-DESCRIPTION-SHEET_1_SOLIDARITOWN.pdf">https://www.christmascitiesnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/EVENT-DESCRIPTION-SHEET_1_SOLIDARITOWN.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.ayto-torrejon.es/noticia/nota-de-prensa/torrejon-de-ardoz-capital-europea-de-la-navidad-acoge-el-i-encuentro">https://www.ayto-torrejon.es/noticia/nota-de-prensa/torrejon-de-ardoz-capital-europea-de-la-navidad-acoge-el-i-encuentro</a> <a href="https://europeancapitalofchristmas.org/christmas-cities-network-organises-the-1st-international-cities-and-christmas-meeting-through-the-project-solidaritown/">https://europeancapitalofchristmas.org/christmas-cities-network-organises-the-1st-international-cities-and-christmas-meeting-through-the-project-solidaritown/</a>
Participants	
Female:	38
Male:	22
Non-binary:	0
From Spain:	38
From Romania:	4
From Poland:	2

From Belgium	3		
From Slovenia	3		
From Italy	2		
From Portugal	3		
From Ireland	1		
From Czech Republic	3		
From Ukraine	1		
Total number of participants:	60	From total number of countries:	10
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The First International Event WP 1 (kick-off meeting) was held in Torrejón de Ardoz (Spain) between the 17th and 19th of April 2024 for our joint project SOLIDARITOWN.</p> <p>PARTNER ORGANISATIONS ATTENDING THE MEETING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Cities Network Association and Ayuntamiento de Torrejón de Ardoz (Spain).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ayuntamiento de Medina de Rioseco (Spain).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Asociatia Se Poate (Romania).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> AUTOKREACJA FOUNDATION (Poland) and Municipality of Gorlice (Poland).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Association Edushakers (Belgium).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Center Za Podjetnistvo in Turizem krsko (Slovenia)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Municipality of Genova (Italy).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Associacao Educpro (Portugal).</li> </ul> <p>INVITED ORGANIZATIONS :</p> <p>Lviv Polytechnic National University (Ukraine)</p> <p>Municipality of Waterford (Ireland) and European Capital of Christmas</p> <p>Municipality of Brno (Czech Republic) and European City of Christmas</p> <p>Association Campus Corso (Belgium)</p> <p>I) DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TAKEN PLACE</p> <p>17/04/2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival of Participants from each partner delegation</li> <li>- Official welcoming</li> <li>- Ice-breakers dynamics and networking between participants.</li> <li>- City walk across public buildings and infrastructures in Torrejon de Ardoz, in relation to Christmas project "Mágicas Navidades".</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>18/04/2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The participants attended the cultural centre located at the Polivalent Centre "Abogados de Atocha" in Torrejón de Ardoz, where, at the beginning of the morning, the Mayor of Torrejón</li> </ul>			

de Ardoz, Mr. Alejandro Navarro, officially welcomed the participants of the kick-off meeting framed in the European project SOLIDARITOWN.

- After this, participants attended a training course on major European challenges related to solidarity and Christmas. This training course was divided into different themes:
- In the first session of the training course, political representatives of the Municipality of Torrejón de Ardoz (Spain), together with guests from the Municipality of Waterford (Ireland) and the Municipality of Brno (Czech Republic), introduced their best practices and their "city project" that led them to become the European Capital of Christmas in 2024, highlighting aspects such as the European Green Deal, Green Transition, Digital Transition, Civic Participation, Social Inclusion, and Solidarity.
- In the second session of the training course, the Mayor of Medina de Rioseco (online) and the Vice Mayor of Medina de Rioseco, Valdés Sanz, presented the experiences and best practices of Medina de Rioseco in terms of solidarity, volunteering, and Christmas. After this, representatives of the Lviv Polytechnic National University opened a debate about the consequences of the war in Ukraine and the importance of solidarity in critical times.
- The third session of the training course included the participation of Mr. Enrique Espinel (CEO at Civitatis.com), as well as presentations by representatives from Genoa, Autokreacja (Poland), and Campus Corso (Belgium), who introduced concepts such as sustainability and digitalisation.
- The working session concluded with an intervention by Mr. Salvador Garriga (former Member of the European Parliament), who gave a lecture on the importance of European values of solidarity for the future of Europe.

18/04/2024

- The morning began with a workshop and discussion groups on how to approach solidarity in city projects like "Christmas Celebrations." These discussion groups debated and exchanged experiences about solidarity in current times, reflecting on moments such as the Covid-19 pandemic and people's solidarity. This activity commenced with the opening by a representative of the project "Mágicas Navidades" in Torrejón de Ardoz, discussing how the Municipality of Torrejón de Ardoz manages solidarity during the Christmas period (November-December-January). To share this experience, representatives of the city government and technicians participated in the session.
- Following this, participants were divided into intercultural groups to discuss the situation in their respective cities and regions. They highlighted specific realities from their cities and reflected on potential scenarios and ideas for the future. The session was facilitated by a technician specialised in civic participation.
- After this working session, participants introduced their own organisations and experiences related to solidarity in the current times. Each partner presented their organisation using a PowerPoint presentation, lasting 10-15 minutes, highlighting their best practices related to solidarity.
- Subsequently, participants attended a workshop called "Podcasts LAB," where they worked on dissemination actions. A specialist in podcasts introduced the topic. Following this, participants reflected on and debated dissemination actions to implement in the project using podcasts. They prepared a pilot experience of "podcasts" for disseminating the project values, which was shared on social media. Participants also agreed on a "project communication plan" that included podcasts.
- At the end of the day, participants went on a guided tour of the "Park of Europe" in Torrejón de Ardoz. This guided tour included a "role-playing game" where participants, in pairs, reflected on the history of Europe, its heritage, and its future.

20/04/2024

Departure of participants.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01/09/2022	Initial version (new MFF).