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**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "*Networks of Towns*"  
Measure 2.3 "*Civil Society Projects*"  
Strand 1 – "*European Remembrance*"**

## **Eleven events have been carried out within this project:**

### **Event 1**

**Participation:** The event involved 41 citizens, including 21 participants from the city of Palermo and 1 from Bagheria (Italy), 19 participants from the city of Würzburg (Germany).

**Location / Dates:** The event “Conversation on migrants’ issues in Sicily” took place at E.Si.Sis (Ente Siciliano di Servizio Sociale, the Sicilian Board for Social Services) in **Palermo (Italy)** on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2018.

**Short description:** Borderline Sicilia hosted a group of students coming from different parts of the world, who are enrolled in the master’s degree “International Social Work with Refugees and Migrants” of the University of Würzburg (Germany). Meeting Italian students from the University of Palermo in their third year in the field of Social services, the participants had the opportunity to confront and share their own knowledges on the matter. Based on their input and thanks to their common field of study, the exchange between the two groups of university's students and the experts in the field was very successful. The subjects covered during the workshop included migration routes, rescue operations at sea, the criminalization of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). On the European level, the agreements between Italy and Libya were discussed as well as the European Agenda on migration from 2015 and the Hotspots & Relocation system. Focusing on the Italian reception system and refugees’ access to international protection in Italy, borderline sicilia informed the students about the implementation of EU migration policies by giving concretes examples from the Sicilian reality.

### **Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 25 citizens, including students from two school classes plus their teachers.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Bad Ischl, Austria on the 04.04.2018

**Short description:** The goal of the event was to inform students about the basic procedure of seeking for asylum in Austria. We talked about the length and process of the asylum procedure, how to take first steps towards a life in Austria and what restrictions and rights refugees are confronted with. Also, the teenagers had the opportunity to speak directly to two refugees, who shared their experiences and enabled the teenagers to reflect on their own role in the society, inviting young people to contribute to the integration of newcomers. In the following discussion the students showed great interest and asked a lot about the dangerous flight routes to Europe and their lives in their home countries.

### **Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 27 citizens, of whom participants were mostly from Germany, while some participants had origins in Italy, Pakistan, Iraq and Kenia.

**Location / Dates:** The event “Was bedeutet Sicherheit für dich? Perspektiven auf Abschiebungen” (What does safety mean to you? Perspectives on deportations) took place in Berlin, Germany, on 26 of April 2018.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to inform the audience about the effects of a discourse in Germany and Europe that equalizes refugees with criminals. Throughout a podium discussion with participants from different migrant- rights’ groups, we talked about forms of stigmatization that affect refugees and asylum seekers. The audience became aware that refugees and migrants are attacked by racist prejudices, which can lead to psychological and physical aggression in public spaces and refugee shelters, as well as racialized discrimination performed by state authorities. Especially the traumatic experience of deportations, or the threat of being deported to unsafe countries like Afghanistan or Pakistan, was discussed as a problem that hinders refugees and migrants to fully include into the new society. At the same time, it also became clear that the civil society in Germany is involved in numerous ways to support those that are victimized by racist attacks. The civil society is also involved in offering legal and psychological help to people threatened with deportations. At the time of the event taking place, the former minister of interior, Thomas de Maizière, was trying to enforce deportations to Afghanistan, while human rights organizations constantly underlined the immense danger that expects people there. During the event, also other countries of origins and the difficult living conditions in these countries, as well as the harsh conditions of arrival after a deportation, were discussed. An outstanding example for an intervention from the civil society was the case of a school-class in Germany, who prevented their classmate from Afghanistan from being deported to a war country.

#### **Event 4**

**Participation:** The event involved 68 citizens, of whom participants were from Germany, Syria, Turkey, Latin American and African origins.

**Location/ Dates:** The event “Fluchtrouten aus Syrien- Kann man in Deutschland ankommen?” (Flihrtroutes from Syria- Is it possible to arrive in Germany?) took place in Berlin, Germany on 30. of August 2018.

**Short Description:** The young Syrian Ahmad Alzoubi produced a cinematic document in the media workshop Schlachthof Bremen from the footage he took with his mobile phone before and during his escape. It shows us the significance of war and flight for a young person and tells the story of his escape to Germany. What happens when your own house resembles a ruin? When countless people die in bombing raids near the school Ahmed attends? When fighters of the so-called Islamic state stop refugees on their way or the engine of the hopelessly overcrowded rubber dinghy malfunctions at night on the high seas? During our event, the filmmaker Ahmad Alzoubi answered questions about the needs of refugees upon their arrival and about inclusion into the German society. Also, one activist from the new monitoring project in the Aegean Sea “Mare Liberum” gave an overview of the current situation at the EU’s external border between Greece and Turkey. The discussion emphasized flight causes, dangers on the routes and the fear of expulsion from Germany. As Ahmad underlined, refugees in Germany are interested in working, education and access and inclusion into the society. He recommends answering stigmatizing and right-wing populist opinions against foreigners in Germany with basic facts and invites people to ask questions for a better understanding.

#### **Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 39 citizens, including 12 participants from the city of Marsala, 1 from the city of Castelvetro, 3 from the city of Trapani, 11 from the city of Palermo, 4 from the city of Ragusa, 2 from the city of Bagheria and 1 from the city of Trieste (Italy).

**Location / Dates:** The event “Le economie sommerse e lo sfruttamento dei lavoratori stagionali” (The black economy and the exploitation of seasonal workers) took place at the Conference Room of the “Monumento ai Mille” in Marsala (Italy) on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

**Short description:** The conference aimed to deepen a better understanding of the complex world of informal economies. Thanks to the contribution of local actors involved in the region of Trapani, we managed to descend progressively from the general to the particular and contextually from theory to practice. Using a comparative approach, we discussed good practices examples in different regions. However, it also became clear throughout the conference, that the context in Trapani is dominated by the exploitation of seasonal migrant workers. The extreme level of exploitation and inhuman living conditions the workers are confronted with is especially shocking as institutions of the third sector of the Sicilian economy are directly involved. As the phenomenon of exploitation is especially prevalent in the Sicilian region Trapani, Marsala, as the capital city of Trapani, was the best place for holding the conference and attracted a bigger audience than expected.

#### **Event 6**

**Participation:** The event involved 26 senior citizens.

**Location/ Dates:** The event „Alle Afghaner lügen“ – Lesung aus negativen Asylbescheiden“ (All Afghans are lying- Readings from negative Asylum decisions) took place in Vienna, Austria on the 22.10.2018

#### **Short description:**

The goal of the event was to publicly discuss the arguments and the reasoning of the authorities in denied asylum applications. We held the event together with and for senior citizens at their premises. Since we also offer free legal advice to refugees, we get to read a lot of negative decisions. Not only is the procedure sometimes faulty, but especially the interviewing of asylum seekers and the argumentation denying them credibility is often more than flawed. Therefore, our speakers could present more than 50 questionable quotes, all from negative decisions of the responsible department.

In the following discussion we talked about the conditions leading to faulty proceedings and the role of the civil society in supporting asylum seekers on one side, and as observers for the compliance of the Human Rights in the asylum process on the other side.

#### **Event 7**

**Participation:** The event involved 187 citizens, including 125 participants from the city of Bagheria, 4 from the city of Altavilla Milicia, 12 from the city of Casteldaccia, 1 from the city of Villabate, 1 from the city of Santa Flavia, 1 from the city of Misilmeri, 31 from the city of Palermo, 12 young migrants hosted in the structures of the territories of Bagheria and Altavilla Milicia (Italy)

**Location / Dates:** The event-performance “Invisibili” took place at the Cine Teatro Roma in **Bagheria (Italy)**, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2018.

**Short description:** Borderline Sicilia was actively involved in the formation of the Comitato di Cittadinanza Solidale “Barca” (Committee Solidarity Citizenship “Barca”) in Bagheria. In response to a dangerous racist attack on a Nigerian citizen, the Committee started conducting several activities aimed at raising awareness among citizens about the issue of migration. Mohamed Ba, active member of CCSB, is originally from Senegal, but has been living in Italy for over twenty years now. In addition to being an actor, a writer, a musician and a composer, he is also a trainer, who works in schools carrying out intercultural projects. As part of the Bridges instead of Walls project, Mohammed Ba met with borderline Sicilia and a group of young students to talk about his personal migration experience and invite students to get active. In a common event, he performed the theatre show “Invisibili” (the invisibles) The performance was free of charge and open to the entire citizenry. In this theatre performance, Mohamed is at the same time the guardian of African traditions and the renovator, who “sings” about the historical, social and political contradictions of migration. By addressing the dreams, hopes and pains of the African communities facing the tragedy of the migration journeys, he especially underlines the hopes of those who leave everything beyond, yet don’t forget about their roots. After the show, Mohamed Ba led a debate with the public on those issues.

### **Event 8**

**Participation:** More than 26 citizens visited the event.

**Location / Dates:** The podium discussion „Ist die aktuelle Politik in Österreich mit den Menschenrechten vereinbar?“ (Are Austria’s current politics compatible with Human Rights?) took place in Vienna, Austria on the 10. 12. 2018.

**Short description:** On the anniversary of the universal Declaration on Human Rights, we held a panel discussion moderated by veteran activist Michael Genner. On the panel, human rights activists from Vienna with different backgrounds discussed the current political situation in Austria and their compliance with Human Rights. We managed to raise interest with a lot of cultural enthusiasts, who visited the art exhibition and the following concerts. Together with the activists, we talked about the consequences of the latest developments in (asylum) politics and different political practices concerning activism.

### **Event 9:**

**Participation:** 77 citizens participated in the event. The audience had origins in different European and outer European countries.

**Location / Date:** The event “Moria 35” took place on the 17.12.2018 in Berlin, Germany.

### **Short Description:**

The case of Moria 35 is paradigmatic for the ongoing criminalization and stigmatization of refugees on the Greek islands since the conclusion of the EU-Turkey Declaration. The goal of the event was to show the situation in Greece through the movie screening “Moria 35”: Greece, Lesbos, 2017: For months, refugees have been protesting the inhumane living conditions in the Moria camp. On 18 June, a peaceful sit-down strike comes to a violent end. The police storm the refugee camp and brutally arrests 35 men. For nine months, they have to wait in prison before being put in front of the court, even though there is no evidence against them. "As far as I understand, I was only arrested because I am black," concludes Didier Ndiay from Senegal.

At the beginning of the film, there was a brief introduction about the situation of refugees since the deal between the EU and Turkey in March 2016.

The film was followed by an open discussion with director Fridoon Joinda, who himself lived as a refugee on Lesbos and has made numerous films about the situation on the island. Together with producer Valeria Hänsel, who is part of the organisation Bordermonitoring.EU and the network for critical migration and border regime studies on Lesbos, the lively discussion with the audience reflected on human rights violations through stigmatization and criminalization of refugees at the EU’s external borders.

### **Event 10:**

**Participation:** The event involved 26 citizens, the students of the high school were German and had origins in European and Non- European countries.

**Location / Dates:** The event “Das zentrale Mittelmeer- Die gefährlichste Migrationsroute der Welt“ (The central Mediterranean Sea- the most dangerous migration route in the world) took place on the 28.01.2019 in Berlin, Germany.

**Short description:**

The interactive workshop on the Libya-Italy route in a Berlin high school had the aim to increase the knowledge of students about current escape routes and the criminalization of sea rescue. Together we developed a basis for argumentation against the right-wing populist mood in Europe based on factual knowledge and placing human rights in the foreground. In our subsequent simulation game, the students took over the role of the various EU and civil society actors involved in the Libyan-Italian route. During their discussion round, the students developed own questions and suggestions on how to improve the situation in the central Mediterranean Sea. In this way, the pupils learnt about the function and working methods of the EU border agency Frontex and critically examined the positions of the EU member states Germany and Italy. What exactly is happening in Libya and why do people have to flee? Through the previous reflection on their own migratory background or wishes to migrate, the pupils\* developed empathy for the various motives of people fleeing over the Mediterranean Sea. It was precisely the inhuman situation in Libya that inspired the students to ask more questions about the EU's policy of isolation.

**Event 11:**

**Participation:** The event involved 79 citizens, including 50 participants from the city of Bagheria, 1 from the city of Altavilla Milicia, 3 from the city of Casteldaccia, 4 from the city of Santa Flavia, 1 from the city of Misilimeri, 12 from the city of Palermo, 2 from the city of Catania, 1 from the city of Milazzo, 1 from the city of Mazara, 2 from the city of Catania, 1 from the city of Ragusa (**Italy**), 1 from the city of Berlino (**Germany**).

**Location / Dates:** The event "Formazione Terraferma (Sportello Migranti a Bagheria) took place at the "Circolo Arci Bocs" in **Bagheria (Italy)**, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2019.

**Short description:** The opening event of a new drop-in center for legal advice for migrants in Bagheria was a big success. A high number of volunteers and interested citizens joined the event to learn how to support migrants to gain access to services provided for citizens. Also, migrants and refugees present during the event could get direct help in exercising their rights, if necessary. After a legal one-day training organised by the legal advisors of the association, the drop-in was opened by the associations **Bocs, Comitato Barca, Caritas Cittadina di Bagheria and Borderline Sicilia** to fill the void with dialogue. It's the first necessary intervention in Bagheria that fosters civil and cultural togetherness. Thanks to the work of its volunteers, the drop-in Terraferma guarantees a listening service, initial orientation and legal advice for migrants, as well as legal trainings for volunteers.