

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:	Edushakers vzw
PIC number:	890206637

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	
Event name:	SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF PEACE (LEUVEN)
Type:	Training session (Local and Europeans) Partners Presentations (8 organisations) Debate (Local and Europeans) Podcasts LAB (Coordination groups)
In situ/online:	<i>In situ and online</i>
Location:	Belgium, Leuven
Date(s):	09.09 – 12.9..2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.campuscorso.be/internationaal/solidaritown/ https://www.campuscorso.be/app/download/20056476425/EVENT%20DESCRIPTION%20SHEET%201_SOLIDARITOWN%20WP8.pdf?t=1763461220
Participants	
Female:	44
Male:	31
Non-binary:	-
From Slovenia:	2
From Romania:	5
From Poland:	3
From Belgium	55
From Spain	3

From Italy	3		
From Portugal	2		
***From Ukraine	2		
Total number of participants:	75	From total number of countries:	8
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The eight International Event WP 8 meeting was held in Leuven (Belgium) between the 9th and 12th of September 2025 for our joint project SOLIDARITOWN.</p> <p>PARTNER ORGANISATIONS ATTENDING THE MEETING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 Christmas Cities Network Association (Spain). 🏠 Ayuntamiento de Medina de Rioseco (Spain). 🏠 Asociatia Se Poate (Romania). 🏠 AUTOKREACJA FOUNDATION (Poland) and 🏠 Association Edushakers (Belgium). 🏠 Center Za Podjetnistvo in Turizem krsko (Slovenia) 🏠 Municipality of Genova (Italy). 🏠 Associacao Educpro (Portugal). <p>INVITED ORGANIZATIONS :</p> <p>City of Leuven (Belgium) Mayor of Leuven Mr. Ridouani (Belgium) Deputy Mayor of Leuven Mr. Thomas Van Oppens UCLL University of Applied Sciences Ukranian Community of Leuven</p> <p>I) DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TAKEN PLACE</p> <p>9/9/2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival of Participants from each partner delegation - Official welcoming and dinner at Campus Corso - Networking between participants and presenting time schedule for next 2 days - Optional exploration of Leuven by night <p>10/9/2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Departure from Leuven station to Brussels Shuman - Visit to the museum of European history - Guided tour of the European Parliament - Walking tour of Brussels' historic European Quarter - Return to Leuven - Official reception hosted by Mayor Mohamed Ridouani at De Kruidtuin - Evening visit of Leuven's annual fair <p>Results and impact of the activities:</p>			

Visit to the Museum of European History

This visit provided participants with historical context essential for understanding contemporary European challenges, particularly the relationship between Russia and Ukraine since the Soviet Union's dissolution in 1991. By exploring Europe's shared past, participants gained perspective on recurring patterns like imperialism and propaganda that resurfaced in the conference debates. The museum experience helped ground the solidarity discussions in a deeper awareness of how historical events shape present-day conflicts.

Guided tour of the European Parliament

The Parliament tour connected participants directly to European democratic institutions, reinforcing the role of formal policy frameworks in fostering solidarity. This experience highlighted the institutional dimension of European unity while setting the stage for discussions about how cities and grassroots movements can complement official structures. It underscored the importance of understanding both top-down and bottom-up approaches to building European solidarity.

Walking tour of Brussels' historic European Quarter

This cultural exploration allowed participants to experience the physical heart of European cooperation, creating a tangible connection between place and political identity. The tour helped participants from diverse countries find common ground through shared European heritage, establishing an informal atmosphere for dialogue before the formal conference sessions. It served as a practical example of how cultural exchange can build bridges across national boundaries.

Official reception hosted by Mayor Mohamed Ridouani at De Kruidtuin

The mayor's reception demonstrated local government commitment to European solidarity, with Ridouani emphasizing Leuven's role in supporting Ukrainian victims and speaking against injustice. This event bridged municipal action with broader European values, showing how cities can play a unifying role during conflict. The reception validated the conference's focus on community-level engagement as essential to sustainable solidarity beyond formal policy frameworks.

11/9/2025

- Meeting with project partners and rounding up the project and todos
- Presentation of project results of all work packages by partners explaining the added value of our consortium and the international and intercultural exchange it enabled. All partners selected and presented good practices from other partners.
- Open debate on 'Solidarity in Times of Peace', moderated by historian Lut Lippeveld. Lut presented the history and context to the conflict and generated interesting discussions on the role of Europe and the added value of local actions and active youth participation. The Ukrainian Community of Leuven was invited to take part in this debate, sharing their insights and generating interesting takeaways.
- Special presentation on Leuven's Climate City Contract by Deputy Mayor for Climate, Finance and Digitalisations Thomas Van Oppens and debate on the local green initiatives with all participants
- Networking lunch at Campus Corso
- Interactive Radio Lab session with all participants. Participants were asked to integrate takeaways from the debate and their visit to the museum of European history. A youtube link with the results will be shared with the participants' networks.
- Guided cultural tour of Leuven
- Closing dinner at restaurant

Results and impact of the activities

Open debate on 'Solidarity in Times of Peace', moderated by historian Lut Lippeveld

This centerpiece session provided historical context for the Russia-Ukraine conflict, tracing back to the Soviet Union's dissolution in 1991 and the 2014 Crimea annexation as a critical turning point. Lippeveld's moderation facilitated discussions on whether the war was driven by power or ideology, while participants explored how disinformation campaigns distort reality and deepen divisions. The inclusion of Leuven's Ukrainian community and young participants from Lviv elevated the emotional depth and urgency of the debate, generating concrete takeaways about the importance of grassroots efforts and youth activism in promoting European unity. The debate reinforced that communication, dialogue, and education serve as powerful tools for countering misinformation and building understanding across borders.

Special presentation on Leuven's Climate City Contract by Deputy Mayor Thomas Van Oppens
Van Oppens' presentation bridged the conference's solidarity themes with environmental action,

demonstrating how local sustainability initiatives embody European values in practice. The session sparked discussions about how cultural identity, community values, and local traditions either support or hinder the development of a collective 'green mindset' among citizens. Participants shared insights from their own cities' sustainability initiatives, exploring the intersection between cultural narratives and environmental consciousness. This activity illustrated that solidarity extends beyond political crises to include shared responsibility for climate action, reinforcing the conference's emphasis on community-level commitment.

Networking lunch at Campus Corso

The lunch at Campus Corso provided informal space for participants to build personal connections and continue conversations sparked during formal sessions. This setting allowed for deeper, unstructured dialogue where participants could share experiences from their home countries and explore common challenges in fostering solidarity. The networking opportunity strengthened the personal bonds essential for sustained cross-border collaboration, demonstrating that solidarity requires ongoing relationship-building beyond official conference activities. It embodied the principle that daily interactions and community commitments are as vital as formal policy frameworks.

Interactive Radio Lab session

The Radio Lab gave participants a creative platform to process and articulate insights from both the morning debate on solidarity and their Museum of European History visit. Drawing on their newfound understanding of historical patterns and contemporary challenges, participants explored personal perspectives on European solidarity in an audio format designed for wider dissemination via YouTube (<https://youtu.be/86ZZ48j1R8g>). This session served dual purposes: offering participants a reflective outlet while creating a lasting documentary record of diverse viewpoints on strengthening solidarity during crisis. The interactive format emphasized that individual voices and grassroots communication matter in building collective understanding and countering propaganda.

12/9/2025

- Departure of participants

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