

# My Community 2020

BRINGING A COMMUNITY'S CULTURAL HERITAGE TO LIFE THROUGH THE EYES OF ITS INHABITANTS

## ➤ The project at the time of COVID-19

Whether we like it or not, the coronavirus health crisis that has hit the world between February and May 2020 has had a direct impact on the implementation of our project as well. From mid-March 2020, almost all the governments of Europe imposed periods of lockdown on their citizens in order to stop the spread of the virus. This immediately meant all our project activities, including a planned meeting in Latvia, had to be cancelled or postponed ... but... we are not discouraged at all!!!! As partners in the project, we have continued to stay in touch, through all possible communication channels, with the aim of rearranging and reinventing new ways of implementing the project. The pandemic has forced many into using various video call platforms and other mobile applications: never before have we realised the added value of digital technology and the importance for people of having real digital knowledge and skills. Therefore, we are determined to achieve the objectives of "My Community 2020" and to complete what we still have to do!



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## ➤ Some of the partners were able to deliver the training before the crisis...

Do you remember? Between February and April of this year, the seven project partners were supposed to deliver the training "Digital Skills to Create Local History" in each of their countries. Well, before the coronavirus arrived, 3 of us managed to implement the training. Here are the experiences from our partners in Ireland, Italy and Latvia



### It happened, in Dublin (Ireland)



A mix of Travellers and non-Travellers from four different geographical locations in Ireland took part in the training held in Dublin over five weeks. The participants visited a local community radio station to understand the importance and benefits of community radio and the local media. They also took a history walk of Dublin city visiting former sites of Exchange House Ireland and Traveller interest sites, which the participants found particularly enjoyable.

#### One participant's final thoughts were:

*"It was really an enjoyable course and working with the group – it would be important to keep the connection going into the future. We will be able to take these skills learned here back to our own organisations to promote ourselves on Social Media."*



### It happened, in Gulbene (Latvia)

In Gulbene, a town in north-eastern Latvia, the training was carried out in cooperation with the municipality's library and was aimed at a very diverse group of people, in terms of age and occupation, who were all from rural areas. Participants have learned how to use a smartphone and a computer to create simple videos. This has boosted their self-confidence by showing them that it is possible to learn and master digital tools. To ensure that such content does not have a short-term effect, participants made proposals for continuing, one way or another, the training. Using digital tools, participants felt a positive feeling of accomplishment, their daily lives become more interesting and loneliness decreases.

*"I really enjoyed to take pictures of everything: events, my excursions, nature. And if I could learn to make a video, everyone would be surprised! Let's surprise the others, that is why I joined this adventure. If others can, I can do it too!" (Herunda Zuša).*





## It happened, in Potenza (Italy)



In Potenza (south of La Botte), the training was held by Euro-Net throughout the month of February (before being stopped by the coronavirus) and was addressed to a mixed group of 13 local people and migrants coming from Africa, Asia and Europe. Learners particularly enjoyed visiting the editorial office of a local newspaper and interviewing its journalists.

The meeting was so appreciated that the newspaper of Potenza published a special article about the project and the beautiful time spent together.

By the end of September, the participants will meet again to discover the historical heritage of the town of Potenza and to finish the editing of the videos.

## > What about the other partners?

Other partners are looking to deliver as soon as the lockdown eases and we are able to deliver face to face, Spain and United Kingdom plan to deliver the course from September 2020 onward, While the partners from Bulgaria and France hope to deliver training by the end of the Summer in their respective countries. In order to implement safety measures and encourage participants to join the training as much as possible, partners are currently looking at online approaches and elements to deliver part of the training.

## > What's next for "My Community 2020"?

Our original plan was to finish the project in October this year, we have had to think about an extension which, administratively speaking, will allow us to carry out some of the final activities, such as dissemination events, in the flesh... at least that's what we hope!

A final meeting is also planned in Galway, Ireland, which will allow some of the participants in the local training courses to meet and exchange results and experiences of the project. The results will be collected and presented in a final manual which the partners have already started to work on.



## "My Community 2020" YouTube Channel online !

One of the objectives of the project is for the adults who benefit from the pilot training to produce video and/or audio snapshots enabling them to tell about their community. You might find all our videos on our [YouTube channel](#) which is now online! A little more patience and you will find, little by little, different places, faces, languages and stories of our communities !

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