



## Europe for citizens

**The project „NEW Schuman Declaration - Cross-Generational Conversation about a NEW Europe“ is funded by the European Union under the "Europe for Citizens" programme**

### Strand 1: "European Remembrance"

**Events:** 5 events were organized under this project. They were held in 4 cities: Pleven, Athens, Granada and Warsaw, and in the essay and drawing contest, which was in online format, pupils, students, youth and teachers from 13 more cities in Bulgaria participated (Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Sliven, Vidin, Silistra, Dimitrovgrad, Blagoevgrad, Simitli, Popovo and Lom). **We can add as an "event" also the writing of the "New Schuman Declaration"** - its text is composed of excerpts from the best essays that participated in the "My Schuman Declaration" contest.

**A total of 753 people** participated in the events, of which 490 from Pleven and 13 other cities (**Bulgaria**), 105 from Kifissia/Athens (**Greece**), 105 from Granada (**Spain**) and 53 from Warsaw (**Poland**). In the final event held in Pleven (Bulgaria), 137 people participated, including from Spain, Poland and Greece.

The events took place during the project period **from February 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022**.

**Short description:** The project "NEW Schuman Declaration - Cross-Generational Conversation about a NEW Europe (nEU dec)" had the main objective of generating ideas for the future of the European Union in the form of a New Declaration for Europe. With all the activities carried out, the project showed the connection between the past and the present to give young citizens a strong tool for building the future - their own ideas and dreams. This was done with a range of traditional and innovative methods: meetings, talks, film screenings, thematic presentations, musical performances, flash mob, essay and drawing contest, puzzle room, quizzes, discussion, radio campaign.

#### Event 1

**Participation:** The event brought together **130 people**, of which 74 were from the city of Granada (**Spain**) and 56 from the city of Kifissia/Athens (**Greece**).

**Place/Date:** The event consisted of **4 lessons "Meeting of generations: a conversation about Europe - 70 years in 70 minutes"**, 2 took place in Granada (Spain) from 26.02. to 03.03.2021 and 2 on 22.03.2021 in Kifissia/Athens (Greece).

**Short description:** In Granada, the aim of the event was to introduce students from the Diego de Siloe Ilora Secondary School to the history of Europe and the EU, with an emphasis on the 1950 Schuman Declaration and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. In two separate talks, the speakers entered into a dialogue with the youth and shared memories of what they experienced under the constraints of undemocratic governance, a weak economy and isolation, as well as their hopes for today. In particular, attention was paid to the fact that the European Union was created not only as an economic community, but as a guarantor of peace. The realization of this fact left a lasting mark in the memory of the students. There were held a) Conversations and closing conference b) Screening of the film "ELBLAG, the restored city"; c) Development of an e-book on Robert Schuman and his Declaration. On 22.03.2021, two webinars "Meeting of generations: a conversation about Europe - 70 years in 70 minutes" were held for students of the 9th high school "Aharnon Menidi", Kifissia/Athens, Greece. During the training, which lasted 2 hours, 56 students learned the history of the establishment of the ECSC and later the EEC and the EU, and were introduced to the text of the Schuman Declaration itself. They were encouraged to enter the 'My Schuman Declaration' essay competition by creating their own version reflecting their concerns and vision for the future of Europe.

#### Event 2

**Participation:** The event allowed to gather **168 people**, incl. 136 from the city of Pleven (**Bulgaria**) and 32 from the city of Warsaw (**Poland**).

**Place/Date:** In Pleven, Bulgaria on 21.04.2021 and 29.04.2021 and in Warsaw, Poland on 12.05.2021, four main events.

**Short description:** In Pleven, **2 lessons "Meeting of generations: a conversation about Europe - 70 years in 70 minutes"** were held with students in 2 Pleven schools and 3 flash mobs during the lessons. **On 21.04.2021**, a meeting of generations took place in the concert hall of the Panayot Pipkov National School of Arts. A special guest at the meeting-conversation was **the peer of the Schuman Declaration Lyubomir Djakovski** - opera singer, director of the Pleven Philharmonic, charitable and active citizen, honorary citizen of Pleven and his hometown Dupnitsa. He shared with 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grade students about his experiences on his many trips to tour Europe from 1969 until now, about the Berlin Wall and what the Iron Curtain was like. He provoked the audience, half of whom were music students, with questions and facts about the choice of Ode to Joy as the anthem of the European Union, recordings conducted by Herbert von Karajan and other trivia. Instead of the planned one, there were **2 flashmobs** - Reading of Schuman's declaration by students against the background of a portrait of Schuman and performance of the anthem of Europe - "Ode to Joy" by the "chorus" of the audience accompanied by a large students' and teachers' string orchestra. Chronologically, the event included: a) solo performance of the "Ode to Joy" on violin, b) reading of Schuman's Declaration by three students in the "Acting Mastery" specialty, c) showing a presentation, d) marking the stellar moment for Bulgaria - the accession in the EU on January 1, 2007 with a performance of "Ruchenitsa" from "Thracian Dances" by the composer Petko Stainov from the percussion ensemble "Accent", e) a conversation with a peer of the Declaration, f) a quiz with the audience, g) a flash mob with a choral performance of "Ode to Joy", accompanied by a string orchestra of students and teachers. **On 29.04.2021**, a lesson was held in the Profiled High school with foreign languages teaching, Pleven. Ninth graders from a German language class watched a specially prepared presentation and heard the original text of the Declaration that launched the EU. The event included: **a) Flashmob "Robert Schuman reads the Declaration" - in French and German, b) a presentation, c) a quiz with the participants.**

In Warsaw, Poland, on 12.05.2021 - **2 flash mobs "Robert Schuman Reads the Declaration"** were held in front of 12 scouts - by their club leader, and in front of an audience of 20 high school students - by their classmates. The young people learned about the time when freedoms and human rights in Poland were trampled or taken away, about the dissident movements, about the momentum and prosperity that their country has gained since its accession to the EU. Participants were invited to take part in the next project activity - the essay and drawing contest.

Young people in both countries immersed themselves in the atmosphere of Paris 70 years ago, only 5 years after the end of World War II. They felt the excitement of Robert Schuman, whose short speech lifted the burden of fear by hatred or revenge from the shoulders of Europeans, delved into the details of the Declaration and its messages that are still valid today.

### **Event 3**

**Participation:** the event made it possible to gather **138 people**, of which 20 were from the city of Pleven and 27 from other cities: 3 from Sofia, 4 from Plovdiv, 1 from Varna, 1 from Burgas, 2 from Ruse, 2 from Sliven, 1 from Vidin, 4 from Silistra, 1 from Dimitrovgrad, 2 from Blagoevgrad, 1 from Simitli, 4 from Popovo and 1 from Lom (**Bulgaria**), 47 from the city of Kifissia/Athens (**Greece**), 27 from Granada (**Spain**) and 17 from Warsaw (**Poland**).

**Place/Date:** The event - an essay and drawing contest on the theme "My Schuman Declaration" was announced and conducted online. In Bulgaria, many schools, clubs, art schools and circles, students responded to the invitation, and children and young people from all over the country participated. In Greece, Spain and Poland, the competitions were held in the schools with which the partners work most actively. Announcement, judging and awarding period - from May 9, 2021 to September 30, 2021.

**Short description:** The competition was open to all pupils, students and young people from the four cities and participating countries, aged 10 to 29. The essay writers brought Schuman's ideas up to date with their personal position and fresh perspective. The essays are a kind of study about the problems that most concern young Europeans and the priorities on which the European Union should work. We have arranged excerpts from the best of them in the text of New Schuman Declaration. An interesting challenge was recreating the Schuman Declaration in paintings. The works of the young artists received for the competition are original, colorful and carrying messages.

### **Event 4**

**Participation:** the event brought together **180 people**, of which 161 from the city of Pleven (**Bulgaria**), 15 from the city of Dolna Mitropolia (**Bulgaria**), 2 from Granada (**Spain**) and 2 from Łódź (**Poland**).

**Place/Date:** the event took place in Pleven and Dolna Mitropolia (Bulgaria) from 01.10.2021 to 31.05.2022

**Short description:** The creation of **puzzle room "Europe - from legend to nEU"** and holding competitions for students in it was a big challenge for Contemporary Pleven Media Foundation. It went through writing a concept, consultation with a Bulgarian author of a similar educational riddle room, making an advertising teaser together with three volunteers, preparation and purchase of materials for the room, as well as gifts and prizes for all participants.

The puzzle room was made in a mobile version. This minimized the risk of contracting COVID-19. The competitions were held in different schools, each time the room was arranged anew, in a room provided by the host school, and a maximum of 8-10 people could enter it. **28 teams of four or five contestants from 11 schools and one secondary school dormitory** tested their knowledge of

history, geography, literature and music, the ability to navigate on maps and the directions of the world, their mind and creativity. But all the contestants needed above all wits and team spirit to earn 12 gold stars and get out of the room in the shortest possible time.

A journalist from the Bulgarian National Radio attended one of the competitions. The media broadcast a 9-minute report including short interviews. The last 2 competitions, held on May 9, 2022 at the State Finance & Economics Academy "Intellect" - Pleven, were attended by representatives of the partner organizations from Spain and Poland, for whom there was a simultaneous translation into English, as well as a printout of the informational texts to the riddles, in their native languages.

Leaving the room symbolically took young people to an open, inclusive and more democratic Europe. They enriched and strengthened their knowledge about the European Union. The rating for the puzzle room is very high. The last riddle was especially liked - the answer to the question **"Who is the person on whom the future of the EU depends?"** was hidden behind the riddle and was a mirror in which everyone saw themselves.

### **Event 5**

**Participation:** our final event gathered **137 people**, of which 130 from the city of Pleven (**Bulgaria**), 2 from the city of Granada (**Spain**), 2 from the city of Lodz (**Poland**) and online 2 from Athens (**Greece**) and 1 from Dimitrovgrad (**Bulgaria**).

**Place/Date:** the event took place in Pleven, Bulgaria on 09.05.2022

**Short description:** The final event was dedicated to presenting and evaluating the results of the project. **The international meeting with a radio campaign took place on 09.05.2022, in the large hall of the "Iliya Beshkov" art gallery in Pleven, Bulgaria.** The event included: a) presentation of the project activities and results, b) a 20-minute video of the puzzle room competitions, c) greetings from politicians, d) awarding of prizes to the best teams of the puzzle room competitions, e) presentation of thank-you addresses to school principals, f) reading of the prize-winning essays from Bulgaria, Spain, Poland and Greece, g) thematic panel discussion led by two volunteers, h) quiz with prize jigsaw puzzles created in Bulgaria, i) recording for the Bulgarian national radio, broadcast on 13.05.2022 in the most listened to program "Horizont" - "Before everyone".

Several generations of Europeans from the countries represented in the project shared their understanding of the history of the EU, its values and their role in the life of the community. Young people realized their role and responsibility for the future of the EU. The "New Schuman Declaration" project was presented to the million audience of the Bulgarian National Radio, which attracted thousands more indirect participants.