

**ILEU e.V.**

**Application to the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung, approved 19.12.2016**

**“Open Doors for Danube Countries for All (ODDA)”**

**Short version**

**Duration: 01.02.2017- 31.12.2017**

### **Background**

The **pilot project Open Doors for Danube Countries for All (ODDA)** builds on experiences from the previous work and projects of the network Danube Networkers. Mutual knowledge and understanding amongst people in the Danube countries and positive climate between European neighbours is one of the prerequisites to the successful implementation of the Danube Strategy and its European ideas. The project should help to reduce prejudices and fears, to introduce and establish new role behaviours and forms of civic engagement. Experiences from previous cross-national projects have shown that many people are reserved when it comes to programs that include international meetings or travel to the West or the East. This applies especially to people with low education, but also to people, who have large knowledge about their own culture. This reserve comes from the lack of knowledge of languages – the other national languages or English, the lack of experience with the cultures of the Danube neighbours and the resulting fear of getting into difficult situations. The reason for this is the long division of the West and the East Europe and the different social systems. The consequences of this division are especially marked in the transdanubian sphere. Cross-national meetings foster motivation to find out more about the ‘world’ of the other, lead to questions and experience of alternatives for dealing with new situations and foster the feeling for common European democratic values.

### **Objectives**

On this background, in this project the citizens from 5 organisations, who already have experience with international work and of working together in the project Tastes of Danube, will create low-threshold materials in Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Romanian and Serbian. These materials should open communication by key words and sentences, gestures, images, music, dance, etc. and this also in situations when there is no common language knowledge, by leading into various areas of the everyday life (what to do and not do in greetings, eating, in daily situations) and to develop confidence in such situations. The project is thus a part of a comprehensive capacity building for social behaviour and engagement, it contributes to fostering intercultural education and to reducing stereotyping and prejudices and to raising awareness of the cultural variety in the European countries.

### **Target groups**

Older adults (45 years and older) and social communities, already active or wanting to become active in their localities. People, who do not have knowledge of English or have not been abroad (here especially women are the most underprivileged group), people of various ethnic origins. Through its low-threshold level, the project can include a wide cross-section of citizens. A dialogue will be fostered between different groups and generations.

### **Actions and methods**

The working materials will be developed by the participants in 6 languages - Bulgarian, Croatian, English, German, Romanian, and Serbian, tested by other partner groups and evaluated. Transnational communication takes place in English and German and there should be at least one member in each group speaking one of these languages. A project website and the use of the social media will make the project process interactive and transparent and make the developed materials available also to others for purposes such as travel. Two meetings will take place, in which the national coordinator and 5 participants from each of the national partner groups will take part and which will also provide an opportunity for testing of the developed materials. The planned result is a DVD and a brochure containing the work materials in text and pictures.

The project is process- and product-oriented. The proposed project should be effective in the five participating institutions, but will after testing and evaluation of selected materials also be made available to other civil society organizations.

In this project, the participants will be prepared to face foreign experiences and the challenges in European encounters, also in the frame of Tastes of Danube.

After the successful completion of the project, the didactic contents will be extended **in a follow-up project in 2018, in which other language groups will be included**. Carried out will be seminars for disseminators qualifying for the implementation of the methods.

**Finances:** Baden-Württemberg Foundation, own resources, other sponsors

**Implementation:** The responsible coordination is taken over by ILEU e.V. and its chairwomen Carmen Stadelhofer, in cooperation with the coordinators of the different national groups and DANET e.V.