



GIRA-Sweden

Newsletter number 2

The Erasmus+ project GIRA started in September 2020. In the first issue we presented the work in Gävleborg and the Swedish participants.

The project group GIRA-Sweden consists of Europahuset Gävleborg, with the local partners in Trönöbygden, Österfärnebo, Kursgården Gläntan and as well as Hela Sverige X-ings Wind Power project.

While waiting for the Pandemi to diminish this first months of 2021 the Swedish group have had a study circle. We began to dig into the 17 goals in the UN Development programme Agenda 2030.

We continued with The European green light (Green Deal), which is the roadmap for a sustainable economy in the EU this programme period. Important here is the Climate Action with everything from major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to investments in pioneering research and innovation and nature conservation in the EU.

The Swedish group also has studied how Agenda 2030 and the Green Deal comes down to us in Sweden and how it is planned to be realized nationally, regionally and locally in strategies and action plans.

For the second issue of our Newsletter, we present some of our European partners. We put the same questions as our local participant in the first issue. Here are the answers from three of the partners. We also present Europahuset Gävleborg.

Lead partner in the GIRA-project is Europahaus Marienberg, Germany, who coordinates the work together with the Robert Schuman Foundation, Poland, Learn for life, The Netherlands, Maison de l'Europe des Yvelines, France, To Spiti tis Evropis sti Rodo (Rhodes, Greece) and Europahuset Gävleborg, Sweden.

Europahaus Marienberg, Germany

Located in the western part of the country



1. What does your organization / project look like today?

In relation to the existing pandemic, I can say that we have not come far with the project. We can only do kind of research like look what we have already running connected to the GIRA topic to share and work with it later in the European partnership. We have the old colleagues from READ IT still around but were not able to invite for a new public meeting the get new interested local citizens. I hope we can soon really start to get active. Much of our work here is still done at the PC and by checking what we obviously can gather as examples from our local community.

2. What challenges do you see today for your region / country or in the project?

It is not easy to pinpoint one or two specific challenges. A good public transport in rural areas would be great so that people, like in cities, might get rid of their car. This is very challenging due to larger distances. Solar power and wind energy could also be extended as well as pimping up old houses. I guess a lot of this transformation is connected to higher prices or investments. We need to find good ways to accompany citizens in this period of change and convince them even more to be active in doing the small and the big things that help to fight the climate change.

3. What do you think could be feasible when it comes to "green initiatives" to contribute to the GIRA project, either build on something existing or try something new / different?



I think both is working. GIRA should bring together existing projects so that other countries can learn from these approaches and see what other rural communities are actually doing to contribute to the fight of the climate crisis. I guess there's a lot out there that other people do not know about. Sharing is a very good tool of supporting development for the better. If there comes by chance even new ideas to the surface that would be also a brilliant development. In any case the pooling of knowledge is the core idea of this project of European cooperation.

4. What do you expect the transnational meetings to be able to give your work?

As always, I expect to get fresh input, new perspectives and food for thought. It's enriching to see how other people and organizations work and approach specific challenges. I also want to meet partners in person from five other European countries. That is what European cooperation is about and why it is so enriching.



The Robert Schuman Foundation, Poland

National organization

Ongoing and planned initiatives and activities concerning European Green Deal:

- 10/15.06.2021 – online conference “Europolis. Cities for European Green Deal”. Europolis is one of the largest annual meetings on urban development in Poland, initiated in 2013 by the Schuman Foundation, Capital City of Warsaw and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. This year the meeting

of mayors of European and Polish cities, other representatives of Polish local authorities, CSOs. And media is dedicated to the vision of urban transformation to contribute to fulfilling the European Green Deal.

- The publication of the report “Green Cities – Polish cities for climate, environment and health of residents”.
- Promo and Info campaign in social media on Green Deal
- Dissemination of the project GIRA and building the network of local and national partners and stakeholders for further project activities
- Cooperation with local schools, youth councils and teachers within the European Academy.
- Researches on the scale of anti-European and Climate change sceptics narrative in internet (the tools and methods developed within our project on fighting disinformation).

Target groups and expectations regarding participation in the project and TPMs:

- Teachers - to gain knowledge and skills on providing information on Green Deal and how to exceed the school curricula with the issues connected with climate change as it is still not sufficiently covered in Polish schools.
- Local CSOs representatives and young local leaders – to develop local and international network, strengthen advocacy skills and gain the experience of the cooperation within European dimension. Thanks to participation in the project they will have opportunity to share experience and learn from colleagues from different countries. They will also develop the skills of dealing with misinformation on climate change and Green



Deal to improve leading and managing future media campaign.

- Representatives of local authorities – to improve the process of addressing citizens fears and expectations connected with the process of adopting the European Green Deal postulate and its impact on developing the region.

skills an illiteracy, health literacy, tackling poverty and creating access to adult education in rural areas and areas where the number of inhabitants is decreasing.

Lastly, Learn for Life aims to stimulate adult education and lifelong learning for groups who had mainly negative experiences with education in the past. Learn for Life wants to show them that adult learning and development can be inspiring and attractive for both their careers and their personal development.



Learn for life, The Netherlands

National organization

1. What does your organization / project look like today?

Learn for Life is an independent platform for local, regional and national organizations that are active in the field of adult education and lifelong learning. The focus is on non-formal education but Learn for Life is also a network organization, which works together with organizations who are involved in formal adult education.

As part of its international focus, Learn for Life is a member of the EAEA, the European Association for Education of Adults.

In order to achieve its objectives and maintain a broad perspective on adult learning and development Learn for Life networks with a wide range of partners who are focused on various aspects of adult education, such as participation in the labour market, housing and integration and refugees, tackling basic

2. What challenges do you see today for your region / country or in the project?

The rural areas in The Netherlands changed dramatically in the last decades. Young people leave for study and very often do not return, the easy accessibility of cars shifted life from the village to the cities, women started working away from home. This all has led to a development that mostly elderly people remain in rural areas, while there is a decrease of facilities as shops, schools and public transport. This made it difficult to keep the countryside and the villages liveable. Especially the areas far away from bigger cities are suffering from these developments.

However, on the other side it is positive that many individuals, local village committees and other organizations take initiatives to stimulate the inhabitants doing things together and create new plans, to make it attractive for young and older people to stay in the region or come to live there. Participating in new projects like GIRA can contribute to and extend these positive developments.

3. What do you think could be feasible when it comes to “green initiatives” to contribute to the GIRA project, either build on something existing or try something new / different?

In The Netherlands and special in the province of Friesland there is a network of sustainable villages. This is an active network and they could share their knowledge and experience and also would like to



learn from experiences in other countries. All these activities contribute to the Green Deal from the EU.

4. What do you expect the transnational meetings to be able to give your work?

The transnational meetings could contribute to:

- A better understanding of the situation in the participating countries on sustainability;
- Learn about green initiatives in other countries: what works and what doesn't;
- Learn and discuss the approaches to start new green initiatives;
- Exchange ideas and pick up good examples;
- Get to know people who work on the similar problems;
- Visit successful projects: examples that can maybe be usable in other countries too.



Europahuset Gävleborg, Sweden

Situated in the middle of the country

1. What does your organization / project look like today?

Europahuset Gävleborg is a politically and religiously independent non-profit association that was formed in 1995. We work regionally in Gävleborg County and nearby counties, but also nationally.

Europahuset wants to contribute to the inhabitants of Gävleborg County gaining better knowledge and opportunities to meet Europe by establishing European networks, creating commitment to, and stimulating debate on international issues.

Europahuset offers education in European affairs and contributes to establishing meeting places in aim to

increase understanding among the peoples of Europe. The goal is to contribute to the work for European cooperation and integration.

The target groups that Europahuset mainly targets are young people and adults close to young people, as well as popular movements.

2. What challenges do you see today for your region / country or in the project?

It is important to learn more about how climate change globally affects every living species. How we nationally, regionally and on local level must relate to and act on guidelines into the UN Development programme Agenda 2030 and the EU programme Green Deal. But most important to see how the small rural communities and the civil society could be able to tackle the challenges in the transition to a fossil-free society.

3. What do you think could be feasible when it comes to "green initiatives" to contribute to the GIRA project, either build on something existing or try something new / different?

We look forward, together with our local participants, to plan/start or getting small-scale green initiatives on board to present to the GIRA-partners and to other interested organizations/authorities. For example if Kursgården Gläntan could come further with some innovative and smart energy solutions at their venue.

4. What do you expect the transnational meetings to be able to give your work?

We think it is important to put more focus on the cooperation issue with European understanding, as what the benefit could be for citizens in European countries to meet and learn from each other.

We also want to encourage further innovations at home, to learn and see what others have accomplished and maybe even contribute to a deeper knowledge about Agenda 2030 and Green Deal among our partners.