**DESCRIPTIONS OF TTHCAN PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**Panevėžys Municipality (Lithuania)** emphasizes the need of international contacts in order to continually develop the city‘s opportunities to grow. Openness and understanding of foreign cultures, exchange of experience are very important conditions for us as citizens to be successful. Panevėžys works continuously on developing good working relationships with its twin towns, including Daugavpils. The twin town activities cover among other things cultural exchange. Fostering cultural and historical traditions is a feature of cultural policy of the city.

At present Panevezys Municipality works on strengthening neighbourhoods’ communities, thus encouraging civic participation and increasing democratic engagement, strengthening citizenship skills.

Panevezys has sighned Cooperation Agreement with Daugavpils in 2004. Municipalities have cooperated in various fields of common interest. As a project partner, Panevėžys City Municipality will organize and coordinate activities related to the project implementation: present Lithuanian cultural- historical traditions through dances, songs, music and crafts, engage project participants and encourage them to strengthen their citizenship skills, disseminate information on project activities and share the experience gained via local mass media, webpages and social networks. Participation in the project will provide good possibilities to establish new contacts with other EU cities and strengthen town-twinning with Daugavpils.

**The district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld (Germany)** is one of the 11 districts of Saxony-Anhalt. As a service provider, he assumes tasks that are legally assigned to him or exercises voluntary tasks. The district administration offers its citizens a modern and citizen-friendly administration numerous services as well as advice and information. In addition, the district carries out numerous official tasks. At present, the district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld employs more than 800 people and 17 apprentices at the three locations Köthen (Anhalt), Bitterfeld-Wolfen and Zerbst / Anhalt. The field offices have been set up to provide community-based services. The head office is in Köthen (Anhalt). In the district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld, which was formed in the course of a territorial reform on 1 July 2007 from the former counties Bitterfeld and Köthen and parts of the former district Anhalt-Zerbst, live currently on an area of over 1452 km ² about 164,817 (as of 30.12.2015) Residents in 8 municipalities and 2 cities.

The district administration is a public administration which offers a wide range of services for the citizens. Regulatory tasks, road construction and maintenance, school planning, economic development, tourism and nature conservation fall within the remit, to name but a few tasks. The county of Anhalt-Bitterfeld is a modern authority and faces the challenges, such as the financial crisis, demographic change, the growing demand for transparency and participation. The district is an attractive and innovative employer with diverse development and continuing education opportunities. Anhalt-Bitterfeld extends in the north to the gates of the state capital Magdeburg and in the south to the Saxon border. The district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld is one of the leading business locations in Saxony-Anhalt. Due to its central location in Central Germany, its economic power, its excellent infrastructure, but also its beautiful landscape and nature, Anhalt-Bitterfeld is multifaceted.In addition to the designated industrial and commercial areas, about 60 percent of the area is reserved for agricultural use.

**Vänersborg Municipality (Sweden)** is the capital of Västra Götland Region and is situated on the southernmost point of the great lake Vänern. The town administration serves it´s 38000 inhabitants with school, elderly care, health care, public housing roads and technical services, physical planning. In Vänersborg, public administration not only stands for municipal administration, but also for that of region and the county.

The historical roots of the twinning movement go back to I World War and II World War. The basic idea was that of contacts between people and organizations to create understanding and friendship, which in turn prevents the emergence of new war. But the twinning process takes also place in today's modern international work and contributes, among other things, to a network of contacts and opportunities of exchanges for inhabitants and associations.

Vänersborg Municipality and Daugavpils City Council work together on the implementation of Europe for Citizens program project ”Welcome and Integration for Refugees in Europe”.

Within the present project Vänersborg Municipality will take active part in the implementation of the project activities in accordance with Application form, what concerns the Swedish partner role in the project. This project is logical continuation and strengthening of cooperation. International cooperation within EU, especially cultural historical exchange, contributes to this project and is strongly linked with the policy of Vänersborg Municipality.

**Lodzkie Region (LR) (Poland)** is a regional community of self-government, together with the corresponding territory, located in the central Poland. The public tasks of LR are defining and implementing strategic objectives of the development policy of the region, enhancing the level of competitiveness and innovation in the region. An important element of the development policy is international cooperation. LR focuses on deepening economic integration, supporting a harmonious development and promotion of the region as well as European values. Regional Office of the LR in Brussels (ROoLR), a department of Marshal’s Office of LR, plays an important role in implementation this strategy, using its permanent presence in the capital of EU, participating in Community policies creation and shaping the directions of development of the Member States. ROoLR exchange experience with other regions of EU participating in activities of European Regions Research and Innovations Network (ERRIN).

Lodzkie Region and Daugavpils City Council have strong cooperation ties within the international project implementation starting from 2014. Both have implemented common Europe for Citizens program projects and different institutions in Lodz and Daugavpils cooperate on their specific fields. At the moment, Daugavpils City Council and Lodzkie Region implement two common Europe for Citizens program projects: “Challenges of Regional Centres: Depopulation Control, Development – best practices”, DeCoDe and „EU city digital strategies for immigrants integration” EUCIDIN.

Within the present project LR will participate in all the planned events and activities. LR will disseminate the conclusions of all the project events in order to increase the visibility of the project as well as to spread valuable knowledge from the other countries and best practices related to project goals. Daugavpils and Lodz have several cooperation plans in future, in different fields of common interest of the region, communes, districts, NGO & universities.

**Municipality of Raska (Serbia)** is a public authority (local self-government). It is located in South-Western Serbia. Our municipality has about 24 000 citizens. Main responsibilities of Municipality of Raska Administration are related to providing sets of services for Raska citizens in following areas - economy and social activities, legal affairs, spatial planning, environment protection and utility activities, public finance and accounting.

Municipality of Raska started cooperation with Daugavpils City Council only in 2017, however, the cooperation within the Europe for Citizens program project was very successful and many new ideas of cooperation has arose. Municipality of Raska will be involved in all project activities. Participants from Raska will take part in debates, workshops, dissemination of the project activities and results etc. Municipality will participate in process of strengthening town twinning and mutual understanding of EU policies, history and culture of today and of future within the context of involved cities and countries. Local people will be encouraged for the responsible, democratic civic engagement in the processes of European solidarity and integration through the activities of the project.

As a follow-up, Raska municipality is going to promote project results and work on twinning improvement through planning and implementation of concrete mutual activities and projects.

**San Benedetto del Tronto (Italy)** is one of the main tourist destinations of the Adriatic coast in the summer, with a historical fishing port that inaugurated the epic season of oceanic fishing and a seafront decorated by thousands of monumental palms, considered by many as the most beautiful in Italy.

Green oases rising among the fine white sand, 8000 palm trees, a “Blue Flag” award certifying the quality of its sea, first-class tourist reception and entertainment, shops and boutiques, delicious cuisine, a mild weather, entertainment for children and adults, cultural events, sports facilities, a wonderful countryside, 14 kilometers of cycle paths, contemporary artworks and historical traditions. San Benedetto del Tronto is all of this.

The city takes pride in its sea-promenade, a 4 kilometers long stretch, lined by palm trees, where hundreds of different plant species thrive in charming theme gardens. Ponds and fountains, relaxation areas, playgrounds and artworks make it a really unique place. Besides being a beautiful seaside resort, San Benedetto is also an important port town and one of the main fishing ports in Italy. Hundreds of pleasure crafts are moored in its tourist dock, while the south pier has become an open-air modern art museum.

One of the most remarkable landmarks of the city rises in the old town district: the “Gualtieri Tower”, called “il Torrione” (the Big Tower) by the local people, a twelfth century building overlooking the city.

Daugavpils and San Benedetto del Tronto are quite new cooperation partners, however, both are interested in common fields of interest.

LEAD PARTNER OF THE PROJECT:

**Daugavpils City Council (Latvia)** is the biggest municipality and the major social and economic development centre of Latgale Region. Daugavpils City Council is a local public authority acting according to the statutes, the Latvian law “On municipalities”, it serves for the interest of local population. Although Daugavpils is the second biggest industrial centre in Latvia after Riga - capital of Latvia, Daugavpils is located in a less-developed region - Latgale.

Daugavpils City Council is the institution, which organizes all the spheres in the city. It consists of competent management structure. City Council affiliations, which will work on this project: Development Department, public Relations Department, Culture Office,Tourism Information Centre, etc.

Daugavpils City Council has extensive experience in the implementation of the EU and other foreign funded projects of various fields, as well experience in organization of international large scale events of tourism, culture, business.

Daugavpils has 17 twin cities in 11 countries: all over the world. Cooperation Agreements signed starting from 1993 till 2012 with Radom, Ferrara, Motala, Panevezys, Magdeburg, Batumi, Alaverdi, Lida, Ramla, Harbin, Harkov, Vitebsk, Pskov, Bobruisk etc.

Daugavpils is working on the development of the city into a place with a high standard of living and quality of the environment and a high tolerance level; easy access city to international services and economical development centre; crosscultural, scientific and educational centre; an example of the ideal city in Latvia and Europe. That is why, it is important to strengthen town twinning at international level through democratic engagement.

Development department executes the strategic planning - developing the investment plan, provides general supervision and coordination of all projects as well as monitoring of results and post-project sustainability. Council will make intercultural synergy in context of Latvia and EU in world arena.