

Partner Search Form

Please do not write more than two pages.

Identification of the applicant	
Name of the organization	SPES Future Academy GmbH
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Website of the organization	www.spes.co.at
Name of the contact person	Bernhard Zehetgruber
Email/Telephone of the contact person	zehetgruber@spes.co.at
Short presentation of your organization (key activities, experience)	SPES (Latin word for "hope") Future Academy is a (non-party / non-profit) adult educational centre and is located in a rural, disadvantaged area in Upper Austria. SPES works here since 30 years on the main topic regional development and " quality of life " in several national / international projects. SPES activities are aiming to the benefit of today's and future generations .
Description of the project	
Strand, Measure in the framework of „Europe for Citizens“ Programme	Strand 2: Democratic engagement and participation 2.3. Civil Society Projects
Timetable of the project	Start: 1. October 2018 (18 months)
Short description of the project, including its aims	<p style="text-align: center;">Title: CITIZENS-COOP</p> <p>Current State: It is often not easy for small rural municipalities to maintain infrastructure and systems that provide for peoples' basic needs. This leads to a lack of services like local supply, caring/nursing services, mobility, energy, education etc.</p> <p>Idea: This project wants to motivate and support citizens to take responsibility by founding social-citizen-based cooperative societies.</p> <p>Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Researching the different national situations for social/citizens-cooperatives. 2) Gathering the opinions of citizens on



	<p>different aspects and fields of work for social/citizens-cooperatives. Motivating and activating them to act jointly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3) Visiting good or best practice in all partnering countries of social/citizens-based cooperatives.4) Developing and testing a model process for citizens who want to found new initiatives or engage themselves respectively in such initiatives.5) Organizing a public conference to reflect together with experts on the current research on this topic and the European dimension.6) Focus on a relevant topic the citizens choose (2) and founding a social/citizens-cooperatives in each partner country to solve this topic.7) Cooperative European network. Founding a European Cooperative Society. <p>Outcomes: The project's main outcomes will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a critical analysis of the possibilities of citizen-based models for providing local public infrastructure and services in each partner country,• a method to collect the opinions of citizens in a participative approach,• a model process for activating citizens on organizing new social/citizen cooperatives,• a documentation of the conference and the European models of good practice.
Role of the partner organization in the project	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Knowledge and experience in citizen's participation.2) Knowledge of local best practices regarding social/citizen cooperatives.3) Willingness to start and accompany a process to find relevant citizenship issues, including founding local social/citizen-cooperatives.
Comments from the applicant	