

Dear Mayors of Aksakovo, Nughedu Santa Vittoria, Ozarow Mazowiecki, Victoria, Montserrat and Shtip,

Dear participants,

Dear friends,

We have reached the end of the “Future of Europe Reload” project!

Although this last meeting is taking place in adverse and unpredictable circumstances, we must congratulate ourselves for the effort that we – the seven partner cities - have made to be together today, even if at a distance, and ensure that the project is closed with dignity and within the stipulated deadline.

In the last two years, we have been able to verify once again that networking is an added-value for our municipalities, since it allows us to acquire and share knowledge, to learn other methods of intervention, to show our citizens, especially the youngsters, different realities through the international meetings we have held.

Partnerships are based on the perception that people’s problems can only be solved if there is an intervention at community level, namely when the problem is multifaceted.

In this multifaceted Europe, it is therefore imperative that cities and countries come together, exchange experiences, share knowledge and contexts. Or rather, it is imperative that we speak face to face, that we know each other better, as Europeans who share much more than a continent.

All of our municipalities are different, but we agree on a significant number of points; we all contribute in some way towards the same objective: a peaceful, fair and solidary Europe.

These are, after all, the pillars of the European project in which we all converge.

We may have doubts about the European Union’s social and economic policies. We may have different opinions about financial and monetary policies of the community and disagree deeply with its foreign policy.

But we certainly agree on the need to maintain peace and to show solidarity - values that in this moment gain in fact a special meaning.

Therefore, we must create spaces for dialogue such as these meetings to promote the exchange of information, the sharing of experiences, collective learning, the strengthening of ties between the partner cities and the maintenance of the community spirit.

It is with a certain sadness that I see this project coming to an end, but it is also with great satisfaction that I can say that we have fulfilled the objectives that we outlined, in particular through the possible creation of an intermunicipal association with the European Commission that will allow the concerted development of new projects and the respective fundraising for its realization.

I would like to thank all partners for their commitment and dedication and I hope that the European spirit will continue to unite us.

I also wish from the bottom of my heart that everyone will be well in this difficult moment that we will surely overcome.

For this reason, I prefer not to say “goodbye” to you at this point. I prefer to say “see you soon”, with the certainty that we will meet again.