

Impuls Paper Network of Cities

„EUROPE - Unity, Human dignity and Solidarity – just a dream?“

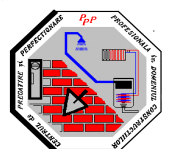
The meaning of the terms unity, human dignity and solidarity has changed greatly in Europe during the project period, more precisely on 24.02.2022: by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which led to a new war in Europe and which is still ongoing.

Europe's unity and solidarity have been strongly challenged by the way refugees are treated in Europe. Europe has not shown an image of unity and solidarity in the world through Brexit, Corona, the questioning of the rule of law in some member countries and the treatment of refugees.

In the face of the war in Ukraine, Europe's values, won with much courage and commitment, can be lived anew and shown to the world: UNITY and SOLIDARITY.

In concrete terms, the following tasks for citizens and politicians were identified in the debates, surveys and speeches:

- a) The challenge of progressive climate change requires UNITY and SOLIDARITY. Citizens want Europe to be united and committed with a perspective.
- b) The **mobility revolution**, the transition to bicycle and eco-mobility, is a major challenge. Citizens' initiatives have been campaigning for this for a long time. Politicians must listen to these initiatives and take up their ideas.
- c) The **dependence on fossil fuels** (gas and oil) has currently been highlighted by Russia's war against Ukraine. This war shows what has been missed in the recent past: A committed energy transition. In the future, investments must be made in renewable and regenerative forms of energy. EUROPE can show its united face here by making a courageous and committed contribution to an energy transition in the world.



- d) Citizens in the twin cities have criticised the "patchwork solutions" in the **Corona pandemic**. Here, citizens of Europe would like to see a unified coordination and approach, as well as socio-political and economic support for the citizens and small and medium-sized enterprises that were affected by the Lokdowns.

- e) Free trade within the EU was and is a "trademark". Especially from the city of Timisoara the problem of the **Schengen area** is raised. All member states - especially the younger members in Eastern Europe should be taken along and be able to participate here on an equal/uniform basis. The free movement of goods and citizens in the European Union are the cornerstones of the European Union.

- f) The future and unity of Europe needs democratically-minded citizens. This can be done through direct, transparent and improved communication with citizens.

The participating cities are unanimously convinced that Europe can only face the current challenges together in UNITY, HUMAN DIGNITY and SOLIDARITY. Otherwise, these concepts would remain "only a dream".

