

## **ACTION VILLAGES ROMANIA FLANDERS (BELGIUM) ASKS MUNICIPALITIES IN THE EU TO TWIN WITH A UKRAINIAN MUNICIPALITY**

Action Villages Romania Flanders (ADR-Vlaanderen, Belgium), a recognized social cultural organisation, launches a call towards municipalities in the EU to twin with a Ukrainian municipality. Why this action? In the past people-to-people diplomacy has proven to be effective in peace keeping initiatives.

ADR-Vlaanderen has already more than 30 years of experience in decentralized cooperation. In 1988 little by little the news was spread that the Ceausescu regime was planning to destroy the rural villages. Romania as a country would be thoroughly redrawn. ADR-Vlaanderen at that time Adoption Villages Romania gave a strong signal by adopting villages at risk to disappear. A large amount of European countries were following this example. After the Romanian Revolution in 1989, this adoption was evolving into structural collaborations. This will be again the topic during the Forum Belgium Romania (March 23-26 2022, Geel, Belgium, <https://fobero.eu/en/decentralized-forums-belgium-romania-en/forum-2022-en/>)

During this Forum we will also bring together people and groups dealing with Ukraine. Indeed, today we are faced with a horrific war in Ukraine that deeply affects individuals, families and villages. Communities are in danger of being disrupted. We cannot look on indifferently. Once again, we must have the courage to take action. That is why ADR-Vlaanderen is taking the following actions:

1. ADR-Vlaanderen supports its Romanian sister organization (The Open Network for community development) and Romanian partner villages on the border with Ukraine with material, logistical and mental help so that they are able to receive Ukrainian refugees.
2. ADR-Vlaanderen will shortly launch a call to cities and municipalities to enter into twinning with Ukrainian municipalities.

Want to be involved in one of these actions, please contact

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