

Project Reference:	516142-EFC-1-2011-1-GR-EFC-CSP
Project Title:	REVEALING SOLIDARITY

REPORT – ESSAY ON SOLIDARITY SHEET

A. Data of writers

Organisation:	Partnership of Rezekne District Communities			Country:	LV
LWGs Participants:	First Name, Family name	Sex	Age	Profile in brief	
	1. Ivars Igaunis	M	43	School headmaster, Council member of Rezekne Municipality	
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	3. Anna Jaudzema	F	32	Project manager of Rezekne municipality	
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Leader:	Guntars Skudra	M	40	Youth coordinator of Rezekne Municipality	

Add rows where necessary

- B. Report-Essay on Solidarity: What does “Solidarity” mean for you? How was it performed at local/regional/national level (give examples if possible)? What could be done to enhance its merits and importance? Write it in English, no more than 2.000 words.
Optional: you may add a picture of your choice.

<p>Title: What is solidarity?</p> <p>There are so many words, kind and gentle, beautiful and proud, sometimes evil and insidious. What mood, emotions and associations does the word “solidarity” cause to us?</p> <p>Here is our chain of associations of solidarity.</p> <p>Solidarity means sympathy. It is a deep emotional understanding of another’s feelings or problems. For example, you lose your relatives, friends or something else terrible happens with you. Other people selflessly support you. We believe that when we lose someone close to us they still live through us and give us strength. The time we have spent with those we have lost makes them part of us. The pain and tragedies unite people; it means that you are not alone in this big and cruel world and there are people who may help and support you.</p> <p>For us solidarity is associated with unusual flower – lotus. It is known that lotus is widespread and multi-valued symbol in Chinese, Japanese, Indian and Egyptian traditions. It is a symbol of rebirth, beauty, life, happiness, purity and spirituality. It expresses the unity of the other symbol yin and yang, which consists of two parts – dark and light such as in the world there are two aspects of life – good and evil. Finally, everything is interrelated and if there is a balance in the world it could be possible to avoid disasters, accidents, war and troubles. Life balance does not necessarily depend on earning more money and being successful at work or in business. Other things can have a much bigger impact on our well-being, such as harmony or happiness.</p> <p>Solidarity reflects friendship. So what is a friendship? Some will say that it is a relationship between people, communication; others will add that it is a state when one person understands and supports the other one. A friend will never leave you in trouble as we all know the saying “a friend in need is a friend indeed”.</p> <p>Other aspect of solidarity is love. In my opinion it is a union of two people who later become one whole, when both are looking in one direction. Also love is support, care, happiness. It is known such a term as family solidarity which means emotional closeness or relationships between parents and children.</p> <p>In my opinion solidarity is values of life. Our symbol of values of life is a tree. Branches of tree symbolize relations, such as family relations, when you take care of it, love it; it will grow healthy and beautifully; its roots symbolize the basis of life. If the roots are strong and powerful no one can break them. Remember that your home is your castle. Other life values are happiness, success, victory, profession, interests and career. Values of life are very important because they form our attitude, behavior, decisions and us. Therefore, you must first determine your values to understand what is really important to you, what is your goal and contribution.</p>
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Solidarity means **victory**. My symbol of victory is the laurel wreath. It is like a conquest, success, achievement of a goal. It may sound ridiculous, but we believe that sooner or later the good will win. It will be a great victory: just imagine the world without drugs, suicide, crime, violence, weapon, alcohol, wars, conflicts etc. The list can be long. One of solutions is solidarity. Try to be gentle, respect not only people but also an environment, hold out a hand to help others and just make the world better. Victory is associated with a deal. It means that two parties try to find a right solution in any specific issue, but in case when they can not agree on something, they should find a **compromise**. So the compromise is an agreement between people; it means the union. It can be defined as business solidarity.

Solidarity is **comprehension**. It is a phenomenon when people can communicate without knowledge of foreign languages. People from different countries with different cultures, habits, traditions, opinions and interests. What unites them? We can only guess that this is exchanging of experience and knowledge, assistance to someone or just meeting new friends, learning languages, culture or traditions. Accordingly the question is how they succeed in it. In my opinion the communication could be expressed with body language, emotional state, or painting. It is known that a long time ago there was one language, but nowadays there are so many languages which are similar in structure, spelling, so it is possible to communicate and be understood by others. This phenomenon could be comparable to people who are blind.

Solidarity is everywhere. Wherever you go it will follow you. Every day, every hour, every minute we make decisions and find compromises, we love and care, respect and help. We fight with drugs, crime, violence, weapon, alcohol. It is our mission to help, support and protect weak people such as pensioners, mentally ill people, homeless people, children and disabled people. Don't stay aside; make your contribution to society and solidarity!