

**EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET**

*(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)*

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)*

PROJECT	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Conference on the Future of Europe to increase EU citizens participation — FUTUREU
<b>Participant:</b>	GENISTA RESEARCH FOUNDATION
<b>PIC number:</b>	938136083

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	3
<b>Event name:</b>	European Citizens' Initiatives as a tool
<b>Type:</b>	Participatory Workshop, round-table discussion and Presentation
<b>In situ/online:</b>	in-situ and online
<b>Location:</b>	Gharb Gozo, Malta
<b>Date(s):</b>	14th – 17th March 2023
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	
Participants	
Female:	17
Male:	11
Non-binary:	
Spain	5
Romania	3
Poland	3
Malta	29
Hungary	3
The Netherlands	3
Greece	2
Total number of participants:	48
From total number of countries:	7
Description	

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

14/03/2023

Arrival of Participants from each partner delegation

15/03/2023 – 16/03/2023

The meeting objectives were to bring together the partners from 6 partner countries and 31 local citizens to discuss, debate and share good practices and ideas on:

- How to disseminate the values and rights of the Conference on the Future of Europe in civil society
- Sharing of good practices and ideas on how to improve the governance of municipalities by disseminating European values among the technical teams of municipalities and associations
- Examine and debate Euroscepticism from a closer approach to European Union policy
- Teach and bring closer the participation mechanisms of European politics
- Improve understanding of the decision-making processes of the European Union
- Encourage civil society and especially young people to actively participate in European politics
- Promote new opportunities for social and intercultural engagement

The activity started with a welcome by host Genista research foundation Dr Mark Causon

During the activity we addressed these issues:

- EuroMunicipalism- what is it and its effects on citizens, a talk was given by Mark Causon followed by a discussion on the subject from a local perspective.
- Visit to the Gharb local council and meeting with the Mayor of Gharb Mr David Apap who has served as mayor for 25 years where we discussed citizen initiatives and collaboration between the council and the citizens. The Mayor gave an overview of the various initiatives undertaken and discussed with the participant's good practices. A number of questions were asked to the mayor which he replied especially focusing on the importance of volunteers and collaboration and assistance by the council to various initiatives.
- The municipalist revolution was to be presented by Dr Eleonora de Majo however due to other commitments could not attend so her presentation was given by another speaker. It focused on the importance of starting from local initiatives which can create a ripple effect on a country level and then transnational.
- A workshop "New participation tools for building an inclusive Europe" EU policies and its application at local level was held with the participation of all participants.
- Discussion session- Collecting ideas for European Citizen Initiatives. Participants were grouped into 3 small groups and each group discussed and presented their ideas to the whole group.
- Visit to ta Dbiegi crafts village. During this session participants will improve knowledge about European cultures and particularly about Maltese culture, traditional practice of ceramic, glass making, iron forging, silversmith and pottery.
- Workshop and open discussion, participants were split into 3 groups and each group came up with a number of ideas for citizenship participation.
- Cine-Forum" where we discussed Citizen Participation in the EU including a debate on "new participation tools". Through the ideas shared by the participants these were reflected in the form of conclusions to be able to later make some publication in social networks or some material for dissemination of the project.
- Workshop with local youth and international participants. "Euromunicipalism, beyond EU capital cities" Young stakeholders discussing and elaborating strategies for getting involved in the EU participation policies.
- HE Dr Mark Causon Ambassador of Malta to Denmark Ministry of Foreign affairs gave a talk on International Diplomacy as a tool to forge relations between cities.
- Discussion session- Participants were invited to discuss and share their good practices on cultural diplomacy initiatives.

- Workshop session were participants created a video of the project on "EU Civic Participation awareness video". The video has different spots: Documentary video divided into awareness spots on the importance of citizen participation in a Euromunicipalism environment and its impact on European policies. This video, as well as the rest of the activities, will be linked to the Future of Europe conference.

Panel 1 - "Stronger economy, social justice, jobs, education, culture, sport, digital transformation" - Recommendations

Panel 2 - "EU democracy, values, rights, rule of law, security" - Recommendations

Panel 3 - "Climate change, environment, health" - Recommendations

Panel 4 - "EU in the world, migration" – Recommendations

- Visit to Wied il-Mielah it-Tieqa ta' Wied il-Mielah, limestone natural arch were the participants could see the 3 initiatives undertaken by the Gharb local council which turned a derelict valley for the benefit of the citizens through creating a proper path for easier access to visitors, embellished the natural arch area for tourist enjoyment, fixed and built a water channel so flood water is now diverted into the channel and the gathered water is used for free by the farmers, through this initiative the area is now a protected Natura2000 site and the citizens feel that it is theirs so not dumping is now taking place.

- A Tour of the Cittadella was organised. The Cittadella is medieval fortified city in Gozo, visiting lace making workshop, silver filigree workshop.

- Visit to Dwejra- the Inland Sea is one of Gozo's most scenic, natural sea water pool with a deep, narrow, 80 metre long tunnel through the cliff leading to the open sea.

- Project coordination meeting were representatives of each partner present and other leaders who joined online discussed the following topics

- The dates for the next meetings are now closed:

- Diosd (Hungary): From May 31st to June 3th
- Rotterdam (Netherlands): From 18th to 21st of July
- New Partner (Greece): From 26th to 29th of September
- Almussafes (Spain): From 21st to 24th November

- The first topic was to inform about the decision taken by the Greek partner "Municipality of Farkadona" to leave the project. The steps taken by the Municipality of Farkadona until they received their official letter with the final decision were shared. After this, the best solution was discussed with the partners. Possible solutions and consequences were explained. It was agreed that it is best to look for another Greek partner and try to reduce the negative impacts on the project. Christina (HCID) volunteers to propose a New Greek partner. After that, the next steps to be taken, the timeline and whether it will have an impact on the project implementation schedule are highlighted. The whole process is expected to take at most 2 months. The partners do not see the need to change the project implementation schedule.

- The final result of the infographic is done. All partners agreed. The logos on the infographic and the change of the logo of the Dutch partner are discussed. The Dutch partner allows the use of the old logo or the new one, whichever is considered.

- The Hungarian partner indicated that he would like to be informed in advance about the products and activities to be done at each meeting. He says that there is a lack of information. He would at least like to know what he, as the organiser, should prepare. This issue was discussed. He was reminded that these issues are described in the document "Grant Agreement" that he has signed, that they have been reminded in different meetings and that, in addition, they are discussed with each partner organiser of each event. However, he insisted that he would like to have more information.

-In relation to a possible auditing by the European Commission and in order to have everything up to date, Alba recommends that all invoices and supporting documents to justify the expenses incurred so far (airline tickets, hotels, restaurants, organisation of an event, etc.) are uploaded to DRIVE in the corresponding folder.

- Regarding social media. A debate was generated around the generation of content and the responsibilities of each of the partners. There is talk of a shared responsibility in which each partner must generate content and share it at least once a week. There is attached a weekly distribution for publishing content. The way to proceed will be: A post is written and an image is prepared and sent by email to Alba any day of the week that corresponds to each partner, so that Alba can publish it on the Instagram of @citizensfutureu.

10/09/2022

Departure of participants.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	23/04/2023	Initial version (new MFF).