



**The project “Be Active – Shape Europe (601505-CITIZ-1-2018-1-EL-CITIZ-NT)” was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme “Europe for Citizens”**

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"**

## **14 events have been carried out within this project:**

### **Event 1: Kick-off Event – National Structured Dialogue**

**Participation:** The event involved 12 citizens, including 12 participants from the city of Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Thessaloniki, Greece**, from 06/05/2019 to 06/05/2019

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to serve as forum for a debate among young people, civil society, Local Authorities, stakeholders and experts on the project' agenda. The Structured dialogue was open to anyone wishing to participate. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with policy makers on an equal basis.

In the multi-purpose room of the Youth Information Office of the General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning and Youth in the Port of Thessaloniki, a Structured Dialogue event was held entitled as “Young people get their future in their hands!”. The aim of the activity was to bring young people closer to different European municipalities and to create a platform for the exchange of innovative ideas and practices in the field of youth work. At the first meeting was discussed the strengthening of young people's interest in European political life and the promotion of active citizenship and participation in political processes, such as the European elections of 2019. Young people discussed, debated and submitted proposals for European elections and the future of Europe, focused on the cooperation between diverse youth groups and youth organizations with policy-makers for common policy development.

The main objectives of the Structured Dialogue in the framework of the project were:

1. To create a space where young people and policy-makers can discuss and reflect together on Youth policy.

This objective was achieved by:

- Jointly locating and widening “the space”
- Defining the terms “the young people” and “the policy- makers”
- Reflecting on a pedagogical basis on the frame on which the young people can discuss and argue with policy-makers

2. To ensure that the youth policy meets the needs and expectations of young people of the whole community.

This objective was achieved by:

- Ensuring a reflective and representative communication between both parts which meets the young people needs.

The rationale of the Structured Dialogue that was followed in the project which enabled the following aims to be achieved:

- peer to peer learning
- active participation
- youth empowerment
- building of mutual understanding and respect
- development of skills and competences

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

- Engage the participants to the project
- Foster understanding of the current situation and the influence of Euroscepticism
- Promote European values
- Promote active citizenship
- Promote European identity
- Promote local authorities' participation
- Promote intercultural understanding and facilitation of the communication among the participating countries
- Promote active citizenship and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

### **Event 2: National Structured Dialogue**

**Participation:** The event involved 32 citizens, including 32 participants from the city of Lewisham, London, United Kingdom.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Lewisham, London, United Kingdom**, from 06/05/2019 to 06/05/2019

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to serve as forum for a debate among young people, civil society, Local Authorities, stakeholders and experts on the project' agenda. The Structured dialogue was open to anyone wishing to participate. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with policy makers on an equal basis.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

- Engage the participants to the project

- Foster understanding of the current situation and the influence of Euroscepticism
- Promote European values
- Promote active citizenship
- Promote European identity
- Promote local authorities' participation
- Promote intercultural understanding and facilitation of the communication among the participating countries
- Promote active citizenship and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

### **Event 3: National Structured Dialogue**

**Participation:** The event involved 52 citizens, including 52 participants from the city of Maribor, Slovenia.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Maribor, Slovenia**, from 19/06/2019 to 19/06/2019

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to serve as forum for a debate among young people, civil society, Local Authorities, stakeholders and experts on the project' agenda. The Structured dialogue was open to anyone wishing to participate. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with policy makers on an equal basis.

The facilitator of the activity, Ms. Maja Drobne, interacted with youth, along with the guests (representatives of local authorities) about how and where they could be more active in local community, why being active is important, If all young people have the same possibilities to be active, etc. Participants were highly motivated to think about how they can actively spend their summer life, contributing to the local society and the decision-making procedures.

One of the city representatives participating in the activity, Mr. Igor Jurišič, listened to the proposals of youth attending the event. After the end of the activity, as promised, presented the voice of youth and their ideas in the monthly City council sessions, as a member.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

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- Promote European values
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- Promote European identity
- Promote local authorities' participation
- Promote intercultural understanding and facilitation of the communication among the participating countries
- Promote active citizenship and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

### **Event 4: National Structured Dialogue**

**Participation:** The event involved 29 citizens, including 29 participants from the city of Cinisello Balsamo, Italy.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Cinisello Balsamo, Italy**, from 04/07/2019 to 04/07/2019

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to serve as forum for a debate among young people, civil society, Local Authorities, stakeholders and experts on the project' agenda. The Structured dialogue was open to anyone wishing to participate. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with policy makers on an equal basis.

The Structured Dialogue, already developed in other and various local realities, thanks to support of the project partners of Greece, United Kingdom, Slovenia, Portugal and Bulgaria, for the first time in history of the Cinisello Balsamo municipality has been organized as a meeting between Giacomo Ghilardi, Major of the city, and the City council members with representatives of the young residents of the city. The meeting was held at the Executive Boardroom on the first floor of the Municipality.

During the meeting that was organized by the operators and interns of the Civil Service of the Youth Policy Department of Cinisello Balsamo Municipality, were expressed the ideas, visions and necessities of youngsters in the city in order to make the city a better place to live. It was also a moment of sharing the reasons why, until now, there has been a gap between youth realities and decision makers, discussing over the creation of a channel for the open communication along with the local administration representatives. The mechanism would be a sort of a permanent 2 ways direction tool that would allow both sides to have an open and constant dialogue, which will influence and motivate the youngsters to participate more actively in the future city development.

The spirit of initiative shown by the youngsters and positively highly valued by the local administration representatives has outlined a historic moment and turning point for the municipality, which already for years, stands for the important example at national level when it comes to youth related policies. It was agreed that youth participation as a chance to get their opinions taken into account and have their views taken seriously is crucial for the creation of better services in order to meet their aspirations, rights and needs.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

- Engage the participants to the project
- Foster understanding of the current situation and the influence of Euroscepticism
- Promote European values
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- Promote European identity
- Promote local authorities' participation
- Promote intercultural understanding and facilitation of the communication among the participating countries
- Promote active citizenship and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

### **Event 5: National Structured Dialogue**

**Participation:** The event involved 30 citizens, including 30 participants from the city of Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal**, on 11/07/2019 between 10.00 and 17.00

**Short description:** During the morning, the European program "Europe for Citizens" has been presented and the EuroDesk has presented several opportunities of mobility and youth participation in Europe.

Afterwards, the Be Active Project – Shape Europe – has been explained to all participants, namely the objectives, activities and the involved participants. After this presentation, the young people defined the themes with more interest for them as well as the discussion / work model, based on the non formal education methodology: world coffee and graphic recording.

This way, the proposed themes were: European diversity, participatory democracy, representative democracy, European youth goals / needs of the young people in Santa Maria da Feira.

During the afternoon, the working groups started the structured dialogue session about the themes in a motivated environment, taking into consideration the different points of view.

At the end of the day, the young people presented the conclusions of each theme to the participants and to the deciders (politicians) and they have had the opportunity to speak with them, sharing their points of view and their concerns while European young people.

The Vice-President of the City Hall of Santa Maria da Feira and the Manager of the Sports and Youth Division of the City Hall of Santa Maria da Feira attended the session.

The young people are checking the possibility of publishing an article in the local media about the structured dialogue session. They are also working on a video about that day.

Considering the work that has been developed, the young people suggest to include more themes or to analyze deeper one of the themes that has been discussed.

### **Event 6: National Structured Dialogue**

**Participation:** The event involved 26 citizens, including 26 participants from the city of Varna, Bulgaria.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Varna, Bulgaria**, from 14/07/2019 to 14/07/2019

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to serve as forum for a debate among young people, civil society, Local Authorities, stakeholders and experts on the project' agenda. The Structured dialogue was open to anyone wishing to participate. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with policy makers on an equal basis.

The meeting between young people and professionals who develop and implement policies aimed at young people was held and organized by the Association "Varna - European Youth Capital". There were young people from sixteen to thirty years of age, including workers, PhD students, students and pupils. They had the opportunity to exchange information, opinions and ideas with Ms. Radka Todorova, Head of the Youth Activities Department at the Education and Youth Activities Directorate of the Municipality of Varna, and with Mr. Martin Baichev, Municipal Councillor for a second term and Chair of the Standing Committee " Youth Activities and Sports" at the Municipal Council of Varna.

The moderator of the discussion was Sergey Petrov - Executive Director of the Association "Varna - European Youth Capital". During his short address, which opened the meeting, Sergei Petrov reminded once again that the

purpose of this format is to overcome the distance between young people and decision-makers, which seems to exist in our minds, and to obtain a full dialogue between equal partners.

Martin Baichev noted how valuable for him as chairman of the commission "Youth Activities and Sports" direct face-to-face communication with young people is and that he encourages those present to actively give suggestions and ideas.

In turn, the Head of the Youth Activities Department of the Municipality of Varna Radka Todorova presented the current policies and opportunities offered by the Municipality of Varna, including: Financing of youth projects, the Municipal Volunteer Service, the Municipal Advisory Council on Youth, Providing of funding of all student councils in the city and others. The discussion was focused also on youth activity in the city. Experts report a decline in the latest years, given the number of volunteers enrolled and proposals for youth projects.

The meeting ended in an extremely positive tone, as the participants thanked the representatives of the Municipality of Varna for the open dialogue and that the distance was really not felt.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

- Engage the participants to the project
- Foster understanding of the current situation and the influence of Euroscepticism
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- Promote active citizenship and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

### **Event 7: National Workshop**

**Participation:** The event involved 18 citizens, including 18 participants from the city of Thessaloniki, Greece.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Thessaloniki, Greece**, from 29/08/2019 to 29/08/2019

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow cooperation between policy makers, stakeholders on relevant policy issues and young people aiming to present proposals for the support of democratic engagement, direct democracy and youth engagement. Workshops were essential for the project in order to foster the active engagement, participation and European citizenship. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with each other.

In the multi-purpose room of the Youth Information Office of the General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning and Youth in the Port of Thessaloniki the National Workshop was held, attracting the interest of young citizens, eager to reflect on how to raise their voice in the local decision-making process. This meeting was aimed to gather the views of local youth along with local civil society and local authorities' representatives who, having worked in small groups, would be able to map the situation in Thessaloniki Municipality and explore opportunities for the future of youth' actorness in the local government bodies. The main topics discussed during this Workshop were, besides the project and funding programme' presentation, the presentation of the governing bodies of the Municipality, the reasons and obstacles that do not allow active youth engagement in their society, how to and opportunities to enhance this role and measures to be taken by the local governments in national and European level to further support youth raise their voice.

The methodology of the Workshop was focused on the participatory approach and the Trainer of the activity was Ms. Stoupa Ioanna, certified Trainer in this field.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

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- Promote European citizenship and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

### **Event 8: National Workshop**

**Participation:** The event involved 30 citizens, including 30 participants from the city of Cinisello Balsamo, Italy.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Cinisello Balsamo, Italy**, from 29/11/2019 to 29/11/2019

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow cooperation between policy makers, stakeholders on relevant policy issues and young people aiming to present proposals for the support of democratic engagement, direct democracy and youth engagement. Workshops were essential for the project in order to foster the active engagement, participation and European citizenship. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with each other.

The staff of the Youth Policies office of the Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo, with the support of the Councilor for Youth Policies Ms. Daniela Maggi, organized the presentation meeting of the residential Workshop of the project, succeeding to attract the interest of young Italians.

Several associations, speakers and networks of the Third Sector who play an important and precious role in articulating and proposing spaces for the free expression of youth creativity participated at the meeting interacting in small working groups with young participants and discussing about opportunities to further engage youth into the decision-making process of the Municipality.

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### **Event 9: National Workshop**

**Participation:** The event involved 15 citizens, including 15 participants from the city of Lewisham, London, United Kingdom.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Lewisham, London, United Kingdom**, from 03/02/2020 to 03/02/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow cooperation between policy makers, stakeholders on relevant policy issues and young people aiming to present proposals for the support of democratic engagement, direct democracy and youth engagement. Workshops were essential for the project in order to foster the active engagement, participation and European citizenship. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with each other. The project team in Lewisham created and facilitated a workshop for young people who live in the borough of Lewisham. The outcome was to provide youth participants with an introduction to the primary ideals of the European Union and to work with politicians and policy makers to influence change and be active citizens.

As part of the workshop, an introduction was held to the primary ideals of the European Union along with some icebreakers to give the youth participants an opportunity to explore what they already know and build a safe space to discuss individual thoughts and experiences based on the topic of what citizenship means and being a part of Europe.

Going forward in the workshop with the young people, discussions followed on which countries are a part of the European Union, facts about the EU and what it was set up to do and how that information filters into their daily lives both on a formal and informal level. Many of the young people had varying knowledge in terms of what they've been told, experienced versus facts such as policy making and their human rights and how that is observed both nationally and internationally.

Within the workshop we also delivered activities where the young people were able to brainstorm what it meant to them to be an 'active citizen' and how they have in the past taken part in regional and local programs that allowed them to be a part of civic life. Some young people have been active locally and others were keen to find out and talk to politicians and policy makers.

Throughout the workshop the youth participants took part in debates based on various statements relating to the overall workshop objective. This provided a space for young people to fact check and challenge biases whilst sharing good practices of youth participation based on personal experiences. Some examples were of young people who have been a part of Erasmus + exchanges and taking part in trips to the European council.

In the end the young people who participated all had a greater understanding both about what the European institutions are and what it means to them to be European. As well as being active in Lewisham and the UK it

helped them understand how they can be active citizens in Europe and in the world. Many of the young people have parents and family who are part of the diaspora from the Caribbean or from west Africa, and also have family in other parts of Europe, it helped them to think about what is important about being European for them as individuals and as part of communities.

Brexit has obviously been a huge topic of discussion and speculation for young people trying to work out what it means for them and their families. So good debate was had but it is still difficult to draw conclusions as we all know it is an ongoing and very complex process. The young people now have a better fundamental understanding of the context and possibilities, which they can use to inform their decisions, discussions and actions in the future. As active citizens they are in a better place to interact and work with politicians and policy makers about the changes they would like to see locally, nationally and in Europe. Local politicians and policy makers were very supportive and have met with the young people to discuss their interests, ideas and concerns

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### **Event 10: National Workshop**

**Participation:** The event involved 30 citizens, including 30 participants from the city of Maribor, Slovenia.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Maribor, Slovenia**, from 24/01/2020 to 24/01/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow cooperation between policy makers, stakeholders on relevant policy issues and young people aiming to present proposals for the support of democratic engagement, direct democracy and youth engagement. Workshops were essential for the project in order to foster the active engagement, participation and European citizenship. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with each other.

The facilitator of the activity, Ms. Maja Drobne, interacted with youth and allowing them a real active space to discuss and propose their ideas on ways and opportunities to become active citizens for their local societies. Participants were highly motivated to think about how they can actively contribute to the local society and the decision-making procedures.

Ideas were divided into different sections: art, music, sports, healthy life-style and other. After gathering the ideas, participants discussed about what they can do to realize these ideas or which local organizations/structures they would need to receive support from.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

- Engage of the participants to the project
- Foster understanding of the current situation and the influence of Euroscepticism
- Promote European values
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- Promote European citizenship and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

### **Event 11: National Workshop**

**Participation:** The event involved 31 citizens, including 31 participants from the city of Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal**, from 26/11/2019 to 26/11/2019

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow cooperation between policy makers, stakeholders on relevant policy issues and young people aiming to present proposals for the support of democratic engagement, direct democracy and youth engagement. Workshops were essential for the project in order to foster the active engagement, participation and European citizenship. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with each other.

The National Workshop took place at the "In Europarque incubator", in Santa Maria da Feira, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm, involving 29 participants. This session covered "Participatory Democracy", one of the topics discussed in the structured dialogue of 11 July 2019, and in which the young people decided to further explore in this workshop.

The session involved young people from Santa Maria da Feira, young ex-members of the active citizenship body 'Assembleia de Crianças', young ex-members of the participatory citizenship body 'Jovem Autarca', young foreigners undergoing the European Solidarity Corps in our Municipality, adult international guests (long-time friends from Lewisham, UK and Alingsas, Sweden), technicians, and policy makers from Santa Maria da Feira and Joué-Lès-Tours, France.

The workshop began with a visit and brief presentation of the "In Europarque incubator" services, especially aimed at young entrepreneurs and the promotion of networking with the local and regional community. Subsequently, presentation and icebreaking dynamics were carried out by the young people present at the workshop.

The workshop on participatory democracy began with the presentation of the introductory video "What is democracy" on the role of citizens and forms of intervention in society.

Given the diversity of the subject, participants chose to split into focus groups on participatory democracy subthemes, such as:

1. How to promote a culture of participatory democracy?
2. Participatory democracy existing in your city? What will be the ideal one?
3. Citizens' participation: yes or no?
4. What are the types /instruments of participatory democracy?
5. What tools (digital or others) should be used to promote participatory democracy in urban and rural environments?

At the end, the young people reached the following conclusions:

1. Education is extremely important for promoting and developing a culture of participatory democracy. The development of democracy must be based on the needs of citizens, and this is only possible if they are actively involved in local life and the active construction of society under the motto of equality and justice. The education and active involvement of citizens allows them to be aware of their rights and responsibilities, and thus encourages the inclusion of all social groups. Education for participatory democracy should involve all citizens, whether they are in schools (teaching, passing on information, encouraging action), in civil society organizations (teaching and learning from experience / action), in the media (learning, stimulating critical thinking about what one sees and reads (fake news), in families, in political movements, in parties, in universities. Educating for participatory democracy by focusing on non-formal education in training, workshops, meetings and exchanges. The educational program should include the following: teaching for tolerance, being active in society, working together, teaching to respect all citizens, accepting differences, negotiating common goals, promoting the Common Good.

2. In my city / country there is representative democracy at the level of the national parliament, local and European governments. At the level of participatory democracy there are trade unions, human rights associations, religious groups, NGOs, volunteering organizations, citizens' groups, consumer protection movements. These organizations exist to create change, fight for a better quality of life, denounce injustice, defend rights and services, publicize human rights, using places such as the streets, communities, metropolitan areas, businesses, student associations, youth councils. The ideal participatory democracy should be diverse, representative, accountable, well-known and open, reliable, transparent, willing to bring about change, prepared for conflict, capable of organizing and planning. A participatory democracy that is confident in the Who? and How?, that represents the citizens, and that shares information and enables the evolution of democracy..

3. Citizen participation is extremely relevant but could be better. Young people are the future, and more young people should be aware of the meaning of participatory democracy. We think it is important to listen to our elders. Older people have more life experience and more knowledge about how society works, thus they can play a key role in mentoring young people so that all together we can make better and more informed choices. This intergenerational link can start in schools or youth offices or youth associations. The Jovem Autarca project is a good example.

4. The instruments of participatory democracy that exist today are the referendum for those over 18; the online public consultation; voting for citizens over 18 years old; councils and assemblies for citizens aware of their existence. The role of youth assemblies that give youth a voice should be highlighted, as well as a project of the Young Mayor type. Unfortunately, there is no access to reliable / correct information, so political education is increasingly indispensable.

5. Regarding participatory democracy tools we can highlight student associations, the internet, youth councils, senior councils, neighborhood / neighborhood councils. Emphasis should be placed on educating young people with activities related to political life, as well as making known structures that stimulate the struggle for democracy. Most likely not all citizens have the same access to the tools of democracy, either because they live in rural areas, or because they do not master the Internet or because they find it hard to decipher the content disseminated by the media.

The activity ended with cheerful dinner with the presence of the Mayor of Santa Maria da Feira, Emídio Sousa, who heard the conclusions of the workshop from the young people present and who generally highlighted the importance of education for democracy, the dynamics of intergenerational citizenship, as well as the types and tools of participatory democracy today.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

- Engage of the participants to the project
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- Promote European values
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### **Event 12: National Workshop**

**Participation:** The event involved 30 citizens, including 30 participants from the city of Varna, Bulgaria.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in **Varna, Bulgaria**, from 07/03/2020 to 08/03/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow cooperation between policy makers, stakeholders on relevant policy issues and young people aiming to present proposals for the support of democratic engagement, direct democracy and youth engagement. Workshops were essential for the project in order to foster the active engagement, participation and European citizenship. During this dialogue the participants had the chance to express their opinion and discuss with each other.

A meeting between young people and professionals was held in Varna over the past weekend on March 7-8.

Young people from the age of sixteen to thirty from all over Bulgaria attended to the event, including workers, students, and doctoral students.

All of them had the opportunity to exchange the information with the guest speaker, the executive director of Varna-European Youth Capital Sergey Petrov, and the Deputy Minister of Education Mr. P.Nikolov.

In a few words, the moderator of the discussion S.Petrov reminded the participants how important it is to overcome the distance between the young people and the decision-makers.

The participants got acquainted with the diagram of Tony Karrer-Four L Model, as well as the ladder of participation, where everyone determined exactly where is on it.

The Deputy Minister of Education shared more about civic education and answered the questions that interested the young people. The discussion then focused on what youngsters can be more active in.

According to all participants, at the end of the first day, it became clear that much higher activity is needed on their part.

During the second day of the workshop, the young people expressed the pros and cons on various topics related to the youth, authorities, stakeholders, and communities. They finished with reports on coping with the problems.

At the end of the day, they created a "bubble" symbolizing their belonging to the society they have created in recent days.

The meeting finished with thanks to the representatives of the municipality of Varna and The Ministry of Education and Science for the open dialogue.

The Meeting-discussion took place within the international project "Be Active, Shape Europe", funded by "Europe for Citizens".

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

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### **Event 13: Transnational Simulation of the European Parliament**

**Participation:** The event involved 50 citizens, including 50 participants from the city of Thessaloniki (Greece), from the city of Lewisham – London (United Kingdom), from the city of Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal), from the city of Cinisello Balsamo (Italy), from the city of Maribor (Slovenia) and from the city of Varna (Bulgaria).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place online due to covid-19 pandemic in **Thessaloniki, Greece**, from 13/04/2021 to 14/04/2021

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to gather students (15-30 years old), who would have the chance to raise their voice, propose ideas and interact with each other. During this activity the European Parliament was simulated. Specifically, each participant was given a specific European political party and a country to represent. The subject of the simulation game was "The rise of Euroscepticism in Europe VS European Elections" They have to discuss the key role of European elections and agenda.

Besides the young Europeans, the activities also attracted the interest of youth workers, civil society representatives, local authorities representatives, municipal employees, teachers of the Secondary education, but also several EU citizens, attracted to participate as observers to the discussions of youth on "The rise of Euroscepticism in Europe VS European elections".

During the first day of the Simulation Activity, participants were split into the 5 main political parties of the European Parliament represented in their session, analogically to the votes each received during the latest elections of the Parliament, but also to the 27 EU Member States. With the guidance of the Trainers team and a short rehearsal among the participants to understand the rules of procedure, the Plenary started the session by setting the Agenda and reflecting on the topics as proposed. Several unmoderated caucuses followed where the participants interacted as political groups to shape their common lines on each topic according to the course they had selected to discuss them. The first day of the activity closed with a short reflection of the day between the Trainers and participants.

The second day of the Simulation Activity, Sunday 14 of March, begun with the overview of the discussions by the Members of the European Parliament of the previous day, but also the intensive discussions between participants in order to form the Draft Report of the European Parliament under the topics of their discussions. Participants formed an official document, as if they were under the framework of the European Parliament, with the guidance and support of the Trainers and also, proceeded to the Amendments procedure to further modify the document, before they enter the voting procedure.

Eventually, with consensus among the Members of the European Parliament, as simulated, namely all participants voted in favor of the final Report, they approved the document reflecting their position as young Europeans to the topics of the Transnational Workshop and Transnational Simulation, on Euroscepticism, participatory democracy, youth engagement to the decision-making procedures, to the development of a greener environment for the future of Europe, the green deal, the green growth and so many other up to date topics that concern the young Europeans for the future of Europe.

During the evaluation procedure for the activity as it was implemented and the reflection activity at the end that was implemented by the Trainers, participants expressed their positive feelings from their engagement into this activity, the gratitude that they were given the leading role to shape the future of Europe as if they were the elected young Members of the European Parliament, the professionalism of the implementation but also the importance of such activities to be implemented by the European Union, as funded by the Europe for Citizens programme.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

- Enhance understanding of the EU institutions
- Promote participatory democracy
- Engage of the participants to the project
- Enhance understanding of the current situation and the influence of Euroscepticism
- Promote European values

- Promote active citizenship
- Promote local authorities' participation
- Promote European citizenship and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

#### **Event 14: Transnational Workshop**

**Participation:** The event involved 50 citizens, including 50 participants from the city of Maribor, Slovenia.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place online due to covid-19 pandemic in **Thessaloniki, Greece**, at 11/04/2021 and 15/04/2021

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to serve as the basis for future initiatives and actions, between the towns involved, about European Union and the next period 2021-2027 and create a Paper on concerns and suggestions by young people focus on the democracy, European values, active citizenship and european identity.

During Friday 12 of March, the Transnational Workshop begun, with the Trainers team introduction to the participants, set of the context of the activities and goals of the project, while an icebreaking activity followed. After that, participants were split into different working groups according to their assignments to the Simulation of European Parliament that followed, aiming to discuss and reflect their thoughts and concerns on the subtopics of the Agenda set, on:

- The new European Parliament: priorities and challenges of the new term
- Building the future of Europe focusing on green growth and the new green deal
- The European Citizenship and what EU should do to better reach its citizens
- Challenges of the EU's cohesion and solidarity: migration issue and financial crisis
- The Youth' Voice in Europe, a reality or a utopia?
- Participatory democracy in the European Union

A short reflection followed between the Trainers and participants for the first day's activities, expected results and impact to the participants.

The second day of the Transnational Workshop activity was marked with the discussion and cooperation among Trainers and the young participants on the outcomes of the Transnational Simulation of the European Parliament and the way to adjust all their proposals into proposals under a Policy Paper that will target their local authorities, national and European decision makers as the voice of youth. At the end of this highly attractive and innovative procedure, since participants played several games using KAHOOT application to reflect on the work done all the previous days, but also the "Butterfly effect" activity of non-formal education, participants evaluated the Transnational Workshop activity, followed by a short reflection of the 4 days with the Trainers team.

The Transnational Activities were closed with the presentations offered by the partner organizations to the participants, presenting the work and produced results by each in the framework of the project, but also the next steps they plan to follow so as to further disseminate the produced results, but also to support the sustainability of the results produced for the future of their youth. Last, but not least, the KEDITH Project Coordinator and Administrative team provided important information to the participants for the next steps planned for the dissemination and sustainability of the project results, the development of the Policy Paper, reflecting the produced results, but also the distribution of the material and the Certificates of Participation of all within the following days.

Concerning the produced results, the activity succeeded to:

- Enhance understanding of the EU institutions
- Promote participatory democracy
- Engage the participants to the project
- Enhance understanding of the current situation and the influence of Euroscepticism
- Promote European values
- Promote active citizenship
- Promote local authorities participation
- Promote European identity and the sense of contributing to the decision-making process

**Deliverable**

A paper including concerns and suggestions combating the Euroscepticism was created.