

The project «European Elections and Beyond: Active Participation of EU Citizens at All Levels (EUact)» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 - Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

16 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1 – Preparatory/Kick-Off Meeting

Participation: The event involved 7 citizens - 3 participants from Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 2 participants from Lublin (**Poland**), 1 participant from Berlin (**Germany**), and 1 participant from Sofia (**Bulgaria**).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Bratislava (**Slovakia**), on 21/09/2018.

Short description: The aim of the event was for the project partners from Slovakia, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria to meet to ensure the smooth implementation of the project in each country and to coordinate the project calendar, work programme and guidelines.

Events 2 - 9 - Focus Groups

Participation: The events involved 97 young citizens - 17 participants from Sofia (**Bulgaria**), 15 participants from Blagoevgrad (**Bulgaria**), 10 participants from Berlin (**Germany**), 16 participants from Chelm, Włodawa, Hrubieszów, Wierzbica, Wojślawice and Lublin (**Poland**), and 39 participants from Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Dunajská Streda, Humenné, Ilava, Levice, Levoča, Kežmarok, Košice Nové Zámky, Skalica, Stará Ľubovňa, Šaľa, Trnava, Topolčany, Trebišov, Trenčín, Trstená, Veľký Krtíš, Zlín, Zvolen and Žilina (**Slovakia**).

Location / Dates: The events took place in Sofia and Blagoevgrad (**Bulgaria**), Lublin and Chelm (**Poland**), Berlin (**Germany**) and Banská Bystrica and Sládkovičovo (**Slovakia**) from 01/11/2018 – 30/11/2018.

Short description: The aim of the event was to give young people (aged predominantly 18-30) the opportunity to express their opinions on the European Union in general, as well as on EU citizenship, with a particular emphasis on being active citizens on the national and the EU levels; comparative qualitative data on young people's perceptions of the EU and their understanding of EU citizenship were gathered as a result.

Event 10 – Public debate 1 ‘#EUsparring 2019: Contest of ideas between EU-candidates’ (Berlin)

Participation: The event involved 113 citizens - 106 participants from Berlin (**Germany**), 1 participant from **Belgium**, 2 participants from **France**, 6 participants from **Poland**, 1 participant from **Pakistan**, 1 participant from Bratislava (**Slovakia**), 1 participant from **Switzerland**, 1 participant from **United Kingdom**, and 1 participant from the **U.S.**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Berlin (**Germany**), on 26/03/2019.

Short description: The aim of the event was to create a ‘sparring contest of ideas’ between EP candidates in Berlin. In three sparring-rounds Damian Boeselager (Volt), Engin Eroglu (FREIE WÄHLER), Hannah Neumann (Demokratie in Europa) and Susanne Zels (CDU) had two minutes to convince the audience of his/her visions for Europe. The sparring- rounds focused on the topics Strengthening the Institutional Democracy, Strengthening the Regions and Strengthening of the Social Cohesion. After each sparring-round there were critical questions from the audience and online-voting. This format allowed candidates to get direct feedback from the whole audience.

Event 11 – Public Debate 2 – ‘Elections to the European Parliament: Bulgaria in the EU after 2019’ (Sofia)

Participation: The event involved 118 citizens - 1 participant from **Albania**, 104 participants from **Bulgaria**, 1 participant from the **Czech Republic**, 1 participant from **Greece**, 2 participants from **Italy**, 4 participants from **North Macedonia**, 2 participants from **Poland**, 2 participants from **Serbia** and 1 participant from **Slovakia**.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Sofia (**Bulgaria**), on 29/03/2019.

Short description: The aim of this public debate with EU experts and (future) policymakers was to motivate more young people from various groups of the society to vote in the upcoming EP elections, and to influence the new candidates for MEPs, if elected, to contribute to making the voice of Bulgaria be heard in the process of elaboration of new common policies that will guarantee the future of Europe and that of the younger generations in it, as well as the equal in value place of Bulgaria in the European Union.

Event 12 – Public Debate 3 – ‘EU Debate 2019’ (Lublin)

Participation: The event involved 77 citizens from **Italy, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and United Kingdom.**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Lublin (**Poland**), on 04/04/2019.

Short description: The aim of this event was to attract students from five universities and experts on EU issues, well-known politicians to discuss topics such as ‘EU regional policy’, ‘Citizen-Society-Nation in the EU’ and ‘Variants of the direction of democratization processes of the functioning of EU institutions.’ The event made it possible to answer bothering and important questions about the EU. The debate contributed to greater involvement in the EP elections, especially since mainly active students took part in it – representatives of academic self-governments, representatives of scientific sections, opinion-forming students, well-known and popular in the academic community.

Event 13 – Public Debate 4 – ‘Slovakia in the EU after 2019’ (Bratislava)

Participation: The event involved 373 (+318 through livestream) citizens - 1 participant from **Bulgaria**, 1 participant from the **Czech Republic**, 1 participant from **France**, 1 participant from **Greece**, 1 participant from **Hungary**, 2 participants from **Poland**, 1 participant from Russia, 1 participant from **Spain**, and 364 participants from **Slovakia** (from Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Trenčín, Trnava, Kežmarok, Bučany, Zvolen, Košice, Prešov, Žilina, Bardejov, Poprad, Michalovce, Prievidza, Nové Zámky, Liptovský Hrádok, Rohožník, Víťaz, Trstená, Levice, Pezinok, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Galanta, Senica, Nitra, Tornaľa, Snina, Zlaté Moravce, Skalica, Stará Turá, Šahy, Lipany, Stará Turá, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Šambron, Hrádok, Lozorno, Malacky, Martin, Štrba, Boleráz, Podolíneec, Veľká Lehota, Dolný Kubín, Čadca and Námestovo).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Bratislava (**Slovakia**), on 11/04/2019.

Short description: The aim of the event was to engage students in a discussion with the Prime Minister of Slovakia Peter Pellegrini, as well as with a panel of experts. Besides stressing the importance of Slovakia’s Euro-Atlantic orientation, the speakers answered, among others, the following questions: Why does Slovakia have low participation in the EU election? What needs to change to propel more voters to go to the ballot? What reforms should be implemented moving forward?

Event 14 – 1st Transnational Reflection Group

Participation: The event involved 36 citizens – 1 participant from **Austria**, 8 participants from **Bulgaria**, 1 participant from **France**, 1 participant from **FYROM**, 2 participants from **Germany**, 1 participant from **Greece**, 1 participant from **Italy**, **7 participants** from Poland and 14 participants from **Slovakia**.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Bratislava (**Slovakia**), from 29/11/2018 to 30/11/2018.

Short description: The aim of the event was to assess the current state of our European Union and draft realistic recommendations to European decision-makers, national policymakers, the civic and business communities in the following policy areas: education and opportunities for youth, environment and sustainability, EU as a global actor, migration, internal and external security, and employment, social affairs and inclusion.

Event 15 – 2nd Transnational Reflection Group

Participation: The event involved 36 citizens – 1 participant from **Austria**, 6 participants from **Bulgaria**, 5 participants from **Germany**, 1 participant from **Greece**, 1 participant from **Italy**, 1 participant from **Montenegro**, 7 participants from **Poland**, 13 participants from **Slovakia** and 1 participant from **Sweden**.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Bratislava (**Slovakia**), from 12/09/2019 to 13/09/2019.

Short description: The aim of the event was to assess the current state of our European Union and draft realistic recommendations to European decision-makers, national policymakers, the civic and business communities in the following policy areas: education and opportunities for youth, environment and sustainability, EU as a global actor, migration, internal and external security, and employment, social affairs and inclusion.

Event 15 – Closing Event – ‘From Sofia to Berlin: Young People, EU Citizenship and Activism Brussels)

Participation: The event involved 51 citizens – 1 participant from **Belarus**, 2 participants from **Bulgaria**, 8 participants from the **Czech Republic**, 4 participants from **France**, 6 participants from **Germany**, 2 participants from **Hungary**, 1 participant from **Italy**, 1 participant from **Luxembourg**, 1 participant from Macedonia, 3 participants from the **Netherlands**, 5 participants from **Poland**, 1 participant from **Romania**, 14 participants from **Slovakia**, 1 participant from **Sweden**, and 1 participant from the **U.S.**

Location / Dates: The event took place in Brussels (**Belgium**), on 26/11/2019.

Short description: The aim of the event was to present and discuss the final report of the project with a panel of distinguished experts in citizens’ participation, as well as EU policymakers, experts, think-tankers and media.