

The project «YOU4EU – Citizen Participation 2.0» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

Eight events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1 – Kick-off meeting (preparatory activities)

Participation: The total of 16 representatives of the partnering organisations took part at the meeting, including 9 from Serbia, 2 from Croatia, 2 from Montenegro, 2 from Slovenia and 1 from Spain.

Location / Dates: The Kick-off meeting was organised in Belgrade (Serbia) on 8 and 9 November 2018.

Short description: The total of 16 representatives of partnering organisations participated at the Kick-off meeting on 8 and 9 November 2018 in Belgrade, and agreed detailed workplan, communication plan and monitoring activities.

Event 2 – Development of the publication „50 Questions from YOU to the EU“ and „YOU Policy Recommendations on Transparency and Citizen Participation“

Participation: The development of the documents involved 468 citizens, including 172 participants from Serbia, 64 from Slovenia, 116 from Croatia, 82 from Montenegro and 34 from Spain.

Location / Dates: The preparation of the publication took place in 5 project partnering countries (Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain) from December 2018 to July 2019, while the Policy Recommendations were developed in December 2019 and January 2020.

Short description: The aim of the activity was facilitation of contacts between citizens and decision-makers in discussing problems, challenges and perspectives of key national and EU policies through: a) Europe-wide research in 5 partnering countries about common issues, solutions and perspectives in respective public policies in the EU MS and accession countries; b) preparation of the publication „50 Questions from YOU to the EU“ providing an overview of key citizens' questions about contemporary public policy challenges and issues, together with the answers from targeted stakeholders; c) „YOU Policy Recommendations on Transparency and Citizen Participation“ providing recommendations for the improvement of the level of inclusion and transparency of policy-making process.

Event 3 Contest „Citizen Participation 2.0“

Participation: The event involved 216 citizens, including 4 participants from Albania, 1 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 28 from Croatia, 1 from Italy, 5 from Kosovo*, 4 from Montenegro, 4 from North Macedonia, 4 from Portugal, 134 from Serbia, 4 from Slovakia, 13 from Slovenia and 14 from Spain.

Location / Dates: The Contest „Citizen Participation 2.0“ for the best new digital solution for citizen participation was organised from 13 May until 23 June 2019 in 11 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain).

Short description: The aim of the Contest was to support the development of innovative digital solutions aimed at strengthening citizen participation in decision-making processes. Furthermore, the Contest aimed at improving the communication and cooperation between citizens and decision-makers, as well as promotion of the role of digital democracy in the establishment of more citizen oriented policy-making. The civil society organisation CIECODE from Spain won the award in the amount of 2,000 Euros for development of the tool „Personal Political Analyst“ which enables monitoring of implementation of election promises of political parties. Besides the awarded solution, top 5 ideas were also selected: Pin'em and Izbori_se (Croatia), Parlamento 2030 (Spain), Easy local budget (Serbia) and Fix my city (Montenegro).

Event 4 Debate in Croatia

Participation: The event involved 62 citizens, including 6 participants from Serbia, 6 participants from Slovenia, 5 participants from Montenegro, 3 participants from Spain and 42 participants from Croatia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Impact Hub in Zagreb (Croatia) on 27 September 2019.

Short description: The aim of „Technology for Transparency and Citizen Participation“ debate was to bring together activists, tech experts, journalists, and decision-makers, who are interested in how technology can help in establishing more transparent and inclusive institutions. The panelists shared experiences from their work and discussed the main challenges regarding open data, the right to access information and technological solutions for the inclusion of citizens in policy-making. Apart from the panel discussion, during debate an expert forum was organised, where experts from international organisations worked together to make recommendations for improving transparency of decision-making processes and enabling more active involvement of citizens in political processes. At the beginning of the event, the publication „50 Questions from You to the EU“ was presented, which was followed by the Award Ceremony for the best digital solutions for improving the communication between citizens and decision-makers that won the Contest „Citizen Participation 2.0“.

Event 5 Debate in Slovenia

Participation: The event involved 68 citizens, including 5 participants from the Croatia, 5 participants from Serbia, 5 participants from Montenegro, 4 participants from Spain, 1 participant from Germany, 1 participant from Brazil, 2 participants from Philippines and 45 participants from Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in National Museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 22 October 2019.

Short description: The event „Participation in environmental issues“ gathered relevant stakeholders in the field of environment and civic participation - activists, youth representatives, government officials, local and foreign experts. The participants discussed the role of civic participation in environmental challenges, assessed the way the European Union is addressing climate change and pollution, and reflected upon the importance of individual contribution in environmental protection. The conference started with the lecture „Environmental challenges: where do we stand and why should we care? “ from well-known climatologist prof. dr. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, and was followed by presentations of 4 international inspirational stories in the field of participation in environmental matters and discussion panel.

Event 6 Debate in Montenegro

Participation: The event involved 66 citizens, including 5 participants from Serbia, 5 participants from Croatia, 5 participants from Slovenia, 3 participants from Spain and 48 participants from Montenegro.

Location / Dates: The event took place in the EU Info Centre in Podgorica (Montenegro) on 14 November 2019.

Short description: The aim of the event „Back to Basics: Knowledgeable Citizens – Active Society!“ was to gather experts, decision-makers, civil society representatives and citizens in order to point out the issues and set up recommendations in the area of free access to information. The first part of the conference was focused on the experiences and practices in the region, as well as the regional state of play in this area. The second panel was dedicated to the changes of the Law on Free Access of Information in Montenegro, where experts on the right to free access to information and participants commented on the proposed changes of this Law.

Event 7 Debate in Serbia

Participation: The event involved 55 citizens, including 5 participants from Croatia, 5 participants from Slovenia, 5 participants from Montenegro, 3 participants from Spain and 37 from Serbia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in KC Grad in Belgrade (Serbia) on 12 December 2019.

Short description: The debate „Citizen participation matters - changes we need“ was dedicated to possibilities and modalities of citizen participation in policy development on national and EU level, as well as the importance of citizen activism. The first panel was focused on contribution of civil society organisations and citizens in tailoring the EU public policies and implementing EU related reforms. The second panel provided an overview of normative and institutional framework regulating the conducting of public consultations, while the last session was dedicated to the best examples of citizen activism and civil disobedience which question state actions which are violating human rights and disabling proper living conditions.

Event 8 Presentation in Brussels

Participation: The event involved 115 citizens. As an event organised by the European Commission, it included the participation of people of multiple European nationalities.

Location / Dates: The event took place in The Square Conference Centre (Brussels, Belgium), on 6 February 2020.

Short description: The European Commission organised the event „Engaging Citizens for Good Governance in Cohesion Policy“ with the aim of analysing the mechanisms needed to achieve effective participation by European citizens so that they can take an active part in the decision-making process that will ensure the future of the European Union. „YOU4EU Policy Recommendations on Transparency and Citizen Participation“ were presented at the panel „Open data and digital technology to engage citizens“, while the event involved engaging citizens, members of civil society, as well as political leaders committed to obtaining closer involvement for better governance, the implementation of a Cohesion Policy and the dedicated management of EU funds.