

The project «European Democracy Network» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

6 events and a Preparatory Activity have been carried out within this project:

Preparatory Activities: Kick Off Meeting in Berlin, Germany

Participation: The event involved over 25 citizens, notably 16 participants from Czech Republic (2), Denmark (2), Germany (5), France (3), Hungary (1) and Poland (3).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Berlin, Germany, from 28/01/2019 to 30/01/2019.

Short description: The aim of the event was to co-design the project objectives, activities and timeline.

Event 1: Workshops and Citizens Dialogue in Warsaw, Poland

Participation: The event involved over 60 citizens, notably 30 participants from Austria (1), Czech Republic (3), Denmark (2), France (8), Germany (5), GB (1), Hungary (3), Netherlands (1), Poland (5) and Slovakia (1).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Warsaw, Poland, from 22/03/2019 to 25/03/2019.

Short description: The main aim of the event was to get to know each other and exchange on experiences as activists living all over Europe. The participants co-designed the future of the network, its activities and how do they want it to empower them. They also had the opportunity to meet Klementyna Suchanow, Polish author and political activist, who presented the neo-conservative movements in Europe and the backlash on human rights it brings. The activists also did their first spontaneous action, a flash mob at an event gathering polish candidates at the election of the European Parliament and took part in an open space gathering with different civil society actors groups both from Poland and across Europe. The aim of the Citizens Dialogue was to give the opportunity for local people to meet and exchange with a group of international activists, to get to know their countries' specific context, to experience the European dimension of their own engagement as well as to exchange perspectives, opinions and visions on European topics.

Event 2: Workshops and Citizens Dialogue in Berlin, Germany

Participation: The event involved over 60citizens, notably 26 participants from Austria (1), Bulgaria (1), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (2), France (5), GB (1), Germany (5), Hungary (2), Italy (1), Poland (4), Romania (1) and Slovakia (1).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Berlin, Germany, from 28/06/2019 to 01/07/2019.

Short description: The main aim of the event was to take part in a series of trainings and workshops on the subjects of Critical Whiteness, Digital Security, Positive Psychology, Right-wing Populism and Shrinking Civic Space in Germany. The Citizens Dialogue under the name "Transnational Inspirations dinner" gave also the participants the opportunity to meet local and diaspora civil society actors living in Berlin as well as to share inspiring activists stories and best practices to create change.

Event 3: Workshops and Citizens Dialogue in Budapest, Hungary

Participation: The event involved ca. 53 citizens, notably 26 participants from Austria (1), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (2), France (4), GB (1), Germany (6), Hungary (5), Italy (1), Poland (3) and Slovakia (1).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Budapest, Hungary from 04/10/2019 to 07/10/2019

Short description: The main aim of the event was to take part in a series of trainings and workshops on Community organising and campaigning; mobile video activism; the situation and discrimination of Roma Community, media propaganda and shrinking of civic spaces in Hungary; psychological support to prevent burn out and strengthen resilience. The aim of the Citizens Dialogue was also to exchange with local and international guests of the 17th the International MitOst Festival.

Event 4: Workshops and Citizens Dialogue in Paris, France

Participation: The event involved over 50 citizens, notably 27 participants from Czech Republic (2), Denmark (2), Germany (5), France (7), Hungary (3), Poland (5), Spain (2), and Slovakia (1).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Paris, France, from 24/01/2020 to 27/01/2020.

Short description: The main aim of the event was to network with representatives of social movements and civil society organizations from France, Latin American and Caribbean countries (during the Citizens Dialogue), share activist success stories, learn about fundraising opportunities and philanthropy for democracy-related projects in Europe, experience civic-sightseeing in the footsteps of revolutionary women and look for constructive responses to the problem of shrinking civic spaces.

Event 5: Workshops and Citizens Dialogue in Brno, Czech Republic

Participation: The event involved over 50 citizens, notably 25 participants from Czech Republic (7), Denmark (2), Germany (3), France (3), Hungary (3), Italy (2), Poland (4) and Slovakia (1).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Brno, Czech Republic, from 11/09/2020 to 14/09/2020.

Short description: The main aim of the event was to take part in a series of trainings and workshops, including: forest therapy, training on non-hierarchical organisation and non-violent communication. The aim of the meeting was also to visit places connected to local activist groups and movements in Brno, while the aim of the Citizens Dialogue was to exchange on the growing challenges for civil society organisations related to the governmental restrictions, shortages of funding for civil society projects and laws limiting basic freedoms in times of Covid-19 pandemic.

Event 6: Final Evaluation, Workshop meeting on online resistance and Online Conference "Democracies in the Making!" - Online Learning Exchange

Participation: The event involved over 140 citizens, notably 76 participants from Austria (1), Belgium (8), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (3), France (5), GB (1), Germany (33), Greece (1), Hungary (5), Italy (1), Luxembourg (1), Netherlands (3), Poland (9), Romania (1), Slovakia (1) and Spain (1).

Location/ Dates: The events took place online, on 28/11/2020, 04/12/2020, 08/12/2020 and 12/12/2020.

Short description: The aim of the online meetings with the EDN partners and EDN participants was to make the final evaluation of the project. We have also organized an online workshop on online resilience in order to empower EDN participants in times of Covid-19 pandemic. The aim of the final conference was to discuss and exchange experience on the following issues: How can civil society and activist movements resist and handle attacks by authoritarian governments on democratic values and basic rights, also in times of the COVID-19 pandemic? And how can new forms of interventions inspire these movements and revive democracy? The practice-oriented Online Learning Exchange connected activists defending democratic values and change makers designing and implementing new models of participation and deliberation, beyond periodic elections. During the event, guests got involved in dialogue, shared their ideas and explored concrete examples and best-practices of citizen-centered and future-oriented democratic innovations.