

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Reinforcing European citizenship through building up the conditions for civic and democratic participation - RECup
Participant:	INSTITOYTO KOINONIKIS KAINOTOMIAS KAI SYNOXIS
PIC number:	928680717

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number :	10		
Event name:	Raising Awareness Activity: Citizens Manifesto brings unemployment in the heart of Europe		
Type:	Raising Awareness		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Thessaloniki, Greece		
Date(s):	11.11.2024 – 13.11.2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://recup-project.eu/		
Participants			
Female:	11		
Male:	8		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Romania]:	3		
From country 2 [Malta]:	3		
From country 3 [Grece]:	6		
From country 4 [Croatia]:	2		
From country 5 [Italy]:	3		
From country 6 [Slovenia]:	2		
From country 7 [Spain]:	1		
Total number of participants:	20	From total number of countries:	7
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The event began at 10:00 AM with the arrival of participants, including representatives from local authorities, civil society organizations, trade unions, and unemployed citizens eager to engage in discussions on employment policies and democratic participation.

At 10:15 AM, the Welcome Greetings set the tone for the day. Local authority representatives and event organizers formally introduced the seminar's objectives, emphasizing the significance of democratic participation in addressing unemployment. Key terminology such as e-Democracy, EU employment policies, and civic engagement was explained to create a common foundation for discussion.

At 10:30 AM, a Thematic Panel Discussion explored unemployment as a core issue in EU policy. Policy experts and chamber of commerce representatives presented insights into existing EU policies aimed at reducing unemployment and strengthening workforce participation. They shared successful models from other European regions, sparking an engaging discussion among attendees.

A Coffee Break & Networking Session followed at 11:00 AM, offering participants a chance to exchange ideas and reflect on the morning's discussions in an informal setting. At 11:30 AM, a session on Democratic Participation and Digital Work Transitions was conducted. This included an overview of government strategies for tackling unemployment through digitalization, focusing on how digital skills and remote work opportunities could serve as potential solutions for jobseekers. Participants engaged in group discussions on best practices for adapting to digital work environments and the importance of inclusive digital policies.

From 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM, the Citizen and Politician Dialogue Research Activity took place, facilitated by Fifty-Fifty. This session gathered firsthand insights from local citizens and politicians on unemployment trends and the impact of COVID-19. Participants shared personal case studies, highlighting challenges and resilience strategies. This segment featured an open debate, where different perspectives were exchanged, emphasizing community-driven solutions for employment recovery.

A Lunch Break from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM featured traditional Greek cuisine, fostering further networking and informal discussions among stakeholders.

The afternoon resumed at 2:30 PM with a Blended Laboratory Workshop on Drafting the Citizens Manifesto. Participants formed breakout groups to develop statements addressing unemployment, teleworking policies, and EU employment regulations. Contributions came from a diverse range of stakeholders, including unemployed citizens, trade union representatives, and education professionals, ensuring a broad spectrum of perspectives.

At 3:30 PM, a Roundtable Discussion on Activating for Europe's Unemployed provided a platform for actionable solutions. Local and visiting experts discussed how to raise awareness of employment issues at the EU level. The finalization of the Citizens Manifesto took place during this session, ensuring collective agreement on the statement's core principles.

The day's final session at 4:30 PM featured a speech on the EU's Unemployment Agenda, delivered by a European policy expert. The talk focused on existing and upcoming EU policies aimed at tackling unemployment, with an emphasis on how local communities could leverage these frameworks for improved economic resilience. A Q&A session allowed participants to ask direct questions about engaging with EU employment policies.

At 5:00 PM, the REcup & Closing Day 1 session summarized key takeaways, and announcements for the second day were made. Participants were encouraged to continue their engagement beyond the event, and networking dinner at 7:30 PM provided opportunity for informal discussions and cultural exchange.

The second day began at 10:00 AM with the arrival of participants, setting the stage for another interactive and productive session.

At 10:15 AM, a Roundtable on Voices of Unemployed Citizens was held, where participants shared firsthand experiences with job loss, employment barriers, and policy shortcomings. The session provided a human perspective on the statistical data and policy discussions from Day 1.

At 10:45 AM, a speech on e-Democracy as a Tool for Inclusive Employment Policies was delivered. This session highlighted how digital tools and online platforms could promote greater civic engagement and policymaking transparency in employment policies. The importance of participatory democracy in shaping labor policies was emphasized, with examples of successful e-Democracy initiatives in Europe.

A coffee break at 11:15 AM allowed for further networking and discussion. At 11:45 AM, the Manifesto's Presentation and Consolidation session took place. The final draft of the Citizens Manifesto was presented, followed by an open discussion and Q&A session. Participants provided feedback and refined key points, ensuring a well-rounded and representative document.

At 12:45 PM, the event concluded with the REcup & Closing Day 2 Ceremony and a Citizens' Open Forum. This segment celebrated the collaborative efforts of all participants and emphasized the need for continued engagement beyond the seminar. The forum provided a space for final reflections and commitments to action.

A closing lunch from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM marked the end of the event, allowing participants to share their final thoughts and reinforce newly formed connections.

REcup Raising Awareness Activity: Citizens Manifesto brings unemployment in the heart of Europe Agenda

Date: 11-13 November 2024

Venue: – Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute – Fifty-Fifty Proxenou Koromila str. 51, 1st floor, GR-546 23, Thessaloniki, Greece

Session Day 1: 12 November 2024

10:00 – 10:15

Participants Arrival

Arrival and registration of participants.

10:15 – 10:30

Warm welcome by local authority representatives and event organizers, outlining key objectives and terminology such as democratic participation, addressing unemployment, and exploring EU policies on employment and e-Democracy.

10:30 – 11:00

Thematic Panel Discussion on the Perspective of Unemployment as a Core Issue in EU Policy

Presentations from local policy experts and representatives of chambers of commerce.

Discussion on EU policies for reducing unemployment and supporting the workforce, with examples of best practices from other regions.

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break & Networking

11.30 – 12.00

Introduction to the concept of democratic participation in local facilities

Insights on government strategies for unemployment and digital work transitions.

Group discussions on strategies for adaptation, including skill development and digital inclusivity.

12.00 – 13.30

Research Activity: Citizen and Politician Dialogue (Facilitated and moderated by Fifty-Fifty)

Collection of insights from local citizens and politicians on unemployment and COVID-19 impacts, with a focus on participants' case studies, followed by an open debatable discussion where groups will share individual experiences and perspectives, emphasizing community resilience.

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch Break

14.30 – 15.30

Blended Laboratory Workshop on Drafting the Citizens Manifesto

Breakout groups create statements addressing unemployment, teleworking, and EU employment policies.

15.30 – 16.00

Roundtable Discussion on Activating for Europe's Unemployed

Local and visiting stakeholders discuss actionable steps to raise awareness and activate for European employment issues proceeding to the finalization of the Citizens Manifesto as a collective statement.

16.00 – 17.00

Coffee Break

17.00 – 17.30

Speech on the EU's Unemployment Agenda

Presentation on EU policies targeting unemployment and their impact and Q&A session with an EU policy expert on how local communities can engage with these policies.

17.00 – 17.30

RECup & Closing Day 1

Summary of key takeaways from the day's sessions, as well as closing remarks and encouragement for continued collaboration.

19.30

Dinner

Session Day 2: 13 November 2024

10:00 – 10:15

Participants Arrival

10:15 – 10:45

Roundtable on Voices of Unemployed Citizens for sharing of personal experiences and challenges related to unemployment.

10:45 – 11:15

Speech on e-Democracy as a Tool for Inclusive Employment Policies

11.15 – 11.45

Coffee Break

11:45 – 12.45

Manifesto's Presentation and Consolidation in form of open discussion and Q&A session.

12.45 – 13.30

REcup & Closing Day 2: Closing Ceremony and Citizens' Open Forum

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch

Dissemination:

<https://www.facebook.com/FiftyFifty.gr/posts/pfbid0Zt8V6gWPfRQCLEmrgyR4Xvhii67dPBk1egxGz4cKG7cYhiMPxEiNbmidkxRPVR7tl>

<https://breznicki-hum.hr/index.php/ostalo/eu-projekti/recup-project/760-the-recup-project-under-the-european-program-cerv-2022-citizens-town-hosted-its-raising-awareness-activity-titled-citizens-manifesto-brings-unemployment-to-the-heart-of-europe-from-november-11-to-13-2024-in-thessaloniki-greece>

<https://www.nevladnik.info/si/novice/?id=19038>

HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).