

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one work package = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	[101081484] - [Democracy International e.V.] [DI]
PIC number:	[937080238]
Project name and acronym:	[Parliament for the Future of Europe] — [PaFutEU]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[7]
Event name:	[3-day training session]
Type:	[OTHER]
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>
Location:	[Ljubljana, Slovenia]
Date(s):	[13-15.3.2024]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.democracy-international.org/pafuteu-ljubljana https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/invitation-to-the-future-and-challenges-of-european-democracy-event/ https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/future-and-challenges-of-european-democracy/
Participants	
Female:	38
Male:	20
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Germany]:	2
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	11
From country 3 [Croatia]:	5
From country 4 [Czechia]:	6
From country 5 [Portugal]:	5
From country 6 [Slovenia]:	24
From country 7 [Estonia]:	5

Total number of participants:	58	From total number of countries:	7
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>As part of the invitation and preparation process, the host organisers disseminated the public invitation via their website, their social media profiles and to hundreds of e-mail addresses (NGOs, political parties, journalists, academics and general public) in the form of a newsletter, twice. In addition, the organisers individually contacted various NGOs, working with vulnerable social groups such as LGBTIQ+ and migrants. Youth centres, students and teachers from two different high schools (Ljubljana and Celje) were also invited.</p> <p>The welcome dinner was held on March 13 at a traditional Slovenian restaurant where all the partners and international participants were invited for a meet-and-greet. A run-down of the event on the following day was reviewed by the project coordinator, Daniela Vancic, and the country coordinator, Tjaša Turnšek.</p> <p>The citizens' panel itself began on March 14 at 9:30am with the opening of registration, when the international delegations were joined by local participants. The team from of the European Commission Representation in Slovenia took part at the registration table, setting up a stand, distributing promotional material on the European elections and signing up reminders for the upcoming elections. The event was opened by Tjaša Turnšek, Research Assistant at the Peace Institute, followed by a speech by Dr. Iztok Šori, researcher and director of the Peace Institute. He presented the legacy and work of the Peace Institute and emphasized the importance of such events and debates in the run-up to the European elections, having in mind the trend of democratic backsliding on EU level. This was followed by a project welcome speech and sensitivity briefing that was given by Daniela Vancic, Project Manager of Parliament for the Future of Europe. She introduced the project, the funding by CERV, the process and the results of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE), and how this plays into the PaFutEU project.</p> <p>After the introduction to the content of the panel, the first expert lecture was given by Dr. Marko Ribač, postdoctoral researcher at the Peace Institute, who placed the upcoming European elections in the broader context of democratic backsliding, populism and the rise of the far right and outlined the possibilities of mobilising citizens for upcoming elections. He highlighted the gender differences in political beliefs, with young women in particular tending towards liberal and democratic values. This was followed by 15 minute lively follow-up discussion with the audience, during which a constructive debate developed between the participants.</p> <p>After the lecture, the participants had a short coffee break during which interactions between local and international participants took place. Participants were then divided into six working groups to provide their first feedback on the CoFoE proposals on the topic <i>European democracy</i>. This took place in a World Café setting, rotating to a different table to provide feedback on each CoFoE proposal on the topic. With colour-coded stickers, participants identified their level of satisfaction or concern with the proposal, followed by a short exchange amongst their group.</p> <p>After lunch, the event continued with a second expert presentation by Gaja Brecelj from the NGO Umanotera, who introduced the Voice of the People (Glas ljudstva) initiative to the participants. She spoke about how the initiative was created during the authoritarian government of Janez Janša and the Covid-19 epidemic, how it is organised and what activities it still carries out (monitoring government commitments). In the coming months, Voice of the People is also preparing a campaign to participate in the European elections in June. This was followed by another 15 minute Q&A session, during which a follow-up discussion with the audience took place.</p> <p>In the second group breakout sessions, we employed free flow moderation techniques to generate ideas about reformulated or new measures. All six moderators (3 locals and 3 from partner organisations) were instructed to maintain the discussion, encourage equal participation of all in the working group, and ask follow-up questions. Each group was tasked with rewriting a CoFoE proposal on the European democracy in a common online document based on the ideas generated during the World Café session as well as the second working groups discussion.</p>			

The event finished at 5pm in a plenary setting with moderators presenting the reformulated recommendations for each group and their reasons for the reformulations. Discussions and debates took place to ensure consensus was found amongst the new recommendations and amendments were made as deemed necessary. All participants were invited to fill out an anonymous feedback survey regarding e.g., the moderation techniques, the safety of the space, and any issues to improve.

The age range of participants varied from 18 to 44 years old, with the majority falling between 18 and 34 years old. The majority of participants, 96%, rated the event as very safe (5 out of 5).

Participants from the various countries, Germany, Czechia, Portugal, Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovenia, and Poland provided feedback on the event, rating its informative and enjoyment levels. The majority (85%) expressed high levels of satisfaction with both the plenary and working group sessions. Many felt comfortable sharing their opinions and appreciated the inclusive atmosphere. Suggestions for improvement included simplifying proposal language, extending session durations, and providing more opportunities for interaction. Overall, participants praised the event's organisation and expressed a desire for future events to maintain or enhance their positive aspects. Majority of the people found the workshop engaging, enlightening, and inspiring. They appreciated the interesting content, professional presentation, and safe space for them to share their personal views. The small group dynamics and interactive approach were particularly enjoyed. The presenters were knowledgeable and facilitated understanding well, leaving participants feeling grateful for the experience. Overall, the workshop was highly beneficial and enjoyable for all involved.

On the final day a de-briefing took place to gather further feedback on the event and ideas for improvement for future events. The country partner delegations departed. The new proposals on EU Democracy have been finalised and published on the PaFutEU website for European democracy. Photos of the event and a summary video have also been published and shared with participants of the event.