

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:	[12]
Eventname:	Get to know your candidates, get to know your constituents – event in Bulgaria
Type:	[OTHER]
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>
Location:	[Sofia], [Bulgaria]
Date(s):	[5 June 2024]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.democracy-international.org/pafuteu https://www.initiative.bg/news/article.php?id=71
Participants	
Female:	21
Male:	11
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [x] :	Bulgaria
From country 2[x] :	
From country 3 [x] :	
From country 4 [x]:	
From country 5 [x]:	
From country 6 [x]:	
From country 7 [x]:	

Total number of participants:	32	From total number of countries:	1
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Description:

The local “Get to know your candidates, get to know your constituents” event was organised by Bulgarian Association of Citizens Initiative (BAPCI) partnership with the Ekaterina Karavelova Foundation for Gender Justice. The event was held on 5 June 2024 at the Representation Office of the European Parliament in Sofia. The venue was well suited for the format of a Candidate Debate event and is also considered as politically neutral.

The thematic parts of the debate presented PaFutEU’s Catalogue of Ideas, a summary of all the proposals cumulated in the transnational events. The attending public was given time for questions and answers and an opportunity to off their own proposals.

Three goals of the event were achieved:

- 1) help voters better understand the positions of their candidates and allow them to make more informed decisions on election day
- 2) help candidates better understand citizens’ expectations and priorities, specifically the proposals of the Conference of the Future of Europe and the additional proposals made by the transnational events in the course of the PaFutEu project
- 3) allow a space for female candidates to receive greater exposure and interaction with voters, in view of the fact that women candidates have accounted only for 9% share in debates in the public media in Bulgaria at previous elections

Four female candidates for the European Parliament partook in the debate:

- 1) Alina Milusheva, GERB-SDS Coalition
- 2) Alina Dobreva, We Continue the Change – Democratic Bulgaria Coalition
- 3) Daniela Bozhinova, Green Movement Party
- 4) Dr Lydia Stoykova-Chorbanova, the Left Coalition

An initial survey was conducted to define topics of major interest. The topics debated were the following: War and Peace, the Common Defence Policy, Healthcare, and Education

A special issues of violence related to gynaecological and obstetric care were also raised, in particular related to the findings of the Report of the European Parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality published in April 2024.

Representatives of BAPCI Pavel Zhelev and Roza Bozhinova briefed the candidates on the citizens proposals made by PaFutEu participants in the respective policy areas. The candidates responded on how they see their role in implementing the proposals.

At the end of the event, hard copies of the Catalogue of Ideas resulting from the PaFutEu project have been given to each of the candidates who took part in the debate.

The event was promoted locally and published in an article on the BAPCI website: <https://www.initiative.bg/news/article.php?id=71>

Streaming of the event was provided, where 46 additional participants tuned in online.