

## 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 workpackage = one lump sum).**

PROJECT: Active EUcitizens – Think Global, Act Local	
Participant:	<b>Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic (APC ERB)</b> Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk (STG ERB)
PIC number:	918150203
Project name and acronym:	Active EUcitizens: Think Global, Act Local (Active EUcitizens)

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	Work Package 7
Event name:	LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR CITIZENS' INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY
Type:	Workshop
F2F/online:	on-site (F2F)
Location:	Poland, Elbląg
Date(s):	19.09.2023 – 21.09.2023
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://activeeucitizens.eu/">https://activeeucitizens.eu/</a>
Partner website dedicated to project	<a href="https://eurobalt.org.pl/en/euroregion-baltic-ongoing-projects/think-global-act-local/">https://eurobalt.org.pl/en/euroregion-baltic-ongoing-projects/think-global-act-local/</a>
Participants	
Female:	124 participants
Male:	124 participants
Non-binary:	2 participants

From country 1 [GREECE]:	2 participants		
From country 2 [ITALY]:	7 participants		
From country 3 [POLAND]:	220 participants		
From country 4 [ROMANIA]:	9 participants		
From country 5 [SPAIN]	12 participants		
Total number of participants:	<b>250</b>	From total number of countries:	<b>5 countries</b>
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The event in Poland was planned under Working Package 7 (WP7) and was organized in Elbląg (PL) between 19.09.2023 and 21.09.2023</p> <p>The event was attended by a total number of 250 participants, with the following distribution from the consortium countries:</p> <p>Spain - 12 participants</p> <p>Italy - 7 participants</p> <p>Greece - 2 participants</p> <p>Poland - 220 participants</p> <p>Romania - 9 participants</p> <p>All representatives of the ActivEuCitizens: Think Global, Act Local project took part in the first project event, which was also an event to initiate partnerships and joint work. Participating countries: Poland, Italy, Romania, Greece, Spain</p> <p>Members of project consortia organizations who took part in the event: Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic, Comune di Gambassi Terme, Municipality of AAK, Mislata Municipality, National Association of Spa and Balneoclimatic Resorts in Romania</p> <p>Representatives from different sectors: politicians, local government, residents and experts and specialists.</p> <p>The event in Poland was attended by nearly 250 representatives of local and regional authorities, representatives of local government administration and representatives of local communities. This includes, among others, a large participation of teams of decision-makers and local authorities as well as leaders of civic participation from 5 countries, among which it is worth mentioning</p> <p>From Romania:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baciú Gheorghe – Mayor, Municipality of Slanic-Moldova, President of the National Association of Balneoclimatic Centers in Romania (Project Leader), Mayor of the Municipality of Slanic Moldova</li> <li>2. Vieru Valentin – Mayor of Moinesti City</li> <li>3. Munteanu Sorin – Mayor, Buzias Municipality</li> <li>4. Dragos Drumen – Expert for Financing of EU Projects</li> <li>5. Harapu Alexandru – Advisor to the Mayor Responsible for Environmental Affairs, Municipality of Slanic-Moldova</li> </ol>			

6. Botezatu Silviu – Local Counselor, Municipality of Moinesti
  7. Alexandru Catana – City Manager, Slanic-Moldova Municipality
  8. Miclos Ioan – Head of the Local Transport Service, Slanic Municipality-Moldova
  9. Ardeleanu Catalin – Local Counselor, Municipality of Moinesti
- From Italy:
1. Paolo Campinoti – Mayor of Gambasi Terme
  2. Sara Rigacci - Vice Mayor of Gambasi Terme
  3. Andrea Mezzetti – Assessor
  4. Velio Bigazzi - President of the Local Association
  5. Fabio Alberti - Local Producer
  6. Franco Simoncini - City Councilor
  7. Veronica Campinoti - Employee of the Gambasi Terme Municipal Office
- From Spain:
1. Carlos Fernández Bielsa – Mayor of Mislata
  2. María Luisa Fernández Mora – Vice President, Spokesperson and Deputy Mayor. Chairman of the Department of the President and Institutional Relations. Communication and Transparency. Finances. Equality Policy. Civic Participation and Proximity.
  3. Joaquín Moreno Porcal – Third Deputy Mayor. Head of the Human Resources Department. Public safety.
  4. Mercedes Caballero Carrasco – Fifth Deputy Mayor. Head of the Municipal Department for Planning and Urbanism.
  5. Alejandro Gómez Vendrell – Head of the Social Welfare Department. Environment and Climate Action.
  6. Alexis Barrio Ingelmo – Advisor to the Mayor
  7. Fernando Morales Checa – Head of the Communication Department
  8. Agnés Talaya Sánchez – Head of the Equality, Human Policy, Participation and Youth Department
  9. Adrià Vila Cucó – Specialist for European projects
  10. Ana Belén García Cañaveras – Technical Technician Participation
  11. Juana Isabel Muñoz Muñoz – Official for Equality
  12. Francesc Xavier Albert Talaya – Intern European projects
- From Greece:
1. Maria Lougkou - External Expert of the Aak Municipal Office
  2. Ioanna Legaki - EU Planning and Financing
- From Poland:
1. Witold Wroblewski, Mayor of Elbląg
  2. Agnieszka Staszewska, Director of the Mayor's Office, Elbląg Commune
  3. Arkadiusz Kosecki, Director of the Elbląg Technology Park
  4. Magdalena Mikula, Deputy Director of the Elbląg Technology Park
  5. Marcin Żuchowski, Director of the Secretariat of the Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Poland Euroregion Baltic (APC ERB)
  6. Director of the Elbląg Library
  7. Joanna Zielińska, Chairwoman of the Gdynia City Council
  8. Michał Kontraktowicz, Mayor of the Stawiguda Commune
  9. Monika Jabłońska, Head of the Department of Environmental Protection and Promotion of the Stawiguda Commune
  10. Robert Waraksa, Mayor of the Olsztynek Commune
  11. Bożena Olszewska-Świataj, Mayor of the Górowo Iławeckie commune
  12. Krzysztof Baran, Deputy Mayor of Górowo Iławeckie Commune
  13. Hanna Pruchniewska, Mayor of Puck
  14. Sabina Styn, Head of International Cooperation, Puck Commune
  15. Paulina Lieder-Żuchowska, Deputy Director of APC ERB
  16. Adrianna Gniado-Turkowska, project manager from APC ERB
  17. Jolanta Olszewska, specialist for contacts with municipalities from APC ERB
  18. Patrycja Herbreder, Tolkmicko City and Commune Office

19. Martyna Winnicka, head of the Exchange Room, employee of the Social Innovation Laboratory
20. Justyna Iwankowicz – deputy head of the Exchanger, employee of the Social Innovation Laboratory
21. Renata Dębska – Manager of the Marina - employee of the Social Innovation Laboratory
22. Małgorzata Śleszyńska - deputy manager of the Marina - employee of the Social Innovation Laboratory
23. Jerzy Butkiewicz, Head of the Department of the Municipal Office in Braniewo

The aim of the 6th event of the Think Global Act Local (TGAL) project, taking place on September 19-21, 2023 in Poland, was to strengthen bilateral cooperation between consortium members represented by local authorities and local government administration and residents and members of organizations from 5 EU countries (Poland, Italy, Romania, Greece, Spain) in the area of building social capital and civic participation in local communities. The event lasted three days during which over 230 participants representing various social and professional groups participated. The key element of the event was workshop and conference work dedicated to creating and developing the Strategy.

The main focus of the event organized in Poland was correlated directly with one of the main project objectives development of the Long-term Strategy for Citizens involvement and participative democracy, which will be a tool guide for the consortium partners.

The activities were implemented in 3 full days (19.09-21.09.2023), with the following main components:

- Workshops for consortia members and inspiration study visits
- Debate on the content of strategy and its elements
- Meeting with the citizens and civil society organizations
- Tripartite meeting in the form of a round-table, with representatives of the municipalities
- Drafting the Strategy

Each of the three days of the event began with workshop work based on the cooperation of consortium members, which was then consulted with representatives of the administration and the local community in Poland as an evaluation and review group for individual elements of the strategy outline.

The following strategy produced under the CERV: Think Global Act Local [TGAL] project will be disseminated by the members of the consortium, who are committed to recommending it primarily to the organizers of participatory processes (i.e. - most often - civil servants), as it has been recognized from their experience and after consultation with citizens that they need support, being mainly the formal initiators of such activities.

In the following document, practitioners will find guidance on how to prepare for, run and cope with the challenges of participatory processes, mainly focusing on public consultations. In addition to theory, there is also room for practice. This publication should primarily serve beginners in local government, but many threads will also be useful to advanced organizers of participatory processes.

The CERV: Think Global Act Local [TGAL] project and proposed strategy is based on the experiences of participants representing various social groups, authorities and citizens of practice, wants to increase among the project beneficiaries and future recipients, on the one hand, theoretical knowledge about the principles, methods, and techniques of increasing and building civic involvement and civic participation, and on the other hand, to promote the best local practices, which can then be transferred to other local communities after the project end.

Civic engagement and participatory democracy are essential components of a healthy and thriving society. They empower citizens to actively participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities. This strategy proposal aims to outline a long-term plan for promoting civic engagement and participatory democracy, fostering informed and active citizenship, and strengthening the democratic foundations of our society.

Each partner was obliged to add its part to the strategy and is committed to using the indicated tools to strengthen participatory approaches for the next 2 years after the completion of the TGAL project.

During the event, 4 main components of the strategy were established and consulted with workshop members and citizens:

Part A - theoretical introduction and introduction to the topic of civic participation and identification of the way of perceiving and defining participatory processes

Part B - Description and evaluation of the most frequently used participatory techniques with an indication of good local practices

PART C - Descriptions of best local practices, indicating unique elements characteristic of a given region/country in the field of civic participation

PART D - Description of the strategy and its components as guidelines for local partners

All these elements will be preceded by both introductions and general conclusions

The following structure of the document was adopted - which, on the one hand, is intended to provide tools for strategy implementation, accumulation of experience and best practices, and to enable the implementation of the strategy

#### PART 1 - INTRODUCTION TO UNDERSTANDING CIVIL PARTICIPATION

1. Introduction
2. The ABC of the civic participation
3. 7 Principles of public and civic consultations
4. Actors of participatory processes
5. Topics of participatory processes
6. Barriers and difficulties of social consultation

#### PART 2 - PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION TECHNIQUES

1. Survey (paper or online)
2. Evaluation/scratch coupon
3. Research walk
4. Animation methods
5. Working group
6. Open meeting
7. Consultation point
8. World Cafe
9. Future workshops

#### PART 3 - THE BEST LOCAL EXPERIENCES AND PRACTICES

1. POLAND
2. ROMANIA
3. GREECE
4. SPAIN
5. ITALY

#### PART 4 - THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL PARTNER CIVIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGY FRAMES

1. Vision Statement
2. Goals and Objectives
3. Implementation Plan
4. Timeline

5. Budget
6. Stakeholder Engagement
7. Conclusions

#### GENERAL STRATEGY CONCLUSIONS

The sixth event of the TGAL project in Poland, in addition to workshop elements and dialogue with citizens, included several activities aimed at sharing experience and good practices in the form of inspiring study visits taking place in two Polish regions of Warmia and Mazury and Pomerania (member local governments of the Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Poland Euroregion Baltic), and more specifically in 6 towns (including Elbląg, Górowo Iławeckie, Stawiguda, Olsztynek and Puck, Gdynia).

These visits were divided into specific thematic blocks:

- City of Elbląg – corporate social responsibility and cooperation between entrepreneurs and authorities. During the visit, participants had the opportunity to meet with local authorities and representatives of creative entrepreneurship. During the event, participants were presented with experiences and examples of successful cooperation between the authorities and local entrepreneurship and non-governmental organizations, as well as methods of including various groups in the development of the local community through joint participation and participation in decision-making processes important for residents. Visitors visited, among others, the Elbląg Technology Park, the Elbląg Library, and local entrepreneurs from the Private Educational Facility "Elbląska Grupa Wodna".

- Górowo Iławeckie Commune – work with excluded groups and national minorities, including migrants, and their protection and support in rural communities. During the visits, the focus was on tools for building multicultural societies and long-term integration through participation in and activation of communities based on bottom-up and top-down initiatives (local administration level).

Visited, among others: visiting the newly opened SPA complex and showing the development plans of the initiative resulting from the needs of the local community, Provincial Rehabilitation Hospital in Górowo Iławeckie, School Complex with the Ukrainian Language of Instruction in Górowo Iławeckie and consultations with young people

- Stawiguda commune - intergenerational inclusion and educational work with the youngest to build bonds between rapidly developing local communities. It shows the ways in which the authorities work and create investments that serve residents and help shape pro-European attitudes and involve various social groups in activities that create local identity.

Visited, among others: Kindergarten in Bartag - Little European and meeting with employees, children and parents,

- Olsztynek Commune – use of local cultural resources as an element of building the common cultural heritage of the region and an activation bridge for residents and tourists connecting the development activities of the commune. During the visit, the focus was on experiences and methods of jointly creating a local offer and promoting cultural and artistic heritage as well as the development of tourism and recreation based on available local government and social resources;

Visited, among others: Museum of Folk Architecture - Ethnographic Park in Olsztynek, A meeting was held at the Municipal Office with the Youth Council of the City of Olsztynek

- The city of Puck - activation of residents and building a local community based on historical and cultural resources and the identity of residents using the existing customs and traditions of the national-ethnic minority of Kashubians. Differences in traditions, customs, language as well as methods of supporting and promoting the region based on joint activities of residents and authorities based on regional differences were presented. It also



shows methods of protecting and promoting local cultural heritage and actions to maintain it in the long term.

Visited, among others: Puck City Hall and meeting with local culture animators were held, Museum of the Puck Region - a meeting with Kashubian embroidery, traditions, and a snuff maker, A visit to the fishing port and the Puck marina

- City of Gdynia – work with young people and excluded people in a large urban community. As part of the visit, participants had the opportunity to learn not only about places of social activation, the principles of their operation, and ways of shaping the offer as a real space for the activities of young and excluded people but also about dedicated urban structures (local government administration) designated to support, implement and co-create inclusive societies.

Visited, among others: Exchanger - Youth Center for Social Innovation and Design, a meeting place for people aged 13-35, located in the building of the former heat exchanger at ul. Kartuska 20B. In 2012, the building was donated to the youth, then renovated and put into use in 2014. Exchanger is a place for young people, shaped "by young people and for young people". It is a place to develop passions and develop individual and local resources. It is a space where you can spend time freely, meet interesting people, take part in classes, and exchange passions, experiences, and ideas. But also do nothing - and that's ok too! Most of the classes are conducted by people who took the initiative on their own, created groups, and have been operating for several years, still developing their passions.

Each of the blocks and study visits ended with a dialogue with residents and workshop participants on the elements of increasing civic participation included in the strategy being created as a practical tool aimed at increasing the active participation of citizens in the life of local communities and co-creating the tool that will be the strategy, with particular emphasis on strengthening cooperation and intergenerational integration for its practical dimension for both users (local administration, politicians) and beneficiaries (residents).

The above goal can be achieved by collecting the best experience and a number of tools and activities, including:

- a) encouraging the building of bonds and establishing cooperation/integration between various groups: including social, age, and professional;
- b) making things easier for residents in their place of residence, encouraging residents of local communities to act for the benefit of the community, supporting social and/or Polish-Ukrainian solidarity;
- c) encouraging initiative and local leadership;
- d) combating stereotypes about young and older people and improving mutual understanding and trust;
- e) tackling social issues between generations and contributing to lifelong learning;
- f) supporting local heritage.

The expertise and experiences presented during the workshops and the proposed initiatives constituting elements of the strategy are intended to respond to identified local challenges, needs and/or local problems by presenting the best participatory methods.

The information about the event in Poland Elbląg and the Event Description Sheet are uploaded on the project website: <https://activeeucitizens.eu/>

Press releases related to the event:

Gdynia Municipality:

<https://www.gdynia.pl/mieszkaniec/co-nowego.2774/brawo-gdynia-uczestnicy-europejskiego-projektu-zachwyceni-naszymi-innowacjami.576481>



EU Grants: Event description sheet (CERV): V1.0 – 01.04.2022

Puck Municipality:

<https://miastopuck.pl/aktualnosci/cc330a6c5a3ed8c61eb36a8a49ff7980.html>

APC ERB:

<https://eurobalt.org.pl/en/tgal-first-day-of-study-visit-in-poland/>

<https://eurobalt.org.pl/en/the-second-day-of-the-think-global-act-local-visit/>

<https://eurobalt.org.pl/ostatni-dzien-wizyty-studyjnej-tgal/>

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*09.10.2023*

#### HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	10.10.2023	Initial version (new MFF).