

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Forwarding Democratic EU Participation — FORCEP
Participant:	ASOCIATIA ASEL RO (ASEL RO)
PIC number:	897346807

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	3
Event name:	Study Visit 2 - Unemployed Active citizenship in the European Decision making
Type:	Study Visit
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Bucharest, Romania
Date(s):	25/01/2024 – 27/01/2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.forcep.eu/newsfeed
Participants	
Female:	12
Male:	13
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Greece]:	8
From country 2 [Slovenia]:	8
From country 3 [Romania]:	5
From country 4 [Hungary]:	4
Total number of participants:	25
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>On January 26, 2024, the Study Visit titled "Unemployed Active Citizenship in the European Decision Making" unfolded at the Hotel Continental Forum București in Bucharest, Romania, marking a pivotal moment in the FORCEP project's journey towards fostering civic engagement and participation. The day commenced with participants gathering for registrations, eagerly anticipating the enriching discussions and collaborative endeavors that lay ahead.</p> <p>Following the registrations, participants were greeted with warmth and enthusiasm as Project Leaders extended their welcome speeches, setting the stage for an insightful exploration into the challenges of</p>	

unemployment within the European Union. Short presentations from the participating organizations further enriched the introductory segment, offering diverse perspectives and insights into the project's overarching goals and objectives. By examining case studies from Romania, Hungary, and Slovenia, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of unemployment and its impact on societal participation in decision-making processes.

The morning session delved deep into the essence of the FORCEP project and its pivotal role in understanding unemployment challenges across the EU. Case studies from Romania, Hungary, and Slovenia provided valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of unemployment, setting the tone for a robust exchange of ideas and experiences among participants. By examining successful programs and identifying key elements contributing to their efficacy, participants were equipped with practical knowledge and tools that could be adapted and implemented in their respective regions.

As the morning progressed, a compelling speech titled "Connecting Local Authorities for Effective Engagement" captivated attendees, laying the groundwork for a stimulating panel discussion featuring representatives from local authorities and organizations. The panel explored strategies for fostering meaningful engagement between local authorities and unemployed citizens, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing societal challenges.

Following a brief coffee break, participants immersed themselves in a dynamic workshop focused on "Designing Local Events to Promote Active Citizenship." Breakout sessions enabled participants from each country to brainstorm and plan local events tailored to encourage unemployed citizens' active participation in decision-making processes. Emphasis was placed on creating inclusive and engaging events that empower marginalized communities to voice their concerns and aspirations. The exchange of examples and experiences underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing societal challenges and promoting inclusive decision-making processes.

After a nourishing lunch break, participants reconvened for a speech titled "Strategies for Developing Active Citizenship," delivered by a local representative and policy expert. Insights into innovative strategies to encourage unemployed citizens' active engagement in the European decision-making process sparked lively discussions and inspired participants to explore new avenues for citizen empowerment.

The afternoon session continued with an analysis of good practices across the EU, as breakout sessions facilitated knowledge sharing and critical analysis of successful programs. Participants identified key elements contributing to successful citizen involvement, paving the way for informed decision-making and effective implementation of future initiatives.

As the day drew to a close, a poignant speech titled "Case Studies of Collaborative Efforts between Citizens' Groups and Local Authorities" highlighted successful local government initiatives promoting citizen engagement in Romania. Reflective sessions provided participants with an opportunity to ponder the day's discussions and insights, fostering a sense of collective growth and learning.

The evening concluded with a delightful dinner, offering participants a taste of Romanian dishes while fostering informal networking opportunities and camaraderie among attendees. As participants bid farewell to an enriching day filled with learning and collaboration, they carried with them a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to advancing active citizenship within their communities and beyond. By synthesizing insights from diverse perspectives and experiences, participants contributed to the development of actionable recommendations and strategies for promoting unemployed involvement in the European decision-making process. Thus, the event served as a catalyst for informed action and collaboration towards fostering a more inclusive and participatory European Union.

The agenda for the "Study Visit titled "Unemployed Active Citizenship in the European Decision Making" is presented below:

Date: January 25 -27, 2024

Venue: Hotel Continental Forum București, Strada Izvor 82-84, RO-050564, Bucharest, Romania

Time Slot / Session

Day 1 - January, 25

Participants Arrival

20.00 Welcoming Dinner

Day 2 - January, 26

10:00 – 10:30 Registrations

10:30 – 11:00 Greeting from Project Leaders and short presentations of the participating organizations.

Welcome Speeches

11:00 – 11:30 The FORCEP Project and its role in Understanding Unemployment Challenges in the EU.

Case studies from Romania, Hungary, and Slovenia

11:30 – 12:30 Speech: "Connecting Local Authorities for Effective Engagement."

Panel discussion with representatives from local authorities and organizations.

12:30 – 13:00 Coffee Break

13:00 – 14:00 Workshop: "Designing Local Events to Promote Active Citizenship."

Breakout sessions for each country to brainstorm and plan local events. Emphasis on creating events that encourage unemployed citizens to actively participate in decision-making.

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

15:00 – 15:30 Speech: "Strategies for Developing Active Citizenship." Speech by a Local Representative/Policy Expert on strategies to encourage unemployed citizens' active engagement in the European decision-making process.

Showcasing innovative initiatives from different EU countries.

15:30 – 16:30 Analysis of Good Practices Across the EU. Breakout sessions by country, focusing on sharing and analyzing successful programs.

Identification of key elements contributing to successful citizen involvement.

16:30 – 17:00 Speech: "Case studies of collaborative efforts between citizens' groups and local authorities for building effective partnerships with local authorities."

Speech delivered by a representative from a successful local government initiative promoting citizen engagement in Romania.

17:00 – 17:30 Reflection Time. Reflection of the day.

19:30 Dinner. Let's taste some Romanian dishes.

Day 3 - January, 27

Participants Departure

Initially, according to the application form and project planning, the WP3 - Study Visit 2 - Unemployed Active Citizenship in the European Decision Making was scheduled to take place before WP4 - Study Visit 3 - Raise Your Voice: Unemployment in the Centre of Europe. However, after careful consideration and discussion with the project consortium, it was decided to rearrange the sequence of events. The decision to prioritize WP4 in Siatista, Greece, from November 13 to 15, 2023, before WP3 in Bucharest, Romania, from January 25 to 27, 2024, was based on several factors. One of the key reasons was the

pre-existing travel plans of some participants, which would have conflicted with the original scheduling. By conducting WP4 first, it ensured the participation of all relevant stakeholders and maximized the engagement and effectiveness of the event.

Additionally, the project consortium evaluated various logistical considerations, including venue availability, resource allocation, and local partnerships. It was determined that hosting WP4 in Siatista, Greece, before WP3 in Romania, would better align with these logistical factors and facilitate smoother event execution. Taking all the above into account, by reordering the sequence of events, the project aimed to optimize the overall project timeline and ensure the timely achievement of project objectives. This strategic adjustment allowed for a more cohesive and efficient implementation strategy, ultimately enhancing the project's impact and outcomes.

Dissemination and Publication's Links on the organizations/municipalities' websites:

<https://fifty-fifty.gr/forcep/>

<https://asel.ro/forcep/>

<http://www.nevlnadnik.info/si/novice/?id=18855>

https://www.comune.penne.pe.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1207

<https://kalnik.hr/forcep-studijski-posjet-pod-nazivom-aktivno-gradanstvo-nezaposlenih-u-europskom-odlucivanju-rumunjska/>

https://www.comune.penne.pe.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1207

<https://westpannon.hu/news/288-forcep-meeting-in-bucharest>

<https://crea360.es/proyectos/proyectos-fondos-europeos/>

https://www.comune.penne.pe.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1204

Dissemination and Publication's Links on Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=887052973456437&set=a.623775123117558>

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=780732107546887&set=pb.100068303142528.-2207520000&type=3&locale=el_GR

D3.2 Good Practices e-Book is available at : <https://www.forcep.eu/thematic-events>.

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