

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Forwarding Democratic EU Participation — FORCEP
Participant:	Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute (Fifty-Fifty)
PIC number:	928680717

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	Study Visit 3 - Raise your voice!!: Unemployment in the centre of Europe
Type:	Study Visit
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Siatista, Greece
Date(s):	13/11/2023 – 15/11/2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.forcep.eu/newsfeed
Participants	
Female:	12
Male:	11
Non-binary:	2
From country 1 [Greece]:	14
From country 2 [Romania]:	2
From country 3 [Italy]:	2
From country 4 [Croatia]:	7
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>The Study Visit 3 - "Raise your voice: Unemployment in the centre of Europe" took place from November 13 to November 15, 2023, spanning across Thessaloniki and Siatista, Greece. The event aimed to delve into the pressing issue of unemployment and its significance in shaping the European agenda and policy, while also exploring the potential of e-Democracy to empower democratic participation. Here's an analytical description of what transpired during the event:</p> <p>On the first day in Thessaloniki, the event commenced with registration at 15:00, followed by welcoming greetings and an introductory speech by Mr. Ioannis Vanidis, President of the Social Innovation and</p>	

Cohesion Institute. The agenda and objectives were then presented, focusing on empowering the idea of democratic participation and analyzing the role of European unemployment in policy.

The event proceeded with a series of speeches aimed at providing insights into various aspects of the topic. Ms. Dimitra Fantidou, a Political Scientist and EU Project Manager, delivered a speech on utilizing e-Democracy to focus on labour markets' life in European communities. This was followed by Ms. Alkistis Margka's speech, emphasizing the significance of labour civic life reconstruction and its role in the European agenda and policy. By examining case studies and sharing best practices from partner cities, attendees gained a comprehensive understanding of the broader European context regarding unemployment policies and initiatives.

After a coffee break, Mr. Eleftherios Karaleftheris, a Political Scientist and EU Project Manager, discussed the role and power of e-Democracy for democratic participation, making political processes more accessible to all citizens, including those facing unemployment. Mrs. Iordana Kourougeorgaki, an Expert on Urban Planning and Regional Development, concluded the speeches by shedding light on unemployment's role in shaping EU regional policies.

The day concluded with a workshop where participants shared best practices and case studies from each partner city on inclusive policymaking for addressing unemployment challenges. This collaborative session aimed to identify actionable strategies and solutions to tackle unemployment effectively. Workshops and round table discussions explored strategies for building resilient communities and empowering active citizenship amidst these challenges. By connecting with local authorities and sharing insights on relevant initiatives, participants contributed to the development of practical solutions for addressing COVID-19's impact on unemployment and promoting inclusive e-Democracy practices.

The event continued on the second day in Siatista, where participants arrived to visit the host city. A traditional lunch provided an opportunity for networking and cultural exchange. The day's agenda included round table discussions on "Digital Tools for Democratic Engagement" and "Strategies for building resilient communities and empowering active citizenship in the face of unemployment challenges." These discussions generated ideas and action plans, fostering collaboration and innovation.

In the evening, a cultural evening and dinner further facilitated networking and cultural exchange among participants.

On the third and final day, participants engaged in a study visit to the Municipality of Voio and decision-making departments of Western Macedonia, sharing insights and experiences related to tackling unemployment. An open discussion with local policymakers and interaction on local initiatives and policies related to remote working concluded the event.

The closing ceremony and participants' departure marked the conclusion of the Study Visit, providing an opportunity to reflect on the insights gained and the collaborative efforts undertaken to address unemployment challenges in Europe.

The agenda of the "Study Visit 3 - Raise your voice: Unemployment in the centre of Europe" is presented below:

Date: 13/11/2023 to 15/11/2023

Time Slot / Session

Day 1 – Thessaloniki, Greece:

15:00 – 15:30: Registration

15:30 – 15:45: Welcome Greetings and Introductory Speech by Mr. Ioannis Vanidis, President of the Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute

15:45 – 16:15: Presentation of the Agenda and Introduction to the Objectives of Empowerment of the Idea of Democratic Participation and the Role of European Unemployment in the European Agenda and Policy

16:15 – 17:00: Speech: Focusing Labour Markets' Life on European Communities Using e-Democracy by Ms. Dimitra Fantidou, Political Scientist – Policy Analyst and EU Project Manager, PhD Candidate (AUTh) / Board Member of the Labour Maker Center of Thessaloniki

17:00 – 17:30: Speech: The Significance of Labour Civic Life Reconstruction and Its Role in the European Agenda and Policy by Ms. Alkistis Margka, Labour Policy Advisor and Expert

17:30 – 18:00: Coffee Break

18:00 – 18:30: Speech: The Role and the Power of E-Democracy for Democratic Participation by Mr. Eleftherios Karaleftheris

18:30 – 19:00: Speech: Unemployment's Role in Shaping EU Regional Policies by Mrs. Iordana Kourougeorgaki

19:00 – 19:30: Workshop: Sharing Best Practices and Case Studies from Each Partner City on Inclusive Policy Making for Addressing Unemployment Challenges

20:00: Welcome Dinner

Day 2 – Siatista, Greece:

11:00: Participants Arrive in Siatista to Visit the Host City

13:30 – 14:30: Traditional Lunch

14:30 – 15:30: Round Table – Part 1: "Digital Tools for Democratic Engagement"

15:30 – 16:30: Round Table – Part 2: "Strategies for Building Resilient Communities and Empowering Active Citizenship in the Face of Unemployment Challenges"

16:30 – 17:30: Round Tables' Reflections: Presentations of Ideas and Action Plans Generated During the Round Table Discussions; Group Brainstorming and Feedback on Action Plans

20:00: Cultural Evening and Dinner

Day 3 – Siatista, Greece:

10:00 – 12:00: Study Visit to the Municipality of Voio & Decision-Making Departments of Western Macedonia for Sharing Insights and Experiences

12:00 – 12:30: Open Discussion: Local Policymakers on Social Active Citizenship and Tackling Unemployment Using E-Democracy's Essentials

12:30 – 13:00: Interaction: Local Initiatives and Policies Related to Remote Working, Under the Lines of the Idea of E-Democracy

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch

13:00 – 14:00: Closing Ceremony and 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.nevladnik.info/si/novice/?id=18854>

<https://kalnik.hr/3-studijski-posjet-raise-your-voice-unemployment-in-the-center-of-europe-odrzan-diljem-soluna-i-siatiste-grcka/>

https://www.comune.penne.pe.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1208

<https://westpannon.hu/news/289-forcep-meeting-in-siatista%20%0d5>

<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=887055543456180&set=a.623775123117558>

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=780736920879739&set=pb.100068303142528.-2207520000&type=3&locale=el_GR

D4.2 Report about EU policies on facing unemployment and COVID19 effects 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).