

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	
Project name and acronym:	When a space becomes a place - Network for Citizens' participation in preserving and valorising EU fundamental rights through participatory public art - Art4Rights
Participant:	Imola Municipality
PIC number:	932668484

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	SEMINAR ON LOCAL ART PROJECTS WITH FOCUS ON PARTICIPATIVE PROCESS OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS
Type:	Seminar with presentation of the process to create a local art project with the involvement of citizens and stakeholders through the participatory public art method.
In situ/online:	<i>On line</i>
Location:	
Date(s):	7 December 2023
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	77
Male:	56
Non-binary:	2
From country 1 - Germany:	2 participants
From country 2 - Italy:	76 participants
From country 3 - Latvia:	22 participants
From country 4 – Sweden:	4 participants
From country 5 - Finland	11 participants
From country 6 – Portugal:	7 participants

From country 7 - Ireland	1 participants		
From country 8 – Croatia:	12 participants		
Total number of participants:	135	From total number of countries:	8
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The seminar of the event 4 of the project have had the main objective to present to all partners representatives and their stakeholders the local activities planned and implemented in the Linköping municipality (Sweden), in Daugavpils municipality (Latvia), at the Rural Hub association (Ireland) and in Kreis Kassel (Germany).</p> <p>The focus of the meeting was on how the participative process linked to the local art project product characterised the activities with stakeholders and how the symbols representing the European rights have been shown.</p> <p>1. Presentations on giving a common background</p> <p>In order to give to all participants a common starting point, the project Art4rights has been presented above all as far as concerned its objectives, the relations between the transnational level and the local one and the impact on local stakeholders. Moreover, a short introduction on the different experiences of participatory public art has been presented in order to give the theory framework in which the local activities have been realised.</p> <p>2. Seminar presenting the Linköping experience</p> <p>The activities in Linköping , as part of the EU-funded Art4rights project, aimed to showcase the driving role of art in fostering democratic dialogue and enhancing citizen engagement. The project activity used historical and contemporary photography to connect the community and stimulate a deliberative dialogue about the city's development and cultural heritage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local initiatives and collaborations <p>The Art4rights project in Linköping was characterised by significant collaborations with local cultural institutions and experts, enhancing its impact. Partnerships with Östergötlandsmuseum and initiatives like Ung Konst Öst were function to this objectives. These collaborations ensured a rich blend of historical insights and contemporary perspectives, vital for understanding the socio-cultural dynamics of Linköping.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Museum collaborations <p>Gunnar Elfström, a renowned Swedish ethnologist, provided lectures on the historical evolution of Linköping, particularly from 1870 to 1970. These discussions were pivotal in understanding how historical milestones influenced modern cultural and urban landscapes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contemporary engagement <p>City Architect Erik Adolfsson discussed future urban development plans, addressing the challenges posed by population growth and housing shortages. His insights were crucial for stakeholders to understand the implications of urban planning decisions on cultural heritage and community spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliberative dialogues and participative processes <p>A core element of the local activities was the emphasis on deliberative dialogues, characterized by inclusivity, openness, and reciprocity. These dialogues were structured around Hajer & Versteeg's criteria, ensuring that every conversation allowed for responsible participation and coherent communication. The Linköping seminar successfully demonstrated the power of art as a medium for community dialogue and engagement. The participative process not only enriched the local cultural discourse but also aligned with the broader EU values of democracy, participation, and respect for diversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth engagement <p>The engagement with young people, particularly through the Ung Konst Öst initiative, highlighted the active participation of younger demographics. Workshops facilitated discussions on the role of photography in cultural storytelling, allowing youth to explore and critique the ways their city's history and present are documented and perceived.</p>			

- Outcomes and impact

The seminar highlighted the cultural and historical aspects of Linköping and a platform for community learning and engagement. The deliberative approach adopted in the discussions and exhibitions played a crucial role in:

By involving citizens in discussions about their city's past and future, the project reinforced democratic values and encouraged civic engagement in a European perspective. Additionally, through exhibitions and lectures, participants gained a deeper understanding of their cultural heritage, which is essential for fostering community pride and identity.

Moving forward, these initiatives are set to shape a more inclusive and culturally aware urban development strategy in Linköping as the insights gained from the discussions are expected to influence future cultural and urban development projects in Linköping, ensuring that growth is balanced with cultural preservation.

Transnational participants in the on line meeting had the opportunity to discuss about the criteria that was at the basis of the Linköping experience, that is to say: the conversation among citizens has to be inclusive and open, that participants are responsible, that there is reciprocity and what is said is coherent and understandable. These criteria were linked to the rights expressed in the Charter of European rights promoting democratic values and principles.

3. Seminar presenting the Daugavpils experience

In the context of the Art4rights project, the Daugavpils local activities showcased an innovative public art installation that transformed a neglected area of the city into a vibrant public space, embodying the spirit of community and European values. Jolanta Reca-Laze, representing Daugavpils Municipality, highlighted the project's success in fostering civic engagement and revitalizing urban spaces.

Key elements of the implementation of the local activities

- **Art installation**

The central feature of the initiative was the installation of large letters forming the word "Daugavpils" in a previously underutilized area. This artistic intervention served as a catalyst for community interaction and engagement, inviting citizens to inscribe their thoughts on the letters, focusing on the theme of European citizenship and rights.

- **Civic participation**

The installation encouraged residents to actively participate in the reimagining and revitalization of their city space. Citizens were invited to contribute their perspectives by writing on the letters, thus making the art piece a living testament to the community's thoughts and aspirations regarding their identity as Europeans.

- **Safety and aesthetics improvement**

The project had a broader impact on the area, prompting other municipal departments to enhance the locale's safety and aesthetic appeal. These improvements made the area more inviting, further encouraging public use and engagement.

Outcomes and Impact

The project not only transformed a physical space but also fostered a sense of ownership and pride among the citizens. The area transitioned from being just a space to a 'true city place'—a hub of community life and interaction.

To further increase citizen participation, the municipality organized a photo competition. Residents were encouraged to take photographs with the installation and share them on social media using the hashtag #Art4RightsDaugavpils. This digital engagement strategy amplified the project's reach and engaged a broader audience in discussions about EU values and rights.

The most active participants in the photo competition were recognized and awarded by the Daugavpils Municipality, which not only celebrated their contributions but also motivated continued engagement with the project and its themes.

More information on the participatory experience in Daugavpils can be found on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_cxH-8aLOE

4. Art project by Kreis Kassel

Patrizia Ruffini, representative of Kreis Kassel, introduced an art project intended to invite people to think about values of the EU through a series of participatory events held in public spaces. Indeed, participants designed and hung on trees in public spaces, wooden stars with their thoughts about EU values and rights. The importance of the symbol of the tree in the middle of the town was in the importance it had in identifying the most important public space: through the action of citizens, the tree was transformed into an art gallery of collected thoughts and idea on the EU becoming a symbol of togetherness. Four villages in Kreis Kassel have been chosen because they represented symbols of integration and inclusion of vulnerable groups such as migrants and refugees.

Citizens were asked to discuss and exchange their ideas on “what do the values of freedom, equality and solidarity mean” increasing at the same time their knowledge of the Charter of European rights. Collaboration among citizens and different local stakeholders represented a way to let people meet, get in contact, communicate and exchange their thoughts and increase their sense of ownership towards the EU.

During the on line meeting, participants discussed about the importance of symbols, such as trees or the representation of the Irish legends, in promoting to a wider public European values and rights.

- Implemented activities

In Kreis Kassel, the Art4Rights initiative engaged the community through a creative participatory art project where citizens expressed their thoughts on European values via wooden stars hung on trees in public spaces. This transformed the trees into living galleries of communal thoughts and sentiments, reinforcing the symbolism of trees as historic meeting places.

Impact:

- Participatory events: From July to September 2023, several villages hosted events where community members gathered to craft and display wooden stars. Each event featured a pop-up café, enhancing the communal atmosphere.
- Engagement outcomes: The activities led to increased community interaction and awareness of EU values such as freedom, equality, and solidarity. The chosen public spaces, particularly central village trees, regained their historical role as communal hubs, fostering a renewed sense of local identity and participation.
- Stakeholder collaboration: The project saw active collaboration from local museums, cultural associations, educational institutions, and civil movements, which enriched the dialogue and increased the project's reach.

5. Experience at the Rural Hub, Ireland

The Rural Hub in Ireland implemented an innovative art project at a former military barracks turned educational campus. This project utilized symbols from Irish mythology integrated with themes from the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, depicted in a unique stained-glass drumkit installation.

- Implementation

Artistic representation

The art piece incorporated symbols representing freedom, dignity, equality, solidarity, and justice through stories like the Children of Lir and Cú Chulainn. This blend of folklore and rights discourse aimed to deepen the understanding of European values through familiar cultural narratives.

Public engagement

The installation was designed to be interactive, with lights activated by playing the drumkit, making it accessible and engaging for people of all abilities. This approach facilitated discussions about European identity among visitors.

Exhibition and Legacy

Public exhibition: Planned to coincide with St. Patrick's Day, the exhibition aims to attract broad public participation and extend the dialogue about European values. The project highlights the intersection of culture, history, and civic education.

Permanent installation

The long-term goal is for the drumkit to reside in the UN Veteran Museum in Cavan, symbolically linking the site's military past with its educational and cultural present.

Overall Impact

Participants in the on line seminar acquired a strong knowledge on the importance to communicate in a coherent but simple way topics concerning the EU. As happens, with the promotion among citizens of the Charter of European rights, it is essential that citizens can increase their interest towards cities' art and historical buildings as symbols to create sustainable and inclusive meeting places. In particular, participants reached the results of a reinforced mutual understanding of the EU and its policies connected to all citizens' rights, of an improved participation in the community life through "doing things together" and of an increased sense of ownership towards both the European level and the local level.

6. Results

Participants in this seminar had the opportunity to identify examples and strategy to involve citizens in the local activities in order to promote European values and at the same time to compare the participatory activities organized in their countries to evaluate the coherence and effectiveness.

Particular attention was paid to the:

- Increased knowledge on criteria of deliberative dialogue
- Improved understanding of cooperation strategies between the transnational and local levels of the project
- Increased participation of citizens in the promotion of European values and rights increasing their sense of ownership towards the EU.

Linköping and Daugavpils municipalities, Kreis Kassel and the Rural Hub presentations are uploaded on the project website www.art4rights.eu.





HISTORY OF CHANGES

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