

## 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	
Participant:	Ayuntamiento de Alzira
PIC number:	101147142
Project name and acronym:	"Next Step to Europe – Boosting active citizenship among youth in small cities" (NEXT)

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	2		
Event name:	VISIT TO ALZIRA, SPAIN		
Type:	Mobility		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Alzira, Spain		
Date(s):	24th to 28th of February		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="#">Next Step to Europe - Alzira On Europe</a>		
Participants			
Female:	64		
Male:	47		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Poland]:	2		
From country 2 [Greece]:	2		
From country 3 [Spain]:	105		
From country 4 [Italy]:	2		
Total number of participants:	111	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The mobility in Alzira, part of the NEXT STEP to Europe project, took place from February 24-28, 2025. The first day began with a warm welcome at the Town Hall, where participants were greeted by Councilor Gemma Alós. This introduction provided an opportunity to learn more about the city of Alzira and its strong</p>			

commitment to youth engagement. Following the welcome, Adrian Navalón presented IDEA, a local initiative aimed at empowering young people and fostering community development.

The morning continued with a visit of Mayte Vives of the Youth Information Center of Alzira, where she gave an insightful presentation on the center's role in supporting young people. She highlighted the resources available for youth to become active participants in their communities. A key highlight of the day was a workshop on European values, where participants had the chance to reflect on the principles that unite the European Union. Engaging discussions deepened their understanding of European citizenship and its significance.

Lunch at the Cooking School of Alzira offered a moment of relaxation and allowed participants to experience the region's rich culinary culture. The day concluded with a visit to the Monastery of La Murta, where participants immersed themselves in nature, reflecting on the beauty of the surrounding landscapes and the day's enriching activities.

On February 26, the group engaged in a series of Oxford-style debates at La Murta High School. The debates covered important topics, such as the influence of multinational corporations within the EU and the concept of European citizenship. Local students from La Murta joined the discussions, creating a dynamic environment for the exchange of viewpoints and perspectives. These debates were an excellent opportunity for participants to engage critically with pressing European issues.

In the afternoon, the group gathered at the IDEA building for a session of reflection, where participants shared their takeaways from the debates. This provided a chance to consolidate their learning and deepen their understanding of the topics discussed. The session emphasized the importance of dialogue and collaboration among young people from across Europe.

The third day, February 27, was dedicated to exploring the history, culture, and institutions of Valencia. The day began with a walk through the historic center of Valencia, where participants admired iconic monuments and gained a deeper appreciation for the city's cultural roots. They then visited Les Corts Valencianes, the Valencian Parliament, where they learned about the decision-making processes that shape the region's political landscape. This visit also highlighted the connections between local, national, and European governance, reinforcing the importance of active citizenship.

To end the day on a special note, the group enjoyed an unforgettable Valencian paella experience in the national park of La Albufera. Dining on a floating boat in the heart of La Albufera provided a unique cultural experience and a chance for participants to connect with each other while enjoying one of Spain's most famous dishes.

The program concluded on February 28, leaving participants with a strengthened sense of European identity and a deeper understanding of the values that unite the continent. The mobility not only provided educational and cultural experiences but also fostered meaningful connections between young people from different

European countries. As a key follow-up activity, the youth from Alzira began preparing a campaign focused on promoting EU values, titled the “Catalog of Possibilities.” This campaign, designed and led by young people themselves, is intended to raise awareness among their peers about the opportunities offered by the European Union and the core principles it stands for. The campaign will be carried out in spaces accessible to young people, such as schools, youth centers, or public areas across the city. The flexibility of the format allows young participants to decide how best to engage their local community and ensure the message resonates with their peers.

In parallel, the young people involved in the mobility engaged in discussions and reflection sessions aimed at identifying the barriers in active youth participation in civic and European affairs. They recognized several challenges, including a lack of youth-friendly communication from institutions, limited access to reliable information about EU opportunities, and the need for more inclusive and participatory local initiatives. Based on their experiences and insights, the participants collaboratively formulated a series of recommendations and potential solutions to these issues. These proposals include improving outreach and education about EU programs at schools, creating regular dialogue platforms between youth and local decision-makers, and supporting youth-led initiatives through local funding and mentoring structures. As a result, the group committed to present their conclusions and recommendations to local political authorities and institutions in Alzira. This process not only empowers the youth involved but also encourages local governance structures to consider youth voices in policy development and implementation. By taking this step, the “Next Step to Europe” mobility in Alzira becomes not only an educational journey but also a meaningful act of civic participation and advocacy.

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