

## 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:	Stowarzyszenie Rozprawy o Europie
PIC number:	906017637
Project name and acronym:	"Next Step to Europe – Boosting active citizenship among youth in small cities" (NEXT)

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	"NEXT STEP TO EUROPE: DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION" EVENT IN POLAND		
Type:	Mobility		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Starachowice, Kielce, Poland		
Date(s):	23th-27th September 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://rozprawyoeuropie.eu/en/projects/next-step-to-europe/">https://rozprawyoeuropie.eu/en/projects/next-step-to-europe/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	78		
Male:	45		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Poland]:	111		
From country 2 [Greece]:	4		
From country 3 [Spain]:	4		
From country 4 [Italy]:	4		
Total number of participants:	123	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The first "Next Step to Europe" event was held in Poland in Starachowice and Kielce from 23th to 27th of September 2024.			

The first day of activities began with a group meeting and integration. This was followed by the "European Citizenship" workshop. The international participants, together with Polish young people, had the opportunity to reflect on their sense of European citizenship. We talked about values, their belonging. With the help of conutre maps, our participants conveyed their history of social participation and talked about the opportunities the EU offers. It was a great opportunity to exchange their feelings and thoughts. There was also a short lecture on the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The workshop was concluded with a competition with prizes. Participants tested their knowledge of the European Union - its history, important figures and dates. They also learned some interesting facts. In the afternoon, the participants visited the city's Creativity Centre, where they met with the Starachowice Youth City Council. Together they discussed the council's activities, the essence of social activism, the challenges of young people and the solutions the council applies. The exchange of inspiration and ideas for activities was very fruitful.

During the following day, the key event of the meeting took place - UNconference - „Future of Europe”. It was held at the Starachowice II High School. The event began with an informal opening by an expert. She presented the atypical formula of the UNconference and introduced the young people to the topic. She talked about the EU's past and what changes are ahead of us. The participants then had the opportunity to generate ideas for the topics of their future deliberations. Each participant was able to set the agenda for the conference, the topic they wanted to discuss and change their ideas as they wished. Once the ideas were generated, each participant chose the group with whose theme they most agreed. The groups discussed the future of Europe from various angles. For some, the topic of education was the most important, while for others it was ecology. The presentation of the results was also done in a creative way. Some groups chose to present them with a song, others with a play.

We then moved to the Eco School in Starachowice to continue the workshop. Participants had the opportunity to discuss what solutions the school uses to get young people involved in the community, what solutions foster informal learning for young people. They also exchanged experiences about being part of the European Union and the implementation of Erasmus+ projects.

The following day we visited Kielce, the capital of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, for study visits. Participants visited the Youth Assembly of the Voivodeship to discuss together the participation of young people in the region and how to reach out and support small towns. The next venue was the Centre for Non-Governmental Organisations in Kielce. Representatives of the centre talked about their activities and the support they offer to organisations. Organisations there are active in many fields including youth activities with challenges.

The most recent visit was to the Creativity Works Europe Foundation. There, they met with active volunteers who talked about their history of their participation and volunteering activities.

Recommendations from workshops, conference, study visits and discussions:

1. Strengthen European Citizenship - deepen youth understanding of EU values, rights, and identity.

- Integrate EU topics into national education with mandatory classes on EU institutions, rights, and history—supported by interactive tools (games, debates, apps).

- Launch an EU campaigns where youth document how EU rights impact their lives (e.g.,

freedom of movement, data protection).

2. Make European Democracy More Accessible - build real and regular pathways for youth to influence democratic processes.

- Create a youth-friendly online EU consultation hub, updated regularly, with simple language, polls, and discussion spaces.

- Support EU Democracy Weeks in schools, featuring mock elections, debates with MEPs, and student-led forums on current EU topics.

- Establish local “Youth Democracy Ambassadors”, trained and supported to run workshops and civic activities in schools or communities.

3. Boost Youth Participation in Policy and Community Life - ensure all young people—not just the already active—can engage meaningfully.

- launch micro-grants for grassroots youth-led civic and community projects, with simplified application and local mentorship.

- Recognize informal civic learning (e.g., activism, Erasmus+, volunteering) through YouthPass expansion and integration into job portfolios.

4. Co-Create the Future of Europe With Youth - treat young people as designers, not just beneficiaries, of Europe’s future.

- Support creative consultation formats—allow youth to express ideas through theater, music, digital media, and exhibitions, not just formal reports.

- Incorporate participatory budgeting into EU youth programs like Erasmus+, where young people help decide how funds are allocated.

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