

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:	Mobility Opportunities Happening APS
PIC number:	900335474
Project name and acronym:	“Next Step to Europe – Boosting active citizenship among youth in small cities” (NEXT)

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	3		
Event name:	NEXT STEP TO EUROPE EVENT IN ITALY		
Type:	- Study visit - Eco-Festival Workshop in the school and cleanup in a nearby garden - Ecology workshop: beach cleanup		
In situ/online:	In Situ		
Location:	Spazio 13, Liceo San Benedetto Conversano/ Villa Garibaldi Conversano, Bari Waterfront		
Date(s):	07/04/2025 – 10/04/2025		
Website(s) (if any):	www.rozprawyoeuropie.eu/en		
Participants			
Female:	91		
Male:	32		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 [Poland]:	3		
From country 2 [Greece]:	3		
From country 3 [Spain]:	3		
From country 4 [Italy]:	114		
Total number of participants:	123	From total number of countries:	4
Description :			
1. STUDY VISIT			

From April 7–10, 2025, a study visit to the Apulia region of Italy took place as part of the *Next Step to Europe* project, involving young participants from Poland (Starachowice), Spain (Alzira), Greece (Drama), and Italy (Apulia). The aim of the mobility was to promote a stronger sense of belonging to the European Union and its core values, enhance intercultural competencies, and improve the language skills of young people from smaller European cities. It also served to boost civic engagement through debates, workshops, and creative environmental initiatives, while fostering transnational dialogue between youth and local decision-makers.

The visit began in Bari with an exploration of *Spazio13*, a cultural and creative hub in the Libertà district, housed in a repurposed school building. This vibrant space supports innovation, art, and community-driven projects. Each participating organisation introduced their work with youth, highlighting local environmental activities. Guided by volunteers from the local organisation *Tou.Play*, the group toured Spazio13 and learned about its various resident initiatives.

In the afternoon, participants engaged in a discussion with Emiliano Ragno from *Fridays for Future* and the newly established group *Giustizia Climatica Ora: Bari*. The conversation focused on how young people can take more informed and responsible action for the planet. This session laid the foundation for a collaborative brainstorming activity to prepare the following day's EcoFestival.

2. ECO-FESTIVAL

On the second day, the group co-organised an EcoFestival in Conversano, alongside the local host organisation *MOH* and four classes from *Liceo San Benedetto*. The morning began with interactive debates using Mentimeter to assess students' knowledge on key environmental issues like deforestation, fast fashion, and Earth Overshoot Day. Following this, students participated in a World Café activity to explore topics such as:

- How is technology affecting the environment?
- How does climate change impact your region?
- How can we encourage people to care about the environment?
- What are the consequences of fast fashion?

Each discussion table was facilitated by international participants from the project, helping to raise awareness and promote critical thinking. At the end of the session, student teams presented their reflections and findings. In the afternoon, a joint cleanup action was carried out with 91 students, 4 teachers, the school's Headmaster, and international participants. Over 30 kilograms of waste were collected from municipal gardens and the surrounding area—showcasing practical environmental engagement.

3. ECOLOGY WORKSHOP AND BEACH CLEANUP

On the final day, following cultural visits to Alberobello and Polignano a Mare, the participants returned to Bari to conduct a beach cleanup in collaboration with *Tou.Play*. They cleaned a 200-meter section of the waterfront between the shoreline and the breakwater, collecting more than 40 kilograms of debris. This action helped strengthen participants' environmental responsibility and local impact.

The ecology workshop combined practical and reflective activities aimed at fostering environmental sustainability. In the first part, participants engaged in creative, hands-on workshops where they learned how to give waste materials a second life—by, for example, constructing useful items from discarded objects and preparing simple, natural cosmetics from everyday ingredients. These activities promoted circular thinking, conscious consumption, and raised awareness of issues such as pollution and plastic waste.

The second part offered a space for collective reflection on the interconnectedness of all living and non-living elements of the planet. Through open discussion, participants explored their personal connection with nature and the responsibility we all share in protecting the environment.

Together, these experiences not only deepened participants' ecological awareness but also empowered them with practical tools and a sense of agency to contribute to a more sustainable future.

4. LOCAL CAMPAIGN

As a key outcome of the Italian mobility, young participants from Apulia developed and implemented a campaign entitled "*Catalog of Possibilities*", focusing on environmental awareness and promoting youth participation in climate-related action. It provided an opportunity for youth to express their ideas for a greener Europe and engage their peers in dialogue about sustainability and EU values. This initiative empowered young people to lead discussions and propose ideas on how to address local environmental challenges.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout the study visit, participants were encouraged to identify issues concerning climate and youth engagement in their regions. Their insights were gathered during structured activities and informal discussions and led to the formulation of several recommendations. These included calls for better education on environmental issues, more youth involvement in local decision-making, and increased access to EU programs such as Erasmus+

and the European Solidarity Corps. The results are intended to be submitted to local political authorities and youth councils, contributing to ongoing civic dialogue and linking youth voices with European policy agendas.

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