

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT NOTE “Network of Towns European Elections”	
Project name and acronym:	Network of Organizations and Towns for the European Elections (NOTE)
Participant:	Câmara Municipal do Fundão “CMF”
PIC number:	PIC 936158738

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	5		
Event name:	CITIZENS VOICES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS		
Type:	Online Seminar session		
In situ/online:	Online on Municipality Teams Platform		
Location:	Fundão - Portugal		
Date(s):	18 - 19 December 2023 and 30 January 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://cm-fundao.pt/index.php/juventude		
Participants			
Female:	109		
Male:	61		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [Italy]:	8		
From country 2 [Spain]:	11		
From country 3 [Lithuania]:	6		
From country 4 [Romania]	6		
From country 5 [Bulgaria]	7		
From country 6 [Portugal]	70		
From country 7 [Croatia]	3		
From country 8 [Latvia]	5		
From country 9 [Poland]	54		
From country 10 [Belgium]	2		
Total number of participants:	172	From total number of countries:	10
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			

Target groups:

policy makers, civil society organizations, activists, youth, local actors, high policy makers

- Description of the event and its activities.

This Work Package event was executed in four connected parts between December and January 2024, precisely on: 18 - 19 December 2023 and 30 January 2024.

The aim of the events, which together constitute WP5 of the project, was to sustain a Network of Towns aiming at active citizenship and promotion of informed participation in the European Elections and to provide training on podcasts because each partner is requested to prepare "one episode" of the podcasts series. It should be done in the form of an interview - live or online, e.g. via zoom. Together all the episodes (one per partner) will become a series "European Union in podcasts – speak up! Podcasts by partners of the Network of Organizations and Towns for the European Elections in the run up to the elections to the European Parliament 2024".

We, as all our partners from the NOTE project, are very committed to take actions to promote this European spirit, engagement and an informed audience and citizenship to act. All the elements of this network are well aware of the difficulties we face today in communicating with citizens on issues relating to European citizenship, trust in European institutions and the work of our elected representatives in Brussels.

We organized this online event with the aim of encouraging the involvement of local youths, activists, youth leaders, and university educators, all of whom offered practical insights backed by data and compelling perspectives. The seminar focused on addressing concerns and expectations regarding participation in the upcoming European Elections, alongside envisioning the future of the EU project interactively. The event concluded with a workshop session tailored for FACEES and NOTE project partners, centered on the theme of 'Creating Effective Podcasts to Promote and Disseminate the 2024 European Elections.' This session featured firsthand experiences shared by a local professional and former social media team manager at Facebook Europe.

- The agenda of the event.

18 December 2023

09h50 (CET) Online registration, check-in and a welcome energizer.

(Hybrid) 10h00 (CET) - Welcome session for international partners of the NOTE project and participants of the online event “**Citizens Voices on Sustainable Development Goals**” by Miguel Gavinhos, Vice Mayor of Fundão Municipality - Portugal.

A welcome word from project partners and coordinators.

(Hybrid) 10h30 (CET) - Session “**How to engage young citizens' voices on SDGs and their role in the next european elections 2024?**”, a session for youngsters, youth organisation leaders and youth workers, by Professor João Leitão Associate Professor of Economics with Habilitation in Universidade da Beira Interior - Portugal. PhD in Economics.

11h15 (CET) **Cyber coffee break.**

(Hybrid) 11h30 (CET) Session for students and first time voters “**Prognosis of poll turnout for the next european elections 2024 - Fears and Expectations of the first time young voters**”, by Luís Claro Marques - President of Students National Federation of European Studies - Portugal.

12h20 (CET) **Questions and answers moment**, mediated by José Pinto, local Youth Worker and Eurodesk responsible in Fundão Municipality.

12.40 (CET) “How can I change Europe?” - what did we learn from the Street Debates - NOTE partners sharing their experience (**2 partners examples**)

13h00 (CET) End of the first day session with cyber lunch between participants, speakers and NOTE partners.

19 December 2023

10:45 (CET) Morning energizer.

10:50 (CET) Registration of the online participants.

11:00 (CET) “How can I change Europe?” - what did we learn from the Street Debates - NOTE partners sharing their experience (**2 partners examples**)

11:20 (CET) - Interactive hand on workshop session for *FACES* and **NOTE** project partners about “**How to create effective Podcasts to promote and disseminate the next European Elections 2024?**” facilitated by Ruben Páscoa, former social media team manager on Facebook Europe, DJ and digital producer, artwork coordinator and manager at @fundaomusicstudio.

13:00 (CET) Closing session by NOTE coordinators.

13:20 End of the event and see you soon in Romania

30 January 2024

10.00 -11.30 WET **Professor Ricardo Reis**, UCP – Universidade Católica Portuguesa, **“How to Engage young citizens on SDG’s and their role in the next European Elections 2024?”** - a session focused on the theme of the next European elections in June 2024.

Summary

This online event, attended by the NOTE partner network, local stakeholders, and our FACEES (Facilitators for the European Elections), aimed to initiate an open discussion regarding concerns and anticipations surrounding citizen participation and democratic engagement in the upcoming European elections. The primary focus was to exchange tools and strategies to effectively engage audiences, thereby increasing awareness of citizens' voices. This encompassed not only Sustainable Development Goals and their significance for civic engagement but also facilitating an informed debate among partners and stakeholders on communication methods and local initiatives to enhance citizen awareness.

Results:

1. Engaged citizens voiced diverse perspectives on SDGs in the context of the European Elections.
2. Discussions emphasized grassroots initiatives for sustainable development.
3. Participants highlighted the importance of community involvement in achieving SDGs.
4. The meeting concluded with a call for continued collaboration towards SDG implementation.

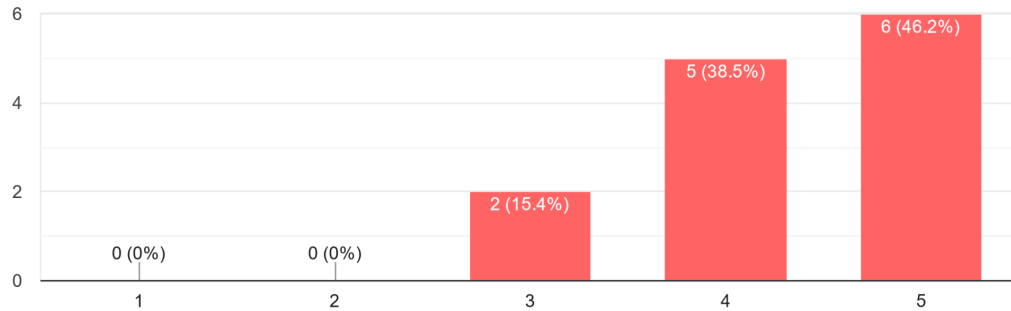
Feedback

“Our presence and commitment in this project is very high and important for our strategy in Fundão, a clearly pro-European city, full of projects and vibrant actions, we wish with this kind of actions and the next ones, together with our project and local partners, build more moments of sharing like that bring together visions, trends and concrete actions that help to enhance the importance of the European project in our community and a true participatory spirit and feeling of European citizenship grows when, not only when we are called to go to

the polls and decide the future and our representatives. The fight against hate speech, fake news and extremism, brings a real climate of peace and prosperity and cooperation between local and international partners.” Jose Pinto, Fundão - Portugal

Your general view on the event:

13 responses



- “Explanation of podcast design has been constructive”
- “It was very interesting and useful, especially the parts for SDG and podcasts”
- “I do think it was a very interesting event that allowed participants to learn from each other's experiences, thoughts, and perspectives, a mental space where you could connect to other people and improve your awareness”.
- “The event was with engaging content; however, the overall experience was marred by technical issues, preventing me from fully enjoying the proceedings”.
- “Nice event, short and precise, not boring sessions”.
- “Well, anything can improve, no matter how well it goes. Maybe I would like more participants to use their webcam and mic without being asked to since the goal was for all the participants to contribute to the sessions and that is something that only the participants themselves can willingly do”.

Agenda 18 &19.12.2023:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AjR3U3zqvwOk-38RS5Yc257ZcPK6yAmO/view?usp=drive_link

Some useful links from our sessions:

- Under this link you will find the **presentations** that were shown during the event:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n9DmecwBAfD9QRnmMFWgwVnPq_L7wTOm

- The ultimate goal of the NOTE project is to motivate communities to cast their vote in the upcoming **European elections 6-9 June 2024**. Therefore, we recommend you to have a look at this website: Why voting matters?, How to vote?, etc.:

<https://elections.europa.eu/en/why-vote/> (the website is available in all EU languages)

- Here are some references we looked at during the event:

EP Spring 2023 Survey: Democracy in action - One year before the European elections :

<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3093>; A survey that shows Europeans value EU membership and interested in European elections:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20231204IPR15637/survey-shows-europeans-value-eu-membership-and-interested-in-european-elections>

- **Sustainable Development Goals and the strategic role of the EU:**

<https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/sustainable-development-goals>

Website and dissemination platforms used by NOTE project:

NOTE Project: <https://www.facebook.com/projectnoteeuropeanelections>

Fundão page: <https://www.facebook.com/leifundao/>

NOTE project on instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/projectnote_europeanelections?igsh=ZmZqZjEwM3UzcDky

<https://cm-fundao.pt/index.php/juventude>

Links where the beneficiaries/partners published this deliverable:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13BqmtjZbcHX5GscVWfII5DS6sQ6jXR6n883_aNv-cw/edit

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