Co-funded by the European Union

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:	Comune di Polla- Municipality of Novska- Muncipality of Konche
PIC number:	Polla: 876415080- Grad Novska 911440131- Town of Konche: 876190137.
Project name and acronym:	Proud to be European Citizens- PEC

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	2
Event name:	Konche Event – EU Values, enlargement and fundamental rights
Type:	Seminar – Workshop – Round Table
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Konche (Republic of North Macedonia)
Date(s):	From 27 to 29 March 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://novska.hr/hr/vijesti/novosti/novska-polla-i-konche-povezani-projektom-%E2%80%9Eproud-to-be-european-citizens%E2%80%9C,8040.html https://comune.polla.sa.it/argomenti/argomento-dettaglio/2722801 Konce.gov.mk/pec
Participants	
Female:	20
Male:	30
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 Croatia:	12
From country 2 Italy:	14

Project number: 101214190 CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT

From country 3 North Macedonia	24		
Total number of participants:	50	From total number of countries:	3

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The second transnational meeting of the "Proud to be European Citizens" (PEC) project (Grant Agreement Ref. 101214190) took place in Konche (Republic of North Macedonia) from March 27 to March 29, 2026. Building upon the foundations established during the Kick-off Meeting in Novska (Croatia), this event specifically focused on the fundamental values enshrined in the European treaties, the ongoing enlargement process, and the concrete implementation of democratic rights at the local level. Hosted in a candidate country currently engaged in the EU pre-accession dialogue, the meeting brought together 50 delegates, local administrators, civil society representatives, and citizens from North Macedonia, Italy, and Croatia. The agenda combined institutional seminars, peer-to-peer dialogues, and participatory workshops designed to foster a shared European identity, counter Euroscepticism, and promote gender equality in civic participation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Activity 1 (March 27, 2026). Project presentation and seminar on the value and importance of Art. 2 TEU

The inaugural day commenced with formal institutional greetings from the host administration of the Municipality of Konche and the visiting delegations from Polla and Novska. The opening session set the strategic objectives of the second workpackage, followed by an in-depth seminar dedicated to Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), analyzing its fundamental pillars: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

Methodology and debate: Keynote interventions and interactive panel discussions examined how these founding principles must translate from abstract treaty commitments into daily municipal governance, local administrative integrity, and social cohesion. Delegates compared administrative and legal perspectives from a founding member state (Italy), a recently integrated member state (Croatia), and an accession candidate state (North Macedonia), highlighting the rule of law as an essential safeguard for civic trust in European democratic institutions.

Activity 2 (March 28, 2026). Seminar on the entry of new States into the Union: respect for fundamental principles and values

The second day examined the European Union Enlargement Policy, specifically analyzing the Western Balkans integration framework and the concrete pre-accession path of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Methodology and debate: The seminar assessed the Copenhagen criteria, institutional harmonization, judicial and administrative capacity-building, and socio-economic alignment. Delegates from Novska shared Croatia's recent journey through pre-accession and post-accession integration, providing practical insights on administrative transitions and regional development funds. The ensuing open debate tackled widespread misconceptions regarding enlargement, examined the challenges and opportunities for rural and peripheral municipalities, and underlined the shared responsibility of both the EU and candidate countries in upholding rigorous democratic and transparent governance standards.

Activity 3 (March 29, 2026). Workshop: "Dialogues on the new values, new strategies and rights of modern EU politics"

The third day was designed as a dynamic, interactive participatory workshop structured into transnational working tables combining local citizens, youth representatives, and international delegates.

Working themes and methodology:

Gender equality and civic empowerment: evaluating persistent barriers to female representation in public decision-making and defining local grassroots strategies to foster gender-balanced civic and political engagement, in alignment with the EU Gender Equality Strategy.

Digital and green transitions in peripheral areas: analyzing contemporary EU priority strategies (twin transition) and identifying mechanisms for smaller, rural communities to access direct EU funding schemes and collaborative networks under CERV.

Project number: 101214190 CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT

Youth engagement and transnational dialogue: structuring innovative participatory tools, municipal youth councils, and digital exchange platforms to empower younger generations in European policy debates.

Synthesis and plenary: rapporteurs from each working group presented actionable policy recommendations and grassroots proposals to the plenary assembly, laying the operational groundwork for institutional twinning protocols and joint civic actions among Konche, Polla, and Novska.

OBJECTIVES REACHED

Enhanced understanding of EU foundations: substantially increased participants' and citizens' knowledge of Article 2 TEU, European citizenship rights, and the core values underpinning European integration.

Fostered constructive dialogue on enlargement: built direct mutual understanding on the challenges, structural reforms, and democratic responsibilities involved in EU candidate integration.

Empowered underrepresented voices: promoted gender equality and female empowerment in local civic and political participation through targeted, inclusive workshop sessions.

Reinforced transnational municipal cooperation: consolidated the institutional and operational network between Polla, Novska, and Konche, establishing concrete milestones for subsequent project deliverables.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

In full compliance with CERV communication and visibility guidelines, a multi-channel dissemination strategy was executed to maximize the reach and impact of the event across the partner countries:

Official Institutional Web Portals: comprehensive press releases and event coverage published on the institutional websites of the partner municipalities:

Comune di Polla: https://comune.polla.sa.it/notizie/3559330/gemellaggio-macedonia-nord-croazia-italia

Municipality of Konche: https://opstinakonche.gov.mk/

Press and Regional Media Coverage: in-depth journalistic articles published by regional media outlets:

Vallo Più: https://vallopiu.it/2026/04/01/polla-gemellaggio-europeo-con-macedonia-del-nord-e-croazia/

Broadcast & Social Media Dissemination: Video coverage, interviews, and broadcast reports shared on regional television and project social networks:

RTV Kobra (Regional TV Broadcast Report): RTV Kobra Official Post

Project Video Feature & Interviews: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=886508651042374

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

Project number: 101214190 CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT