

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - The Polish Robert Schuman Foundation (PFRS)
PIC number:	949724770
Project name and acronym:	Have your say in EU - challenges of democracy and future of debate in European Union

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 2
Event name:	HAVE YOUR SAY IN EU - CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRACY AND FUTURE OF DEBATE IN EUROPEAN UNION
Type:	Mutual learning
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Poland, Warsaw
Date(s):	22-25.03.2023
Website(s) (if any):	Have your say in EU – Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana
Participants	
Female:	35
Male:	31
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Poland]:	51
From country 2 [Germany]:	7
From country 3 [Croatia]:	2
From country 4 [Bulgaria]:	2
From country 5 [Spain]:	3
From country 6 [Belgium]:	1
Total number of participants:	66
From total number of countries:	6
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

The transnational meeting took place in Warsaw on 22-25.03.2023. The event combined workshops and seminar with experts, and group discussions on jointly defined problems and challenges based on the findings of local groups' research on the background of Eurosceptic, anti-democratic attitudes and narratives in their local communities.

The first part of the meeting was primarily devoted to getting to know and integrating participants, sharing motivations, interests and also expectations regarding the program and results of the meeting in Warsaw. During this part, mainly informal, including graphic methods were used to introduce a relaxed atmosphere and to break possible barriers. To introduce the topic of European values the Volunteers from the Schuman Foundation presented the principles and opportunities associated with the European Solidarity Corps programme, allowing people to undertake voluntary work at home and abroad.

The next session was dedicated to the issues of the Eurosceptic, anti-democratic attitudes and narratives in different EU countries. Participants presented the overviews and short analyses based on their own researches done in their local communities in Germany, Bulgaria, Croatia and Spain. After each presentations there was a short Q&A session and moderated discussion.

The Polish background was presented during the workshop on countering disinformation while some particular examples of manipulation in media aiming at undermining either EU policies or democratic values were presented. Regarding the war in Ukraine the disinformation in this field was mostly highlighted.

The next step was moderated Seminar and discussion with experts: *Jan Truszczyński* (Chief negotiator on Poland's accession to the EU, Team Europe) and *Łukasz Lipiński*: Editor-in-chief of *Polityka.pl* (the Polish opinion-forming social and political weekly). The discussions focused on the effectiveness and future of the EU institutional framework, possible changes to the Treaties and the possible next enlargement (including Ukraine, Balkans). These topics proved to be most engaging as among participants were the group of trainees hosted by the German Embassy, participating in the program of German Foreign Ministry, from such countries as Ukraine, Georgia, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Montenegro, Kosovo, Moldova and Albania.

During the workshop on tools of participation with the experts from STOCZNIA Foundation, good practices on engaging citizens on local and national level in Poland were presented and compared with the ones given by the participants from Germany, Spain and Bulgaria. In particular the citizens' panel on energy costs organised by the Foundation was discussed as it happened to be one of the major projects in the field of civic participation, which engaged almost 100 persons, randomly selected from among the male and female inhabitants of Poland.

The topic of participation was further developed during the meeting with representatives of European Club in one of the Partner high school in Warsaw, when the youngsters could presented the activities and projects they are engaged with.

The last part of the meetings were Strategy workshops with the students from the "Ad Futurum" research circle of the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies of the University of Warsaw. Participants worked in groups on matching particular EU values with the development on local/national and European level, especially in the context of urban/region development.

This exchange enables participants to deepen their knowledge of EU values, institutions and policies and to better understand the achievements and benefits of the EU. What's more – participation in the project strengthens the skills and capacities of the individuals and organisations involved in the project in terms of intercultural communication and mutual understanding between representatives of different European countries and regions.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

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