

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	SDRUZHENIE BULGARSKA NATSIONALNA ASOTSIATSIYA AKTIVNI POTREBITELI (BNAAC)
PIC number:	93821775
Project name and acronym:	WE-DEMOCRACY – No one left behind – Empowering citizens to participate in democratic processes

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP-10
Event name:	Final event
Type:	Awareness-raising
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Bulgaria, Sofia
Date(s):	06.02.2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.wedemocracy-project.eu
Participants	
Female:	29
Male:	53
Non-binary:	1
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	83
Total number of participants:	83
Description <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	From total number of countries: 1
<p>The Bulgarian National Association Active Consumers organized the public final event, which gathered 83 participants. The audience included not only young people and students but also educators, esteemed professors, and activists, who are actively engaged in sustainability initiatives.</p> <p>The audience consisted of individuals aged 18 and above, including students and members of the academic community from the University of National and World Economy and citizens. As part of the SDSN network, the university supports the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at both national and local levels. Located in Sofia, Bulgaria, it currently has over 21,000 enrolled students.</p> <p>It was a one-day event aimed to raise awareness. The event was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on the 6th of February, 2025.</p>	

During the event, the We-Democracy platform was presented. Alongside the platform, participants were introduced to key topics such as the concept of a circular economy, waste management, recycling and reuse, global environmental challenges, the UN 2030 Agenda, consumer behavior and engagement, economic benefits, EU and governmental policies, etc.

The event program was highly comprehensive, featuring a discussion on the UN 2030 Agenda. Participants were introduced to its key ideas, goals, and priorities, with a strong focus on European and national policies. Additionally, the successfully implemented goals of Agenda 2030 within national legislation were highlighted, along with strategic approaches for their effective achievement.

The speakers delivered their presentations using a combination of visual materials, including slides and short videos, while the event followed an open discussion format. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions during the presentations and receive immediate answers. For those hesitant to interrupt, a dedicated Q&A session was held afterward.

Following the completion of the program, a discussion took place, focusing on the benefits, challenges, solutions, and strategies for improved waste management, the circular economy, and EU/governmental policies. The participants were also encouraged to discuss topics between each other as they all have different experiences, thus promoting communication and networking.

Afterwards the EU Survey was introduced, and participants were invited to complete it. To ensure accessibility for all attendees, physical copies of the survey were distributed. The survey, focused on Justice, Rights, and Values, was successfully conducted with participants filling out the provided forms.

Agenda

08:30-09:00	Registration of participants
09:00-09:15	Introductory remarks and presentation of the UN 2030 AGENDA
09:15-09:30	Presentation of WE-Democracy project and results
09:30-10:00	Presentation of the We-democracy platform
10:00-10:30	Citizens' views from the project platform on the problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Waste collection and recycling infrastructure ● Educational school campaigns ● Artificial intelligence and circular economy ● Sustainability assessment
10:30-11:00	Suggestions for policy. Discussion
11:00-11:30	Presentation of the EACEA survey. Participation in the EU Survey.
11:30-12:00	Discussion with questions and answers. Final

Results

The event began with a welcome speech introducing the importance of the UN 2030 Agenda. Key objectives, priorities, and the role of global and national policies in its implementation were highlighted. After that a brief overview of the WE-DEMOCRACY project was presented, showcasing its objectives, activities, and achieved results. The platform was also presented - participants were introduced to the functionalities of the WE-DEMOCRACY platform, the interactive tool for civic engagement and opinion sharing. The presentation demonstrated how the platform enables citizens to share their views on key challenges.

Participants engaged in a discussion on major challenges identified through the platform, including: Infrastructure for waste collection and recycling, Educational school campaigns on sustainability, Artificial intelligence and circular economy, Sustainability assessment. The session allowed participants to express their views and propose solutions to these challenges.

The participants were active in a discussion on waste collection and recycling highlighted issues such as uneven infrastructure, public skepticism, and illegal dumping in Bulgaria. While central areas have accessible recycling bins, many participants commented that neighborhoods lack them, and expressed their concerns about whether separated waste would be truly recycled. Citizens called for greater municipal transparency, expanded collection points, smart waste bins, and stricter penalties for illegal dumping.

Schools rarely implement hands-on projects, and teachers often lack training on environmental education. Proposed solutions included integrating practical sustainability activities, supporting school eco-clubs, summer camps, and fostering partnerships with NGOs and businesses working in the field. In the discussion on AI and the circular economy, citizens expressed low awareness and skepticism about AI's role in waste management.

Experts and attendees exchanged opinions on policy proposals aimed at improving waste management, increasing recycling efficiency, and enhancing public awareness. Also the EACEA survey was presented. Participants were encouraged to fill out the EU survey, either digitally or through provided physical copies.

A final open discussion allowed participants to address unresolved questions and summarize the key takeaways from the event. Topics such as governmental policies, the economic benefits of sustainability, and civic engagement were revisited, ensuring a comprehensive wrap-up.