

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Creating Thinking Development (CRE.THI.DEV.)
PIC number:	942801977
Project name and acronym:	WE-DEMOCRACY – No one left behind – Empowering citizens to participate in democratic processes

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP11		
Event name:	Events and awareness raising in Greece		
Type:	Awareness-raising		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Greece, Athens		
Date(s):	19.01.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.wedemocracy-project.eu		
Participants			
Female:	29		
Male:	24		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Greece]:	53		
From country 2 [Netherlands]:	0		
Total number of participants:	53	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Under the WP11. Events and Awareness Raising in Greece, CreThiDev organized on Sunday, January 19, 2025, an event in Greece. The event took place at 9 Al. Panagouli Street, in the Sports Hall of the Municipality of Melissia, in Attica.</p> <p>The aim of the event was to present the key results that emerged from discussions on the WE-Democracy crowdsourcing platform, focusing on drafting initial policy recommendations based on citizen contributions. Additionally, participants were invited to enroll in the platform and were encouraged to participate in the official EU survey.</p> <p>For the implementation of the event, two experts were responsible, 2 CRE.THI.DEV's staff and one moderator. The venue was selected to provide a comfortable and inclusive setting that would encourage participation and facilitate discussions. Measures were taken to create</p>			

a welcoming environment to support effective engagement among attendees. Participants were requested to complete an attendance sheet with their personal details and signatures.

Four main themes and key citizens proposals were presented from the platform discussions:

1. **Waste Collection & Recycling Infrastructure** – Addressing challenges and proposing improvements in waste management practices. Citizens proposed the implementation of smart waste collection systems, enhanced recycling programs, and better public awareness campaigns.
1. **Educational School Campaigns** – Incorporating sustainability principles into educational programs to foster eco-conscious behavior. Recommendations included integrating circular economy concepts into school curricula, organizing eco-friendly workshops, and promoting hands-on sustainability projects.
2. **AI and the Circular Economy** – Exploring the potential of artificial intelligence in optimizing resource management and supporting sustainability efforts. Citizens suggested AI-driven solutions such as smart bins, predictive waste management, and digital platforms to track and reduce resource consumption.
3. **Sustainability Rating** – Establishing criteria and frameworks to assess and promote sustainable practices at various levels. Proposed actions included community-driven sustainability assessments, incentive-based sustainability programs, and policies that encourage businesses to adopt circular economy practices.

The event continued with audience questions and a high-level, interactive discussion among participating citizens on topics such as continuous education from an early age, sustainable consumption habits, and the role of technology in promoting circular economy practices. Participants were actively engaged in the discussion and proposed policy recommendations related to the topics presented.

The Policy Recommendations for Promoting Circular Economy and Environmental Awareness, that were discussed and proposed are the following:

1. Digital Surplus Goods Exchange Platform ("Back to Community")

- Creation of a platform where citizens can offer or exchange surplus items such as food, clothing, and electronic devices.
- Provision of incentives through a reward points system for active users.
- Collaboration with municipalities to establish physical collection and drop-off points.

2. "Smart" Recycling Bins with Artificial Intelligence

- Installation of bins equipped with sensors and AI that can recognize and separate waste automatically.
- Real-time data to optimize waste collection schedules.
- Integration of a rewards system for citizens who recycle correctly.

3. Environmental Awareness Card ("Eco-Pass")

- A digital card to record citizens' sustainable actions, such as recycling, public transport use, and composting.
- Offering discounts on public services (e.g., water, electricity) and local businesses.
- Establishing local environmental "scoreboards" to encourage healthy competition.

4. Installation of Urban Composting Stations

- Establishing local composting hubs where citizens can deposit organic waste.
- Collaboration with agricultural cooperatives to utilize compost in farming.
- Providing incentives such as vouchers or tax benefits for participants.

5. Educational Workshops on Product Life Cycles

- Creating learning centers where citizens can learn how to repair, recycle, and reuse items.
- Organizing "repair days" with free technical support.
- Focusing on electrical appliances, furniture, and clothing.

6. Local Material and Equipment Libraries

- Developing "municipal libraries" where citizens can borrow tools, equipment, and even household appliances.
- Promoting reuse to reduce waste generation.
- Offering maintenance and repair services for borrowed items.

7. Technology Recycling Programs (E-Waste)

- Establishing specialized collection points for electronic waste (phones, computers, batteries).
- Collaborating with private companies for recycling or reusing components.

- Providing incentives such as discounts on new devices for citizens returning old electronics.

8. Local Circular Economy Factories

- Establishing recycling and reuse factories at a local level.
- Using innovative technologies such as 3D printing with recycled materials.
- Creating job opportunities and training young people in green technologies.

9. Participatory Policy-Making Platform

- Connecting citizens with local authorities to enhance transparency.
- Providing feedback mechanisms to improve environmental policies.
- Promoting digital participation in local and national initiatives.

10. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships

- Developing partnerships to implement sustainable projects.
- Securing funding from national and EU programs.
- Supporting innovations based on circular economy principles.

Furthermore, it is of great importance that citizens recognize their role in shaping sustainable policies and take active steps to contribute to public dialogue and decision-making processes. The discussions highlighted the need for continued efforts to raise awareness and facilitate citizen engagement in sustainability initiatives.

Moreover, all participants agreed that they were pleased to have the opportunity to be informed about this project. They expressed their appreciation for the initiative, emphasizing that its ideas and methods should be continued and further developed to maximize impact and outreach.

The event concluded with an invitation for participants to complete the EU survey and their active participation in the (W)E-Democracy Crowdsourcing Platform.

The event has been disseminated on CreThiDev's social media Facebook and Instagram.