

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Centrul pentru Promovarea Invatarii Permanente-CPIP, Timisoara, Romania
PIC number:	950602620
Project name and acronym:	[WE-DEMOCRACY – No one left behind – Empowering citizens to participate in democratic processes]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP13		
Event name:	Public Event – Romania		
Type:	Awareness-raising event		
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>		
Location:	Romania, Timisoara		
Date(s):	03.02.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.wedemocracy-project.eu		
Participants			
Female:	35		
Male:	19		
Non-binary:	-		
From country 1 [Romania]:	54		
Total number of participants:	54	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Under the framework of WP13 (Events and Awareness Raising in Romania), Centrul pentru Promovarea Învățării Permanente - CPIP successfully organized a dynamic public event in Timișoara, bringing together 54 participants from various sectors at the national level. This engaging half-day event welcomed citizens (18+) interested in crowdsourcing, e-democracy and circular economy topics, students, academic, companies, decision makers from Timisoara, Romania involved in the crowdsourcing platform discussions. Key local experts from our network were also invited to share their experience in the field of sustainability and circular economy and increase the interest and participants motivation.</p> <p>The event agenda was designed as a half-day program, comprising two main segments: a presentation of the WE-DEMOCRACY project (covering its objectives, relevance, consortium, and deliverables) and an interactive session with participants, featuring brainstorming on the e-democracy theme and the digital dashboard on circular economy developed within the initiative. The event offered a well-structured program combining presentations, brainstorming sessions, and interactive</p>			

discussions. Key topics included:

- Welcoming participants
- Introduction of the WE-DEMOCRACY project (objectives, relevance, consortium and deliverables)
- Promoting the overall project activities with focus on the digital dashboard on circular economy developed within the project
- Session dedicated to e-democracy topic (reflecting on crowdsourcing and other e-participation experiences)
- Short break
- Presentation session: Key topics covered - presentation and brainstorming on waste collection and recycling infrastructure
- Presentation session: Key topics covered - presentation and brainstorming on artificial Intelligence & circular economy
- Presentation session: Key topics covered - presentation and brainstorming on citizen's involvement in online discussions
- Open discussion with participants to share thoughts and ideas about the WE-Democracy project itself and the digital dashboard developed
- Closing session with questions and answers
- EU survey completion session
- Invitation to lunch offered by the CPIP team

The event started with an introductory session to inform/increase knowledge of the participants about the WE-DEMOCRACY project mainly about the philosophy and idea behind the initiative, relevance and deliverables. Moreover, the WE-DEMOCRACY project activities were introduced, with focus on the digital dashboard developed within the project and dedicated to the topic of the circular economy. The e-democracy topic was refreshed and highlighted the relation between its philosophy and the WE-DEMOCRACY European initiative.

In the second part of the event the digital dashboard developed within the project was presented, the participants being invited to register and insert their pro or cons opinions regarding their topic of interest. Three main themes addressed on the platform were debated together with the participants and related to the waste collection and recycling infrastructure, artificial Intelligence & circular economy, citizen's involvement in online discussions. It was important to select topics that can solicit the interest of the participants in expressing their ideas and further act. Business representatives and professionals in the project field shared best practices regarding the addressed topics for participants to better reflect on the concept of circular economy and the importance to speak up on issues directly affecting them. During the presentations, participants were constantly engaged to ensure they understood the relevance of the event. Open discussion with participants were also relevant to share thoughts and ideas about the WE-DEMOCRACY project itself and the digital dashboard developed.

In addition, together with the participants, key recommendations were highlighted on the three themes addressed during the event, which include waste collection and recycling infrastructure, artificial intelligence in relation to the circular economy and engaging citizens in online discussions. Their recommendations recognize the importance of technological innovation, regulatory frameworks and the active participation of citizens in promoting sustainable development efforts. Ensuring that their recommendations are implemented requires ongoing collaboration between governments, businesses, researchers, and citizens. Moving forward, it is essential to integrate these insights into policy frameworks and practical initiatives that empower communities and accelerate the transition toward a circular economy.

The discussion was highly productive, participants suggesting key steps in terms of waste collection and recycling infrastructure at national and community level: increase availability of recycling bins (separate bins for different types of waste - paper, plastic, glass, organic, etc. in public spaces, residential areas, and commercial establishments.); introduce smart bins with sensors (implement sensor-equipped bins that can inform waste collectors when they are full, improving the efficiency of waste collection route and reduces unnecessary pickups); strengthen enforcement of current waste management laws to ensure that waste segregation is happening at the source (municipalities should fine households or businesses that fail to comply with waste sorting regulations).

In relation to the topic of artificial intelligence and the circular economy, participants had mixed opinions about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the circular economy. The participants appreciated AI's role in optimizing waste management, improving recycling systems, and promoting sustainable consumption. Moreover, AI-driven solutions, such as smart waste sorting and eco-friendly product recommendations, were seen as helpful in reducing environmental impact. Key strategies to

integrate AI into everyday life suggested by participants: Citizens can leverage AI-powered apps to monitor their carbon footprint, receive personalized recommendations for sustainable shopping, and locate nearby recycling stations; implementing AI-driven smart bins and waste sorting systems can significantly enhance recycling efficiency. And AI can support supermarkets and restaurants at national level by predicting demand, optimizing inventory management, and minimizing food waste.

Many participants acknowledged the power of digital platforms in raising awareness and mobilizing communities. However, some pointed out concerns regarding misinformation, lack of trust in online sources, and the difficulty of distinguishing between genuine and misleading content. On the topic of citizen involvement in online discussions, participants emphasized several key recommendations to enhance engagement. They highlighted the importance of promoting fact-checking and digital literacy through dedicated tools and awareness campaigns, enabling citizens to verify sustainability claims and combat misinformation. In addition, they emphasized the need to interact on platforms where discussions are moderated to ensure accuracy, inclusiveness and respectful dialogue. Bridging the gap between sustainability experts and the public can enhance the quality of online discussions. Hosting live webinars, AMAs (Ask Me Anything) with environmental professionals, and interactive workshops can provide citizens with direct access to accurate information, helping them navigate complex sustainability issues.

At the end of the event, the CPIP team actively involved the participants in the completion of the EU survey, gathering valuable insights. Moreover, each participant received a selection of thoughtfully designed, eco-friendly promotional materials to reflect the WE-DEMOCRACY project's commitment to sustainability, such as: reusable bag, notebook (recycled paper) and a pen (bamboo), umbrella (made of recycled and renewable components), sticky notes (recycled paper), box - pen and pencil, USB hub (made from environmentally friendly materials). These items not only supported the project's sustainability values but also served as practical tools to inspire participants to adopt eco-conscious habits in their daily lives!

The event organized in Timisoara underscored the importance of empowering communities through tools like the digital dashboard while fostering conversations on e-democracy and sustainable practices.