

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
<b>Participant:</b>	Network for Children's Rights, Health and Social Development Foundation , Asociatia GEYC, C.I.P Citizens In Power, Dedalus Cooperativa Sociale, Crossing Borders, Pacto Verde
<b>PIC number:</b>	937465231, 918685934, 949600222, 940477275, 942198928, 9452117859, 889495433
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Youth Involvement in the European Democratic Debate through Journalism— EFIVOS in Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	8
<b>Event name:</b>	WP8
<b>Type:</b>	Debate with MEP candidates. Policy makers
<b>In situ/online:</b>	in-situ
<b>Location:</b>	Athens, Sofia, Bucharest, Nicosia, Naples, Copenhagen,Huelva
<b>Date(s):</b>	23/4/2024, 15/5/2024, 18/04/2024, 15/5/2024, 11/04/2024, 26/06/2024
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://efivosineurope.eu/">https://efivosineurope.eu/</a>
Participants	
Female:	170
Male:	128
Non-binary:	
Greece	41
Italy	108
Cyprus	20
Bulgaria	32
Romania	43
Denmark	39
Spain	15
<b>Total number of participants:</b>	<b>298</b>
	Countries
	7

## Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The teams worked on the debate questions. Based on the national reports, we sum up the topics the youth were interested in. In Cyprus and Bulgaria, the youth were interested in the internal issues and EU like relations with Turkey and Republic of North Macedonia and issues of minorities such as Roma community. Regarding general topics these were education, new technologies, equality.

The attendees at the debates were youngsters and adults interested in the topics and supporting young participation. The debates took place either in the premises of the organisations or rented places ; the invitees were young people, schools, NGOs and other stakeholders.

**In total 298 participants attended the national debates, while 30 guest speakers -policy makers, candidates participated in the events at the 7 partner countries.**

Each partner followed a different structure of the event.

### 1. Greece (<https://ddp.gr/efivos/> )

A group of 11 youngsters aged 13-19 prepared the questions after having 3 meetings to discuss the topics and to finalize the questions, among them 3 students from a school in Athens who had participated in the workshop in schools about the project and the EU elections.

Every round/topic had 6 questions and the candidates 2 minutes to answer. The moderator was a young girl. The debate set, questions and organisation was discussed with the national tv news anchor Ms Andriana Apostolopoulou ([https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=817856613713587&id=100064677670397&rdid=FVHUNCYRI3n7ngGt](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=817856613713587&id=100064677670397&rdid=FVHUNCYRI3n7ngGt) ) while the team visited the European Parliament office in Athens [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=938024988332689&id=100063755883823&rdid=R1aEQorXVF0EKJFo](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=938024988332689&id=100063755883823&rdid=R1aEQorXVF0EKJFo) )

The topics were:

- Equality
- Farmers
- Well being
- Youth and EU programs

NCR contacted the 6 parties and requested the participation of one candidate after mentioning the topics (but not the questions) so they can be relevant. The participating parties were Nea Dimokratia, Syriza, Pasok-Kinal, Communist Party and 2 new parties Kosmos and Nea Aristera.

The Candidates were :

1. Ms Dina Vardaramatou (KOSMOS),
2. Ms Maria Dafermou (PASOK-KINAL),
3. Thodoris Kotsantis (Communist Party of Greece),
4. Dimitris Papadimitriadis (SYRIZA-Progressive Alliance),
5. Lydia-Antonia Trakatelli (New Democracy)
6. Elena Olga Christidis (New Left)

The event took place on 23/4 at 17:30- 19:30 in Atraktos and an invitation was send to stakeholders. The debate was livestreaming in facebook ([https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=740137234923885](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=740137234923885)) and also filmed to create a teaser (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gvfh2L4kuT4> ). The livestreaming video has received 808 views and 68 likes, while the teaser 45 views.

Before the event, the candidate and a group of 3 young people created 4 tik tok videos for 4 different questions ([https://www.tiktok.com/@ddp\\_gr](https://www.tiktok.com/@ddp_gr)), posted in Instagram too.

The participants were young people, parents, teachers and members of organisations. The President of Board of Trustees gave the welcome speech.

The project manager spoke at the national radio on the debate and the project

<https://www.ertecho.gr/radio/deftero/show/namaste-deytero/ondemand/660745/namaste-deytero-me-tin-ioanna-niaoti-20042024/>

## 2. Romania (<https://www.geyc.ro/2024/05/efivos-debate-impreama-votam-engaging.html>)

"Împreună votăm," ("Together we vote"), an engaging debate event aimed at highlighting the importance of voting and fostering youth involvement in the democratic process. The event took place in Bucharest, gathering local candidates, policy makers, and enthusiastic young participants. The debate was structured to maximize interaction between the youth and the panel of candidates and policy makers. A moderator facilitated the discussion, ensuring a balanced and inclusive dialogue.

1. Gabriel Brezoiu, founder of GEYC
2. Eliza Vaș, coordinator of the Studies Department at the European Institute of Romania
3. Paul-Antonio Ciontoiu, executive secretary of the Municipal Student Council of Bucharest
4. Ruxandra Gubernat, professor at the Faculty of Journalism in Bucharest
5. Vlad Adamescu, co-founder of Politica la minut
6. Răzvan Petri, co-founder of Politica la minut
7. Sabina Spătariu, member of "Tinerii Voteaza", A non-partisan, non-governmental, and independent initiative aimed at encouraging young people to vote and promoting the priorities of Romania's youth.
8. Irena Plesoiu - European Parliament candidate

### Topics Discussed

The debate covered a range of pertinent issues, including:

**Significance of Voting:** Discussions centered on how each vote contributes to democratic processes and the overall functioning of society.

**Youth Voter Turnout:** Strategies to boost voter turnout among young people, addressing barriers such as apathy, lack of information, and logistical challenges.

**Educational Initiatives:** The role of education in fostering a democratic mindset and encouraging active citizenship among the youth.

**Technological Solutions:** Exploring how technology can be leveraged to make voting more accessible and engaging for young people.

**Policy Proposals:** Specific policies aimed at facilitating youth participation in elections, such as lowering the voting age or implementing civic education programs in schools.

The event underscored the collective power of informed and active youth in driving democratic change. By engaging directly with policy makers and candidates, the participants not only voiced their concerns but also contributed valuable insights and solutions, paving the way for a more inclusive and participatory democratic process in Romania.

## 3. Cyprus

This event titled 'EU Parliamentary Elections 2024: Decide, vote, act - Debate and Panel Discussion with EU Parliament Candidates' was delivered on 18/04/2024. The event presented an opportunity

to engage in a discussion with three EU parliamentary Candidates representing three different parties. The three candidates were young women aged 31-33.

The panellists:

1. Ms. Christiana Xenofontos, Democratic Rally (DISY)
2. Ms. Andromachi Sophocleous, Volt Cyprus
3. Ms. Maria Kola, Movement of Ecologists – Citizens' Cooperation (KOSP)

The event was facilitated by a young person interested in politics, the EU and international relations. The whole event lasted approximately 1.5 hours, with a further 30 minutes allocated at the end for networking and refreshments. The event began with an introduction from Giota Mourettou, co-founder of CIP who introduced the organisation and the EFIVOS in Europe project. Following this, the panel commenced. 8 questions were circulated to candidates beforehand, which were created by young people, however due to time constraints only 3 questions were asked during the panel in order to allocate sufficient time for questions from the audience.

The debate was very interesting, with all three candidates putting forward their party and personal views. The discussion mostly centred around the direction of the EU, the rise of the far right and racism in Cyprus and the EU and the Cyprus problem. The audience raised questions about the rights of Turkish-speaking Cypriots living in Northern Cyprus, what the candidates will do about disability inclusion and family violence, and equal rights for citizens in Cyprus. The event was very lively, with great engagement from the audience. At the end of the formal event, participants and panellists continued to discuss politics and share food.

#### 4. Bulgaria (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MV95SGdgrtI>)

The National Debate was an event with **two candidates** for the European Parliament - Alina Dobreva and Gergana Alexovaq representing two of the biggest political parties.

For three months, the young people who participated in the preparation of the articles and podcasts discussed and prepared questions for the candidates to be members of the European Parliament. The youngsters asked the questions and participated in the debates actively. The debates were extremely successful, the young people asked all planned questions, the candidates for deputies answered comprehensively and argued in a good and dialogic way. After the end of the formal part, the candidates met with the young people and continued the discussions on important topics for young people.

- Please complete the sentence "I want to become an MEP because..."
- What is the most important task of the Bulgarian MEP?
- What does a united Europe mean to you?
- European interests or the interests of Bulgaria?
- What are the Bulgarian national interests that you will defend in the European Parliament?
- Will you work to reduce the tension between Bulgaria and Macedonia and if so, how?
- In your opinion, the Roma in Bulgaria are more equal opportunities or rather discriminated against?
- What do you think about the fact that solar panels are placed on fertile soils? What are the most urgent and important measures that you think should be taken immediately to reduce carbon emissions?
- Are you in favor or against electric cars? Are there gaps in youth policies? Who are they? Which youth policies will you prioritise for?

## 5. Italy

The national debate was held at the Intercultural Center "Officine Gomitoli", located in the headquarters of Dedalus in Piazza Enrico de Nicola, 46 - Naples. The debate started at 10 o'clock with a presentation by the coordinator of Centro Nanà, Glauco Iermano, about the theme of the day: "Youth policies at the European level". The event was very well attended, indeed 93 youngsters (50 boys and 43 girls) and 24 adults (10 men and 14 women) took part in the conference, for a total of 117 people. Among the adults we **had 9 speakers**: Souzan Fatayer, a Palestinian-born woman, a candidate at the 2024 European elections; Michele Nunziata, the principal of CPIA Napoli; Margherita Torello, a teacher at the Tilgher high school and former employee at Dedalus Social Cooperative; Pasquale Incarnato, expert on digital communication; Omar Marong, a university student and president of the Gambian Youth Community of Naples; Alessandro di Rienzo, free-lance journalist, bookseller and co-founder of the association "Kosmopolis"; Ivan Fadini, co-founder of the International Napoli Network association; Francesco Lombardi, co-founder of the Noi@Europe association; Luigi Carbone, chairman of the Culture Committee of the city of Naples.

The public of young people asked ten questions; The questions came both from the high schoolers and the young migrants participating in the debate. The questions concerned various topics, such as Italian laws, the Italian school system, migration flaws and their management, the engagement of young people in European policies, journalism and the issue of fake news, the increasing digitalization of the world, media literacy and the situation of migrants in Naples. The answers were very appreciated by the public and more questions would have been made if we had more time.

It then followed the viewing of a short video clip about the journey to Italy by a group of migrants. The video was made by the students. After that, Roberto Raiola, a former teacher at Tilgher, explained how grassroots participation and the struggle through protest and demonstration allowed them to get a new facility for their school.

Finally, Francesca, a Tilgher 5th grader, asked Margherita Torello if there were going to be other encounters that promote inclusion with Dedalus. Margherita said it depended on them, if they wanted to keep having these types of encounters, there would have been others for sure. The day ended at around 13:30 with Oxana, a Ukrainian refugee student at Tilgher, who made the final greetings with a poem.

The National Debate Day was a success, the public was very engaged, and many questions were answered. The dialogue was deeply stimulating and interesting, indeed the public was satisfied with the result of the day.

## 6. Denmark

The event that took place at Union Culture house with guest speaker Inger Sarborg. **The guest speaker** has worked with youth in over 25 years and train young people to run for youth parliament and to engage in youth politics. She now works in Ringsted Gymnasium, as a teacher and counselor. She continues to be a motivational speaker expert of debates and youth participations. She has prepared many bootcamps that revolved around democracy. We approached her through her email, since CB has been involved in one of the debates she did with young people about democracy, therefore we had a contact point. She was happy to attend.

First, she had a small session introducing what she does and breaking the ice with a short activity. When the event started, students had prepared questions in groups and gathered on the stage to present the talking points and they did. The session was Q&A where they would present what kind of problems that they think that the youth in the EU struggle with. The ideas talked about was mainly the school system, school hours, abortion laws, and a lot of them talked about how they feel disconnected to the EU as a whole, which was interesting. The guest speaker, who did not like the camera, was happy to adjust the questions and answer them based on her expertise and knowledge about the EU. She also talked a lot about the upcoming EU elections.

The event was a great success, the outcomes were increasing the knowledge of the young people about the questions they had around youth participation in politics and in the EU elections. In addition

to encouraging the young people to be more active politically in their municipalities and in the EU elections and processes.

## **7. Spain**

The National Debate Days event brought together the participants, in a debate alongside Isabel María González Contreras, Councilor of Culture, Tourism and Heritage in the City Council of Niebla and Advisor to the Diputación de Huelva, specifically to the Agencia Destino Huelva ; Ms. González Contreras had to attend the event online.

The young participants expressed a keen interest in discussing various aspects of the education system, including the integration of new technologies, efforts to improve the quality of classrooms, and the stance on free university education, among other issues.

Additionally, the event provided a platform for the participants to engage with the policy maker on the cultural activities and initiatives upon the role of literature, cinema, and the arts in the cultural landscape of Niebla, as well as the broader importance of cultural engagement and preservation.

The implementation has faced several complications that have led to delays and challenges ; the main issues encountered are as follows:

- Difficulty in finding interested politicians to participate in the activity.
- Difficulty in finding relevant stakeholders, particularly young people, to participate in the event due to summer period and exam season
- Difficulty in coordinating the availability and schedules of both politicians and stakeholders