

The project « EU sceptic OBS: analysing Euroscepticism, informing citizens and encouraging debates » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 *"Networks of Towns"*
Measure 2.3 *"Civil Society Projects"*
Strand 1 – *"European Rememberance"*

Preparatory activities: the activities involved more than 15 participants.

Location / Dates: Meetings were mostly held online throughout the project due to COVID-19.

Short description:

Consortium relations - Meetings with representatives of all Partners (more than 15) - bilateral and within a whole Consortium, regular status updates. Mailings.

Preparation of national events - preparing agendas, invitations, inviting speakers; preparing lists of guests; inviting guests; graphic design preparation. Preparations for recommendations and final Manifesto.

Preparation of Observatory tool – desk research.

Events:

7 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1 (Torun):

Participation: The event involved 61 citizens, including 51 participants from Poland, 1 From Latvia, 1 form France, 1 from Hungary, 1 from Germany, 1 from Italy, 1 participant from Belarus, 2 participants from Indonesia, 1 participant from Georgia, 1 participant from Azerbaijan. 31 participants was offline and 30 was online.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Toruń, Poland**, 19th October 2022.

Short description: The event included a workshop for young residents, during which participants tried to answer several questions about the EU and its institutions (What is the European Union for you? What are the bad/disadvantageous things about the EU for individual member states? What role do EU institutions play?)

After the workshop a debate was organized during which the results of the workshop were presented.

The debate was titled: The Future of EU Institutions and Challenge of Euroscepticism. The event began with a short lecture on a possible impact of war in Ukraine on the institutional reforms of the EU and reactions of Eurosceptical political forces. All panelists together with the audience discussed weak and strong points of the EU institutions and the relationship between their deficits and Euroscepticism.



Event 2 (Lens)

Participation: The event involved 87 participants, including 3 participants from Poland, 46 participants from France, 1 participant from Albania, 3 participants from Austria, 2 participants from Bulgaria, 1 participant from Bosnia and Hercegovina, 8 participants from Germany, 1 participant from Spain, 1 participant from Greece, 2 participants from Croatia, 4 participants from Hungary, 4 participants from Italy, 2 participants from KS, 3 participants from Romania, 2 participants from Republic of Serbia, 2 participants from Sweden, 1 participant from Republic of Slovenia and 1 participant from f United Kingdom. All participants were online.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Lens, France**, 30st June 2022.

Short description: The major issue discussed during our public debate was deindustrialization and its social and economic impact – and the opportunity of reindustrialization brought by the Green Deal in terms of employment and environment.

Event 3 (Rzeszow):

Participation: The event involved 68 participants, including 62 from Poland, 1 from Italy, 1 from France, 1 from Sweden, 2 from Hungary, 1 from Macedonia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Rzeszów, Poland** 25th October 2022.

Short description: The Rzeszow event dealt with security issues, and as it was held in the midst of the war in Ukraine this topic became the main thread of discussion. Participants in the meeting noted that the biggest manifestation of the threat and thus growing concern in society are cyber-terrorism and disinformation. After the workshop the debate was organized, it was titled: The war in Ukraine and different shades of Euroscepticism. It began with a short lecture on the relations between right-wing populists in the EU and the US and its impact on the security of Europe.



Event 4 (Budapest):

Participation: The event involved 49 participants online and 15 participants offline. 3 participants from Germany, 32 participants from Hungary, 3 participants from Poland, 1 participant from Italy, 1 participant from Sweden, 1 participant from Portugal, 1 participant from Switzerland, 2 participants from Finland, 1 participant from Belgium, 1 participant from United States, 1 participant from Ireland, 1 participant from Greece, 1 participant from Slovakia, 9 participants from Hungary and 6 participants from other countries.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Budapest, Hungary**, 12nd May 2022.

Short description: The questions of rule of law and the state of democracy in Hungary as well as Hungarians' approach to the European Union were debated during a 4-hour-long workshop we organized on Thursday afternoon, 12 May 2022.

Participants were having lively discussions in multiple rounds of 20-30 minutes using World Café as a method. During the first part of the workshop participants discussed how they view rule of law and democratic values, especially in the light of Hungary's EU membership. The second part of the workshop focused more on what participants would advise the EU and what kind of policies they would like to see implemented across the Union at the citizen, community, and national levels.

Event 5.1 (Malmo):

Participation: The event involved 10 citizens, including 10 participants residents of the city of Malmö (Sweden) or the peripheral area.

Location / Dates: The event took place at Malmö University (Malmö, Sweden), from 24/05/2022 to 24/05/2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to engage students in a series of activities revolving the relevant subjects culminating in a student manifesto where they articulated what they expected from the European union, areas of development and hopes for the future in relation to specific policy outcomes and also generally. The workshop event took place as follows: Attendees will engage in a series of activities including surveys on their perceptions of what it is like to be a Eurosceptic, as well as critically engaging in conversations about the role of the European Union and what it means to be a European citizen. There are separate sessions with breaks in-

between. The sessions are on the topics of Democratic representation, Euroscepticism and Challenges and Strategic Responses to Global Challenges. The workshop culminates with the students proposing a Citizen Manifesto based on the work done during the day.

Event 5.2 (Malmö):

Participation: The event involved 32 citizens, including 29 participants from Sweden, 1 from Poland, 1 from France, 1 from Hungary.

Location / Dates: The event took place at Malmö University (Malmö, Sweden), 24th May 2022

Short description: The aim of the event was to engage students in a series of activities revolving the relevant subjects culminating in a student manifesto where they articulated what they expected from the European union, areas of development and hopes for the future in relation to specific policy outcomes and also generally. The roundtable event took place as follows: First, Jellen Olivares and Eric Sonesson will present some of the main findings from workshops held with international students from the programme on European Studies at Malmö University. Second, Adam Balcer from Wise Europa will introduce us to their project, which cooperates with the government, consulting firms, think tanks, research institutions as well as businesses to promote and improve the quality of Polish and European policy-making. The panellists at the roundtable are Ana-Maria Dutceac Segesten, Associate Professor in European Studies and Strategic Communication at Lund University. Presenting on the topic of "Euroscepticism Europeanised". Derek Stanford Hutcheson, Vice-Dean of the Malmö University's Faculty of Culture and Society will present on the topic of Global and transnational citizenship and Awareness, Inclusion and Recognition of EU mobile citizens' Political Rights. The third presenter is Anna Palmehag, who is an analyst, engaged by the independent Danish-Swedish knowledge centre Øresundsinstittet. The title of her presentation is: "Denmark, Sweden and the Øresund Region".

Event 6 (Trieste):

Participation: The event involved 48 citizens, including 36 from Italy, 2 from Serbia, 2 from North Macedonia, and 1 from Moldova, 2 from Poland, 1 from France, 1 from Romania, and 1 from Croatia, 1 from Sweden, and 1 from Hungary.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Trieste** (Italy) and online from 04/03/2022 to 05/03/2022.

Short description: The event took place in hybrid to give the possibility to everyone to participate. On the 4th of March a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ALDA, the European Association for Local Democracy, and the CEI, the Central European Initiative. This official and crucial moment of institutional bond was the outcome of a longstanding *fil rouge* that combines the work of the two organizations in the Balkans region. For this reason, the celebration of the signature was combined with the event of the project EU scepticOBS. Citizens from the EU and from the Balkans had the chance to meet and exchange with EU citizens to provide contributions to be shared in the platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

The aim of the EU scepticObs event was to foster European citizenship, while improving the conditions for civic and democratic participation at the European Union level. The event focused on euroscepticism, immigration and the relationship among Balkans and Europe. The initial part consisted on a round table where were discussed issues related to the war in Ukraine, and was followed by the presentation of the project by the leader WiseEurope. The event's first part ended with a talk through the immigration and refugee crises, and how this thematic can influence euroscepticism. The second part of the day consisted of a citizen's workshop with the main subject of migration, refugee flows and European Laws. Once the groups were organized they discussed the issues and confronted each other. In the end, the result of the 3 questions that animated the debate (What can I do as a citizen to improve these issues? What can I do as part of a civil society organisation? What should we ask local and European authorities?) was useful material for the final Manifesto.

Event 7 (Warsaw)

Participation: The event involved 20 citizens, including 11 participants from Poland, 3 participants from Italy, 2 participants from Sweden, 2 participants from the city of Hungary, 2 participants from France.

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, 30th November.

Short description: Representatives of all project partners met in Warsaw during the final event. Recommendations from each workshop were presented, and the meeting resulted in a joint discussion and development of the final manifesto.

