

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Câmara Municipal de Pinhel
PIC number:	905477444
Project name and acronym:	GREENgaged Citizens: European Network for Local Climate Action - GREENGAGED

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1st Event
Event name:	Local Climate action: Network of Towns Introduction
Type:	Conference, Introduction
In situ/online:	<i>In-situ</i>
Location:	Pinhel, Portugal
Date(s):	February 18-21, 2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cm-pinhel.pt/
Participants	
Female:	40
Male:	50
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	2
From country 2 [France]:	2
From country 3 [Greece]:	5
From country 4 [Hungary]:	1
From country 5 [Italy]:	1
From country 6 [Latvia]:	2
From country 7 [Lithuania]:	2
From country 8 [Malta]:	2
From country 9 [Netherlands]:	2
From country 10 [Portugal]:	64
From country 11 [Slovakia]:	2

From country 12 [Slovenia]:	2		
From country 13 [Spain]:	3		
Total number of participants:	90	From total number of countries:	13

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The "GReEngaged Citizens" Project is a pioneering initiative spearheaded by the Municipality of Pinhel, Portugal. This ambitious endeavor aims to place municipalities and local entities at the forefront of climate action, transforming environmental challenges into tangible opportunities. Aligning with the objectives of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) program, this project seeks to foster the exchange of best practices among European citizens, promote intercultural dialogue, and reinforce active participation and solidarity based on European values.

It is distinguished by its comprehensive and inclusive approach. It involves collaboration with 13 entities from 13 different European Union countries, including the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Italy, France, Malta, Greece, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Latvia. Over a period of 20 months, the project will host six major events, each comprising seminars, round tables, debates, workshops, conferences, and cultural activities. These events are designed to elevate public awareness on crucial themes such as environmental protection, democracy, active participation, and cooperation.

Kick-off Meeting in Pinhel

The project's inaugural event was held in Pinhel, Portugal, involving 26 participants from 12 European countries and 64 local Portuguese guests. This first meeting set a high standard for the subsequent events, showcasing meticulous planning and coordination. The organizing team focused on ensuring a seamless experience for all participants, handling logistics such as travel arrangements, accommodation, transfers, and insurance with great care.

The event brought together a diverse group of individuals, including environmental experts, policymakers, NGO representatives, and educators.

The event spanned four days, with a well-structured program designed to maximize engagement and knowledge sharing. The program of activities was:

Sunday, 18 February:

- Arrival and transfer of participants to Pinhel.
- Check-in and a welcome Portuguese dinner.

Monday, 19 February:

- Breakfast followed by a welcome session at the City Hall.
- Presentation of the project and participants from Portugal, Bulgaria, Latvia, Malta, France, and the Netherlands.
- Conference on "European Sustainability Policies and the European Green Pact." Speaker – Jorge Batista – expert in renewable energy in ENERAREA – Agência Regional de Energia e Ambiente da Beira Interior
- Workshop on promoting renewable energy in local communities.
- Lunch at a traditional restaurant.
- "Promoting sustainable transport alternatives" city walk: getting to know the beauties of Pinhel: - Medieval Pinhel - The Castle and the Wall; Pinhel natural Heritage - Faia Viewpoint.
- Dinner at a traditional restaurant.

Tuesday, 20 February:

- Breakfast and transfer to the High School Auditorium.
- Meeting with students, presentation of a handbook on promoting renewable energy.
- Presentation of participants and entities from Lithuania, Greece, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, and Spain.

- Brotherhood Ceremony, signing a symbolic oath to uphold European values.
- Lunch and visit to a local winery.
- Introduction of the next meeting in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
- Evaluation and farewell dinner.

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

- Breakfast and transfer to Sa Carneiro airport (Porto)

Lectures and Interventions

The event featured notable speakers, including:

Rui Ventura – Mayor of Pinhel (Portugal): Mayor Ventura emphasized the importance of local action in combating climate change. He highlighted Pinhel's initiatives, such as selective glass recycling, the use of natural fertilizers, and tree planting. Ventura's speech underscored the town's commitment to sustainability and the broader goals of the GREEngaged project.

Jorge Batista - Expert in Renewable Energy: Batista shared insights into innovative renewable energy projects in the Guarda region. He discussed the establishment of hybrid photovoltaic and wind energy parks, the enhancement of existing wind farms, and the integration of renewable energy into local communities. Batista's vision for a decarbonized future emphasized the need for community engagement, energy efficiency, and continued research and innovation.

Handbook on Good Practices

A key output of the event was the creation of a handbook compiling best practices for promoting renewable energy in local communities. Contributions from participating countries covered a range of topics:

- Bulgaria: Ensuring reliable and environmentally friendly energy production.
- Slovenia: Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- Latvia: Striving for greener practices.
- Slovakia: Utilizing geothermal resources.
- Malta: Installing solar panels in public spaces.
- France: Renewable energy initiatives in Avignon.
- Lithuania: Making Kaunas a green city.
- Italy: Renewable energy practices.
- Spain: Providing free electricity in Muras.
- Hungary: Recycling rain and grey water in kindergartens.
- Netherlands: Developing energy hubs.
- Greece: Local public policies for renewable energy.
- Portugal: Community-led renewable energy projects.

Key Results:

The first event fostered a robust network of municipalities and local entities across Europe, enhancing cooperation and collective action on climate and environmental issues. This network facilitated the sharing of innovative practices and solutions tailored to local contexts.

One of the significant achievements was the increased active participation of citizens in climate action. Through seminars, workshops, and cultural exchanges, the project empowered individuals to engage in sustainability initiatives and contribute to their communities' environmental goals.

It underscored as well the importance of European values such as solidarity, cooperation, and democracy. Participants from diverse backgrounds united under these shared values, strengthening the sense of European identity and community.

Educational activities, including workshops and presentations, provided valuable knowledge and skills related to renewable energy and sustainable practices. This education not only informed participants but also equipped them to implement these practices in their localities.

This event showcased numerous sustainable practices from various countries, such as renewable energy initiatives, waste reduction techniques, and green public policies. These examples served as inspiration and practical models for other municipalities to adopt.

It made a significant impact both locally in Pinhel and across Europe. By engaging local communities and fostering international collaboration, the project contributed to broader climate action efforts and demonstrated the power of collective action.

Finally, the portuguese event laid a strong foundation for future initiatives. The network of municipalities and local entities is expected to continue collaborating on climate action, leveraging the knowledge and relationships built during the project.

Conclusion: The "GReEngaged Citizens" project successfully highlighted the potential of local entities to drive climate action and environmental sustainability. By fostering cooperation, active participation, and the exchange of best practices, the project made significant strides in promoting a greener, more resilient Europe. The positive outcomes and lessons learned from this initiative will continue to inspire and guide future efforts in environmental protection and sustainable development

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).