

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	FUNDACJA OTWARTY PLAN
PIC number:	930024846
Project name and acronym:	EU24 - Engage for the Planet U24-Engage4thePlanet Nr.: 101084681

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	2
Event name:	Pilot event: Conference “Climate Crisis-Youth-European Elections 2024”
Type:	Conference
In situ/online:	
Location:	Poland, Kraków
Date(s):	19th of May 2023
Website(s) (if any):	Open Plan Foundation: https://otwartyplan.org/climate-crisis-youth-european-elections-2024/ Engage for the Planet: https://engage4theplanet.com/2023/05/26/the-conference-climate-crisis-youth-european-elections-2024-was-a-success/
Participants	
Female:	41
Male:	15
Non-binary:	2
From country 1 [Poland]:	35
From country 2 [Germany]:	8
From country 3 [France]:	5
From country 4 [Italy]:	2
From country 5 [Hungary]:	1
From country 6 [Bulgaria]:	1
From country 7 [Cyprus]:	1

From country 8 [Netherlands]:	1		
From country 9 [Sweden]:	1		
From country 10 [Finland]:	1		
From country 11 [Spain]:	1		
From country 12 [Czech Republic]:	1		
From country 13 [Slovakia]:	1		
Total number of participants:	58	From total number of countries:	13

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Pilot event “Climate Crisis-Youth-European Elections 2024” took place on 19th of May in Kraków Poland on Na Zjeździe 8 Street. The main goal of the event was to discuss the results of research on UE political parties programs, youth opinions and participation practices to develop a new quality format of debate in which topics concerned with climate change and sustainability are highlighted. The program of the 4 hours event was following:

1. Climate Crisis part:

- Presentation “Climate Crisis as a Context of Emerging Adulthood” - the main goal was to give the participants an overview of recent research connected to the climate crisis and youth
- Presentation of the “Your voice matters! European survey for Youth” survey results that was run by the EU24 project consortium. The survey was designed to give the Consortium the foundation to prepare future blended debate formats.

2. Engaging Youth into European Climate Debate part:

- Engaging Youth into European Climate Debate on Energy, Mobility, Food Production and Climate Justice. It was a methodological workshop that was divided into 2 parts:

A) World Café workshop. The main question was which are the most pressing issues in terms of mobility, food production, energy and climate justice that should be debated before the elections. Before testing blended debate formats methodology, the World's Café workshop was prepared for 4 different groups. Each group had about 10 min to list different issues regarding their theme and also indicate which ones might be the most pressing ones, or which ones should be selected as a priority. Whichever subject would come up to the surface, that's the one that was supposed to be tested in the next method.

B) EU24 Engage for the planet Consortium blended debate formats method testing. As an introduction to the debate, the political parties' positions were presented on topics relevant to each discussion. The essential part was the blended debate formats method testing by EU24 Consortium partners. The following methods were used:

1. In the Mobility theme - facilitated participatory exercise – Articulating a vision
2. In Food production theme - Classic Mindfulness Lead Debate
3. In the Energy theme- Fish Bowl
4. In the Climate Justice theme - 1-2-4-All

Ad. 1 Participatory exercise – Articulating a vision:

Method description:

The Debate Method used for the Mobility Group is called Facilitated Participatory Exercise. The purpose of this debating method is to find out the problem, visualize the future and try to work out together how to reach that future without illusions.

Evaluation of the method

Methodology test brought together participants from diverse backgrounds, including people living in capital cities and remote villages. Despite their different realities, they identified common problems such as over-centralisation, unreliable public transport and affordability issues. Importantly, there was a consensus among the participants, with no disagreements observed throughout the process. However, the method itself was found to be somewhat static and it is suggested that a more dynamic approach could be beneficial. One recommendation is to better specify the future time frame (e.g., by dividing it into shorter (e.g. 5 years) and longer (e.g. 25 years) intervals), allowing for more nuanced discussions and the development of two or three well-articulated recommendations. In addition, incorporating group dynamics and using a facilitator in a conference setting could further enhance the effectiveness of this method. Overall, the testing of the Articulate a Vision debate method provided valuable insights into pressing mobility issues and allowed participants to collectively envision a more sustainable and accessible future. By considering feedback and incorporating improvements, this method can be further refined and used in different settings to encourage engaging and productive discussions among participants.

Ad. 2 Classic Mindfulness Lead Debate.

Method description:

It is a set of rules that foundation the Mindfulness concept that might help to organise space and the participants' attitudes in a certain way. It includes verbalising intention before starting the session indicating to everyone the intention for the whole debate (kind & curious interest (towards others but also towards yourself), to be open-minded, non-judgemental, open awareness), and meditation.

Evaluation of the method

The technique takes away the competition from the debate and creates space for some deeper thinking. The reminder about mindful listening was helpful, as we very often have a tendency to speak our minds instead of being present with another person talking. Saying our names before voicing our thoughts made participants feel more engaged in the conversation. Some participants felt that the topic of food production was quite difficult and technical, and they felt that they could not contribute much to the subject. They suggested that maybe having some experts to talk about it would be quite helpful. This method was found to be engaging and allows deeper reflection. The participants valued the fact that they had the chance to first self-reflect and only later move on to group discussions. The meditation at the beginning of the session helped people to ground themselves. It also helped to ignore the noise and distractions around and focus more on the debate. It seems that this method would work fine also online.

Ad. 3 Fishbowl:

Method description:

The main idea of this method is to divide a group in two: one group in the bowl, second group outside of the bowl. The participants in the bowl had an open conversation about the long term vision on energy. Participants switched places during the conversation (facilitated by the moderator) so they were in and out the fishbowl. While outside the fishbowl participants made notes on their observations during the conversation. After the first round in-depth reflection on the conversation among the observers and the participants, there was no clear outcome but many suggestions were raised related to long -term energy vision, the importance of a global approach, equal access to energy, sharing knowledge and alternative energy resources.

Evaluation of the method:

The method was rated as very effective. However, it is necessary to have strong facilitation which might also mean removing too 'talkative' participants from the fishbowl and inviting those being on stand-by. Participants who were on 'stand-by' enjoyed listening to the fishbowl discussions also because some of them had a chance to revisit their own opinions. This method seems more fitted for off-line interactions rather than online or hybrid ones.

Ad. 4 1-2-4-All

Method description:

It is a technique that facilitates conversation in small groups and then brings the small groups together to integrate their ideas on the topic. First, participants silently reflect on a question or issue (1). Then they share their reflections in pairs (2). After 5-10 minutes, two pairs join up (4) and continue with the conversation as a group. Finally, everyone gathers together to sum up their main conclusions. Our modification: Due to the small size of the group we modified the group sizes. After the individual reflection, we discussed in groups of 3 and afterward all together.

Evaluation of the method:

This method was found to be engaging and allows deeper reflection. The participants valued the fact that they had the chance to first self-reflect and only later move on to group discussions. It seems that this method would work fine also online. Participants also agree that the method is inclusive (everyone has a chance to express their opinion), engaging (working in pairs and small groups means everyone takes part), safe (participants reflect first alone, they have time to clearly formulate their thoughts, the aim is to reach a solution and come up with it together), tolerant, representative, has easy language, leads to conclusions (several rounds of discussion each time in a bigger group helps to narrow down the ideas) and it gives a possibility to collect questions as well anonymously (the initial part could be anonymous, written down and then discussed in groups).

3. Final conclusions and recommendations**Key Findings:**

- Issue of youth involvement in the European Union is of key importance, particularly when it comes to the climate change debate. This debate can be perceived as a form of democratising movement which aims to empower young people.
- Access to information/knowledge and the notion of 'urgency' are important factors regarding how young people in the EU strategize and mobilise on political issues like climate change. While access to the Internet provides information, it also poses a risk of encountering fake news and security concerns. Hence, it is vital to include those aspects into the debates on the climate movement and youth engagement.
- In Hungary, the 'older generation' hopes that young people will act as change-makers against the authoritarian regime. There is danger however that they may face great risks by being at the forefront of the political movement. In this Hungarian example, it could be argued that intergenerational cooperation in political movements is essential for success and true solidarity between older and younger generations. This integrational approach could be beneficial also for youth climate change activism. However, there are also problems with such an approach. Namely, the current generation in power frames today's young people as radical, which can seem paradoxical as they were more radical in fighting for environmental protection (e.g. anti-nuclear German movement destroying infrastructure in 80s). Such paradoxes raise questions about the motivations to frame the younger generation as 'radical' though they are more peaceful than this older generation. Given this, it is crucial to approach these issues with nuance such as taking into account various factors such as social class and access to education, which can contribute to differences among individuals or generations.
- One way of mapping various pro and anti-climate change narratives can rely on political science concepts of 'the dichotomy between pro-change and anti-change ideologies'. The latter types of ideologies often align with the right-wing/conservative stances. Specifically, such perspectives usually lack concrete ideas for creating a better world that requires social change. Their resistance to change often stems from the lack of a vision for a better world. On the other hand, the narrative of change within the climate movement could be instrumental in mobilising young people because it stresses the urgent need for future-oriented action (aka 'the urgency' of taking action).
- Making connections between young people from the global South and global North is essential for fostering a dialogue on climate issues from a global perspective.
- All tested methods can be implemented into future debates in "EU24 engage for the planet" project

In summary, the event met the intended results and goals and the tested methods will contribute to the effective implementation of the project in the next months.

4. Art in the time of climate crisis

This part was prepared to share with participants some achievements from the EU24 Consortium concerning art and climate crisis: Movie "Climate Caravans" about an eco-residency and interdisciplinary Open Plan Foundation project and "Blood Lines" exhibition is a sound installation

Target groups: youth, civil society representatives, Academia representatives especially from youth, climate crisis and marginalised groups.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	14.06.2023	Initial version (new MFF).

