

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	Stichting Egea Alumni (Egea Alumni)
PIC number:	887720624
Project name and acronym:	[EU24 - Engage for the Planet] [EU24-Engage4thePlanet] Nr.: 101084681

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	6
Event name:	International Debate: Navigating the Path to Sustainable Energy
Type:	Debate
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	The Netherlands Drouwen (Drenthe)
Date(s):	14.03.2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://engage4theplanet.com/event/international-debate-navigating-the-path-to-sustainable-energy/
Participants	
Female:	50
Male:	51
Non-binary (or prefer not to say):	4
From country 1 Germany:	56
From country 2 the Netherlands:	13
From country 3 Poland:	12
From country 4 Belgium:	5
From country 5 Slovenia:	4
From country 6 Romania:	3
From country 7 Austria:	2
From country 8 Czechia:	2

From country 9 Slovakia:	1		
From country 10 Cyprus:	1		
From country 11 Denmark:	1		
From country 12 France:	1		
From country 13 Ukraine	4		
Total number of participants:	105	From total number of countries:	13

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

International Debate: Navigating the Path to Sustainable Energy

This event aimed to stimulate insightful discussions on climate change issues and provide a platform for diverse voices, especially underrepresented ones.

To reach a sustainable future a transition to green energy is required. We focused on ENERGY, a crucial component in addressing the climate crisis. Withing the subject of energy we identified important subtopics, energy production, transport and storage, energy consumption and legislation.

The goal of the event was:

- To empower and amplify underrepresented voices: discussing the critical issue of climate change and its impact on our planet. Encouraging young people to voice their opinions and ideas as they play a crucial role in shaping the future.
- Green ENERGY – challenges and recommendations: High-profile debate on Navigating the Path to Sustainable Energy used the "Articulate a Vision" methodology. Together we explored current challenges and proposed sustainable recommendations for a greener and more sustainable future.

Event registration was open at 13:30. The Event program started at 14:00 with a welcome word from Egea alumni. During the introduction part general information about the project was shared, its goals and activities. The social media and website of the project were presented, participants were invited to comment on information shared by the project and to familiarize themselves with our reports. It was emphasized that making the voices of our communities heard is well done by voting, event participants were reminded about the date of the European elections. All eligible participants were encouraged to vote in the upcoming European elections taking place 6th -9th June 2024.

To stimulate upcoming debate and give information about the region lecture was given on the local energy situation in the region. In this part, it was explained why this part of the Netherlands was chosen for the event, what are the natural resources of the region and what is the socio-economic situation.

The next step of the event was to prepare for the debate in groups. We have started with the presentation of the methodology the "Articulate a Vision". Participants received a short summary of the principles of the methodology and the steps to follow. We have divided participants into groups and made sure that each group has a comfortable place to debate. One group had a hybrid character, as one person joined them online via Jitsy and actively participated in the debate.

Debates in groups: each group had a specific topic within energy theme, to allow them to have a more focused debate. Debate started at 15:00.

After 16:30 we gathered participants for the plenary session, where we had a short summary of the debate, and each group presented their recommendations.

During the whole event posters regarding energy were displayed and participants could vote for their favorite poster.

At 17:00 plenary session was concluded. We invited participants to continue their discussions in the informal setting. During this informal gathering, we offered drinks and snacks allowing participants to

continue conversations. During this part of the event, the poster competition was concluded and the winner was announced. The winning poster is "please stop the food waste".

At 19:30 informal part of the event was officially closed.

The introductory lecture included information regarding regions of Groningen and Drenthe and why this location was chosen specifically to host the debate on ENERGY.

Southern Groningen and Drenthe have a history of underground energy resources, heavily influencing the landscape to this day. To reach a sustainable future a transition to green energy is required.

The Groningen natural gas field has been a topic of numerous discussions: gas extraction led to significant wealth but also resulted in a crisis of gas-related earthquakes damaging homes and buildings in the region. The impact on local communities is ongoing, with a substantial restoration project spanning the entire region, permanently altering the aesthetics of historic villages. The management of the gas-related earthquakes turned into a national political crisis, eroding civilian faith in governmental competence.

Besides the damage, this crisis fuelled the debate on the energy transition and the role that the province of Groningen is willing to play. Groningen has the potential to farm green energy such as wind and solar energy. The geographical factors make this region a promising green energy area. Even though the potential of green energy in the region is significant utilizing this opportunity might be difficult. Local citizens are still affected by the negative impact of gas extraction and therefore reluctant to allow energy farming again. While gas extraction in Groningen ended in October 2023, the Wadden Sea gas fields and off-shore energy production by windmills are being considered as potential alternatives. Off-shore energy production has gained renewed relevance due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. However, the effects of gas mining and off-shore wind farms are debated due to potential ecosystem impacts on this unique UNESCO Wadden Sea area. Off-shore farming also comes with new challenges like energy transportation and energy storage.

Southern Drenthe is home to the largest oil field in Western Europe. It marks the establishment of the Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij (NAM) in the oil village of Schoonebeek. For a long time, it was seen as a great opportunity for locals, and NAM contributed to numerous facilities for the local community. However, due to the Groningen gas earthquakes, there is now growing suspicion against NAM, resulting in a strained relationship between the company and the villagers.

The result of the event was the formulation of Key Policy Recommendations. Those recommendations are based on the recommendations presented by all debating groups. Even though groups were working independently the conclusions they came to were similar. Key Policy Recommendations for European policies are:

- Harmonization of Energy Networks through Europe;
- Advocacy for a unified European railway system;
- Acceleration of the switch to renewable Energies;
- Access to renewable energy as a human right;
- Stronger processual and financial involvement of citizens in energy endeavours.

Total number of participants of the event was 108. Which included 3 participants from non-eligible countries (2 from Switzerland and 1 from England).

105 participants came from 13 eligible countries: Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Czechia, France, Slovenia, Cyprus, Slovakia, Romania, Denmark, Belgium and Ukraine.

Representing 13 eligible countries, in the event participated 50 women, 51 men and 4 participants declared as non-binary (or prefer not to say). From the non-eligible countries participated 2 women and 1 man.

Additionally to the participants present at the location we had 1 person joining online. That person identified as a woman from France.

Time & Place of the event: International Debate: Navigating the Path to Sustainable Energy

EU24 - Engage for the Planet

14.03.24, 13:30 - 19:30; Groepsaccommodatie De Kwartjesberg, Gasselterstraat 9, 9533 PC Drouwen (Drenthe), the Netherlands

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	08.04.2024	Description of the event
3.0	10.04.2024	Revised description of the event
4.0	16.07.2024	Corrected numers of participants per gender and per country. Revised description of the event.
5.0	28.08.2024	The 'Event number' corrected to 6. Event type corrected to " In-situ'.