

Association "Mano Europa" Activity Report 2023

This Activity Report summarizes the "Mano Europa" priorities, expected outcomes and activities implemented throughout 2023. The Activity Report is publicly available as part of our commitment to open communication.

Mano Europa staff, board members strive to ensure that the activities meets organization strategy and fulfills its obligations to the satisfaction of its members, partners, and wider stakeholders.

MISSION

To provide youth with opportunities and innovative resources, to create and support a network of active citizens and to help them develop their full potential in personal and professional life.

VISION

To empower youth to drive meaningful change, fostering a world where young voices lead in creating inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities.



DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

With the goal of enhancing democratic participation Mano Europa aims to empower young people by promoting active involvement in democratic processes. This includes educating youth on their civic rights and responsibilities, encouraging participation in elections, fostering dialogue on governance issues, and creating platforms for youth voices to be heard in decision-making at local, national, or European levels. By doing so, the our organization through its activities helps build a generation of engaged, informed citizens who can contribute to shaping inclusive, representative democracies.

IMPLEMENTED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- **Youth meeting in Portugal** organized by Mano Europa team and supported with Dypall Network, involved **25 youngsters**.
- **Training of 15 youth workers** with the aim to equip them with valuable tools and knowledge to light up the passion for European Union matters in young minds. It aimed to develop skills in youth workers, needed to encourage active participation and democratic engagement among Europe's youth.
- Implemented **youth mobility "EU 2 YOUTH"** that aimed to achieve that young people are more informed and interested in being politically engaged in the EU matters, to know better decision making process of key EU institutions such as European parliament.
- **Online training for youth workers** on the anti-corruption topic, participants gained knowledge on how to apply digital tools in the daily work with youth. The training involved **20 youth workers** from different European countries.
- Implemented **youth mobility "Upscale Your Skills"** which focused on the EU's "Skills Agenda for Europe".

IMPLEMENTED LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

- Implemented **local focus group with 12 youngsters** aiming to gather information about their perception of EU and political participation.
- Developed manual for the European Parliament simulations.
- **4 local European Parliament simulations** were implemented with local youth (each involving minimum 15 people)
- **4 awareness raising campaigns** (online and offline) were implemented with the aim to increase youth participation in the upcoming 2024 European Parliament elections. At least **100 youth** were involved.
- **Online webinar with Matas Maldeikis** was implemented which involved local youth as well.
- Online webinar "**Why is it important to cast your vote in the European Parliament elections?**" was implemented which involved local youth.
- **Interview with** a former member of the European Parliament **Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė**.
- The development of digital European Parliament simulation platform has started.
- Participated in the **"Europe Day" event** in Kaunas Saules Gymnasium which aimed to engage discussions among young students what it means to be part of the EU.
- Held a **round-table** meeting between local policymakers and youth to discuss the challenges young people face in regards of democratic participation and explore ways policymakers can support solutions moving forward.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

With the goal of enhancing sustainable development and environment Mano Europa focuses on educating and empowering young people to take action on environmental, social, and economic sustainability. This includes promoting awareness of global challenges like climate change, resource conservation, and social equity, while encouraging youth to adopt sustainable practices and advocate for policies that protect the planet. By fostering eco-consciousness and responsible citizenship, Mano Europa and its activities helps young people become active contributors to building a more sustainable and resilient future.

IMPLEMENTED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- **Youth meeting in Greece** which aimed to provide youth with knowledge and help to generate ideas related to solving environmental issues. During the youth meeting participants created an awareness raising activities that were focusing on sustainable living and climate change topics.
- **Started to develop Green Compass Tool** which consists of green maps and Green Educational Challenges.
- **As a partner started implementation of “EATWISE” project** that aims to empower young people with migrant and local background through the use of tools to adopt a sustainable lifestyle that aligns with addressing climate change, while also promoting health. Through online culinary courses, online cooking shows, offline trainings, we will teach plant-based recipes that are both climate-friendly and nutritious for youngsters.

IMPLEMENTED LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

- Implemented **World Environmental Week** activities during 5-11 June which involved youth from different regions across Lithuania. Various activities were organized: exhibitions, interviews, focus groups, awareness raising campaigns, workshops, etc.
- Implemented **Green Challenges** that involved local youth.
- Mano Europa team **started to develop educational resources** that aim to address the issue of environmental sustainability, especially in relation to the danger of single-use plastics for our planet.
- Organized **local workshop and discussion session** with youth on the topics of climate change and sustainable behavior.
- Organized **local workshops** that aimed to increase the social entrepreneurship skills of rural youth interested in agriculture and to provide rural youth with knowledge and new skills in sustainable agriculture and technology-oriented job opportunities. Supported the capacity development of local stakeholders through exchange of good practices meeting.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

With the goal of enhancing social inclusion of vulnerable groups Mano Europa aims to empower marginalized individuals, such as minorities, people with fewer opportunities, and specifically marginalized women. Mano Europa implemented activities and projects that aim to raise awareness, reduce discrimination, and create opportunities for equal participation in society. By promoting diversity and inclusion, it fosters a more supportive and equitable environment, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of background or status, have access to resources, rights, and opportunities for growth and development.

IMPLEMENTED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- **Implemented online training for youth workers** that aimed to provide them with quality tools and creative methodologies to design and implement blended-experiential learning activities for marginalized young women, directly involving the target groups through participative and inclusive processes.
- **Implemented 4 events in Lithuania, Portugal, Croatia and Germany for 20 young women** with the aim to generate their own artworks underlining and expressing their vision of women in Europe. Their artworks and messages were presented – finally giving actual space to female experiences and visions.

IMPLEMENTED LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

- **Implemented 25 local activities/workshops with 15 marginalized girls in each activity** that aimed to test an innovative and integrated model for the individual and collective empowerment of young women, based on blended-experiential learning activities, and to foster the social inclusion of girls at risk of marginalization.
- Organized **art workshops for 20 young women** with the aim to help them to express their vision of women in Europe.
- Implemented social campaign for local youth in menstrual health education topic.
- **Workshops and panel discussion** were organized for youth workers with the aim to exchange good practices in working with young people with a particular focus on the needs of those at risk of exclusion.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

Looking ahead to 2024, Mano Europa team has already planned many exciting opportunities to make a positive impact in our society.

Expanding access to non-formal and digital education: Our team is planning new activities and content creation aimed at expanding access to quality non-formal and digital education, with a focus on reaching individuals with fewer opportunities.

Impactful cooperations: We will continue to partner with educational institutions, NGOs, other stakeholders with the aim to empower youth to become more active in their local communities.

Climate action and sustainability goals: through planned activities we plan to increase our efforts in engaging youth in climate activism and sustainable development projects.

Some of our organisational goals for 2024 are:

- 1. Organisational development:** Expand community impact and reach with aim to increase the scope and quality of activities to maximize positive impact in local community.
- 2. Enhance financial sustainability** to ensure long-term financial stability to support ongoing projects and future growth.
- 3. Staff skills development:** we will continue to offer training and professional development opportunities to our existing and new staff members including our local partners. A motivated and skilled team will help the organization to achieve its mission.
- 4. Strategic building:** build and strengthen good working relationships with key stakeholders with whom Mano Europa has shared interests and cooperation. Also, we will seek to develop joint initiatives with like-minded organizations locally and internationally.