

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	PLACE NETWORK
PIC number:	905706170
Project name and acronym:	Building Inclusive Civic Engagement and Solidarity Among Diverse Young People in Europe — ParticipACTION

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	11		
Event name:	Policy paper writing workshop (online)		
Type:	Workshop		
In situ/online:	Online		
Location:	Online (platform used: Zoom)		
Date(s):	11.05.2026; 15.05.2026; 27.05.2026; 11.06.2026; 25.06.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.rescue.org/eu/page/participaction		
Participants			
Female:	75		
Male:	30		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Italy]:	55		
From country 2 [Cyprus]:	21		
From country 3 [France]:	12		
From country 4 [Lithuania]:	16		
From country 5 [Greece]:	1		
Total number of participants:	105	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Between May and June 2026, the consortium partners organised the transnational online Policy Paper Writing Workshops under Work Package 11 of the ParticipACTION project. Building on the work carried out during the in-person workshops implemented under WP9, these online sessions enabled participants to further develop and finalise youth-led policy papers addressing key challenges related to the project three themes (Migration; Education, Culture, Youth and Sport; and Values, Rights, Rule of Law and Security), while maintaining a cross-cutting focus on gender equality.			

To accommodate different school calendars and the particularly demanding period of the academic year, the activity was delivered through five online workshops held between **11 May and 25 June 2026**, following the same participatory and inclusive approach that characterises the project.

Across the five sessions, **a total of 105 unique participants from 5 different eligible countries took part**, including **75 young people** aged 16 to 23, **23 members of consortium organisations and 7 stakeholders**. Through a collaborative transnational methodology, participants applied the advocacy and policy-writing skills acquired during previous work packages to jointly produce policy papers addressed to local, national and European policymakers.

Across all participating countries, **girls and women represented 71% of participants**, confirming the project's continued success in engaging young women in democratic participation and advocacy activities. The overall representation of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) reached 16%, reflecting the project's commitment to ensuring the meaningful participation of young people with migrant backgrounds.

As several participants attended more than one workshop, some of them did not attend the event for a sufficient amount of time to be counted and some others were not considered within the eligible age, the final total of **105 unique participants** was calculated by counting each individual only once, regardless of the number of sessions attended and following the eligibility criteria mentioned above.

The online format ensured accessibility and continuity of engagement, enabling young people from different countries to collaborate regardless of geographical distance and allowing participants who had attended previous project activities, as well as newcomers, to contribute to the drafting process. The transnational composition of the working groups encouraged the exchange of perspectives and experiences from different national contexts, enriching both the discussions and the final policy proposals.

Prior to the workshops, project staff analysed the preliminary policy papers and recommendations developed during WP9 and identified **five specific sub-topics within each of the project's three thematic areas, for a total of 15 subtopics**. During the online registration process, participants were invited to indicate one or two thematic preferences based on the issues they wished to further explore. This information enabled the consortium to prepare balanced and genuinely transnational working groups before each workshop, ensuring an equitable distribution of participants across countries, backgrounds and thematic interests while also considering the overall size of each group.

Across all workshops, a total of 14 transnational working groups were created. The groups were organised around the three thematic areas of the project:

- Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (4 groups)
- Migration (6 groups)
- Values, Rights, Rule of Law and Security (4 groups)

Within these thematic areas, participants focused on specific policy challenges identified during previous project activities, allowing each group to develop a distinct policy paper addressing a concrete issue relevant to young people across Europe. This event was particularly valuable in shifting participants from a local perspective explored in previous work packages to a European one, since **every policy paper produced in this work package was required to take an EU-wide perspective**.

Although the thematic focus of each group varied, every workshop followed the same participatory structure. Each online session lasted approximately two hours and began with an introduction to the ParticipACTION project and a presentation of the objectives of the workshop. As the activity was open both to participants who had previously attended the in-person workshops and to newcomers joining the project for the first time, project staff also provided a brief refresher on the principles of policy paper writing, revisiting the methodology, structure and objectives of policy papers to ensure that all participants shared a common understanding before beginning the collaborative drafting process.

Following the introductory session, participants were divided into their pre-assigned breakout rooms, with at least 4 young people per group, each facilitated by one or two members of the consortium staff and, where relevant, supported by advocacy specialists or professionals with expertise in the thematic area under discussion. Facilitators guided the discussion, encouraged equal participation among all group members and supported participants in structuring their ideas into coherent and evidence-

based policy proposals, while ensuring that the content remained entirely youth-led.

During the breakout sessions, participants collaboratively discussed the selected policy issue, identified key challenges, agreed on policy objectives and developed recommendations addressed to policymakers at the European level. **The transnational composition of each group encouraged participants to compare experiences from different countries**, identify common barriers and propose solutions applicable across different national contexts. This collaborative approach contributed to the development of policy papers that reflected a diversity of perspectives while maintaining a shared European dimension.

At the conclusion of each online workshop, all participants returned to the plenary session, where each group briefly presented the progress achieved and received feedback from facilitators and other participants. Rather than completing the drafting process during the meeting itself, each group was given approximately one week following the workshop to continue working independently, organise internal meetings where necessary and finalise its policy paper. The completed documents were subsequently submitted to the consortium for review. Although all working groups actively participated during the online workshops and initiated the drafting process, not every group completed and submitted a final policy paper. As this stage relied on voluntary engagement outside the facilitated sessions, some groups experienced difficulties in maintaining communication and coordinating their work. In several cases, an uneven distribution of contributions among group members or a reduced level of follow-up engagement resulted in draft papers remaining incomplete or not being submitted within the established deadline.

Despite these challenges, the majority of groups successfully completed the drafting process, producing high-quality policy papers that reflected substantial collaborative work and meaningful transnational exchanges. **The submitted papers demonstrated participants' ability to translate the knowledge and advocacy skills developed throughout the project into concrete and well-structured policy proposals addressing issues relevant to young people across Europe.**

Following submission, project staff and advocacy specialists reviewed the papers to ensure consistency in formatting, language and overall structure, while preserving the original content and recommendations developed by the young participants. The review process focused exclusively on editorial aspects and did not alter the substance of the proposals, ensuring that the published policy papers authentically reflected the views and priorities identified by the participating youth.

Overall, the workshops resulted in the **submission of 11 policy papers**, distributed as follows:

- Migration: **4** policy papers;
- Education, Culture, Youth and Sport: **4** policy papers;
- Values, Rights, Rule of Law and Security: **3** policy papers.

Following the completion of the drafting phase, **all submitted policy papers entered an evaluation and voting process**. Given that five separate workshops were ultimately organised, and that participants completed their policy papers remotely, this process was necessarily conducted online. To this end, a MS Form survey was created, listing the policy papers drafted under all the themes and was circulated to all participants. More than 450 people voted via the survey, electing the 3 finalist policy papers that will debate during WP12 activities.

The 3 policy papers selected for participating to the online debate competition (WP12) were:

V1: Combating Disinformation to Protect European Democracy

M1: Bridging the Language Gap: Improving Multilingual Access in EU Public Services

E1: Enhancing Youth Civic Engagement and Education in the EU: A Unified Framework

These three winning teams were subsequently invited to participate in the online debate organised under WP12, where they presented and defended their policy proposals before a wider audience.

At the same time, the PLACE Network team has been working on the design of the 3 selected policy papers that have been published on the project page and shared on partners' social media platforms. The papers will also be shared with people attending the final debate to read and with stakeholders at local, national and European level.

To ensure proper documentation and monitoring of the activity, online registration forms from Zoom

and attendance logs have been downloaded and safely stored on the shared Box folder. The reporting workbooks were updated following each workshop. Attendance data were verified against the online meeting logs, and all supporting documentation, including the submitted policy papers and workshop materials, was uploaded to the project's shared repository.

Following each workshop, participants were also invited to complete the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values.