

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	GLOCAL FACTORY SOCIETA COOPERATIVA SOCIALE
PIC number:	909220480
Project name and acronym:	Building Inclusive Civic Engagement and Solidarity Among Diverse Young People in Europe — ParticipACTION

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	12		
Event name:	Transnational debate contest		
Type:	Live debate		
In situ/online:	Online		
Location:	Online (platform used: Zoom)		
Date(s):	28.07.2026; 29.07.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.rescue.org/eu/page/participaction		
Participants			
Female:	110		
Male:	62		
Non-binary:	3*		
From country 1 [Italy]:	58		
From country 2 [Cyprus]:	18		
From country 3 [France]:	31		
From country 4 [Lithuania]:	53		
From country 5 [Greece]:	4		
From country 6 [Belgium]:	4		
From country 7 [The Netherlands]:	2		
From country 8 [Denmark]:	3		
From country 9 [Germany]:	1		
From country 10 [Czech Republic]:	1		
Total number of participants:	175	From total number of countries:	10

* This number includes one participant who preferred not to share their gender

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Between **28 and 29 July 2026**, the consortium partners organised the final transnational online debate events under **Work Package 12 of the ParticipACTION project**. Building on the policy development and writing process carried out under WP11, these sessions provided young participants with the opportunity to present, discuss and defend the three youth-led policy papers that had been selected as finalists. The debates represented the final stage of the policy paper process, creating a space for participants to exchange views on the proposed recommendations, engage with the ideas developed by the different teams, and collectively identify the policy paper considered most compelling by the participants.

The activity was delivered through **two online debate sessions**, held on **28 and 29 July 2026**, respectively. Each session lasted approximately **45 minutes** and followed the same structure, ensuring consistency across the two events while allowing participants from the different countries involved in the project to take part in either one of the two events. Across the two sessions, a total of **175 participants** attended, connecting from **10 different eligible countries**. Among the participants, which included both young people, stakeholders and other EU citizens invited directly by the youth presenting to attend the final debate and support them, **29** were members of the consortium organisations.

A number of participants also connected from countries not eligible for the participant target under the project, including **Morocco, Türkiye, South Africa, Uganda, Russia and Somalia**, invited by the young participants by spreading the word of the debate among their communities. In total, these **29 participants connecting from non-eligible countries were excluded from the final participant calculation**, in line with the eligibility requirements of the project.

Across all countries, a consistently **high level of engagement from girls and women was observed**, accounting for **63% of participants**. This strong female presence highlights a positive trend in engagement. The overall representation of **Third Country National (TCN) youth reached 17%**.

Both sessions followed a **common participatory structure**. Each event opened with a brief **presentation of the ParticipACTION project**, providing participants with an overview of the project's objectives and recalling the process that had led to the final debate. This was followed by the **presentation of the three finalist teams and their respective youth-led policy papers**. The three teams had developed their proposals around the thematic areas addressed throughout the project and had previously participated in the policy paper writing and selection process under WP11.

During the debate, each finalist team was given two minutes to **present the key ideas and recommendations contained in its policy paper** and explain the main challenges the proposal aimed to address. The presentations were followed by 5 minutes of exchange with the rest of the participants, with the role of Popular Jury, allowing the teams to further explain their positions and engage with questions and reflections from the wider group. The two-minute arguments by the three debating themes were recorded and published on the ParticipACTION Consortium website as audio recordings, for the purposes of wider dissemination (D12.1).

The three policy papers presented during the final debates were: **“Bridging the Language Gap: Improving Multilingual Access in EU Public Services” (Migration)**, addressing challenges related to language barriers and access to public services; **“Enhancing Youth Civic Engagement and Education in the EU: A Unified Framework” (Education, Culture, Youth & Sport)**, focusing on strengthening young people's civic participation and access to civic and democratic education; and **“Combating Disinformation to Protect European Democracy” (Values, Rights, Rule of Law and Security)**, addressing the growing challenge of disinformation and its implications for democratic participation and European values.

Each session concluded with a **collective poll live on Zoom**, through which participants were invited to express their preference among the three finalist policy papers. The voting process provided participants with a direct and transparent role in identifying the proposal they considered strongest and most relevant. Participants who did not manage to vote in the online poll, because of some technical issues, were requested to express their vote in the chat.

Following the two sessions, the voting results were consolidated and reviewed to ensure the validity of the final outcome. Duplicate votes were removed, as were votes submitted by participants who had attended the debate for less than 15 minutes. In addition, votes cast by members of the competing teams themselves were excluded from the final calculation, in order to ensure a fair and balanced result.

The final voting results identified **V1 – “Combating Disinformation to Protect European Democracy”** as the **winning policy paper**, receiving **66 votes**. **M1 – “Bridging the Language Gap: Improving Multilingual Access in EU Public Services”** ranked second with **61 votes**, while **E1 – “Enhancing Youth Civic Engagement and Education in the EU: A Unified Framework”** ranked third with **33 votes**.

To ensure proper documentation and follow-up, **participant registration and attendance records were collected and reviewed for each event**. The attendance information was cross-checked against the event records to verify participation and determine eligibility for the project participant target. Participants connecting from non-eligible countries were excluded from the final target calculation, while the consolidated attendance data were used to establish the final number of eligible participants. The voting results from the two sessions were also collected and reviewed, with duplicate and otherwise ineligible votes removed in accordance with the agreed voting methodology. The relevant attendance records, voting information, presentation materials and policy papers were compiled and stored in the relevant project documentation folders.

Following each meeting, partners invited participants to complete the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values.