EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	2 - Fundacja Klaster Innowacji Społecznych (KIS)
PIC number:	922551287
Project name and acronym:	Youth DemocrAID: Education, Debate, Action — Youth DemocrAID

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP7
Event name:	Youth Forum
Type:	Conference, debate, seminar
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Poland, Międzybrodzie Bialskie
Date(s):	10-11.10.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://youthdemocraid.weebly.com/
Participants	
Female:	82
Male:	56
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	114
From country 2 [Italy]:	6

From country 3 [Slovakia]:	6		
From country 4 [Greece]:	6		
From country 5 [Portugal]:	6		
Total number of participants:	138	From total number of countries:	5

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The International Youth Forum, organized by the Social Innovation Cluster and held at the Społecznik Centre in Międzybrodzie Bialskie, Poland, from 10 to 11 October 2025, represented one of the main international events of the Youth DemocrAID project, co-funded by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme of the European Union.

The event gathered 138 young participants from Poland, Italy, Greece, Slovakia, and Portugal, including both international delegations and local participants from the Bielsko-Biała and Żywiec regions. Each partner country was represented by a six-member delegation consisting of five young people (aged 16–30) and one group leader selected and prepared by the partner organisations of the project (YouNet APS, Citizen Crossroads, Youth for Equality, GloUni). In addition to the partner organizations, the forum involved local youth activists, educators, NGO representatives, and public officials, making it a diverse and representative meeting of young citizens and stakeholders in the field of civic engagement.

The Youth Forum was designed as a two-day international event combining seminars, debates, workshops, networking, and study visits. It provided a platform for participants to discuss their roles in democratic societies, exchange experiences, and jointly reflect on challenges and opportunities for youth participation in Europe. The forum also served to present and discuss the results of national activities implemented within the previous work packages (WP2-WP6).

The main objectives of the International Youth Forum were to:

- Promote youth participation in democratic life by empowering young people to engage in civic and political processes at local, national, and European levels.
- Foster the exchange of ideas and good practices between participants from different countries through presentations of national activities, workshops, and discussions.
- Support civic education and active citizenship by providing tools, methods, and inspiration for youth-led action in communities.
- Broaden participants' perspectives by exposing them to international viewpoints and global issues related to democracy and citizenship.
- Encourage cooperation between youth organizations and public authorities, reinforcing the role of young people as active stakeholders in democratic governance.

Day 1 - Presentations and Thematic Debates (10 October 2025)
The first day began with the official opening ceremony, attended by the Secretary of the Municipality of Czernichów, and the youngest member of the Cieszyn County Council. In their opening remarks, both speakers highlighted the significance of youth engagement in democratic processes and the importance of listening to young voices in policymaking.

Each country delegation presented their national experiences in youth civic engagement, showcasing local initiatives and highlighting common challenges and opportunities. The presentations promoted exchange of ideas and inspired new approaches to youth participation.

In the afternoon, participants attended a panel discussion on youth in European and local democracy, followed by a debate titled “Are Youth Voices Heard in Politics?”. The debate encouraged reflection on representation, accountability, and the role of young people in public decision-making.

The day concluded with reflection sessions and informal networking, offering space for participants to share insights and strengthen intercultural connections.

Day 2 - Workshops and Interactive Learning (11 October 2025)
The second day focused on practical, action-oriented learning methods. Participants took part in the educational simulation “City of the Future”, developed by the Polish partner. In this exercise, participants assumed the roles of local decision-makers and worked together to design solutions for urban challenges such as sustainability, inclusion, and mobility. The simulation promoted teamwork, problem-solving, and systems thinking, illustrating the complexity of democratic decision-making.

In the afternoon, a moderated debate titled “Do Young Voices Matter?” provided a platform for participants to share personal experiences, identify barriers to youth participation, and discuss strategies for advocacy and engagement. The discussion confirmed the strong motivation and capacity of young people to influence democratic processes at all levels.

The day concluded with a closing circle, allowing participants to reflect on what they had learned, summarize key takeaways, and explore possibilities for future collaboration and joint initiatives.

The International Youth Forum served as a culmination of the project’s educational and participatory activities, connecting the outcomes of previous work packages and translating them into international dialogue and cooperation.

Key achievements included:

- Enhanced understanding of democratic participation, advocacy, and the role of youth in policymaking.
- Strengthened collaboration between young people, NGOs, and local authorities.
- Exchange of good practices and methodologies in civic education and youth engagement.
- Increased motivation among participants to take part in civic and political life, supported by a stronger sense of European identity and belonging.

The forum confirmed that youth engagement is a vital element of democratic societies and demonstrated how non-formal education can foster critical thinking, social responsibility, and cooperation across borders. It also laid the groundwork for continued partnerships and follow-up initiatives among the participating organizations and youth networks.

Following the event, all participants were promptly provided with essential project data and a link to access the EUSurvey platform.

Social media posts about the workshops implemented in Slovakia:
Facebook Klaster Innowacji Spolecznych Day 1
Facebook Klaster Innowacji Spolecznych Day 2
Instagram Klaster Innowacji Spolecznych Day 1
Instagram Klaster Innowacji Spolecznych
Facebook Youth DemocrAID (first post)
Facebook Youth DemocrAID (second post)

Website articles:
https://www.klaster.org.pl/international-youth-forum-a-shared-youth-voice-for-democracy/

https://www.you-net.eu/news/international-youth-forum

https://youthdemocraid.weebly.com/news/youth-democraid-international-youth-forum-a-shared-youth-voice-for-democracy

EDS publication links:
https://www.you-net.eu/youth-democraid.htm l

https://youthdemocraid.weebly.com/news

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).