



A CITIZENS PARTICIPATION JOURNEY
BETWEEN LOCAL AND EUROPEAN LEVELS

THE QUESTIONS...

Let's [see](#) where this journey began

Are citizens familiar with the mechanisms that allow their direct participation in the definition of policies at the local, national and European Union level?

And what is the role of the civil society organizations?

What do they think about these mechanisms?

Why don't they use them more often?

Which measures could contribute to increase citizen participation?

Which role should the local, national and European authorities have in the promotion of citizen participation?



THE PARTNERS

In order to find answers to questions such as these and similar ones, 5 civil society organizations from **Portugal (ECOS)**, **Slovenia (PINA)**, **Poland (CRIS)**, **Lithuania (ANNOA)** and **Germany (SOCIUS)** embarked on this trip through participation, supported by the [European Commission Program "Europe for Citizens"](#).

Participants (target group)



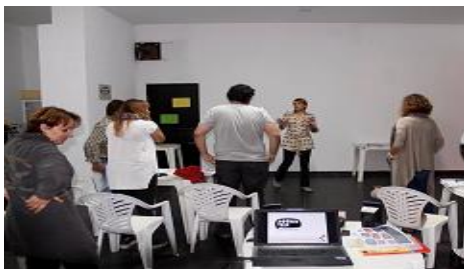


OBJECTIVES

- To provide practical information on available mechanisms for citizen participation;
- To gather information about the levels of use of the existing mechanisms by citizens of the five European partner municipalities;
- To contribute to a closer relationship between political representatives and citizens;
- To issue recommendations on possible changes to existing participation mechanisms or on the possibility of introducing innovative mechanisms;
- To allow municipalities and civil society partners to share practices and develop innovative approaches that will enable and foster the active involvement of citizens in the European debate.



COORDINATION MEETING



LOCAL SEMINARS

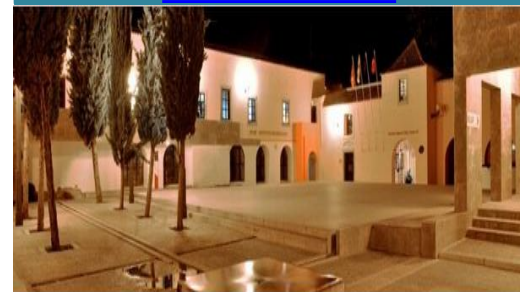
EVALUATION MEETING

LAUNCHING EVENTS



MAGAZINE

CONFERENCE



Citizens claim for more
information in what
concerns their rights to
political participation

Citizens reveal an
explicit difficulty to
identify themselves
as political active
members in their
communities

SOME FINDINGS

Local authorities need
support and training on
ways to inform citizens
about their rights to
political participation

Lack of responsiveness
from local authorities
detaches peoples from
participation

SOME FINDINGS

Work needs to be
done in terms of
making the
mechanisms more
citizens friendly

Much of the forms of political participation
recognised by them are processes that are
initiated and led by decision makers and
where they cannot fully make use of their
voice and experience to add something to
the process itself.



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THANK YOU