EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	[1] - Musninkai rural community
PIC number:	[PIC number]
Project name and acronym:	Network of organizations for Promoting Skills for Participation] — [acronym]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[Work Package 11]		
Event name:	[Local Awareness Raising Campaigns in Lithuania (LARC)]		
Type:	Dissemination event		
In situ/online:	*[*in-situ*]*		
Location:	Lithuania, Sirvintos		
Date(s):	[Desk research: 13 February 2025; Street debate: 28 May 2025; Round table:21 November2025 Focus groups: I group:11 February 2026 II group: 26 February 2026 Podcast: 20 April 2026 Dissemination event: 17-06-2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.facebook.com/musninkaikb https://musninkaikb.blogspot.com/		
Participants			
Female:	94		
Male:	28		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Lithuania]:	122		
Total number of participants:	122	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

LARC 1: Desk research
As part of the White Picnic initiative in Musninkai, the future NOTSKIP facilitator, together with the national project coordination team, carried out desk research on cultural activities as good practices for promoting democracy, volunteering, and citizens' participation. The research identified several national examples where culture, education, and community engagement successfully strengthen democratic participation and active citizenship. These findings supported the development of the White Picnic activities, which brought together residents and guests through performances, workshops, artistic showcases, and intergenerational community engagement.

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LARC 2: Street debate
A total of 60 participants took part in the street debates, including adults from different professional backgrounds, retired people, and local high school youth. Participants joined spontaneously in public spaces near the hospital, youth center, and shopping center. The activity encouraged open dialogue with the community and strengthened cooperation with the Širvintos Youth Center.
The main findings show that participants see peace and democratic coexistence as strongly connected to communication, listening, tolerance, respect, kindness, and education. Many emphasized the importance of resolving conflicts through dialogue, negotiation, and mutual understanding rather than criticism or control. Several responses highlighted the role of families and education in teaching children non-aggressive and respectful behavior. Some participants also pointed to political and legal responsibility, noting that politicians, public institutions, and the rule of law can influence social division or peaceful coexistence.
Overall, the street debates demonstrated that community members value dialogue, empathy, personal responsibility, and active civic engagement as key conditions for building a more peaceful and democratic society.

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LARC 3: Round table
The round table discussions focused on strengthening citizens' participation in decision-making, youth engagement, and the role of local communities in shaping the future of Europe. Participants emphasized that active citizenship should begin at a young age through civic education, student self-government, life skills classes, and cooperation with community leaders, politicians, and active citizens.
The main findings showed that different social groups can be encouraged to participate through direct meetings, street debates, workshops, digital platforms, social media, citizens' assemblies, and consultations with decision-makers. Participants highlighted the importance of clear and engaging information, openness, feedback, and continuous communication between citizens and local authorities.
Key barriers identified included the digital divide, lack of motivation, limited civic education, weak feedback from decision-makers, mobility challenges in rural areas, and the perception among young people that active citizenship is not attractive or fashionable. Proposed solutions included expanding free Wi-Fi access, improving digital education for older people, developing relevant civic education programs, using humor and creative communication on social media, and creating a positive trend of active citizenship through community leaders.
Overall, the discussions concluded that stronger democratic participation requires personal responsibility, inclusive dialogue, accessible information, and regular cooperation between citizens, youth, communities, and decision-makers.
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LARC 4: Focus group
The focus group brought together young people and professionals working with youth to discuss citizen engagement, youth participation, and contributions to the Future of Europe within the NOTSKIP project. The session explored participants' experiences in civic life, their understanding of EU participatory tools, motivation and barriers to engagement, and effective ways to reach young people.
The main findings show that young people associate the Future of Europe with shared responsibility, opportunities, and active involvement. Many are interested in volunteering, Erasmus+ projects, local initiatives, and informal civic activities, especially when participation is practical, inclusive, and connected to real-life benefits. Participants emphasized that youth engagement is strengthened through interactive civic education, local events, social media, peer invitations, youth festivals, sports activities, and direct meetings with decision-makers.
Key barriers identified included fear of expressing opinions, low self-confidence, bullying, lack of motivation, limited time, distrust, misleading information, and a lack of safe and inclusive spaces. Participants also highlighted the need for stronger civic education in schools and families, better promotion of EU opportunities, more face-to-face dialogue with decision-makers, and consistent feedback after consultations.
Overall, the focus group confirmed that youth participation can be strengthened through safe dialogue, practical learning, relatable communication, cooperation between schools, NGOs and institutions, and real opportunities for young people to influence everyday decisions and community life.

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LARC 5: Podcast
The NOTSKIP podcast episode was recorded with politician Linas Kukuraitis on 20 April at the Parliament of Lithuania. During the discussion, the project recommendations were reviewed, and Linas Kukuraitis highlighted several important issues related to citizens' participation. He emphasized that digital access remains unequal, especially for older people who have fewer opportunities compared to younger generations. He also noted that many citizens do not fully trust governmental institutions and often feel that their voice is not important or is ignored. Overall, Linas Kukuraitis agreed with the NOTSKIP recommendations and supported the need to strengthen trust, accessibility, and meaningful citizen involvement in democratic processes.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION LINKS:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEUV6vce4DU

LARC 6: Dissemination event
The NOTSKIP dissemination event took place in Širvintos town, bringing together representatives of educational institutions, youth organisations, municipal bodies, and local stakeholders. During the event, facilitators presented the project objectives, implemented activities, results, and key methods used to promote youth participation and democratic engagement.
Facilitators also shared their personal experiences, challenges, successful practices, and reflections from the project implementation. Participants discussed how the project approaches could be adapted in their daily work with young people and local communities.
The event confirmed the relevance of the NOTSKIP project for the Širvintos District community. Participants emphasized that democratic participation goes beyond voting and includes expressing ideas, taking initiative, joining community activities, and contributing to social change. The event strengthened interest in continuing similar initiatives to empower young people and support their active civic participation.

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