

Local Seminar Report

Partner Organization: ECOS

Date and Time: 22nd of October,

Duration (days/hours): 1 day, 4 hours

Venue (Municipality and place): Casa do Lago no Jardim das Comunidades em Almancil

Participants

Participants by Target Group (Number)						Total number of participants
Distribution by age group			Disadvantaged participants	Women	Men	
< 30	30 - 65	> 65				
3	12	1	0	7	9	16

Key participants

Invited Attending

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of the European Parliament |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Municipality Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Media |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other public and private institutions |

Member of the European Parliament (name): NONE

Local Municipality Representatives (name and position): Joaquim Pinto – President of Local Parish; António Gonçalves – Vice-Presidente of the Local Parish; Joana – Treasurer of the Local Parish

Media (type and name): NONE

Other public and private institutions (name, description):

Description of Activities

Please check all the core activities that apply to your Local Seminar:

- Brief presentation of the project
 - Deliver info to participants about mechanisms of participation
 - To collect views and suggestions for improvement about the mechanisms and participatory democracy in general
 - To use experiential learning to make participants experiment participation
 - Present the beta version of the Action Kit, explore it with participants and collect feedback for improvement
 - Invite public authorities to participate in the International Conference
 - Invite local organisations to participate in the International Conference
- Other. Please specify : All the present organisations.

Describe the program, activities and the methods used (be concise and clear and take into consideration the project general concept and objectives):

1. **Brief background of the project with the presentation of goals of the project and seminar itself:**
2. **Mechanisms for democratic participation:**
 - Quiz
 - Report available mechanisms for democratic participation (at local, national and EU);
 - Debating & Questioning the challenges, opportunities and the ways of democratic participation;
 - Giving brochures and delivering information about how to participate in some democratic mechanisms, using the action kit;
 - Participants had access to the websites of european commission, parliament of the Portuguese Parliament through internet.
3. **Citizen participation in the parish of Almancil - what challenges, what opportunities which ways?**
 - World Coffee Technique;
 - Final Exhibition & Sum-up of results;

4. Closing of the seminar:

- Next Steps: Conference
- Final evaluation: 1 word describing the session.

Questions asked during “Participation Cafe “ activity:

- In addition to the Elections other mechanisms to allow democratic participation of citizens in making decisions in the municipality of Loulé, in Portugal and in the EU?
- Have you ever used them? Which ones?
- Are they affordable or are there any obstacles to use them?
- These mechanisms are enough to promote participation of citizens?
- What is the current situation in Almancil in what concerns to participation? What is the level of citizen participation?
- Who is involved? Do we participate enough? In which activities do we participate?Why?
- When are citizens participating? What are the results achieved through this participation?
- What other forms of democratic participation could exist?

The participatory session “Participation Café” used *World Cafe* methodology to promote a healthy debate between participants in order to understand and assess their opinions on democratic participation and to start an assessment of the situation in Almancil, as well as to collect initial ideas on ways to move forward and to update the Action Kit.

Local Seminar results

Of the expected results below, check those that apply to your event. The extra box can be filled with other non expected results.

X	Information, knowledge, opinions and levels of use of existing mechanisms for citizens’ participation are shared, debated and collected
X	Participants are informed about the existing mechanisms for participation at local, national and EU level
X	Participants share their perspectives on how they would like to participate in local, national

	and EU level
X	Participants give feedback on the information they consider necessary to have to participate and how to make it accessible to different groups of citizens who make up our societies
X	Participants are encouraged to participate in local, national and EU level
X	The proximity between citizens and their representatives is increased
More or less	The Action Kit to Participation with information on existing mechanisms for citizens' participation is distributed by the participants during the seminar; Participants are involved in the construction of the Action Kit to Participation, being given the opportunity to give feedback to the tool and to be engaged as multipliers; Participants were provided with a moment of experiential learning, promoting reflection on mechanisms, forms, opportunities, limitations and conditions for participation. Was not distributed but was analysed
X	Participants are involved in the construction of the Action Kit to Participation, being given the opportunity to give feedback to the tool and to be engaged as multipliers
X	The motivations of citizens to participate, the benefits, impact, and personal and social value of participation are explored and understood

Provide detailed information about how you reached each result achieved.

Citizens, leaders of local CSOs and representatives of the local municipalities get to know the project. Participants could check if they are familiar with the existing mechanisms. They could share their knowledge, ask questions and dispel doubts. Using the methodology of “world cafe” let participants do discuss, share their opinion, give constructive feedback. This event gave us a glimpse on participants’ opinions and views on the current situation of democratic participation in the parish. We provide extra materials as books, leaflets from european commission with information about the european mechanisms and copies of national mechanisms of participation, as well as the action kit.

The event allowed participants to know Round-Trip project and future activities. All of the participants were invited for the International Conference that will take place 25th- 27th of November.

Visibility

Describe the different media used to promote or that covered the Local Seminar:

Media / TV / Newspapers / Radio / Websites	Content	Format	Website Address	Date of the publication and name of the media organization	Other details
Diário Onlie Região do Algarve	Local Seminars	E-news	http://www.diarionline.pt/noticia.php?refnoticia=156057	21/Oct/2015	
Facebook Ecos	Local Seminars	Digital	https://www.facebook.com/cooperativa.ecos?fref=ts	29/Oct/2015	
Website Round-Trip	Local Seminars	Digital	http://roundtrip.ecos.pt/	21/Oct/2015	

Follow up

Please describe which follow up steps were agreed after the Local Seminar event:

- Increase these type of activities close to the population during next years;
- Involve schools and parents in the local seminars next years;
- Participation of these participants in the International Conference;
- Foster the cooperation between ECOS nad Parish, giving support in other activities and projects promoted by the Parish, namely in a project of Social Inclusion of vulnerable families

Coordination and cooperation feedback

Provide your constructive feedback about the project coordination support as well as partners cooperation in this second step of the project as well as recommendations about aspects all of us need to improve in order to successfully implement the next project phases.

NOT APPLICABLE

Other relevant info

Provide any relevant info, such as key lessons learned

- The local population they really felt these session was useful for them and that to bring information materials help them to understand what we were also explaining about the mechanisms;
- Most of the european legal mechanisms participants they didn't have heard about them;
- It was too long the seminar because some families they go with the kids and they said it was too long;
- It was very important o involve local organizations in the preparation of the local seminar, also because the local seminar took place in one of the places of the city that was closed untill that day and the president of the Parish recognized that that space could be useful for the community and for local associations;
- Citizens they claim for more proximity from institutions and activities like this one.

Documents provided

Please provide the list of the materials that you have produced to the event (matching your events dropbox folder)

- Program of local seminar;
- Program of International Conference;
- Hand outs with extra information of participation mechanisms (books, leaflets from european commission with information about the european mechanisms; copies of national mechanisms of participation)
- Participants had access to the websites of european commission, parliament of the Portuguese Parliament through internet.

