

The REcup Project, under the European program CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN, hosted its Open Conference titled “Strengthening European Citizenship by Creating the Foundations for Civic and Democratic Engagement” from January 24 to 26, 2024, in Bucharest, Romania.

The REcup Project, part of the European CERV-2022-CITIZENS-TOWN program, continue its activities with the “Open Conference on Strengthening European Citizenship by Creating the Foundations for Civic and Democratic Engagement,” held from January 24 to 26, 2024, in Bucharest, Romania.

Organized by the coordinating organization ASOCIATIA ASEL RO, the conference brought together 30 participants from Romania, Malta, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia, and Spain. The event served as the project’s transnational gathering and was hosted at the Continental Forum Hotel in Bucharest, setting the stage for collaboration among partners and citizens committed to strengthening democratic values and civic participation.

The first day began with a warm welcome from the project leaders, followed by presentations introducing the REcup project’s goals and the partner organizations. This was followed by a thematic session exploring how REcup aims to enhance citizen engagement through e-democracy tools and local activation. A dynamic round of team-building activities fostered collaboration and encouraged participants to identify key stakeholders and possible challenges.

In the afternoon, participants engaged in an interactive workshop focusing on stakeholder involvement and collaborative decision-making. Discussions highlighted the importance of co-creating action plans that support civic engagement among unemployed citizens—a core target group of the project. The session closed with a powerful keynote speech by a local authority representative on the role of active citizenship in strengthening European identity.

The roundtable that followed allowed participants to draft initial action plans for engaging their local communities. Ideas were exchanged on increasing awareness, activating marginalized groups, and laying the groundwork for cross-border cooperation. The first day concluded with a group reflection session and a shared dinner, reinforcing the project’s emphasis on intercultural dialogue and solidarity.

The second day of the conference focused on consolidating the outcomes of the initial sessions. Participants fine-tuned their action plans, defined responsibilities, and set milestones for implementation. This was followed by a feedback and evaluation session where key takeaways and suggestions were shared, ensuring that all participants left with clarity and commitment to the next project steps.

By the end of the two-day event, a strong foundation was laid for REcup’s implementation across all seven partner countries. The conference not only aligned the consortium under a common vision but also reaffirmed the project’s mission: to foster European citizenship by empowering unemployed citizens to actively shape democratic life at both the local and European levels.

As REcup moves forward, the energy and collaboration sparked in Bucharest promise to fuel a vibrant network of towns committed to civic engagement and inclusive democracy.

