

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Reinforcing European citizenship through building up the conditions for civic and democratic participation - RECup
Participant:	OPCINA KALNIK
PIC number:	938868142

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number :	3		
Event name:	Seminar Activity 1: Challenges of the “Active Social Participation”		
Type:	Seminar Activity		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Breznicki Hum, Croatia		
Date(s):	23/03/2024 – 25/03/2024		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://recup-project.eu/">https://recup-project.eu/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	16		
Male:	9		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Romania]:	3		
From country 2 [Malta]:	2		
From country 3 [Greece]:	1		
From country 4 [Croatia]:	16		
From country 6 [Slovenia]:	3		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The seminar, "Challenges of the Active Social Participation," held in Breznicki Hum, Croatia, from March 23 to 25, 2024, under RECup, served as a focused initiative to reinforce European citizenship through civic and democratic engagement. With the participation of local unemployed individuals and key stakeholders, the seminar fostered discussions on active social participation and employment			

challenges. Each partner organization also contributed by bringing unemployed participants, relevant stakeholders, and partner representatives to ensure diverse perspectives and meaningful exchanges. The event's agenda was structured to systematically address the theme of active social participation, with each session designed to explore different facets of the topic. The event explored several key themes under the broader topic of active social participation. These included the role of local governance in fostering civic engagement, best practices in active participation, methodologies for activating citizenship, the impact of COVID-19 on policy adjustments, and the challenges faced by unemployed individuals in sustaining active engagement.

On the first day, participants arrived and were greeted with an introductory session, setting the tone for the seminar. The Municipality of Breznicki Hum's presentation on best practices provided a practical foundation, illustrating how local and regional governance can effectively engage citizens. This session highlighted the importance of localized approaches to civic participation, reflecting the project's emphasis on grassroots engagement. REcup meeting that followed offered an opportunity to assess the progress of work packages WP1 and WP2, ensuring that the seminar's activities were aligned with the broader project goals. WP1, focused on establishing a shared understanding of the project's objectives, fostering stakeholder engagement, and outlining strategies for civic and democratic participation. It set the foundation for collaboration among partners and identified key challenges to be addressed. WP2, discussed during the Study Experts Meeting in Italy, explored the barriers faced by unemployed citizens in engaging with European policy-making. Through workshops and discussions, the event highlighted best practices for fostering civic participation among marginalized groups, emphasizing the need for inclusive policies and representation. These insights guided the seminar's thematic discussions, ensuring that REcup's activities directly addressed the identified challenges and strengthened strategies for active social participation."

The second day's agenda was more intensive, starting with welcoming speeches that underscored the local leadership's commitment to active social participation. The presentations on local and national participation practices were crucial in contextualizing the challenges faced in different regions, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The subsequent lecture on citizenship activation methodologies offered theoretical insights, bridging the gap between practice and theory.

A significant portion of the day was devoted to discussing the impacts of COVID-19 on policies at both local and regional levels. This session was particularly relevant, as it examined how the pandemic had necessitated adjustments in civic engagement strategies. The lecture and workshop led by the Croatian Employment Service delved into the practical challenges of sustaining active social participation, further enhancing the participants' understanding of the complexities involved.

The final day's city tour and reflection session allowed participants to consolidate their learning and share their perspectives. The inclusion of ample breaks and opportunities for networking throughout the seminar was a strategic decision, aimed at fostering deeper connections and facilitating the exchange of ideas.

The third event concluded with a consensus on the need for stronger collaboration between local authorities, stakeholders, and civil society organizations to foster sustainable civic participation. Participants emphasized the importance of targeted policies that support unemployed individuals in actively engaging in their communities. Additionally, discussions highlighted the necessity of integrating digital tools and non-formal education methods to bridge participation gaps and enhance accessibility. The reflections session reinforced the commitment of all partners to continue advocating for inclusive and participatory democratic processes across Europe.

### **Seminar Activity 1: Challenges of the "Active Social Participation" Agenda**

**Dates:** 23-25 March 2024

**Venue:** *Breznicki Hum, Croatia*

#### **Session Day 1: March 23, 2024**

##### **10:00 – 15:00: Participants Arrival**

Participants arrived and registered for the seminar.

##### **15:00 – 15:15: Welcome Greetings**

The event officially commenced with brief welcoming remarks to set the tone for the seminar.

##### **15:15 – 16:00: Presentation by the Municipality of Breznicki Hum**

The Municipality presented best practices on active citizen participation at both local and regional levels, providing a foundation for the seminar's discussions.

#### **16:00 – 18:00: RECup Project Meeting**

A project meeting was held to report on the outcomes of WP1 and WP2, aligning the seminar's activities with the overall goals of the RECup project.

#### **19:30: Dinner**

Participants gathered for dinner, allowing for informal networking and discussions.

### **Session Day 2: March 24, 2024**

#### **10:30 – 10:45: Welcoming Greetings**

Welcoming speeches were delivered by Mr. Zoran Hegedic, the mayor of Breznicki Hum, and Ms. Nevenka Badnjak, director of LAG PRIZAG.

#### **10:45 – 11:15: Presentations on Active Social Participation**

Presentations focused on active social participation in Breznicki Hum and Croatia, highlighting regional practices and challenges.

#### **11:15 – 12:00: Citizenship Activation Methodologies**

A lecture provided insights into methodologies for activating citizenship, bridging theoretical and practical aspects of civic participation.

#### **12:00 – 12:30: Coffee Break**

Participants had a break to network and discuss the morning sessions over coffee.

#### **12:30 – 13:30: Policy Adjustments Due to COVID-19**

Discussions centered on how COVID-19 affected civic participation policies at both the local and regional levels.

#### **13:30 – 14:30: Lunch Break**

Lunch was served at Kalnicka kljet, offering a taste of Croatian dishes and a chance for further networking.

#### **14:30 – 15:30: Lecture on Challenges of Active Social Participation**

The Croatian Employment Service led a lecture addressing the challenges faced in maintaining active social participation.

#### **15:30 – 16:30: Workshop on Challenges of Active Social Participation**

A workshop, also conducted by the Croatian Employment Service, provided a hands-on opportunity to explore these challenges in more depth.

#### **16:30 – 17:30: Round Table Discussion**

Participants engaged in a roundtable to exchange knowledge and experiences, particularly focusing on measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**19:30: Dinner**

Dinner was again served at Kalnicka kljet, concluding the day's formal activities.

**Session Day 3: March 25, 2024****10:00 – 12:30: City Tour**

Participants took a guided tour of Breznicki Hum, offering cultural insights and a break from the seminar's formal sessions.

**12:30 – 13:30: Reflections Time**

A session for participants to reflect on the seminar, share their insights, and discuss the takeaways from the event.

**13:30: Lunch**

The seminar concluded with a final lunch, allowing for one last opportunity to network and solidify connections made during the event.

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