

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	INSTITOYTO KOINONIKIS KAINOTOMIAS KAI SYNOXIS (SOCIAL INNOVATION AND COHESION INSTITUTE)
PIC number:	928680717
Project name and acronym:	Establishing Solidarity, Peace and Unity in Europe – HARMONY

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	HARMONY: Establishing Solidarity, Peace, and Unity in Europe		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Greece, Thessaloniki & Siatista		
Date(s):	13.11.2023 – 15.11.2023		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	109		
Male:	92		
Non-binary:	7		
From country 1 [Greece]:	32		
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	60		
From country 3 [Malta]:	4		
From country 4 [Slovenia]:	58		
From country 4 [Croatia]:	54		
Total number of participants:	208	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The Conference “HARMONY: Establishing Solidarity, Peace, and Unity in Europe” held from November 13 to 15, 2023, in Thessaloniki and Siatista, Greece, aimed to foster discussions and collaborations among European communities for social integration and solidarity. On the first day, in Thessaloniki, the			

event commenced with a registration period from 15:00 to 15:30. Following this, Mr. Ioannis Vanidis, the President of the Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute, delivered welcome greetings and an introductory speech.

The agenda and objectives of European integration were presented from 15:45 to 16:00, followed by introductions from participating bodies representing various European municipalities. Representatives from Greece, Bulgaria, Malta, Slovenia, and Croatia shared insights into European integration and solidarity initiatives in their respective regions.

The first day featured informative speeches, including one by Ms. Dimitra Fantidou, a Political Scientist and EU Project Manager, discussing revitalizing civic life in European communities. Ms. Christina Simou, a Policy Advisor and Expert, also addressed the significance of civic life reconstruction. The sessions continued with speeches by Mr. Dimitrios Spiliotopoulos, a Political Scientist and EU Project Manager, on the role of social safety nets in European integration, and Mrs. Iordana Kourougeorgaki, an Expert on Urban Planning and Regional Development, on fostering a sense of belonging to the EU through regional policies.

A workshop in the evening allowed participants to share best practices and case studies on solidarity, peace, and unity from their respective cities, promoting collaborative learning and exchange. The day concluded with a welcome dinner.

The second day, held in Siatista, included a visit to the host city, a traditional lunch, and two round table sessions. The first round table discussed building strong social safety nets, while the second focused on the role of solidarity in a united Europe. The day concluded with reflections on the round table discussions, including presentations of ideas and action plans generated during the sessions. An evening cultural event and dinner provided an opportunity for participants to further network and engage in informal discussions.

On the third and final day, a study visit to the Municipality of Voio and decision-making departments of Western Macedonia allowed participants to share insights and experiences. The day continued with open discussions involving local policymakers on social welfare and solidarity, as well as interactions regarding local initiatives and policies related to solidarity and civic life reconstruction. The conference concluded with a lunch and closing ceremony, marking the end of the event as participants departed, having shared knowledge and fostered collaborations for the betterment of European communities.

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