

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Forwarding Democratic EU Participation — FORCEP
<b>Participant:</b>	Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute (Fifty-Fifty)
<b>PIC number:</b>	928680717

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	1
<b>Event name:</b>	Opening Workshop
<b>Type:</b>	Launching Event / Workshop
<b>In situ/online:</b>	in-situ
<b>Location:</b>	Thessaloniki, Greece
<b>Date(s):</b>	16/12/2022
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://www.forcep.eu/newsfeed">https://www.forcep.eu/newsfeed</a>
Participants	
Female:	13
Male:	13
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Greece]:	8
From country 2 [Slovenia]:	4
From country 3 [Romania]:	4
From country 4 [Italy]:	1
From country 5 [Hungary]:	3
From country 6 [Croatia]:	3
From country 7 [Spain]:	2
Total number of participants:	26
From total number of countries:	7
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
The opening workshop for the FORCEP project on December 16, 2022, at the Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute – Fifty-Fifty in Thessaloniki, Greece, marked a pivotal moment in the initiative's	

trajectory. Kicking off at 12:30 PM with attendee registration and a warm cup of coffee, the atmosphere was intentionally crafted to foster networking and engagement among participants. This initial phase set the tone for what would be a dynamic and collaborative session.

At the beginning, the workshop commenced with an introduction of the FORCEP project partners, representing a diverse array of organizations from across Europe. Each partner provided valuable insights into their roles and contributions, highlighting the collective effort driving the project forward. This segment not only established a sense of camaraderie among attendees but also underscored the collaborative spirit essential for the project's success.

Following the partner introductions, a comprehensive overview of the FORCEP project was presented, offering attendees a detailed roadmap of the initiative. This included discussions on the project's timeline, milestones, objectives, and associated deadlines, providing a strategic framework for project progression. The review stages outlined during this segment served as checkpoints for evaluating progress and ensuring alignment with project goals.

Subsequently, attention turned to the FORCEP work packages and eleven thematic events planned as part of the project. Attendees engaged in in-depth discussions regarding the desired outcomes, quality standards, event materials, and anticipated impact of each initiative. These discussions facilitated a deeper understanding of the project's scope and objectives, while also encouraging active participation and collaboration among attendees.

During the workshop session, a presentation of the thematic event "Study Visit 1 - Unemployment and social exclusion: A challenge for the European Union (WP2)" was provided. The study visit, planned for Novo Mesto, highlighted that will aim to confront the pressing issue of unemployment and social exclusion within the EU. The goal is to bring together participants from Greece and Spain to engage in discussions with representatives from chambers of commerce, trade unions, and educational institutions.

After this, a clear presentation has been provided for what will be happened during the "Study Visit 2 - Unemployed Active citizenship in the European Decision making (WP3)", where participants from Greece, Hungary, and Slovenia will gather in Bistrita, Romania, to explore unemployed involvement in European decision-making processes. Experts will share best practices to encourage engagement and participation from the unemployed in shaping European policies.

Following, information has been given about the "Study Visit 3 - Raise your voice": Unemployment in the centre of Europe (WP4)", which is planned for being held in Voio, Greece, where discussions will revolve around unemployment's role in the European agenda and policies. Participants will engage with local authorities to analyse EU strategies for tackling unemployment and promoting democratic participation.

Moreover, the speech has been focused on the "Workshop (Round Table) 1 - Unemployed Active citizenship: COVID19 effects, labour market changes and opportunities (WP5)", going to be held in Kalnik, Croatia, the workshop will focus on COVID-19's impact on unemployment and labour market dynamics. Local stakeholders and experts will discuss opportunities for addressing challenges and adapting to changes in the labour market. Proceeding the discussion, that was followed was a description of the "Workshop (Round Table) 2 - Unemployed Active citizenship: Benefits & Ways of activation" (WP6), taking place in Penne, Italy, that will explore citizenship activation methodologies and policy adjustments in response to COVID-19. Participants will discuss the benefits of active citizenship and effective ways to engage the unemployed population.

After, the "Seminar 1 - Unemployed Active citizenship: Time for Activation! (WP7)" was clearly presented, to be held in Szombathely, Hungary, and aiming to foster dialogue among participants from Croatia and Romania on active social citizenship. Discussions will focus on policy concepts and initiatives to promote self-responsibility and citizen engagement at various levels. That was next was the presentation of the "Seminar 1 - Unemployed Active citizenship: Time for Activation!" (WP8), planned to take place in Siatista, Greece, participants from Spain, Italy, and Slovenia, in order to discuss active social citizenship and self-responsibility. The seminar will explore ways in which European states utilize policy concepts to encourage citizen engagement.

During the "Seminar 2 - Unemployed Active citizenship: Share Good Practices (WP9)", participants in Andujar, Spain, will share best practices for promoting active citizenship among the unemployed. The seminar will focus on connecting with local authorities and overcoming barriers to European participatory citizenship. When the "Seminar 2 - Unemployed Active citizenship: Share Good Practices (WP10)" will be held in Bistrita, Romania, it will facilitate the exchange of good practices among participants from Croatia, Italy, and Slovenia. Discussions will centre on fostering citizen engagement and overcoming barriers to participatory citizenship. Last but not least, the project will be officially and successfully completed when the "European conference - "E-DEMOCRACY: A TOOL FOR ACTIVATING UNEMPLOYED CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION" (WP11)" will be held in Siatista, Greece, where participants will explore e-Democracy as a tool for promoting unemployed citizens' participation.

Stakeholders and experts will discuss project outcomes, policy implications, and strategies for enhancing citizen engagement in decision-making processes.

The lunch break provided an opportunity for informal networking and further discussion, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among participants. Post-lunch, the workshop resumed with a dedicated session on communication, dissemination, and evaluation strategies. Participants delved into discussions surrounding the desired outcomes of these efforts, emphasizing the importance of effective communication channels and robust evaluation mechanisms to maximize impact.

Detailed discussions ensued on quality standards, task distribution, and timelines associated with communication, dissemination, and evaluation activities. Attendees collectively brainstormed strategies to ensure timely execution and optimal outcomes in these crucial project aspects, leveraging the diverse expertise and perspectives present.

As the workshop drew to a close at the noon, a comprehensive evaluation session provided participants with an opportunity to reflect on the day's discussions and provide feedback for further refinement of project strategies and implementation plans. This reflective process underscored the iterative nature of the project, emphasizing continuous improvement and adaptation to ensure its success, serving the Launching Event as a catalyst for collaboration, setting the stage for meaningful progress and impact in the FORCEP project.

***The Agenda of the FORCEP Opening Workshop is presented below:***

### **Opening Workshop Agenda**

***Date: December 16, 2022***

***Venue: Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute – Fifty-Fifty, Proxenou Koromila str. 51, 1st floor, GR-546 23, Thessaloniki, Greece***

### **Time Slot Session**

#### **12:30 - 13:00 Registration and Networking**

Attendees gather, register, and engage in informal networking over refreshments.

#### **13:00 - 13:15 Welcome Address**

Introduction to the workshop's objectives, agenda, and significance by the project coordinator.

#### **13:15 - 13:30 Introduction of FORCEP Project Partners**

Representatives from each participating organization provide insights into their roles and contributions within the project.

#### **13:30 - 14:00 Overview of the FORCEP Project**

Comprehensive presentation covering the project's timeline, milestones, objectives, and associated deadlines.

#### **14:00 - 14:30 Breakout Session: FORCEP Work Packages and 11 Thematic Events Presentation and Overview**

Attendees divide into groups to delve into detailed discussions on the nine work packages and eleven thematic events planned as part of the project.

#### **14:30 - 15:00 FORCEP Communication, Dissemination, Capitalization and Evaluation Strategies**

A focused session on communication, dissemination, and evaluation strategies, emphasizing desired outcomes and quality standards.

#### **15:00 - 15:15 Networking Coffee Break**

Opportunity for participants to network, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations.

#### **15:15 - 15:45 Open Thematic Discussion on Best Practices and Lessons Learned**

A panel of experts shares best practices and lessons learned from similar initiatives, offering insights and inspiration for the FORCEP project.

**15:45 - 16:15 Q&A Session**

Attendees engage in a structured question and answer session, seeking clarification and further elaboration on key topics discussed throughout the workshop.

**16:15 - 16:30 Closing Remarks and Reflections**

Summary of key takeaways from the workshop and closing remarks by the project coordinator.

**16:30 - 17:00 Networking and Evaluation of the Day**

Participants continue networking and engaging in informal discussions.

**17:00 Workshop Officially Closing**

The workshop formally concludes, with participants departing.

**Dissemination and Publication's Links on the organizations/municipalities' websites:**

<https://www.fifty-fifty.gr/forcep>

<https://www.asel.ro/forcep>

<http://www.nevladnik.info/si/novice/?id=18853>

<https://kalinik.hr/forcep-pod-projektnim-brojem-101054252-cerv-2021-citizens-town-nt-pocetni-sastanak-u-solunu-grcka/>

<https://westpannon.hu/news/286-forcep-kick-off-meeting-in-thessaloniki>

<https://crea360.es/proyectos/proyectos-fondos-europeos/>

[https://www.comune.penne.pe.it/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1205](https://www.comune.penne.pe.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1205)

[https://www.comune.penne.pe.it/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1204](https://www.comune.penne.pe.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1204)

**Dissemination and Publication's Links on Social Media:**

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=887045213457213&set=pb.100064552277992.-2207520000&type=3>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=780716267548471&set=pb.100068303142528.-2207520000&type=3>

D1.1 Transnational Project Meeting 1 Agenda (Kick-Off Meeting) and Feedback Report is available at:

<https://www.forcep.eu/thematic-events>.

Additionally, Project Management Handbook (D1.2), and Quality Assurance Plan (D1.3) are available at: <https://www.forcep.eu/thematic-events>. Moreover, the Dissemination Material including FORCEP Banner, FORCEP trifold and FORCEP Poster, as well as the Dissemination Plan (D1.4) are available also at: <https://www.forcep.eu/newsfeed>.

Last but not least, D1.5 Project Website is available by the Following Link: <https://www.forcep.eu>.

**HISTORY OF CHANGES**

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