

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	PODJETNISKI INKUBATOR KOCEVJE, JAVNI ZAVOD ZA PODJETNISTVO, IZOBRAZEVANJE IN DRUGE DEJAVNOSTI PODJETNISKI INKUBATOR KOCEVJE
PIC number:	899183793
Project name and acronym:	Ed.U.CO - Educational Urban Community:A European Environmental Network for Youth Empowerment and Community-Building Proposal ID: 101138077 Acronym: Ed.U.Co.

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP4
Event name:	Empowering the Next Generation of Environmental Leaders
Type:	workshop, conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Kočevje, Slovenia
Date(s):	5 - 8 November 2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.facebook.com/ljudska.univerza.kocevje/posts/pfbid023pWji1QPNJiGC82Mkhse9H5DTGnfGawq4Yk59jwNrdWn2kWtjN537qUXvtUVQ7xfI https://www.lu-kocevje.si/novice/84-zgodilo-se-je/478-kocevje-go-stilo-4-srecanje-projekta-ed-u-co-educational-urban-community https://www.kocevje.si/objava/1017710 (page 20) https://www.oszboraodposlancev.si/2024/11/11/ed-u-co-project-because-we-care/ (3) How we take care of our Earth (at the Zbora odposlancev primary school) - YouTube
Participants	
Female:	38
Male:	11
Non-binary:	/
countryFrom 1 [Italy]:	1 M
From country 2 [Hungary]:	2 F

From country 3 [Spain]:	1M		
From country 4 [Greece]:	1M		
From country 5 [Cyprus]:	1M, 1F		
From country 6 [Romania]:	3F		
From country 7 (Latvia):	2F		
From country 8 [Slovenia]:	30F 11M		
Total number of participants:	53	From total number of countries:	8
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>November 5/11/2024 – ARRIVAL DAY (Tuesday) Arrival of the participants, check in and Welcome dinner.</p> <p>November 6/11/202 (Wednesday) - Breakfast, leaving the hotel by foot -The guests gathered at the Public Institute for Tourism and Culture Kočevje -Welcome speech was given by the head of the Adult education center Melita Oražem, followed by the speech of the mayor of Kočevje, who presented the green transition project of the Kočevje municipality as an example of good practice of energy policy at the local level which is also the basis of the Green Deal. Then Nevenka Kljun, the director of the Tourism Institute, presented the tourist “green destination Kočevsko”, which is the bearer of the Slovenia Green Destination sign. -Presentation of student volunteering and environmentally sustainable projects: This presentation showcased the inspiring work of young student volunteers and their mentor, Zarja Golouh, through a creative workshop for young leaders. It emphasized key values such as courage, cooperation, empathy, a desire to help others, and awareness—qualities essential for environmental leadership. Schools provide an ideal environment where young people explore the impact of volunteering on the environment and society. Student volunteers carried out numerous meaningful initiatives, such as recycling waste, organizing clean-up campaigns, supporting animal shelters, assisting flood victims, raising funds for a classmate’s treatment, and spending time with residents in nursing homes. Through Leadership Youth Workshops, participants learned how to develop skills to influence environmental policy, while the Creative Youth Leadership LAB fostered innovative ideas for youth-led projects, such as creating impactful videos (3) How we take care of our Earth (at the Zbora odposlancev primary school) - YouTube. Major changes in the world often stem from volunteer initiatives, which foster qualities essential for environmental leaders. Developing these traits at a young age allows individuals to enhance them throughout life and contribute to sustainable change. -After the presentation, all participants took part in a guided group game (team building activity) with the didactic game "Kostrukta", a simple and authentic wooden didactic toy for all generations that has been awarded the "Made in Slovenia" label of excellence and is an example of a green product. Group games are effective for strengthening relationships because they encourage cooperation, communication, and mutual trust, they allow better understanding and respect of different roles, which increases team bonding. - After the group dynamics we went to see the new tourist activity of the municipality of Kočevje - MTB Trail Center Kočevje which is located in Dolga vas and is intended for mountain biking enthusiasts. There are 11 trails of varying difficulty levels, with a total of almost 20 kilometers of trails. MTB trail park is a great example of sustainable forest tourism. - Visit to local company Intersocks where we learned about sustainable business practices and career opportunities in a green company. This visit reinforced the importance of green job offers and local employment opportunities. -Lunch -A walk around the lake -Free time -Dinner</p>			

November 7/11/2024 (Thursday)

-Breakfast and leaving the hotel by bus

- We started the day with a tour of good practices :

- **First, we were introduced to local urban agriculture.** Urban agriculture is increasingly important in urbanization, as city residents seek to improve food security, reduce reliance on global supply chains, and create more sustainable living environments.

A local producer presented us with organic production of garlic, chili and medicinal herbs.

- **This was followed by a guided walk** along the "Forest Learning Trail Rožni studenec" with nature guide Petra Draškovič Pelc, a young female entrepreneur dedicated to sustainable tourism in the Kočevje region, focusing on nature and forest promotion through guided tours, training, photographic excursions, and publishing articles and photos in renowned magazines.

-**Visiting the Kočevje Grammar and Secondary School.** A group of 3rd year students from Kočevje High School presented their active work within the interdisciplinary GRETA (Globally Responsible Environmentally Thinking Ambassadors) theme.

The event opened with students presenting their research on the unique features of our forests, setting the stage for a day focused on environmental topics and sustainability.

Students then introduced the ITS-GRETA project, showcasing innovative solutions to environmental challenges and promoting sustainable practices.

This was followed by three TED-Talk-style presentations on the importance of trees, the effects of acid rain, and the use of fertilizers and pesticides by gardeners, each lasting 7–8 minutes.

A lively youth dialogue explored the skills needed for a sustainable future, discussing what it means to be an Environmental Leader and how to inspire change.

An interactive quiz on Slovenia and its forests tested participants' knowledge in a fun and engaging way.

The event concluded with herbal tea and socializing, offering a relaxed opportunity for reflection and connection.

- We finished the working day at the Kočevje Business Incubator and concluded with a summary of impressions and ideas for future meetings with the project partners.

-Farewell dinner

November 8/11/2024 – DEPARTURE DAY (Friday)

Breakfast and check-out and departure of the participants.

- Objectives Evaluation

1. Develop participants' leadership skills and competencies to promote environmental action and sustainability in their communities :

Leadership Youth Workshops and the Creative Youth Leadership LAB helped participants build skills for environmental leadership and policy influence.

2. Provide opportunities for participants to engage in hands-on environmental action projects :

Activities included recycling, clean-up campaigns, urban agriculture, and sustainable forest tourism, offering practical environmental experience.

3. Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among participants from different European municipalities :

Team-building exercises, interactive quizzes, and GRETA presentations encouraged mutual learning and collaboration.

4. Develop participants' communication and teamwork skills :

Group activities like "Kostrukta" and youth dialogues improved teamwork and communication skills.

5. Promote the role of youth in environmental action and sustainability :

Youth-led initiatives, such as ITS-GRETA and volunteer projects, showcased the active role of young people in sustainability.

6. Identify and promote best practices for youth-led environmental action :

Examples like student projects, urban agriculture, and green tourism were highlighted as best practices.

The program successfully fulfilled all objectives.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	09.07.2024	Initial version (new MFF).

