

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Creating Thinking Development (CRE.THI.DEV.)
PIC number:	942801977
Project name and acronym:	WE-DEMOCRACY – No one left behind – Empowering citizens to participate in democratic processes

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP4		
Event name:	Problem Solving - Greece		
Type:	Awareness-raising		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Greece, Athens		
Date(s):	18.12.2023		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.wedemocracy-project.eu		
Participants			
Female:	12		
Male:	31		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Greece]:	42		
From country 2 [Netherlands]:	1		
Total number of participants:	43	From total number of countries:	2
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Under the WP4. Problem Solving – Greece , CreThiDev organised on Monday, December 18, 2023, the event in Greece entitled : ‘Community Dialogue : Proposals for a Circular Economy’.</p> <p>The event took place at the Ioannis Kapodistrias Hall in the Municipality of Palaia Penteli, in Athens.</p> <p>The invited experts, as well as all participants, received official invitations. Moreover, an invitation of the event was sent through CreThiDev’s social media as well as through the press.</p> <p>The CreThiDev team emphasized the necessity of citizen participation in the functioning of a circular economy.</p>			

The first part of the event was dedicated to the presentation of the project and results of the online survey. The team presented the objectives and actions of the project, along with informational materials.

During the second part of the event, selected collective recycling systems and companies with a crucial contribution to the national and local circular economy activities were represented in a panel of three invited speakers: Mr. George Arapis, COO of RECYCOM (Company offering Recycling services of used clothing and footwear, <https://www.recycom.gr/en/main/>), Mr. Haris Angelakopoulos COO of Appliances Recycling S.A. (Collective System for the Alternative Management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, <https://www.electrocycle.gr/en/the-company/>), and Mr. Manolis Kosmopoulos representing the company 'Oil & Energy' (Certified company involved in used edible oils recycling for bio-diesel production, <https://www.lke.gr/>).

All three speakers shared insights into their respective organizations' profile and activities. They also presented quantitative data on the collection and management of used clothing, electric/electronic devices, and cooking oils. Moreover, Mr. Philip Kyrkitos from the Ecological Recycling Company provided an overview of crucial aspects of the updated national policies and practices related to circular economy in Greece. In his speech he also highlighted specific challenges and ways to overcome them through the transition to a circular economy and emphasized the importance of individual responsibility that every citizen must undertake.

The event continued with audience questions and a high-level, interactive discussion among the panel and all participating citizens on topics such as : continuous education from the early age, consumer behavior, municipal fees, and certain weaknesses regarding the management of municipal solid waste.

The participants were engaged in problems mapping and begun proposing solutions to the identified issues. Suggestions from participants on the thematic areas of 'Education & Daily Practices,' 'Circular Economy & Climate Crisis,' 'Challenges in Municipal Waste Management in Greece,' 'Plastic Pollution,' and 'Obstacles to Transition to Sustainability' were documented during the discussion and also via targeted electronic questionnaires distributed after the end of the event.

Furthermore, it is of great importance that all stated that they had gained knowledge they are willing to apply it in their daily life. Moreover, all participants agreed that they were very glad to have the opportunity to be informed of this project and that its idea and methods should be continued.

Both citizens and experts shared a common view: that the task of raising awareness on climatic crisis, the necessary shift towards a circular production model and towards sustainable consumption attitudes at national and city levels should be repeated and continuous.

The event has been disseminated on CreThiDev's social media facebook and Instagram. Moreover, press releases have been made in order to reach a broad target audience.