EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Asociación Caminos
PIC number:	936863152
Project name and acronym:	Social Innovation for Better Living — *SO I BeLiv*

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP4 - 1		
Event name:	Transnational conference on good practices in social innovation fostering youth civic engagement		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Mancomunidad de Municipios Costa del Sol Oriental-Axarquía. Avenida de Andalucía, 110. 29740, Torre del Mar. Málaga (Spain)		
Date(s):	16.05.2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.asoccaminos.org/		
Participants			
Female:	56		
Male:	30		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [name]:	Spain: 48		
From country 2 [name]:	Croatia: 3		
From country 3 [name]:	France: 8		
From country 4 [name]:	Italy: 10		
From country 5 [name]:	Slovenia: 8		
From country 6 [name]:	Germany: 5		
From country 7 [name]:	Austria: 5		
Total number of participants:	87	From total number of countries:	7

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The activities of the international conference were held on 16.05.2024 in Torre del Mar (Málaga), Spain.

The event was attended by 87 participants out of which 39 were foreigners and 48 local participants.

Attending the event were youth, experts in the field of education, psychology, employment, social field, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders in the field of youth and people interested in learning about good

practices.

The agenda was as follows:

16:00 – 16:30 Registration and welcome
16:30 – 17:00 Welcome address and project presentation:
-Angela Pittl, president of Caminos
-Jorge Martín, president of the municipal association and Mayor of Canillas de Albaida
17:00 – 18:15 Presentation of national research results:
1. Carmen Lancha Montes, Asociación Caminos (Spain)
2. Tjaša Vozel, IC Geoss (Slovenia)
3. Fabrizio Mascali, Unione degli Assessorati (Italy)
4. Sanja Barisic, Udruga Mladih (Croatia)
5. Aoife Keating, Pistes Solidaires (France)
18:15 – 18:45 Round table with young people
18:45 – 19:00 Event evaluation and closure
19:00 – 20:00 Aperitif and non-formal networking time

The event started with a welcome address, accompanied by a comprehensive project presentation aimed at those who were not previously aware of *So I BeLiv*.

The second part of the event was dedicated to the presentations of the national desktop researches on the collection of good practices of social innovation encouraging civic engagement of youth in Spain, Slovenia, Italy, Croatia and France, which the project partners produced prior to the event, highlighting the importance of promoting an environment that fosters the civic engagement of young people, recognising their potential as agents of change and strengthening their capacity to contribute meaningfully to their countries' social and democratic progress. This national desktop researches were gathered into a synthesis report titled: *Collection of good practices of social innovation encouraging civic engagement of youth*, that is now available for free and downloadable on partner's websites.

In the report, partners presented the findings from five independent research projects conducted across five European countries. These investigations sought to understand how in today's era of rapid social, economic and technological change, the role of young people in shaping the future of a nation is more relevant than ever. The fourth research of the project has highlighted the importance of fostering the civic participation and engagement of young people in European society, with various social innovation initiatives that are paving the way towards greater youth empowerment. Through the analysis of good practices, it has been possible to see how organisations, educational institutions and young people themselves have been working together to build an environment where young people can play an active role in decision-making, solving social problems and promoting positive change. From volunteering and youth leadership programmes to the creation of spaces for participation and the implementation of inclusive policies, each initiative examined makes a significant contribution to strengthening Europe's social and democratic fabric. Reflecting on the current landscape and the lessons learned from the successful practices presented in the study, it is clear that Europe's future is intrinsically linked to the degree to which it engages and empowers its youth.

The event continued with a round table with young people from the countries participating in the project. The questions discussed were as follows:

1) Do you feel that as a young person you are taken into account by society in general and by policy makers in your community in particular?
2) Do you feel close to public administrations and political decision-makers, and do you think it would be easy to make your demands, needs and suggestions known to them?
3) Do you feel that you have enough information about all the initiatives aimed at youth that can facilitate and improve your life? Or do you feel that there is a communication problem?
4) What impact do you think greater youth participation would have on young people as individuals and on the communities in which you live?

After that, it became clear that it is crucial to recognise that the road to greater youth participation is not without its challenges. Obstacles such as lack of resources, unequal access to opportunities, and disconnection between young people and institutions can hinder progress in this area. However, through the continued commitment of all stakeholders, these challenges can be effectively addressed and overcome.

The event concluded with and evaluation, aperitif and non-formal networking time where the public had the opportunity to create new, international connections, exchange opinions and share experiences. This activity

contributed to the strengthening of European identity and creating cross-sectoral connections among all the participants.

Testimonies of participants:

Daniel (Spain): I was completely unaware of the wide variety of good practices and initiatives that are being carried out for young people, and also by young people, sometimes even very close to where I live. It is very important that more young people know about this kind of practices and get involved in them to do our bit for society, but also to have more chances to be taken into account and to make our voice and our demands heard.

Esther (Spain): It is clear that from the public institutions we have to make existing opportunities more accessible to young people, to learn to listen to what they want to tell us, to invite them to participate in as many activities as possible. We often forget that they are the future but also the present of the societies in which we live.

Giovanna (Croatia): By participating in the conference in Torre del Mar, I had the opportunity to hear and learn about examples of good practices from five European countries (Italy, Spain, France, Slovenia and Croatia) in which way greater civic engagement of young people was encouraged at the local and national level. As I myself work as a youth worker, and I previously participated in the volunteer program of the European Solidarity Corps, as one of the ways to encourage greater involvement of young people in local communities, the information and knowledge I have gained in conference will help me in my further work in the youth organization in Šibenik. The final part of the conference - a round table with young people from four countries, it was extremely interesting and useful for me to hear the opinions and attitudes of young people on topics/problems such as whether the opinions of young people are taken into account when making decisions, whether enough is invested in young people as a social capital and what they would recommend to decision makers in order to encourage the civic engagement of young people**.**

Matej (Croatia): As the former president of the Youth Council of the City of Šibenik, a volunteer and long-term employee of the Youth Association "Youth in the EU" as a coordinator of activities for young people on projects that are carried out at the local, regional and international level, one of the goals of which is to encourage greater civic engagement of young people. From that point of view, it was important and interesting to hear about examples of good practices from several EU countries and personal views and opinions of young people on the issue of encouraging greater civic engagement of young people.

Participant 1 (France): The various good practices we were presented during the conference were very interesting and inspirational for the future. I understood each country's difficulties and solutions for the youth.

Participant 2 (France): I became aware of the assistance the countries provide for the younger generation.

Gianni Zichichi, youth worker and president of NGO "Rock 10 e lode" (Italy): It was very interesting to learn about various good practices on promoting civic engagement among young people.

Giovanni Spinoso, president of the Bompietro Youth Council (Italy): It is nice when young people are involved in political decisions and asked for their feedback. These kinds of events are an inspiration for small realities like ours.

Danijela (Slovenia): I am thrilled to have participated in the International Conference organized by Caminos. The event, held in the municipal premises of Costa del Sol Oriental-Axarquía, was an incredibly enriching experience both personally and professionally. The conference brought together partners from five European countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, France, and Spain. They presented the results of the CERV project So I BeLiv – Social Innovations for Better Living. The goal of this project was to identify which aspects of young people's lives have been, and still are, most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and to understand their actual needs. Additionally, we proposed solutions and recommendations for policymakers on how to incorporate these needs into decision-making processes. A particularly engaging part of the conference was the round table discussion, where we delved into whether young people feel heard in society, whether policymakers take their opinions into account, and how close they feel to decision-making processes. The discussion revealed many sub-questions and dilemmas, confirming that this is a complex issue that requires ongoing research and dialogue at the international level. We concluded the conference with an evaluation session, where we shared our impressions and suggestions for future work. The hosts also provided a delightful reception, giving us the chance for informal networking and exchange of experiences. I am grateful to the Geoss Educational Center for the opportunity to attend this significant conference. I return home with new knowledge, ideas, and motivation to continue working on social innovations for better living for young people.

Links to press articles/social media pages related to the project event:

- https://www.facebook.com/Asoccaminos/posts/pfbid0qEUvp1iJaXDToHdPUQE7Vc64N2Y3obHYVoyDfBUXjiTcjuAagFpv37pU83A8XHpKl
- https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7198623902825099264
- https://www.axarquiaplus.es/la-asociacion-caminos-de-velez-malaga-presenta-el-proyecto-so-ibeliv-en-la-mancomunidad-axarquia/
- https://www.facebook.com/pistesolidaires/posts/pfbid08n59vmBC7EorNvx8gF6fgo2F1YjoEuBBGeAHDHZHxhtddxaWTeVHAvTKNsCXwZ31l
- https://www.facebook.com/unioneassessorati/posts/pfbid06oBZnKZBdCp7ZatNZnttw4V73oTJrESZz3FStCxwnt6vMEgfGJCdKrfZo512w1JBl
- https://www.facebook.com/udruga.eu/posts/pfbid0WszwsG3J6AdpW6B37szxVAhbyPnUB8AZmwoQ5dbuCTLtP122XboyQCvjKCDvuMxAl
- https://www.instagram.com/stories/archive/17935408244837271/
- http://mladi-eu.hr/medunarodna-konferencija-u-spanjolskoj-o-drustvenim-inovacijama-za-veci-gradanski-angazman-mladih-u-zajednici/
- https://www.ic-geoss.si/soibeliv-7/
- https://www.facebook.com/story.php/?story_fbid=1033341868799369&id=100063706954162
- https://www.facebook.com/icgeoss/posts/993429886123901/
- https://www.instagram.com/p/C7gQg0-lUmX/?img_index=1
- https://www.instagram.com/p/C5YH87doopE/

The event description sheet is published on the project's dedicated pages:

- https://www.ic-geoss.si/en/projects/soibeliv/
- https://www.ic-geoss.si/projekti/so-i-beliv/
- http://www.unioneassessorati.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2928:so-i-be-liv&catid=8&Itemid=108
- https://www.pistes-solidaires.fr/projet/so-i-beliv/
- https://www.paujeunes.fr/
- https://www.asoccaminos.org/files/So-I-BeLiv_project-information.pdf
- http://mladi-eu.hr/treca-medunarodna-konferencija-u-litiji-ljubljana-o-drustvenim-inovacijama/

Links to the municipalities' websites where the event description sheet is published:

- https://comune.bompietro.pa.it/
- https://www.litija.si/
- https://www.sibenik.hr/