

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:	FREGUESIA DE VILA BOA DO BISPO (Freguesia VBB)
PIC number:	913768228
Project name and acronym:	L-Democracy: Bringing young citizens together with local authorities — L-Democracy

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	PAN-EUROPEAN POLICY WORKSHOP
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Portugal, Marco de Canaveses, Vila Boa do Bispo.
Date(s):	24.04.2025 – 26.04.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.jfvilaboadobispo.pt/post/projeto-network-of-towns-l-democracy-vila-bo-a-do-bispo-acolhe-workshop-pan-europeu-sobre-democrac-1
Participants	
Female:	26
Male:	29
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Portugal]:	26
From country 2 [Spain]:	8
From country 3 [France]:	1
From country 4 [Italy]:	6
From country 5 [Romania]:	1
From country 6 [Greece]:	5
From country 7 [Netherlands]:	2
From country 8 [Germany]:	1

From country 9 [Belgium]:	1		
From country 10 [Luxembourg]:	1		
From country 11 [Poland]:	1		
From country 12 [Czechia]:	1		
From country 13 [Austria]:	1		
Total number of participants:	55	From total number of countries:	13

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The Pan-European Policy Workshop took place on 24 – 26 April 2025, Vila Boa do Bispo, Portugal.

Hosted in the week of Portugal's 25 April Freedom celebrations, this kick-off workshop launched the Awareness, Capacitation and Information phase of L-Democracy. It set out to:

- collect baseline evidence on how young Europeans perceive democracy and local elections,
- open an inter-cultural dialogue among municipalities on tools that raise turnout and digital literacy, and
- co-create the project's first policy outputs (Joint Statement and draft recommendations).

Prior to the event, the coordination team completed a series of preparatory actions that ensured the event could start smoothly on 24 April. First, an Info Pack containing travel instructions, accommodation options, the agenda preview, local context and contact details was compiled and e-mailed to every confirmed participant. ([Info Pack Link](#)).

In parallel, a Google Forms questionnaire was designed to gauge young adults' views on local elections and democratic participation. [Survey Link](#). Partners then promoted this survey through their communication channels and via the project's Instagram channel ([post link](#)), ultimately collecting sixty-five valid responses (The analysis was done with 58 answers available at the time). The data team cleaned the incoming responses and, by 22 April, produced a concise statistical brief that combined the survey findings with the latest EU figures on youth turnout and misinformation trends; these slides were scheduled for presentation during the Day 1 keynote and panel ([Canva Survey Presentation](#)).

Day 1 of the Pan-European Policy Workshop took place on 24 April 2025 in the assembly hall of the Junta de Freguesia de Vila Boa do Bispo. Proceedings opened with a formal welcome from local officials, followed by a concise presentation that situated the L-Democracy project in the context of Portugal's forthcoming municipal elections and the anniversary of the Carnation Revolution.

A keynote address entitled "Challenges and Opportunities in European Democracy" marked the beginning of the event, with the presentation on the project's preliminary survey findings and Eurobarometer and the Council of Europe data. Participants examined the analysed survey responses, compared them with complementary EU statistics and debated on the reasons and best practices to encourage youth turnout and combat misinformation. Each partner delegation delivered a concise presentation on its home municipality, outlining the local initiatives, programmes and good practices it uses to raise youth participation in democratic life; these presentations provided concrete reference points for later discussion. The partners reviewed and approved a Joint Statement Agreement setting out their collective commitments, which was printed for signature at the opening dinner. The project management team held, also, a consortium meeting about the next work packages and the dissemination tasks. The coordination team also provided a preview of the draft L-Democracy website.

Delegations reconvened at Casa do Pinheiro for a dinner celebrating the 25 April holiday. During the meal the partners and municipal representatives signed the Joint Statement Agreement committing to the project's recommendations ([Joint Statement](#)). The day concluded with informal exchanges between participants and local community members, completing the first workshop day.

Day 2 of the Pan-European Policy Workshop took place on 25 April 2025 and was entirely dedicated to capacity-building. The morning began with a guided tour of the TEAR training space in Vila Boa do Bispo, where the morning activities took place.

Participants took part in workshops that applied exercises from the draft handbook featuring Vila Boa do Bispo ([Handbook Link](#)). Each municipality analysed the handbook's good practices and then adapted selected activities to its own legal, cultural and budgetary context. A small film crew recorded the first short videos for the project's storytelling strategy, capturing participant testimonies and workshop footage for later release on social media. The group walked through VBB to inspect facilities that were built through successive Participatory Budget cycles, including the new skate park, which provided tangible evidence of how citizen input can shape municipal investment.

In the late afternoon the delegation travelled to Marco de Canaveses for a guided visit to the [Carmen Miranda Museum](#). The day concluded with an evening concert at the [Emergente Centro Cultural](#), staged as part of the local 25 April celebrations. The cultural programme reinforced the historical context of the Carnation Revolution while providing informal networking time.

Day 3 of the Pan-European Policy Workshop, Saturday 26 April 2025, was reserved for closing activities and evaluation. Participants joined local residents in the Corrida da Liberdade, the annual "Freedom Run" through Vila Boa do Bispo that commemorates Portugal's Carnation Revolution. The run offered a practical illustration of community-based participation. Immediately afterwards the group reconvened in the TEAR training centre for the final plenary session. The coordination team summarised the main deliverables produced over the previous two days, and each partner confirmed its next tasks and deadlines, and the dates for the subsequent project meeting were agreed. A structured reflection followed: participants completed the standard anonymous evaluation questionnaire ([evaluation survey link](#)), then discussed their feedback in small groups before reporting key points in plenary. Initial results indicated a high level of satisfaction with the practical workshops and the participatory-budget site visits.

This Event Description Sheet is published on the Freguesia de Vila Boa do Bispo website and on the project website and can be accessed here: <https://www.jfvilaboadobispo.pt/post/projeto-network-of-towns-l-democracy-vila-bo-do-bispo-acolhe-workshop-pan-europeu-sobre-democrac-1>

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