



Effective Social Integration of mobile EU citizens - EnVISION
EnVISION



Activity 2.7 Design of 5 Social Inclusion Activities that foster active participation (per participating country)

Work Package 2 (Deliverable 2.7)

REPORT 5: Cultural/Sport Activities

Helping Hand

Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme

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Disclaimer

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Contents

1. Introduction - The EnVision project	5
2. Structure of the deliverable	7
3. Description of the proposed Activity.....	9
3.1 Decision of the most appropriate public consultation process.....	10
3.2 Preparation of Consultation Documents, including:	10
3.3 Establishment of the consultation process with a specific implementation timeline and monitoring of results.....	11
3.4 Finalizing of the content of the proposed Activity	12
Organisation of the Pilot	12
The profile of participants	12
Facilitators	13
The programme flow	13
4. Provision of feedback from stakeholders.....	13
5. Additional Resources.....	20

Figures

Figure 1 Design of 5 Activities in the areas of:	7
Figure 2 Pilot, Online Event, 26.01.2021	13
Figure 3 Input – Short list of the problems encountered that prohibit the access to cultural and sports activities in the host societies	16
Figure 4 Free activities organised at the local level.....	16
Figure 5 Gaps in the design of such activities at the local level	18
Figure 6 Consent to Create a Poster.....	19





1. Introduction - The EnVision project

The aim of the EnVision project is to introduce mobile EU citizens to the Public Consultation Process, during the formulation of local interventions, emphasizing on educational and social activities, including unrepresented persons such as women and young people. This is going to be achieved through the development of a reasonable, adaptable methodology for the sustainable promotion of active participation of mobile EU citizens in local societies.

The objectives of the EnVision project are established in a wo-way process, aiming to:

- Foster the successful inclusion and participation of mobile EU citizens and their family members in the host EU country's civic and political life, as well as their participation in the democratic life of the EU
- Increase the capacity of the Public Administration Authorities & Experts in local level, in the participating countries to enable and facilitate the participation of mobile EU citizens in their host Member-State
- Improve the availability, awareness and participation of mobile EU citizens in civic activities in their host communities

Expected results of the Envision project:

- Direct involvement of EU mobile citizens to the Public Consultation Process.
- Increased participation of EU mobile citizens in the political and social life of their host communities.
- Increased capacity of experts in local level in the participating countries to enable and facilitate the participation of mobile EU citizens in their host Member State.
- Improved acceptance of mobile EU citizens into activities organized and implemented at a local level.

The project is funded by Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission and is implemented by:



- AKMI S.A (AKMI) – Greece
- Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE) – Greece
- Astiki Mh Kersoskopiki Etareia Helping Hand (HELPING HAND) – Greece
- Union of Cyprus Municipalities (UCM) - Cyprus
- ZEWELEPE Consultants Limited (ZEWELEPE) - Cyprus



2. Structure of the deliverable

The purpose of this report is to test the functionality and effectiveness of our two – way approach methodology using the public consultation. Under the Activity 2.7, the Envision Partnership, with the guidance of Helping Hand, piloted five (5) different educational and social activities encouraging the active participation of mobile EU citizens in local societies. Our pilot included the preparation of local Initiatives that enhanced the active participation. We established 5 groups of Activities, using this new Consultation Methodology, focusing on the following 5 thematic areas:

Figure 1 Design of 5 Activities in the areas of:



This Report provides the documentation for the last activity: ‘Cultural/Sport Activities’.

The structure of this deliverable contains the following elements:

Chapter 3 provides a description of the proposed Activity. It contains an analysis of the decision of the most appropriate public consultation process, related to the Activity and it describes the Consultation Documents used to support this activity, by offering a description of the Activity and the documents for the implementation of the consultation process.

Moreover, the specific implementation timeline and the finalization of the content of the proposed Activities, taking into consideration and including the results of the Public Consultation. Finally the feedback received is presented.

The design of all planned 5 Social Inclusion activities, follows this procedure:



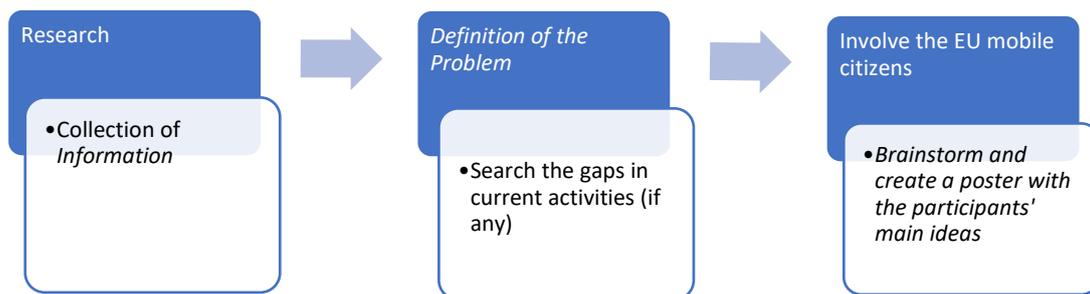
1. Identification of Stakeholders, aiming to prepare the cooperation structures between stakeholders and mobile EU citizens, by establishing an active communication channel among them, during the preparation of the Activities; To this end, the Envision Consortium has concluded a mapping of stakeholders from various categories, which is presented only to the Project Officer, since it contains sensitive and personal data.
2. Decision of the most appropriate public consultation process, related to each proposed Activity;
3. Preparation of Consultation Documents, including i) a detailed description of the planned Activities, that are going to be presented to mobile EU citizens ii) standard documents for the implementation of the consultation process;
4. Establishment of the consultation process with a specific implementation timeline and monitoring of results;
5. Finalizing of the content of the proposed Activities, taking into consideration and including the results of the Public Consultation;
6. Provision of feedback to stakeholders and especially to mobile EU citizens, so that they get assured that their opinion is being valued and included in the designed Activities.

The finalized Educational and Social Activities are going to be input for Activity 2.8.



3. Description of the proposed Activity

This Activity was designed in consultation with mobile EU citizens that have been attending as participants the Activity 2.6. The main steps for the designing phase are presented below:



The main aim of the pilot of this Activity was to design in consultation with the EU mobile citizens an activity that impact the level of their voluntary participation at the local level, through asking for their input.

The participants' feedback was requested and for the implementation of the Activity we had asked if any of them would be willing to share their views on the topic, through story sharing of personal experiences and create a poster with their views.

Helping Hand, acting as the lead partner of this activity, aimed to understand the perception of either newcomers or longer establish citizens, based on their experiences in the host society. In the same time, we had to respect and remember the fact that the involvement in such actions depends on several factors, such as the available free time, the financial situation of a person and many other restrictions. Therefore, we carefully proposed some guidelines for the implementation of the activities, based on the feedback of the interested people.



3.1 Decision of the most appropriate public consultation process

To achieve the goal of selecting the most appropriate public consultation process, we had already introduced our participants to each consultation method, through their involvement in the other activities.

3.2 Preparation of Consultation Documents, including:

i) Detailed description of the Activity, that is going to be presented to mobile EU citizens

Our research team performed research on the suggested topic. Based on our findings and taking into consideration that the civic engagement in the host society affects the integration of the EU mobile citizens, we provided some type of organisations, which act at the local level and promote cultural or sports activities. We found essential to present some useful information about the culture and how the European Union has worked with initiatives, agendas towards the promotion of the cultural capability of all Europeans, by making available a wide range of cultural activities and by providing opportunities to participate actively encourage the mobility of professionals in the cultural and creative sectors. Moreover, we also incorporated some information on the Work Plan for Culture covering the period 2019-2022, which sets out six priorities for European cooperation in cultural policy-making. To stress out the actual involvement in cultural activities, we provided some statistical data on the cultural participation. The EU-SILC ad-hoc module on social and cultural participation in 2015¹ revealed that the main reasons for not participating in specific cultural activities are:

- financial reasons (they could not afford to take part);
- a lack of interest (they were not interested in taking part);
- a lack of proximity (there were no venues, for example, a cinema, theatre or museum nearby; note this reason concerns issues linked to both physical distance and to accessibility); and
- other reasons.

¹https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture_statistics_-_cultural_participation#Main_reasons_for_not_participating_in_cultural_activities



Moving to the second type of this activity, the sports we had also performed a research on some fundamental aspects, and some dedicated days and events that take place annually in the EU.

A power point presentation was created, based on our research. So, based on all the theoretical aspects, provided to the participants we wanted to ask them to freely choose the most appropriate public consultation process, and by replying to some questions, we have agreed to create a poster with their views. Our design methodology placed the personal experiences of the participants into the center of our approach in shaping the activities. The timeplan is presented below.

ii) Standard documents for the implementation of the consultation process.

We informed our participants that Public Consultation contains the following elements:

1/. Notification: It involves the communication of information on regulatory decisions to the public. Notification does not, itself, constitute consultation, but can be a first step. In this view, prior notification allows stakeholders the time to prepare themselves for upcoming consultations.

2/. Consultation: It involves actively seeking the opinions of interested and affected groups.

3/. Participation: It is the active involvement of interest groups in the formulation of regulatory objectives, policies and approaches, or in the drafting of regulatory texts.²

Aiming to set a common understanding we also provided an overview of the Consultation methods. Moreover, a detailed briefing on public consultation methods was be given, based on the PPT presentation.

3.3 Establishment of the consultation process with a specific implementation timeline and monitoring of results.

The Envision Consortium, under the leading of Helping Hand, agreed on the following timeframe: The activity should be implemented by January 2021. The pilot of the first Activity took place on January 2021.

² OECD, Background Document on Public Consultation, Retrieved from: <https://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/36785341.pdf>



3.4 Finalizing of the content of the proposed Activity

The most important aim of the pilot of this Activity was to make a short list of the problems the EU mobile citizens have encountered that prohibit the access to cultural and sports activities in the host societies. Furthermore, we wanted to check if their Municipality offers free cultural/sport activities and receive some examples of the existing practices and how they would describe their experience from participating in such activities. Another aim was to assess if they find any gaps in the design of such activities at the local level. We also wanted to see if they are members of any organisation in the field, operating at the local level and if so to share any good practices they have encountered.

The other aim was to move beyond the existing practices and through brainstorming to propose some activities that promote intercultural dialogue between people with different national backgrounds and promote the inclusion of the newcomers.

Organisation of the Pilot

Our first pilot took place on January 25, 2021, but we have shared the presentations since December 2, 2020 at the end of the session that was dedicated to the pilot of the other activities under A.2.7. AKMI, Helping Hand and ZEWELPE with the collaboration of the rest partners, hosted a virtual meeting, via the Big Blue Button platform. After we had provided a brief to the participants with the theoretical background, we had asked them to provide us with their input. This 30 minutes online event organized on 25th of January 2021, aimed to finalise the activity. More details on this pilot are being presented later.

The profile of participants

The participants were mobile EU citizens who reside in Greece and Cyprus and who have already participated in the Envision training, which is available in the Moodle platform: <https://elearning.project-envision.eu/>. All of them were motivated and interested to discuss the suggested topic. In the early beginning of our online session, we informed them that we could communicate either in English or Greek. However, the vast majority spoke English, so we contacted the session in English.



Facilitators

For the pilot, the Project Coordinator Ms Popi Christopoulou, Ms Chrysa Psyllaki (Helping Hand) and Ms Sotia Pitsillidou (ZEWLEPE) facilitated the process and the discussion.

The programme flow

In total, 35 participants attended this online pilot, which followed the implementation of the pilots of the other 3 activities: language, fundamental rights & voluntary actions. Taking advantage of the different types of associations consisting of EU mobile citizens' in the host societies, we initiated an interesting discussion, aiming to receive the participants' feedback.

It came up as one of the conclusions that not all the people are aware of associations that consist of EU mobile citizens in their region and promote cultural/sports activities and therefore they are not members of any relevant organisation.

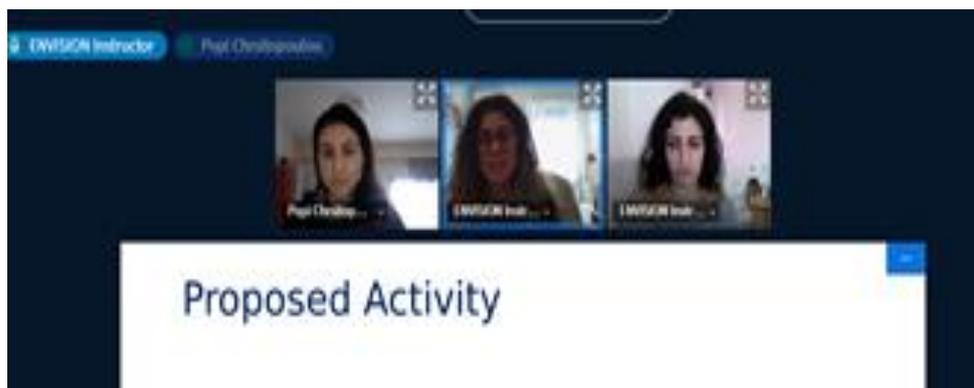


Figure 2 Pilot, Online Event, 26.01.2021

4. Provision of feedback to stakeholders

The participants commented that the most preferred public consultation method for this activity should be the informal consultation, through face-to-face. The participants shared their experience from the participation in cultural/sports activities. Receiving the feedback from the interested parties laid on the following parameters:

- Review: Reviewing the current situation, (reflect on questions, such as: How does language learning take place now, what should change at the local level)



- Analysis: Analyze the existing local practices and similar activities they have attended.
- Planning: What activities do they believe are mandatory to take place at the local level?
- Implementation: Co-decision of the appropriate consultation methods and designing of the activity to be implemented at the local level.



The Main Outcomes of our Pilot:

We managed to receive some responses, which are being presented in the below table:

Summary of the participants' input about their involvement in cultural/sports activities
Many participants have been involved in such activities in the local societies and have not faced any problems.
The difficulty in obtaining information about such activities in their language was reported by many participants.
The accessibility referred to be a problem.
Some mentioned that access to such activities can be difficult, especially if they are not aware of the host language or some customs that exist.



Table 1 Input – Short list of the problems encountered that prohibit the access to cultural and sports activities in the host societies.

During our discussion, we wanted to examine if they have prior experience from participating in cultural/sports activities in the past, even at their own countries. We received many positive replies, but a large proportion of the participants had not such an experience, especially as it regards the host society. The facilitators of this online event (AKMI, Helping Hand and Zewepe), having in mind the participants’ prior input, moved to asking the 35 participants to identify if their Municipality offer free cultural/sport activities. The majority replied positively, while some people stated that they have not been aware of such events/activities, organised at the local level.

Aiming to get more specific and detailed responses, we had created an online google form, which we had asked to be filled by our participants after our online event. We managed to receive 26 responses, which are being presented in the below table:

Participants’ replies:
The majority of the respondents have not faced any problems
No available information in my language nor availability without asking or in a website
The accessibility can be a problem
Lack of communication
Some people can be unwelcoming sometimes.
The society treats elderly harshly
Official process is very time consuming
It is hard to connect with people
Sometimes accessing sport activities of host nation can be difficult.
The people sometimes might be a little less approachable or accessible.
Sometimes we participation in local activities become difficult.



Figure 3 Input – Short list of the problems encountered that prohibit the access to cultural and sports activities in the host societies

The Municipalities of their region in most cases organise free cultural/sport activities

Does your Municipality offer free cultural/sport activities?
26 απαντήσεις

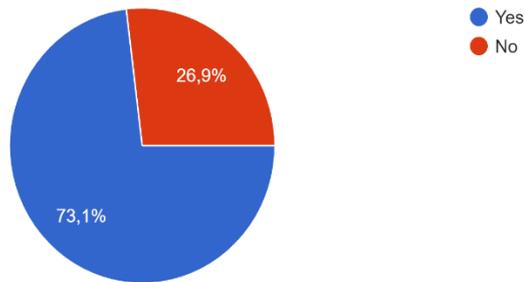


Figure 4 Free activities organised at the local level

Some examples of these activities include:

- “Parks with gym equipment”
- “ Relevant equipment and services like renting a bike, but sometimes under payment”
- “Parks, events at the center of the town ”
- “ I have asked my municipality, but due to covid they were cancelled”

It is evident that the EU mobile citizens have not many concrete activities in mind, but they refer to some free services that are provided at the local level.

In the next phase of this activity we wanted to extract the participants’ input about their proposals about the organization of activities that promote intercultural dialogue between people with different national backgrounds and promote the inclusion of the newcomers. We received the following replies:

- “Organising cultural events about different civilisations, in order to get aware of our differences like different traditions, habits, principles, characteristics of nations and its population, food, art, etc”
- “Volunteering, concerts”



- Potluck events and discussion
- Development of teams of foreigners in the municipalities
- I volunteered to help Greek students in need to learn English cooperating with our local church.
- In order to participate in greek volunteer activities you should make contacts with the local church, local schools. Koinoniko pantopoleio are local stores that provide to the needy. You can donate food supplies or clothing
- One can participate in various volunteering activities I have donated blankets, food cans, etc. to various homeless shelters.
- I donated non-perishable food to a local food bank
- donating used books to the local library, help in church services, etc.
- Volunteers should join charities organized by the church and also some organizations like Kivotos
- In my time in Patras, we could donate old eyeglasses to an organisation that collects and distributes them to the people in need.
- I had volunteered in Soup Kitchen. This helped me give back to the community.
- My experience in Athens suggests that paperwork is the main barrier in Greece. One must overcome it, even for the simplest procedures.
- A person can be more involved in local events and connect with people.
- A mobile EU citizen should establish contacts in Greece with locals
- What I would suggest is never hesitate to ask. People in Greece were quite friendly and were always helpful.
- we can also donate clothing and kids toys
- We can always help the elderly by visiting them in nursing homes or teaching them computer skills
- Paperwork is a huge hassle in Greece. I would suggest that everyone must plan it beforehand and avoid inconvenience!!
- A person can be more involved in local events and connect with people
- Active participation of EU mobile citizens can be done through Volunteering
- Joining and helping in church service can promote intercultural dialogue between people with different national backgrounds.

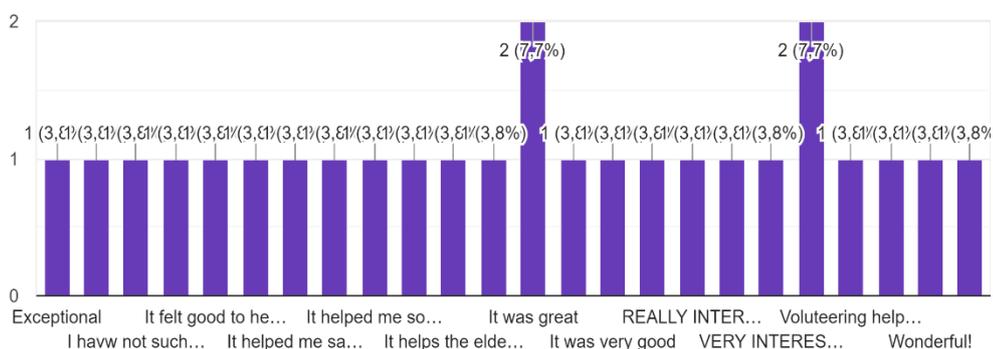


- In the municipality that I live we donate clothing to the local church
- I volunteered to help Greek students in need to learn English.

In general, our respondents describe their experience from participating in such activities as good, exceptional, helpful for socializing with other people, really interesting, wonderful, however some have not participated at relevant activities.

How would you describe your experience from participating in such activities?

26 απαντήσεις



The majority of the participants (21 people) replied that they do not find any gaps in the design of such activities at the local level, whereas only 5 people could identify some.

Do you find any gaps in the design of such activities at the local level?

26 απαντήσεις

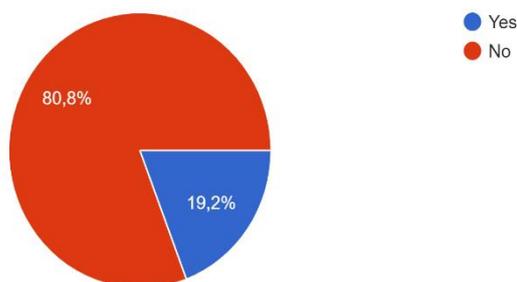


Figure 5 Gaps in the design of such activities at the local level

The gaps identified refer to:



- Better dissemination of such activities
- They don't happen often or most of the local people are not interested in getting part
- They should be happening more often
- They could be happening more often especially in Cyprus, where there is a high percentage of foreigners.

Finally, in our online questionnaire, 6 people declared not to be member of any organisation in the field, operating at the local level. All 26 respondents gave their consent to create a poster.

Please provide your consent that you agree your suggestions to be published in a poster made by our Consortium
26 απαντήσεις

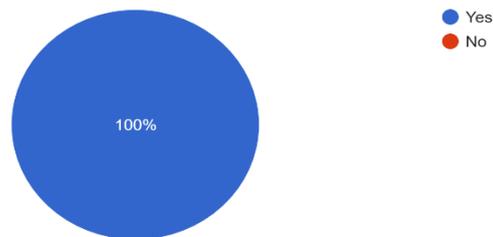


Figure 6 Consent to Create a Poster

The participants' input and valuable feedback was taken into consideration. We proposed them to interact in the common space, the facebook page: Humans on move. Envision Community. We proposed them to meet, discuss more about any problem or question they might have that relates to this pilot and in general to their participation in the local societies of the host communities.

Our aim was through an online collaboration to promote their views and act as organisers of several cultural/sport actions and initiatives. The goal was to achieve an enhanced online participation, which will be later exploited via face to face collaboration.



5. Additional Resources

For the Stakeholders identification, the Excel of our network is provided as a supplementary document. The link is available only to Project Officer and the Envision Consortium, at: <https://www.project-envision.eu/space/index.php/f/1604> .

The PowerPoint Presentation which provides the main theoretical aspects related to this topic is available to any interested person at: <https://www.project-envision.eu/space/index.php/s/6m4Pb4QdCD8WpMY>

The PowerPoint Presentation which presents the Public Consultation Methods is available to any interested person at: <https://www.project-envision.eu/space/index.php/s/6m4Pb4QdCD8WpMY>

The invitation for the pilot of December 2020 was sent to the participants, via the Moodle Platform that hosted the Envision Learning.

The invitation about the pilot of January 2021, is available at: <https://www.project-envision.eu/space/index.php/f/1759> .

The participants list is shared only with Project Officer, along with the Participants consent forms and the online google forms, at: <https://www.project-envision.eu/space/index.php/f/1753> .