

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:	[8] - [RAZVOJNI CENTAR VOJVODINE] ([RCV])
PIC number:	[909220965]
Project name and acronym:	[SECURE] — [Strengthening European Communities, Uniting Regions and Reinforcing Engagement]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[1]
Event name:	[Second International Event – « Building Trust: Strengthening Civic Engagement and Democratic Participation »]
Type:	[International Event]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Irig], [Serbia]
Date(s):	[01-04/08/2025]
Website(s) (if any):	https://secureprojectnot.wordpress.com/second-international-event-irig-serbia/ https://www.lighthouselanguages.it/portfolio/secure/
Participants	
Female:	41
Male:	43
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Serbia]:	45
From country 2 [Italy]:	18
From country 3 [Greece]:	1
From country 4 [Hungary]	5
From country 5 [Spain]	1
From country 6 [Latvia]	1
From country 7 [Portugal]	2

From country 8 [Slovenia]	2		
From country 9 [Malta]	3		
From country 10 [Poland]	2		
From country 11 [Czech Republic]	1		
From country 12 [Cyprus]	2		
From country 13 [France]	1		
Total number of participants:	84	From total number of countries:	13

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The second international event of the SECURE project, held in Irig, Serbia, was designed to advance the project's core objectives of fostering democratic participation and civic engagement. The event focused on three key pillars:

Community Engagement

By organizing cultural exchanges and collaborative activities, the event brought citizens together to discuss shared challenges, celebrate diversity, and strengthen community bonds.

Inclusive Dialogue

Structured discussions and workshops created safe spaces for participants from diverse backgrounds to share opinions and points of view.

Through these efforts, the event reinforced the SECURE project's mission of building resilient, participatory democracies across Europe.

The event brought together delegations from 13 countries, including representatives from:

Local municipalities

Civil society organizations

Youth centers

Educators and trainers

Citizens and community leaders

Participants came from Italy, Slovenia, France, Greece, Cyprus, Latvia, Portugal, Serbia, Hungary, Malta, Czech Republic, and Poland.

The programme focused on exploring citizens' trust in institutions through both analytical and participatory methods, highlighting citizens' voices and recommendations through a crowdsourcing activity carried out in preparation to the event.

Before the event each consortium organization carried out a crowdsourcing activity called "SECURE Wishlist" "What would make it easier or more motivating for people to participate in your community?". Each organization created a box and left it in public spaces, so citizens could freely and anonymously leave their thoughts and answers to the question.

The results were then analyzed locally to gather 3 main cluster or most relevant answers to be discussed during an Unconference.

Main sessions included:

Seminar "Strengthening Civic Engagement and Democratic Participation": this seminar successfully engaged participants in hands-on discussions about active citizenship. Through interactive exercises, attendees practiced democratic dialogue techniques and developed practical skills for community

engagement.

Unconference: "SECURE Wishlist" – the delegations discussed and analysed the results of the local tasks, drafting contents for the following Workshop "Building trust – Citizens practices of participation" where divided in groups participants worked on draft solutions to the citizens' recommendations and a common plan for their advocacy.

Participation in the "Forest, Wellness and Tourism" Conference in Fruska Gora, giving a platform for the international delegations to share their sustainable and citizens led initiatives for tourism management and promotion, and to better understand Serbian heritage and culture.

These activities provided space for critical reflection, group dialogue, and collective analysis on how to rebuild citizens' trust in institution and in civic participation.

Target: citizens, young people, stakeholders, PA.

Outcomes

The event led to:

- Encourage active participation of citizens in community activities and local governance processes by organizing community crowdsourcing where citizens could share recommendations, challenges and ideas to foster civic participation.

- Create platforms for inclusive dialogue and exchange of ideas among citizens from diverse backgrounds. This includes facilitating discussions on topics relevant to democratic participation, such as citizens' trust in civic participation and institutions.

- Stimulate citizens ability and trust in civic advocacy for community shared interests and engage effectively with decision-makers.

A key quote from the event:

"Democracy thrives when citizens are empowered – this event has planted seeds of change that will grow into stronger communities across Europe" by Lara Mascena.

Further information, photogallery, presentations and materials can be browsed here:

<https://secureprojectnot.wordpress.com/second-international-event-irig-serbia/>

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