

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	[2] – VAMOS
PIC number:	[931153926]
Project name and acronym:	[Defending Empowered Media, Openly Cultivating Resilience and Creating YouthWise Inclusive Social Engagement] — [DEMOCRACYWISE]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[3]
Event name:	[International Workshop for Citizens Panels Report]
Type:	[International Event]
In situ/online:	<u>[in-situ]</u>
Location:	[Larnaka], [Cyprus]
Date(s):	From 09/10/2025 to 13/10/2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.lighthouselanguages.it/portfolio/democracywise/ https://democracywiseciv.wordpress.com/2025/10/15/building-digital-resilience-citizens-across-europe-team-up-in-cyprus-to-fight-disinformation/
Female:	51
Male:	31
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Cyprus]:	49
From country 2 [Spain]:	5
From country 3 [Italy]:	12
From country 4 [Poland]:	4
From country 5 [Portugal]:	4
From country 6 [Ireland]:	4
From country 7 [Hungary]:	4
Total number of participants:	82
From total number of countries:	7
Description <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

DAY 1:

Arrival of the delegations, welcome meeting, presentation of topic and programme of activities. Walking tour of Larnaka historical center. Welcome dinner.

DAY 2:

Day in Nicosia.

Guided visit to the House of Europe.

Meeting with Mr. Athanasios Athanasiou, Head of Press Sector for the European Commission Representation in Cyprus. In this occasion the project and the main topic of the event "Disinformation as a threat to democratic participation". The spokesperson illustrated to delegates what are the main disinformation threads targeting the European Commission and other EU Institution. Then a Q&A session with the participants took place, mostly about how citizens' participation can have a direct influence on how EU institutions work and the Turkish occupation in Cyprus.

After the delegates were hosted in the seat of the Kythrea Municipality "in exile" in Nicosia. The Municipality has been occupied since 1964, the Mayor in exile illustrated to delegates the efforts put in place by the administration in exile to support its inhabitants and their heirs all around Cyprus and Europe.

DAY 3

Morning session:

"Disinformation as a threat to democratic representation". Guided by VAMOS volunteers the delegates explored the different narratives disinformation uses and the tools through which it spreads.

After each delegation analysed a disinformation campaign from their country and debunked it.

Afternoon session:

Divided by group, the participants worked to define how pre-bunking can be introduced in their local communities, what tools to use and how to disseminate it.

A brainstorming led to the selection of topics, methodologies and setting to be applied to the following second cycle of Local awareness events.

DAY 4

An operational meeting was held in the morning to plan the next project's actions in a cooperative and bottom-up way.

The participants took part in group activities aimed to stimulate pre-bunking: meaning the acquisition of tools and capacities to avoid the cognitive processes that lead to believe in disinformation, so to rapidly detect fake news and block their circulation.

In the afternoon the group took part in a walk to the Salt Lake.

DAY 5

Operative meeting for evaluation, reporting and dissemination.

Departure of delegations.

The workshop achieved the following results:

- It involved 79 direct participants, at intergenerational level, from 7 EU countries.
- Established a cooperative environment, allowing participants from different EU countries to meet and work together.
- Allowed citizens from local communities around the EU to meet and debate with a representative of the European Commission.
- Created a group of citizens in each involved organization that can act as pre-bunkers and disseminate pre-bunking principles in their local communities.
- Carried out a cross-sectorial brainstorming and group activities to allow the circulation of methodologies for citizens' education against disinformation.
- Implemented an operational meeting for the definition of topics, methodologies and standards for quality local awareness events to be implemented during the second cycle of local events.
- Selection and experimentation of tools to foster and promote citizens' debunking and pre-bunking in local communities, promote a positive/real perception of the media system, in particular official channels.

- Actively foster tools of resilience for communities against the crises, real or perceived, and create an informed citizenry to contrast populism, propaganda and external interference.

- To favour the dissemination of the project, thanks to the active participation of delegates in activities with local participants.

Feedback:

The overall feedback on the event was extremely positive, with a particular appreciation for the variety of methodologies and the practical approach.

- the use of interactive presentations and feedback gathering tools was highly appreciated by all participants, as it allowed them to avoid passive listening during the presentation parts, fostering active engagement.

- the exchange of “Disinformation examples” from each country, has been a favorable moment of confrontation between organizations operating at different levels (from grassroots to regional organizations), leading to a positive and constructive debate stemming from the presentations.

- young participants were particularly drawn to the non-formal methodologies employed (like the group pre-bunking activities), finding them most effective in stimulating the transmission of knowledge and the acquisition of new capacities.

- adult participants found the mixed methodology adapted to successfully guide them in the use of non-formal tools and online participatory tools.

- informal, community-oriented events, such as the walking tour of Larnaka's historical center, the guided tour of Nicosia, and the walk to the Salt Lake, were effective in breaking down barriers and creating a welcoming environment, facilitating intercultural exchange and networking moments among the delegations.

- the visit to the House of Europe and the meeting with Mr. Athanasiou were considered highly informative, providing direct contact with EU Institutions and clarifying the disinformation threats at the institutional level.

- the meeting with the Kythrea Municipality provided a tangible and moving example of the importance of civic resilience and the preservation of historical memory.

- the Operational Meeting for evaluation assessed the workshop positively and called for a deeper integration of non-formal activities in future event cycles.

In addition, the delegations have been hosted in the center of Larnaka, allowing for the transfer to be done by feet in the majority of cases (of course not in Nicosia or to Paphos airport). This resulted in a more sustainable management of the group of participants.

Target groups:

- participants have been engaged inside and outside the consortium, allowing the local community to take part in project's activities.

- organizations part of the consortium participated with their own delegations, composed by a minimum of 4 to up to 12 participants, of these max 2 people were directly representing the project staff, while the other were citizens of the local community or affiliates (non operative workers) of the organization.

- the delegations were made up of mixed participants, assuring the presence both of youth and senior citizens and gender representation.

- the local community, stakeholders and public authorities in Larnaka and Nicosia have been involved through the meeting with the European Commission Representative in Cyprus and the Mayor of Kythrea.

- citizens have been informed and engaged through posts on social networks, posters and flyers, and word of mouth.

Description of participants:

The event involved two kind of direct participants:

1. Project's staff: each delegation was accompanied by 1 or 2 members of the consortium organization staff (except Italy, 3 staff; Cyprus, as hosting organization, 5 staff members).

2. each delegation was then composed by participants that are volunteers, members, or citizens

involved by the organization.

The group of involved participants (staff and involved participants) had an intergenerational character since the consortium is composed by organizations that involve a diverse target, going from elderly centers (ADL Lajsk) to youth associations (ILEWASI).

Breakdown of participants by age:

Youth (18–30): 30 – involved through the regular activities of the consortium organizations and through the direct participation of VAMOS associates in the events.

Citizens over 60: 21 – involved through the regular activities of the consortium organizations.

Adults and hard-to-reach groups (all ages): 28 – involved through the regular activities of the consortium organization and a specific outreach strategy focused on overcoming cultural or socioeconomic barriers.

Presentations, photogallery and contents of activities are available at this link:

<https://democracywiseciv.wordpress.com/2025/10/15/building-digital-resilience-citizens-across-europe-team-up-in-cyprus-to-fight-disinformation/>



**Funded by the
European Union**