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EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	[1] – [Lighthouse Languages APS] ([Lighthouse LAN.])
PIC number:	[913055181]
Project name and acronym:	[Defending Empowered Media, Openly Cultivating Resilience and Creating YouthWise Inclusive Social Engagement] — [DEMOCRACYWISE]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[5]
Event name:	[Local Awareness-raising Events]
Type:	[Local Events]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Italy], [Orte] – [Poland], [Wieliszew] – [Cyprus], [Sia] – [Spain], [Castellon de la Plana], [Portugal], [Paredes] – [Ireland], [Meath] – [Hungary], [Sumeg]
Date(s):	From 01/02/2026 to 30/05/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://democracywiseciv.wordpress.com/local-awareness-raising-event/
Female:	149
Male:	141
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Italy]:	62
From country 2 [Cyprus]:	51
From country 3 [Spain]:	31
From country 4 [Portugal]:	31
From country 5 [Poland]:	30

From country 6 [Hungary]:	25		
From country 7 [Ireland]:	60		
Total number of participants:	290	From total number of countries:	7

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

In the second phase of the DEMOCRACYWISE project, partners organized a series of Local Awareness-Raising Events. These initiatives played a vital role in sensitizing local and regional communities to the critical importance of active citizenship in countering disinformation campaigns and safeguarding the integrity of democratic discourse.

Objectives and Structured Agenda
The events were designed to empower citizens to move from passive information consumers to resilient democratic actors. Each session followed a strategic agenda focused on local impact:

- Active citizenship and resilience: discussions centered on how civic engagement serves as the primary defense against the spread of manipulative narratives within local communities;
- Safeguarding the democratic debate: interactive workshops explored how disinformation undermines trust in public institutions and emphasized the need for an informed public sphere to protect democratic stability;
- Practical tools to counter disinformation: participants were equipped with media literacy skills, including source verification and fact-checking techniques, specifically tailored to identify threats to EU policymaking and local governance.
- Alignment with the Commission: a briefing on the most recent Commission's actions to defend democracy (European Democracy Shield and EU Strategy for Civil Society), highlighting how the project's local actions contribute to the European Commission's priorities.

Targets:
The events adopted a cross-cutting approach to ensure a wide-reaching impact; general citizens and members of the civil society were invited to participate, with a specific focus on youth (18-30 y/o) and seniors (60+ y/o).

Results and impacts:

- Increased local awareness: participants gained a deeper understanding of the link between their personal engagement and the overall health of European democracy; there was a marked increase in the recognition of how disinformation targets regional stability;
- Enhanced community resilience: the events improved the confidence of attendees, particularly older citizens, in identifying misinformation, equipping them with the digital skills necessary to navigate a complex media landscape safely;
- Strengthened public discourse: by fostering open dialogue between diverse social groups, the project helped create a more transparent and fact-based public sphere at the local level;
- Commitment to active participation: beyond education, the events motivated citizens to take action; many participants committed to becoming "awareness ambassadors" within their own communities, ensuring the project's sustainability and continued resistance against disinformation.

By combining education, dialogue, and practical tools, these events established a strong foundation for a more informed and resilient European public.

List of events:

Italy (Orte) – (two sessions) – April 13th, 17th 2026
Cyprus (Sia) – March 28th-29th 2026
Spain (Castellon de la Plana) – (several sessions) March 6th, 17th, 24th, 2026
Poland – (Wieliszew) - April 13rd 2026
Hungary – (Sumeg) – March 30th 2026
Ireland – (Meath) – March 25th 26th 2026
Portugal – (Paredes) – (two sessions) March 13th and 31st 2026