

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	[7] – VARKAPITANY LOVAGI TORNA EGYESULET
PIC number:	[935543758]
Project name and acronym:	[Defending Empowered Media, Openly Cultivating Resilience and Creating YouthWise Inclusive Social Engagement] — [DEMOCRACYWISE]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[4] [5]		
Event name:	[International Workshop – Closure Event]		
Type:	[International Event]		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	[Sümege], [Hungary]; [Brussels], [Belgium]		
Date(s):	HU - From 19/02/2026 to 22/02/2026 BE – From 06/05/2026 to 09/05/2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://democracywiseciv.wordpress.com/workshop-3/ https://democracywiseciv.wordpress.com/closure-event/		
Female:	46		
Male:	40		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Italy]:	16		
From country 2 [Spain]:	7		
From country 3 [Cyprus]:	8		
From country 4 [Poland]:	7		
From country 5 [Portugal]:	6		
From country 6 [Ireland]:	5		
From country 7 [Hungary]:	37		
Total number of participants:	86	From total number of countries:	7
Description <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Event 1 Hungary The third international workshop of the DEMOCRACYWISE project, co-funded by the European Union, was held in Sümege, Hungary. The event, titled "Rethinking civic resilience in a time of Polycrisis" brought together international delegations to discuss the future of European democracy, youth engagement, and the challenges of the digital age. Through a mix of institutional visits, keynote addresses, and collaborative working groups, participants drafted the foundation for the project's official Toolkit. Daily Agenda Day 1: Thursday, February 19th			

Arrival of international delegations
 Transfer to Sümeg and check-in at the Kapitany Hotel
 Welcome Buffet Dinner to facilitate initial networking among partners.

Day 2: Friday, February 20th

Morning: Departure to Veszprém for a visit to the University of Pannonia to discuss academic perspectives on civic resilience, followed by a guided visit to the Archbishop's Palace.
 Afternoon: Workshop Session in Sümeg focusing on preliminary project discussions and partner coordination.
 Evening: Return to Sümeg for a group dinner at the hotel.

Day 3: Saturday, February 21st

Workshop Sessions: the core of the event, where partners presented their specific considerations and Recommendations Kits.
 Keynote Address: a high-level session featuring Tibor Navracsics, Minister for Regional Development and former EU Commissioner, focusing on regional development and European integration.
 Cultural Experience: a Historical Knight Tournament at the Castle Arena by Varkapitany, followed by a Medieval Feast to close the program.

Day 4: Sunday, February 22nd

Final administration
 Departure of delegations

A key component of the workshop was the development of the "Recommendations Kit". This process followed a collaborative bottom-up approach:

-Local preparation: prior to the event, each partner was tasked with conducting research and consultations at a local level. This phase allowed partners to gather specific needs and considerations from their own communities, focusing on the four topics: democracy and civic participation, youth inclusion, countering disinformation, dialogue with decision-makers.

-Presentation and discussion: during the sessions in Sümeg, each partner presented their local findings. This provided a diverse panorama of the similar challenges and solutions across different European contexts.

-Synthesis and shared proposals: following the presentations, participants engaged in structured discussions to identify common ground. The goal was to merge individual contributions into a single, unified kit of recommendations.

The following points represent the clear priorities identified for each of the four pillars:

1. Democracy and civic participation

Proposal: create "EU Local Hubs" - permanent, physical spaces in smaller municipalities where citizens can receive direct assistance on EU rights and participate in monthly hybrid town halls with EU officials, bridging the gap between institutions and local reality.

2. Youth inclusion

Request: implement a "Youth Impact Assessment" for all new local and EU policies. This ensures that a representative panel of young people under 30 is consulted before legislation is finalized, effectively lowering the barriers to entering the political debate.

3. Countering disinformation

Recommendation: launch a "Digital Resilience Program" focused on intergenerational mentoring. By pairing tech-savvy youth with experienced educators, the program aims to protect democratic processes by teaching citizens how to identify AI-generated fake news and verify sources.

4. Dialogue with decision-makers:

Question: "How does the European Parliament plan to ensure that the voices of citizens in rural and semi-peripheral areas are not drowned out by urban-centric policy agendas in the next legislative term?"

The collaborative work culminated in the selection of the most relevant and impactful ideas in terms of defending democracy and countering FIMI and disinformation. These shared ideas have been integrated into the Draft Project Toolkit, which was officially defined during the final working groups. This toolkit serves as a practical output of the workshop, consolidating the collective wisdom of all partners into a roadmap for future civic resilience and advocacy.

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; Hungary, as hosting organization, 5 staff members).
2. each delegation was then composed by participants that are volunteers, members, or

citizensinvolved 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): 31 – involved through the regular activities of the consortium organizations and through the direct participation of VAMOS associates in the events.

Citizens over 60: 30– involved through the regular activities of the consortium organizations.

Adults and hard-to-reach groups (all ages): 7 – involved through the regular activities of the consortium organization and a specific outreach strategy focused on overcoming cultural or socioeconomic barriers.

BRUSSELS

The closure meeting of the DEMOCRACYWISE project took place in Brussels. This event marked the culmination of the project's journey, providing international delegations with the opportunity to present their final results directly to European institutions. Through high-level meetings at the European Parliament and EACEA, partners finalized the project Toolkit and delivered the policy recommendations developed during previous workshops.

The event was a key opportunity to close the gap between regular citizens and EU institution, since they had the opportunity to enter the European Parliament as guest, not tourists, and visit key places such as Committees Meeting Rooms and offices.

Day 1: Wednesday, May 6th

Arrival of delegations in Brussels and hotel check-in
Group dinner for final coordination of activities

Day 2: Thursday, May 7th

Morning: transfer to the European Quarter. Entrance to the European Parliament for institutional greetings by the Vice President, Antonella Sberna. This was followed by a guided tour of the parliamentary seat with her staff.

Afternoon: face-to-face meetings with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), including Cynthia Ní Mhurchú and Vicent Marzà, to present the concerns and proposals of local citizens.

Evening: Free time and dinner.

Day 3: Friday, May 8th

Morning: Visit to the EACEA. Presentation of the Erasmus+ Youth programs and an introduction to the agency's activities.

Afternoon: Final workshop session dedicated to the revision of the project Toolkit and discussion on the future sustainability of the created network.

Evening: Farewell dinner.

Day 4: Saturday, May 9th

Departure of delegations.

The work on the Toolkit, which began with local consultations and continued during the Sümeg workshop, was finalized and presented in Brussels as the project's primary output. During the meeting, partners demonstrated how local proposals were merged into a single strategic tool, which was then shared with European policymakers. This tool remains the legacy of the DEMOCRACYWISE project to promote civic resilience across the European Union.

Report: DemocracyWise Closure Meeting – Brussels
Brussels, Belgium | May 6th–9th, 2026

Executive Summary

The closure meeting of the DemocracyWise project, co-funded by the European Union, took place in Brussels. This event marked the final stage of the project's journey, offering international delegations the opportunity to present their results directly to European institutions. Through high-level meetings at the European Parliament and EACEA, partners finalized the project Toolkit and delivered policy recommendations developed during previous workshops.

Participant Profile

The Brussels event involved two kinds of direct participants: Project's staff and involved participants (volunteers, members, or citizens involved by the organizations). To maintain the high intergenerational standards of the project, the delegation was structured as follows:

Delegation size: each partner was represented by 2 participants, with the exception of the applicant organization, which involved 6 participants.

Intergenerational character: in line with the project's mission to bridge age gaps, each delegation pair typically consisted of one participant over 45 and one participant aged 18–30.

Inclusivity and diversity: the group included members of hard-to-reach groups and minorities (LGBTQIA+ community, neurodivergent, diabetic), ensuring that the political debate included voices often marginalized by socioeconomic or cultural barriers.

Diverse Representation: participants were drawn from the regular activities of the consortium organizations, ranging from youth associations to organizations working with seniors.

Feedback: Third International Workshop (Sümeg, Hungary)

The "Recommendations Kit" task was highly effective. By requiring partners to prepare local considerations in advance, the workshop ensured that the discussions were grounded in the diverse, real-world realities of each member state. This bottom-up approach gave the subsequent "Draft Toolkit" high levels of legitimacy and practical relevance.

The event successfully bridged the gap between different age groups; the presence of participants from both youth associations and elderly centers allowed for a rare exchange of perspectives on democracy, proving that civic resilience is a shared responsibility across generations.

Cultural and institutional integration: combining academic visits (University of Pannonia) with historical cultural experiences (Sümeg Castle) helped participants understand that European democracy is built on both intellectual progress and shared cultural heritage.

Key outcome: the successful definition of the draft toolkit provided a clear, actionable step for the final stage of the project.

Feedback: Closure Meeting (Brussels, Belgium)

The transition from local workshops to the heart of European decision-making was seamless. Meeting directly with Vice President Antonella Sberna and various MEPs provided participants, especially the youth and hard-to-reach groups, with a powerful sense of political agency. It transformed the project from a theoretical exercise into an act of direct civic participation. The delegation structure (1 over-45 and 1 youth participant per partner) was a really effective; it ensured that when the Toolkit was presented to EU officials, it was delivered by a representative microcosm of the European population.

The visit to the EACEA was crucial for the sustainability of the network; by understanding the inner workings of Erasmus+ and other EU programs, partners left Brussels not just with a finished project, but with the tools to initiate future collaborations.

Key Outcome: the delivery of the Toolkit to MEPs served as a poignant conclusion, ensuring that the specific needs of citizens in terms of defence of the democratic debate have reached the higher institutional level.

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

<https://democracywiseciv.wordpress.com/workshop-3/>

<https://democracywiseciv.wordpress.com/closure-event/>



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