

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	ASOCIATIA ASEL RO
PIC number:	897346807
Project name and acronym:	Coming Together within the EU Integration Tapestry – EU-THREAD

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	Citizens' Debatable Festival on "Uniting Minds, Bridging Borders"		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	In-situ		
Location:	Bucharest, Romania		
Date(s):	24-26 May 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://asel.ro/eu-thread/		
Participants			
Female:	169		
Male:	63		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Romania]:	24		
From country 2 [Greece]:	193		
From country 3 [Slovenia]:	8		
From country 4 [Bulgaria]:	4		
From country 5 [Italy]:	3		
Total number of participants:	232	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The EU-THREAD – Coming Together within the EU Integration Tapestry project took place in Bucharest, Romania, bringing together participants from Romania, Greece, Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Italy. Organised within the framework of the project's Town Twinning activities, the event united local and regional authorities, elected representatives, civil society organisations, youth organisations, educators, community leaders, volunteers, and citizens to strengthen European cooperation, civic participation, and mutual understanding through intercultural dialogue.			

Designed as an interactive European forum and participatory citizens' dialogue, the event focused on increasing citizens' understanding of European integration, democratic governance, and active participation in the European Union. Participants exchanged experiences and perspectives on common European challenges while exploring the values that unite European communities and contribute to a stronger sense of belonging. The event created an inclusive environment where citizens from different countries and cultural backgrounds collaborated to build new partnerships and reinforce European solidarity.

Throughout the programme, particular emphasis was placed on the importance of informed citizenship as a cornerstone of European democracy. Through keynote speeches, expert presentations, thematic discussions, and interactive workshops, participants explored the functioning of the European Union, the rights and responsibilities of European citizens, and the role of local communities in strengthening democratic participation. Discussions encouraged participants to engage actively in civic life while promoting transparency, cooperation, and trust in democratic institutions.

A central theme of the event was the promotion of European identity through dialogue and cooperation. During the keynote session, **"Uniting Minds, Bridging Borders: Building Europe's Shared Future,"** participants reflected on the historical development of the European Union, the importance of cultural diversity, and the values that connect European citizens beyond national borders. The discussions highlighted that European integration is strengthened through citizen participation, mutual respect, and continuous cross-border collaboration.

Special attention was devoted to the project's thematic pillars, including civic engagement, cultural exchange, mobility, sustainability, youth empowerment, social inclusion, innovation, and peace. Participants exchanged good practices from their municipalities and organisations while discussing practical approaches for promoting active citizenship, intercultural understanding, and inclusive local development. These exchanges demonstrated how town twinning initiatives can create long-lasting partnerships that contribute to stronger and more resilient European communities.

The event also highlighted the importance of youth participation and intergenerational dialogue in shaping the future of Europe. Dedicated sessions encouraged young people to share their perspectives on European citizenship, digital participation, education, mobility, and democratic engagement, while fostering dialogue with local authorities and experienced practitioners. Participants recognised that empowering young citizens is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of European values and democratic governance.

Interactive workshops enabled participants to jointly explore current European challenges and identify collaborative solutions through peer learning and co-creation. Working groups addressed topics including citizen participation, cross-border cooperation, community resilience, digital transformation, environmental sustainability, and inclusive governance. These collaborative activities strengthened mutual understanding while encouraging the development of future joint initiatives among the partner municipalities.

Furthermore, the event contributed significantly to the broader objectives of the EU-THREAD initiative by reinforcing cooperation between twinned municipalities, promoting European citizenship, and encouraging citizens to become active advocates of European values within their local communities. The exchange of knowledge, experiences, and innovative practices strengthened participants' understanding of European integration while fostering lasting partnerships that extend beyond the project's duration.

The event concluded with a collective reflection on the future of European cooperation and active citizenship. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening dialogue among European communities, promoting democratic participation, and encouraging citizens to contribute actively to the European project. The closing session highlighted that informed citizens, strong local partnerships, and sustained cross-border cooperation remain essential foundations for a more united, inclusive, and resilient European Union.

Agenda

Day 1

15.00 – 19.30 Participants' Arrival in Bucharest

19.30 – 20.00 Welcome Greetings and Introductory Remarks

20.00 Welcome Dinner

Day 2

10.00 – 10.30 Registrations

10.30 – 10.45 Presentation of the Agenda & Introductory Speech: Setting the Scene for EU-THREAD

10.45 – 11.30 Partner Representatives' Statements (15 min total) 2–3 min each from:

- Romania, ASOCIATIA ASEL RO
- Greece, EVROPAIKO KENTRO KOINONIKON EPISTIMON, POLITISMOU KAI ATHLITISMOU
- Slovenia, ZAVOD ZA KULTURNO DEJAVNOST PRODUKCIJO TRZENJE IN PROMOCIJO BOTER
- Bulgaria, FOUNDATION KORENYAK
- Italy, COMUNE DI CEGLIE MESSAPICA

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 12.30 Presentation Speech: From Local Voices to European Impact: "An Overview of the EU-THREAD Project and Its Vision for Civic Engagement"

13.00 – 13.30 Speech: Strengthening European Citizenship in Practice: "Empowering Citizens to Shape a Democratic, Inclusive and United Europe"

13.30 – 14.30 Light Lunch

14.30 – 15.00 Speech by Policy Expert Topic: "The Future of European Democracy"

15.00 – 16.00 Open Discussion "How Can the European Union Reconnect with Its Citizens at the Local Level?":

- What does being a European citizen mean today?
- What challenges do citizens face in engaging with democratic processes?
- How can young people become more active in shaping their communities?
- What actions can strengthen solidarity and inclusion across Europe?

16.00 – 16.30 EU-Level Speech I Topic: "Why Citizen Participation Matters for the Future of Europe"

16.30 – 17.00 EU-Level Speech II Topic: "Democracy Under Pressure: Challenges & Opportunities"

19.30 Cultural Evening and Dinner

Day 3

10.00 – 12.30 Study Visit Bucharest & decision-making departments for sharing insights and experiences

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch & Closing Ceremony and Participants Departure

Dissemination Activities

For dissemination purposes, the activities implemented within the framework of the EU-THREAD – Coming Together within the EU Integration Tapestry project were promoted through a variety of communication and visibility actions aimed at ensuring broad public outreach, stakeholder engagement, and awareness of the project's objectives and results. Project banners, visual identity materials, promotional posters, information leaflets, participant packs, and branded communication materials were displayed throughout the event, reinforcing the project's commitment to European integration, active citizenship, democratic participation, and intercultural dialogue.

Project partners actively disseminated the event through their official websites, social media platforms, newsletters, and institutional communication channels by sharing photographs, event highlights, videos, participant testimonials, and regular project updates. These actions increased the visibility of the project at local, national, and European levels while showcasing the active involvement of municipalities, civil society organisations, and citizens participating in the Town Twinning initiative.

<https://www.facebook.com/100068303142528/posts/1301270862159673/?app=fbl>

[Zavod Boter - From May 24th to 26th, eight representatives... | Facebook](#)

Conclusion

The EU-THREAD successfully brought together citizens and stakeholders from five European countries to discuss the future of European democracy, active citizenship, and the role of local communities in strengthening European integration. Through presentations, policy discussions, open dialogue, and practical exchanges, participants reinforced their understanding of the importance of

democratic participation and cross-border cooperation in addressing common European challenges.

Participants concluded that strengthening European citizenship requires continuous dialogue between citizens, local authorities, and European institutions. The discussions highlighted that informed and engaged citizens are essential for building resilient democratic societies and promoting trust in European governance.

The event also demonstrated the value of town twinning as a platform for exchanging knowledge, sharing good practices, and fostering lasting partnerships between municipalities and civil society organisations. Participants recognised that cooperation across borders contributes to greater mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and a stronger sense of belonging to the European Union.

The study visit further reinforced the importance of learning from different governance models and encouraged participants to consider how successful local practices can be adapted within their own communities. This practical exchange complemented the policy discussions by connecting European values with concrete local actions.

The event concluded with a shared commitment to continue promoting active citizenship, democratic participation, and intercultural dialogue throughout the implementation of the EU-THREAD project. Participants expressed their willingness to strengthen collaboration beyond the event, contributing to a more inclusive, democratic, and united Europe through sustained cooperation and citizen engagement.

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