EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

Democratic engagement and civic participation sub-programme

FINAL REPORT form

Programme	EUROPE FOR CITIZENS
Sub-Programme	Democratic engagement and civic participation
Action	Civil Society Projects
Sub-Action	N/A
Call for Proposal	Europe for Citizens - Programme Guide 2014-2020
Project number	577356-CITIZ-1-2016-1-SI-CITIZ-CIV
Agreement/decision number	20161579
Project Title	European Citizens Crowdsourcing
Language used to complete the form	English

Contractual Data

Dates and Beneficiaries

Dates

Project Start:	01/09/2016	Project End:	28/02/2018
Activities Start:	01/09/2016	Activities End:	31/10/2017
Project Duration(months):	18		

Beneficiary Data

Role	PIC	Name	Country
Coordinating Organization / Beneficiary	991386076	ZAVOD INSTITUT ZA ELEKTRONSKO PARTICIPACIJO	Slovenia
Management Contact Person	991386076	ZAVOD INSTITUT ZA ELEKTRONSKO PARTICIPACIJO	Slovenia

Legal Representative

Organisation Legal Address

Name:	ZAVOD INSTITUT ZA ELEKTRONSKO PARTICIPACIJO		
Street:	POVSETOVA ULICA 37		
Post Code:	1000	City:	LJUBLJANA
Country:	Slovenia		

Department

Name:			
Street:	POVSETOVA ULICA 37		
Post Code:	1000	City:	Ljubljana
Country:	Slovenia		
Local Address:			
Internet site:	www.inepa.si/english		

Contact

Title:	Mr.	Function:	Executive Director

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Contact Person

Organisation Legal Address

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Street:	POVSETOVA ULICA 37
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Implemented Activities

Description

Description of implemented activities

The following activities were implemented during the EUCROWD project operation:

(1) Seven conference type workshops were organized in a methodological way in Ljubljana, London, Amsterdam, Athens, Paris, Helsinki and Riga followed by a concluding project conference in Brussels. Events were organized for citizens interesting in crowdsourcing as a method of democratic participation at the EU level and were focused on the following:
- reflecting on crowdsourcing and other e-participation experiences at national level by presenting case studies / lessons learned relevant for the EU decision-making process;
- discussing technological, societal, cultural, political challenges for citizens, organizers and decision-makers when crowdsourcing for politics and policy at national and EU level;
- brainstorming a draft framework for an EU level pilot of crowdsourcing on the future of Europe;
- reflecting on the suitable policies to be crowdsourced at EU level, the relevant policy-cycle phases and democratic debate steps for piloting the EU level crowdsourcing and the appropriate e-participation tools to be used based on the national experiences;
- identifying influencers, drivers, supporters and promoters of crowdsourcing as a method of e-participation on national and European level.
Reports from the events are available at http://www.inepa.si/eucrowd/results/#Reports.

(2) Primary and secondary sources on citizens crowdsourcing were collected by project partners using desk research method. A collection of 100+ resources on crowdsourcing as an e-participation method and as a means of fostering European citizenship and improving conditions for democratic engagement at the EU level is available to public for free as a part of the on-line repository. The Knowledge centre on Crowdsourcing includes articles, case studies, evaluations, papers, presentations, and toolkits. The knowledge centre is available at http://ecas.issuelab.org/?category=Crowdsourcing.

(3) Policy recommendations for a crowdsourcing pilot at the EU level were created based on conclusions from events. The recommendations focus on the most suitable policies to be crowdsourced at EU level in relation to the future of Europe, appropriate technological platform for the crowdsourcing participation and relevant time-frame for crowdsourcing process. The document was presented and discussed with relevant EU decision-makers and interested stakeholders at the concluding conference in Brussels. The EU crowdsourcing pilot policy recommendations are available at http://www.inepa.si/eucrowd/results/#Recommendations.

(4) Networking stakeholders interested at the EU level crowdsourcing took was encouraged during the project. Many civil society and governmental organisations, experts and practitioners outside the core project consortium participated at the EUCROWD events discussions panels, cases presentations and workshops. The programmes of events are available at http://www.inepa.si/eucrowd/results/#Events.

In addition to the activities specified in the original application, the following additional activities were implemented during the project operation:
- Youth oriented activities encompassing presentations for students and young people in Slovenia available at http://www.inepa.si/eucrowd/results/#Youth;
- EUCROWD presentation as an example of a successfully submitted project proposal at the Europe for Citizens programme application workshops in Slovenia and Croatia. The list of presentations is available at http://www.inepa.si/eucrowd/results/#EfC;
- Project consortium operation continues via Skype communication and co-creation of a plan for EU-level crowdsourcing pilot. Project partners are also exploring funding possibilities for implementing the EU-level pilot.

Changes in relation of the original application

During the project operation, the following changes were made in the timetable of activities relating to events organisation:

	Planned	Implemented
Ljubljana	15 September 2016	26 October 2016
Paris	10 October 2016	20 June 2017
London	30 November 2016	9 February 2017
Amsterdam	2 February 2017	15 March 2017
Riga	15 March 2017	23 November 2017
Athens	10 May 2017	9 May 2017
Helsinki	14 June 2017	11 October 2017
Brussels	5 October 2017	27 February 2018

Reasons for the changes in the timetable were relating to the additional time needed for solving the pre-financing issue and the extended time for project operation as provided in the EACEA Grant decision. The changes in the timetable did not affect the overall implementation of the EUCROWD project activities and its results. The changes in the timetable of activities were reported to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

Impact and Citizen involvement

The main impact of the project on target groups is improved awareness and better knowledge about crowdsourcing as an innovative e-participation method in national and EU level policy making process. According to the anonymous evaluation questionnaires answered by participants, the project increased their understanding of the EU decision-making and provided information on digital engagement tools available by the EU institutions. In particular, participants learned about best crowdsourcing tools helping citizens to have their voice in democratic politics and how they can use those platforms in their daily life. They also discussed and collected ideas on creating an on-line platform for crowdsourcing on the future of Europe. Many of the participants indicated that crowdsourcing was a new topic for them and that crowdsourcing has a lot of potential in the EU policy making. Some of them heard about the use of digital tools in decision making processes for the first time.

The project resulted in collecting EU citizens' expectations and opinions on using crowdsourcing in policy-making at the EU level. Participants inputs were used for preparing recommendations on how citizens-crowdsourcing can support debate on the Future of Europe (following previous research). Knowledge gathered during the project was used for creating open access on-line repository on crowdsourcing. The project networked organisations and individuals from different EU countries in the field of citizens crowdsourcing aiming to advocate citizens oriented open government and digital democracy. This in turn helped to promote the concept of active European citizenship and improved conditions for democratic engagement at the EU level as the citizens engaged in the project are now better off to crowdsource public decisions and policies.

Project visibility and results dissemination is enabled through project web site www.inepa.si/eucrowd/, project brochure www.inepa.si/eucrowd/results/#Results, Twitter https://twitter.com/razprave_eu and Facebook profile www.facebook.com/evropske.razprave. Events organized have a dedicated sub-page including information about visibility www.inepa.si/eucrowd/results/#Reports. Each event had live Twitter (#eucrowd, Twitter moments) and Facebook coverage. Some events had created videos and visual material (banners, infographic) and enabled live stream. Dissemination of events took place through web sites, blogs, e-mailing lists, Eventbrite, Twitter, Facebook and Linkedin groups of project partners, related organisations and European networks in member states. Special attention was given to reach out young people and students. Five public media broadcasting reports were identified during project operation. Photos from the events are available at http://www.inepa.si/eucrowd/photos/.

The project contributed to the programme multi-annual priorities by exploring crowdsourcing as a tool for a more democratic Europe in the following way:

- promoting debate on the Future of Europe by gathering opinions from citizens and civil society in various members states about the EU level crowdsourcing pilot as a part of inter-cultural engagement and networking;

- engaging young European citizens in co-defining a suitable crowdsourcing mechanism which would motivate them to get involved when discussing future EU policies. 43% of all participants attending project events we under the age of 30;

- increasing awareness of participants about e-participation tools available by the EU institutions and improving knowledge about best crowdsourcing tools helping citizens to have their voice in democratic politics;

- rising awareness among decision-makers on how crowdsourcing can efficiently support democratic debate on the future of the EU.

Additional information

The beneficiary of the Grant encountered difficulties in the process of securing financial guarantee for the project pre-financing. Thereby, the beneficiary is recommending to EACEA to publicly declare which financial capacities and their values are required from the applicants of the Europe for Citizens Programme in order to be eligible for pre-financing without providing a financial guarantee. This will enable financially less capable civil society organisations aiming for project coordination to avoid potential difficulties and time lost due to administrative processes relating to securing pre-financing guarantee. On the other hand, it will also signal the fact that the Europe for Citizens programme favours financially capable (bigger) civil society organisations which are not necessary having the capacities for completing the proposed action as they can be less agile and more dependant from business-as-usual delivery than smaller civil society organisations.

Also, the beneficiary of the Grant encountered difficulties when filling in the reporting documents available on EACEA web site (Annex 1, Annex 2 and Information template). The reporting forms were not compatible with the open standards (e.g. Open Office). Thereby, the beneficiary is recommending to EACEA to provide open document formats for reporting forms as many civil society organisations are using open and free available office software instead of those provided by the multinational software companies.

Statistics

Direct Participants

Name of Organisation/municipality	Country	Participants by target group			Disadvantaged participants	Women	Men	Total
		below 30	30-65	above 65				
ZAVOD INSTITUT ZA ELEKTRONSKO PARTICIPACIJO	Slovenia	23	19	1	12	22	21	43
EUROPEAN CITIZEN ACTION SERVICE	Belgium	38	33	0	0	35	36	71
Stichting Netwerk Democratie	Netherlands	39	32	2	6	42	31	73
EPISTIMI GIA SENA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIRIA	Greece	17	29	1	5	28	19	47
SABIEDRIBAS LIDZDALIBAS FONDS	Latvia	18	18	4	18	22	29	51
Avoin ministeriö rekisteröity yhdistys ry	Finland	9	35	3	0	18	29	47
Démocratie Ouverte	France	21	32	1	17	40	30	70
The Democratic Society, Ltd	United Kingdom	20	15	0	12	13	22	35
		185	**213**	**12**	**70**	**220**	**217**	**437**

Indirect Participants

Number of indirect participants	69 762

Other Information

Timetable of the project from preparation to evaluation

Project start date	01/09/2016
Project end date	28/02/2018
Website address indicating the link to the information template	http://www.inepa.si/eucrowd/activities/
To which extent have the project's activities increased citizens' understanding of the EU?	Very

Venue of the activities

	Country	City
Venue of the activities	Slovenia	Ljubljana
Venue of the activities	United Kingdom	London
Venue of the activities	Netherlands	Amsterdam

Venue of the activities	Greece	Athens
Venue of the activities	France	Paris
Venue of the activities	Finland	Helsinki
Venue of the activities	Latvia	Riga
Venue of the activities	Belgium	Brussels

Budget check

☑ I hereby confirm that the "Declared" amount indicated in the "Financial Sheet" matches the "Amount of the Grant" of the Grant calculation sheet in attachment.

Financial sheet

Final Grant Requested

Item	Contractual	Declared
Executive Agency - EACEA	147 750,00	147 750,00
Total:	**147 750,00**	**147 750,00**

Attachments

Type of File	Name of the File
Declaration on Honour	2 Annex1 Declaration_INePA_EUCROWD_signed.pdf
Financial Final Report – Grant calculation sheet	3 Annex 2 Financial Final Report_EUCROWD_v1.xls