

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).*

PROJECT	
Participant:	EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy
PIC number:	949668122
Project name and acronym:	RevivEU

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	9.2		
Event name:	Presentations on the findings of the Focus Groups in Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland		
Type:	Discussion for the general public		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Prague, Czechia; Budapest, Hungary; Bratislava, Slovakia; Warsaw, Poland		
Date(s):	12.6.2023, 20. 6.2023, 27. 6.2023, 30. 6.2023		
Website(s) (if any):	http://reviveu.net/activities/events/public-presentations-of-the-findings-of-focus-groups/		
Participants			
Female:	25		
Male:	19		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Czechia]:	6		
From country 2 [Slovakia]:	7		
From country 3 [Poland]:	14		
From country 3 [Hungary]:	18		
Total number of participants:	45	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
As part of the research underpinning all activities of the RevivEU project, the consortium conducted a series of Focus Groups in the project countries, thus supplementing the findings of the citizens' consultations with a qualitative aspect. The Focus Groups targeted a specific demographic in the four			

societies, named the “grey zone” – those who are lukewarm supporters of the EU but simultaneously politically active. The focus groups were held in a format of a brainstorming session followed by a discussion based on a series of made-up articles that tested various narratives and argumentation strategies about the four chosen project topics. The findings of these form, together with the remaining research, a basis for the upcoming engagement and advocacy activities of the project, with the first being the public presentations presenting the outcomes, held in all 4 project countries.

Slovakia:

The public presentation of the results of the focus groups in Slovakia took place on June 20, 2023 in the premises of ART BOOKS COFFEE in Bratislava. Michal Vašečka and Viera Žúborová were the main hosts, who presented the main conclusions of the focus group discussions in Slovakia to the participants and then discussed and analyzed them together.

The focus group discussions in Slovakia revealed a clear division between the opinions of young and educated participants and the elderly with lower social status or from rural areas. Those favouring a deeper understanding of the European Union (EU) tended to support deeper integration, seeing the EU as a stabilizing force in an uncertain world. Conversely, critics viewed the EU as elitist, favouring Western countries and disregarding other cultures. Topics such as migration and the rule of law were highly polarizing, while climate change garnered more consensus, with participants supporting measures to mitigate its effects. The discussions also highlighted the generation gap, with younger participants being more informed and supportive of EU initiatives. The challenge of decoding and reacting to fake articles was apparent, and patterns of polarization and scepticism towards external influence were observed. Overall, the findings reflected differences in generational perspectives, levels of education, and exposure to information.

Poland:

The public presentation of the results of the focus groups in Poland took place on June 30, 2023 in the premises of Państwomiesto social and cultural hub. Miłosz Hodun was the main host of the event. He presented the results of focus groups, and facilitated a round table discussion.

The most surprising outcome of the focus groups, according to events participants, was the high support of Polish people for the Next Generation EU. Participants of the event, just like participants of focus groups, had serious doubts about how Polish government will use the funds, and stressed that they worry it will be used for activities against the fundamental rules of the EU.

During the focus groups we discovered that aiming for climate neutrality and energy independence is important to both age groups. However, among older people from small towns, individual voices were questioning the role of humans in climate change. Round table participants brainstormed about what can be done to reach older Poles with science-based data on climate change and sustainability.

Participants stressed that it is very important and useful that the focus groups on older member of the society. They agreed that knowledge of their views and knowledge is crucial from the democratic perspective as it is the most active group in every elections.

Hungary:

On 27 of June we presented the results of our focus group research to the general public. We organized 4 FGs with "grey zone" participants from 4 different party affiliations, where we tested pro-EU messages around the topic of climate, migration, NGEU and rule of law. Our audience was rather curious and surprised to see that rule of law is not among the top 3 priority of Hungarian people. This generated a vivid discussion among our 18 participants on how that could be changed and what could be done differently so that the general public becomes more sensitive to rule of law issues.

Czechia:

The results of the Focus Groups conducted in Czechia were presented on 12th of June to a smaller group consisting of sociology and EU experts and private citizens. In line with the Focus Groups themselves, most attention was dedicated to the questions of climate change and migration, which are the project topics with the most traction and interest in the Czech Republic. Similarly to the presentation of the second phase of the citizens' consultations, which took place earlier in the day, the participants were also surprised by how many people consider small corruption to be acceptable.

A part of the discussion was dedicated to the methodology and construction of the qualitative seminars, as well as the fact that this type of research and engagement with citizens is invaluable because of the insights it can bring into what topics and narratives have a sway with the general public and which tend to be more niche and “Prague-bubble like”.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

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