

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Coordinator:	Municipality of Santa Comba
PIC number:	946975596
Project name and acronym:	YOUth and democracy: empowering Europe's next generation – EU4YOUth

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	6 th
Event name:	Getting to know the EU
Type:	Lecture
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Medulin, Croatia
Date(s):	28 th – 31 th May 2025
Participants	
Female:	37
Male:	29
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Austria]:	2
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	1
From country 3 [Croatia]:	39
From country 4 [Cyprus]:	1
From country 5 [Estonia]:	1
From country 6 [France]:	1
From country 7 [Greece]:	1
From country 8 [Hungary]:	1
From country 9 [Ireland]:	0
From country 10 [Italy]:	2
From country 11 [Latvia]:	1
From country 12 [Lithuania]:	3

From country 13 [Malta]:	0		
From country 14 [Portugal]:	3		
From country 15 [Poland]:	1		
From country 16 [Romania]:	2		
From country 17 [Slovakia]:	1		
From country 18 [Spain]:	6		
Total number of participants:	66	From total number of countries:	18

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The sixth and final event of the project “YOUth and Democracy: Empowering EUrope's Next Generation” took place in Medulin, Croatia, from May 28 to 31, 2025. This culminating gathering brought together 66 local and international participants from 18 different European countries—including youth workers, policymakers, civic-association leaders, educators, and experts—who reconvened to share outcomes, reflect on best practices, and chart a course for sustaining youth engagement in democracy beyond the 2024 European Elections.

This was the program of activities:

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Participants arrived at Pula (PUY) or Trieste Airport and transferred to the Park Plaza Belvedere Medulin overlooking the Adriatic. The evening opened with a welcome dinner at the hotel, where attendees introduced themselves and received an overview of the event's objectives.

Thursday, May 29, 2025 – Medulin

08:00 AM: Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

10:00 AM: Official meeting with Istria County representatives in Pula, featuring welcome addresses by County Governor Boris Miletić and Deputy Mayor Noelia Baleato Toja. Both underscored the critical role of the EU in young people's daily lives and the necessity of making European institutions more accessible to youth

10:45 AM: “Getting to Know the EU” workshop at the Faculty of Economics and Tourism, led by Prof. Dean Sinkovic. His interactive session covered the EU's history, institutions, decision-making processes, and tangible benefits for regions like Istria, capped by a team quiz that reinforced key concepts

11:30 AM: Coffee break and cultural visit to Pula's Amphitheatre, Zero Strasse, and Fort Kaštel, offering insights into the region's 2,000-year heritage.

02:00 PM: Lunch in Pula.

05:30 PM: Return to Medulin for a tour of the Youth Centre, where they shared their participatory-budgeting and civic-engagement methods.

08:00 PM: Dinner at the hotel with reflections on the day's learning and networking.

Friday, May 30, 2025 – Medulin

08:00 AM: Breakfast at the hotel.

09:30 AM: Departure for Medulin Town Hall.

10:00 AM: “Fostering Youth Engagement in Medulin” session with Mayor Ivan Kirac, who presented local strategies—youth councils, sports and cultural clubs, and direct participatory democracy initiatives—that give young residents a real voice in municipal decision-making

11:30 AM: Coffee break.

12:00 PM: Guided visit to the Vižula Archaeological Park, exploring local heritage and its connection to community identity.

01:30 PM: Lunch in Medulin.

03:00 PM: “Ecosystems and Youth Concerns” excursion to Nature Park Kamenjak, where experts and participants discussed environmental stewardship and rural opportunity.

05:00 PM: Return to the hotel.

08:00 PM: Evaluation session, certificates of participation and farewell speeches, followed by a goodbye dinner celebrating the networks formed over six events.

Saturday, May 31, 2025

A final breakfast, check-out, and departure—ending the project’s 18-month journey across six countries.

Key Conclusions and Next Steps

Participants agreed that fostering a more inclusive and accessible democracy for young people hinges on lowering legal and practical barriers—through civic education, lowering voting age where possible, and expanding digital engagement tools like participatory-budgeting apps and online platforms—while institutionalizing local Youth Councils and participatory-budget processes to give youth a direct voice in policymaking; they also emphasized the power of intercultural exchange, combining historical and cultural immersion with cross-border dialogue to build European identity, and committed to sustaining their network by sharing best practices via social-media campaigns, local forums, and educational workshops, ensuring that the insights from Medulin inform future EU-level initiatives and keep Europe’s next generation at the forefront of democratic life.

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