

**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	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	When a space becomes a place - Network for Citizens' participation in preserving and valorising EU fundamental rights through participatory public art - Art4Rights
<b>Participant:</b>	Imola Municipality
<b>PIC number:</b>	932668484

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	5
<b>Event name:</b>	SEMINAR ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATION OF NATURAL AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT IN THE LOCAL ART PROJECRS
<b>Type:</b>	Seminar with presentation of the process to create a local art project with the involvement of citizens and stakeholders through the participatory public art method.
<b>In situ/online:</b>	<i>On line</i>
<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Date(s):</b>	17 January 2024
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	
Participants	
Female:	82
Male:	54
Non-binary:	/
From country 1 - Germany:	2 participants
From country 2 - Italy:	57 participants
From country 3 - Latvia:	25 participants
From country 4 – Sweden:	2 participants
From country 5 - Finland	14 participants

From country 6 – Portugal:	9 participants		
From country 7 - Ireland	10 participants		
From country 8 – Croatia:	17 participants		
Total number of participants:	136	From total number of countries:	8
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>One of the main elements in the participation of citizens and stakeholders in the promotion of European values through the public art is the relation with the natural and anthropic environment in which people live. This perspective was the pivot of the local art project presented by Amadora Municipality (Portugal), by the association Ecofellow (Finland) and by the municipalities of Buzet and Imola. All project partners took part in the on-line seminar.</p>			
<p><b>1. Approach by Amadora Municipality towards the anthropic environment through participatory public art</b></p>			
<p>The project in Amadora revolved around the Alto do Moinho neighborhood, particularly focusing on the integration of a historical windmill's ruins into the community through artistic expression. This initiative symbolized the local heritage and the community's resilience and participatory spirit.</p>			
<p><b>Artistic and community engagement:</b></p>			
<p><b>Historical context:</b> the project hinged on the historical significance of the windmill and the community's connection to the site, encapsulated by the SAAL (Local Ambulatory Support Service) housing program following the Carnation Revolution.</p>			
<p><b>Artistic installation:</b> the creation of a large bow sculpture around the windmill, designed by the artist Aheneah, represented the long history of community struggle and perseverance. This vibrant magenta sculpture provided a stark contrast to the aged windmill, symbolizing the blend of ancient and contemporary community values.</p>			
<p><b>Community participation:</b> The installation was not only a reflection of the artist's vision but also involved community input, reinforcing the bonds within the Alto do Moinho neighborhood and fostering a shared sense of ownership and pride in their local heritage.</p>			
<p><b>2. Approach by Ecofellow towards natural environment as everyman rights</b></p>			
<p>In Tampere, the Art4Rights initiative centered on enhancing the Mind's Path hiking trail located near Lake Suolijärvi. This project was a pivotal example of how community art can be seamlessly integrated into environmental conservation efforts, promoting inclusivity and engagement among local residents.</p>			
<p><b>Environmental context and art Integration</b></p>			
<p>Tampere, known for its rich natural reserves and commitment to environmental sustainability, boasts extensive outdoor recreational areas, including over 100 km of hiking trails. Mind's Path, situated within this network, offers a serene escape from urban life, with its trail winding through lush forests and past scenic viewpoints.</p>			
<p><b>Community art project - citizens' benches:</b></p>			
<p>The primary focus of the community art project was the creation of 'citizens' benches' along the trail. These benches were not mere sitting areas but were envisioned as symbols of community presence and participation. They were designed and constructed from local materials by the residents themselves, fostering a deep sense of ownership and connection to the land.</p>			
<p><b>Project Implementation</b></p>			
<p>The project invited local residents to participate in the design and construction of the benches, turning the initiative into a collaborative art endeavour. Workshops were held to gather ideas and facilitate the physical creation of the benches, ensuring that they reflected the local culture and environmental ethos.</p>			

A significant aspect of the renovation was enhancing the trail's accessibility. Efforts were made to ensure that people of all abilities could enjoy the trail, with special attention to constructing non-obstructive, well-integrated benches and improving the trail's surface for easier mobility.

Alongside physical enhancements, the project incorporated educational components about local flora and fauna, aiming to increase ecological awareness among trail users. Informational signage and guided tours were offered to enrich the visitor experience, emphasizing the importance of conservation and respect for nature.

### **Outcomes and local impact in Tampere**

The renovated trail and new art installations significantly increased local public engagement. The grand opening event attracted a large number of participants, highlighting the community's endorsement and enthusiasm for the project. The event served as a celebration of collective achievement and environmental stewardship.

The success of the Mind's Path project has set a precedent for future community-led environmental art projects in Tampere and beyond. Plans are underway to expand similar initiatives, reinforcing the city's vision of being a leader in sustainable urban development and community engagement.

The citizens' benches, along with the improved trail, continue to serve as a lasting testament to the community's commitment to environmental values and public participation. These installations not only enhance the aesthetic and functional appeal of the hiking trail but also stand as enduring symbols of the community's active role in shaping their environmental landscape.

### **3. Presentation of the Buzet experience**

Dunja Medica and Vanja Fabjancic, presented the art project of transforming a neglected area of the town. The transformation of a municipal terrace into a "place" became a reality with the participation of citizens, children from primary and secondary schools, their parents and teachers and local artists. The idea to draw characters of famous children's literature was chosen because of the proximity of the library to the terrace. The added value of this choice is that each character represents fundamental principles or values of the European Charter such as for Hlapic tale, from the Croatian literature, that teaches dignity and how to stand up for the life that is imposed on him. The space in this way becomes a recognizable place for every resident in Buzet increasing the sense of ownership towards the EU. This local activity activated a study of the ways in which people feel and think about space, how they form their attachment to the place of their city and how feelings about space and place are affected by the involvement of the community. The renovation of the terrace was the goal of a participative process done at local level with meetings and seminars with the participation of school teachers, members of the community and citizens interested in the topic. This led to the:

- Revitalisation of the forgotten space under the old town with minimum investment – work action with stakeholders and general public
- Collection of old postcards from Buzet area with an exhibition on various locations in Old Town
- Creation of permanent artistic exhibitions from various Buzet artists in new place with the transformation of a forgotten forest in an urban area leading to the Old Town that is a protected cultural heritage.

### **4. Presentation of Imola experience**

When a place becomes a place is a participatory Art projects started in 2009 which recalls the motto of the geographer Ti Fu Juan, who highlighted how "when a space becomes familiar we can call it a place". This is what we have tried to do in many years of collaboration with different Italian cities: Trieste, Bolzano, Cremona, Siena and Imola, inviting the citizens to revitalize the memory of the values transmitted by their cultural heritage particularly by the monuments and by important places within the territory, which through the years had been forgotten, or become indifferent. The collaboration with the Municipality of Imola began in 2014 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Liberation and Partisans of the Resistance, and has continued in all these years with the aim of developing awareness of shared values and affection for one's own, especially among school students of the last year of the high schools. Monuments, plaques, memorial stones, which are always before our eyes, are looked at by citizens in a different way and "reinaugurated" every year. This was possible using the participatory public art methods, used in the implementation of all others art projects in the different EU countries.

The identification of symbolic spaces of the city/town is the starting point; two characteristics have to define this space: it is an important community space for its history and memory and also a hidden

and forgotten space. Then, thanks to the participation of citizens, the space starts to become familiar transforming it into a place. This transformation is possible only with citizens' commitment to promote values and rights. Finally, a city space that was totally anonymous comes back to be familiar to all citizens with an augmented meaning: the promotion of European values.

Annalisa Cattani introduced three activities that are local art examples of these guidelines to promote the sense of freedom, dignity and equal opportunities. Different arts have been involved such as music, drawings and installation made by textiles. For 2024, the Municipality of Imola ideated and implemented the art project called "Empty plinth" on which each citizen can express his/her ideas on European rights and values thanks to the participation in a European project as Art4rights. Indeed, sometimes European values "are lived" in a different way from country to country, so the Art4rights project represents a common platform in order to respond to the need for a new lifestyle not only to be remembered, but to be renewed and re-inhabited, under the banner of commitment, responsibility, resisting, creating initiatives in order to learn to "live" and not just to "exist" in a city.

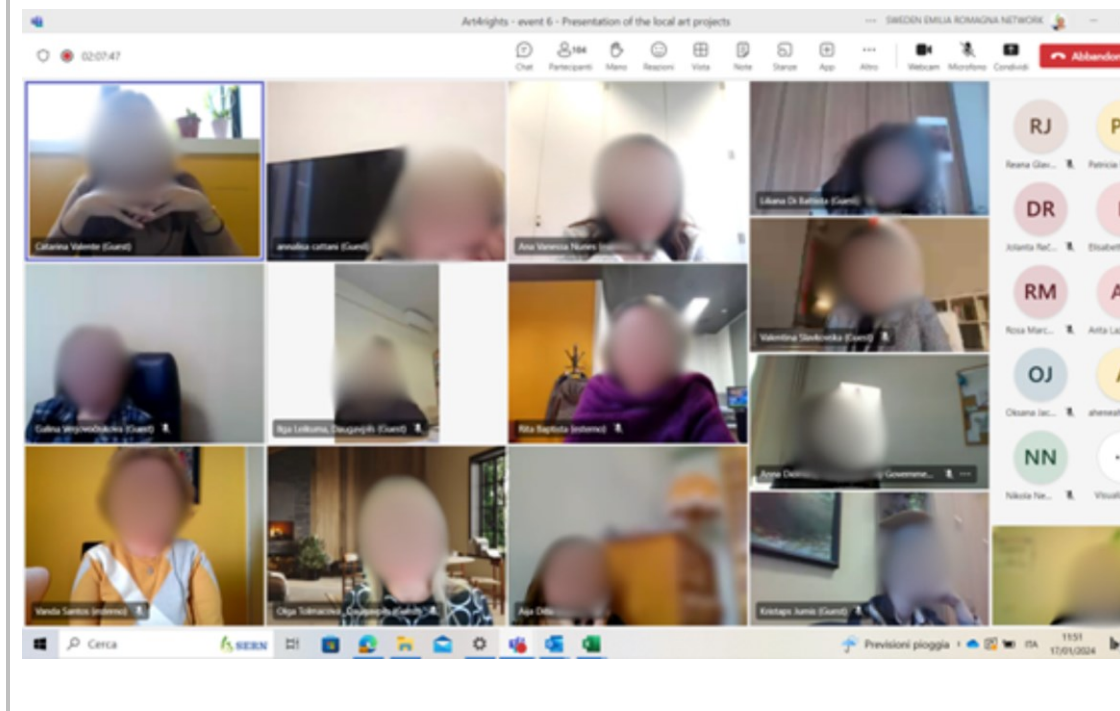
## 5. Overall Results and impact

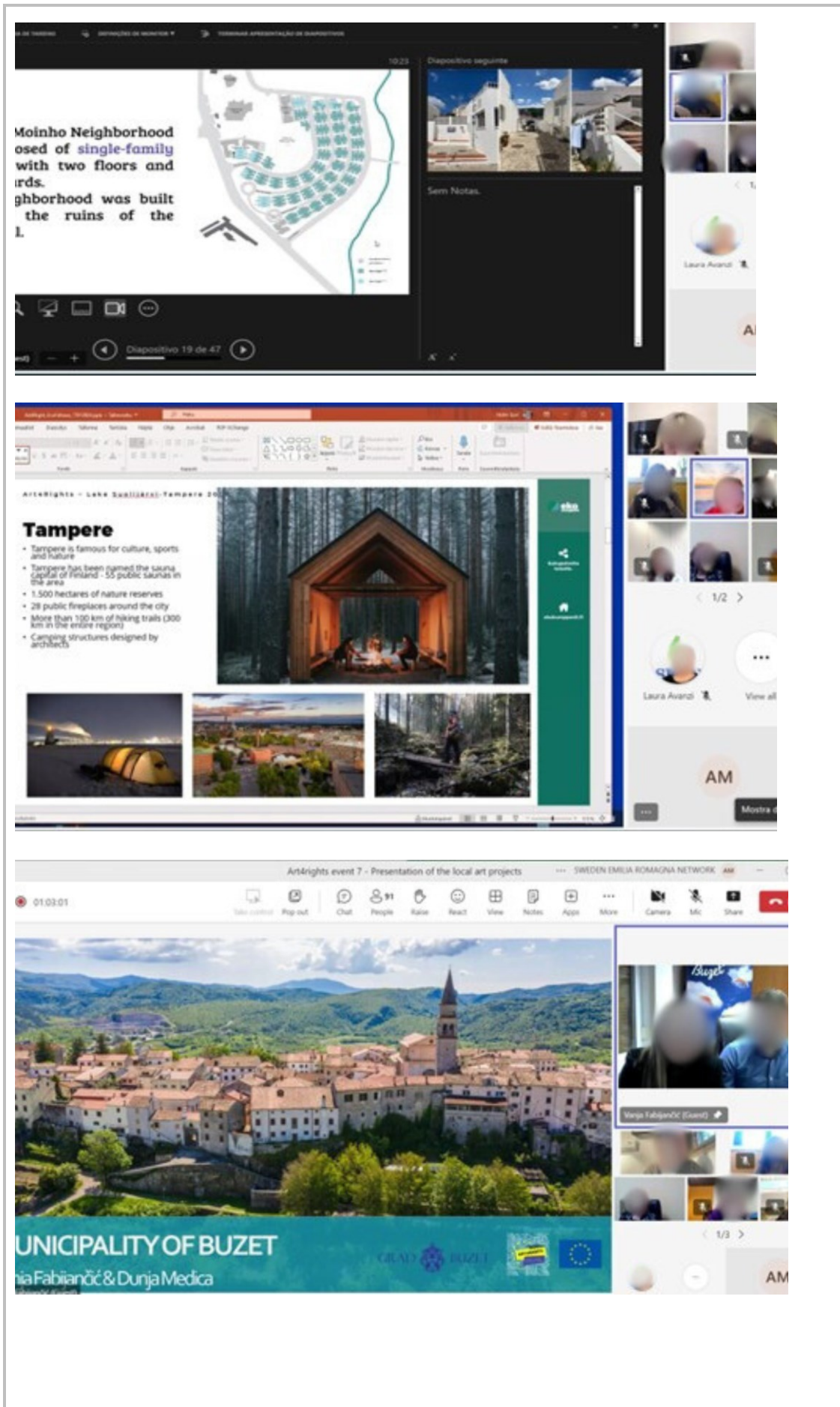
Participants in this seminar had the opportunity to identify examples and strategy to involve citizens in the local activities in order to promote European values and at the same time to compare the natural and anthropic elements can influence the participation and engagement of the local community.

Thanks to a guided discussion with facilitators, particular attention was paid to the increased knowledge and how the own societal and natural features can influence community participation and to the increased participation of citizens in the promotion of European values and rights increasing their sense of ownership towards the EU. Moreover, the meeting gave the opportunity to all partners and their stakeholders to go in depth in the concept studied by Yi Fu Tuan and to open their mind on how to transfer at local level this approach in a long lasting perspective. In particular, the results achieved have been:

- A developed knowledge about the guidelines to transform a "space" into a "place" sharing their opinions and experiences implemented at local level during the project
- A specific knowledge on the public art as a way to promote European values and to increase the sense of community
- An increased possibility of networking with other transnational stakeholders participating in the meeting.

Partners' presentations are uploaded on the project website [www.art4rights.eu](http://www.art4rights.eu).





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