

## 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:	FOSTER EUROPE FOUNDATION FOR STRONGER EUROPEAN REGIONS
PIC number:	936899430
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP4, D4.1
Event name:	International online conference “Committed to the future towards resilient communities”
Type:	Online conference
In situ/online:	[online]
Location:	online via Zoom
Date(s):	12.03.2025
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://www.foster-europe.org/konferenzen/committed-to-the-future-towards-resilient-communities">https://www.foster-europe.org/konferenzen/committed-to-the-future-towards-resilient-communities</a> <a href="https://www.foster-europe.org/journal/foresight-participatory-governance-and-democratic-engagement-in-focus">https://www.foster-europe.org/journal/foresight-participatory-governance-and-democratic-engagement-in-focus</a> <a href="https://www.alda-europe.eu/foster-project/">https://www.alda-europe.eu/foster-project/</a>
Participants	
Female:	Registered: 112 / Participated: n/a <sup>1</sup>
Male:	Registered: 68 / Participated: n/a <sup>2</sup>
Non-binary:	Registered: 3 / Participated: n/a <sup>3</sup>
N/A or prefer not to say:	Registered: 53 / Participated: n/a

<sup>1</sup> The precise number of female attendees of the online conference is not available, as the event was conducted via Zoom with no access to gender-related data provided. The provided numbers refer to registered participants.

<sup>2</sup> The precise number of male attendees of the online conference is not available, as the event was conducted via Zoom with no access to gender-related data provided. The provided numbers refer to registered participants.

<sup>3</sup> The precise number of non-binary attendees of the online conference is not available, as the event was conducted via Zoom with no access to gender-related data provided. The provided numbers refer to registered participants.

Number of countries:	Registered: 21 / Present: 21		
Number of participants by country (as voted in Slido)			
*Non-EU countries are marked in red			
From Albania	4		
From Austria	8		
From Belgium	12		
From BIH	2		
From Bulgaria	15		
From the Czech Republic	1		
From Finland	1		
From France	1		
From Germany	12		
From Greece	10		
From Hungary	3		
From Italy	26		
From Malta	1		
From the Republic of Moldova	6		
From North Macedonia	1		
From Poland	2		
From Romania	26		
From Serbia	1		
From Slovakia	2		
From Spain	7		
From Ukraine	13		
From the Republic of Türkiye (not eligible)	3		
From Russia (not eligible)	1		
not expressed	12		
Total number of participants:	152	From a total number of countries:	20
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The aim of WP4 was a 1-day conference taking place online via Zoom. The international online conference “Committed to the Future Towards Resilient Communities” focused on resilient communities and future-oriented solutions and explored best practices and frameworks that enable communities to proactively address local environmental and socio-economic challenges.

The high level of engagement throughout the event confirmed the relevance and urgency of the topics discussed. With more than 190 participants from across Europe and beyond, the event brought together key experts to discuss critical issues in foresight, participatory governance, and democratic engagement. Attendees were able to gain insights and guidelines into the role of foresight in local governance and citizenship and the successful participatory governance experiences from across Europe.

The key highlights of the international conference were as follows:

- Panel 1 explored the role of foresight in local governance and citizenship, addressing opportunities and challenges in strategic planning, urban regeneration, and youth perspectives on the future, which were presented in three case studies. The keynotes and case studies from the experts explored the role of foresight in policy research and in shaping policies that can tackle future challenges in local governance and the importance of anticipating changes in political and societal trends to create sustainable solutions and the significance of building capacities for future thinking within organizations and governments were highlighted:
  - 1) Case Study 1: presented “**Strategic Foresight for Mental Health**” and illustrated how participatory approaches can foster resilience, inclusivity, and long-term well-being.
  - 2) Case study 2 on “**Salus Space: a shared future thinking experience of socio-economic urban regeneration**” illustrated a pioneering initiative Salus Space in socio-economic urban regeneration, embodying a shared future thinking experience.
  - 3) Case study 3 provided insights into “**Images of the Future**” in relations with water and presented imaginations of human-water relations of youth. It presented action models for different regions and local communities as well as insights for policymaking at various levels.
- Panel 2 focused on participatory governance, showcasing successful European experiences in democratic participation, climate deliberation, and governance practices in Slovakia. Several case studies in the field of foresight in local governance and citizenship were brought by the experts:
  - 1) Case Study 1 “**Participatory Democracy Case Studies from Slovakia**” emphasised the significance of the citizens’ involvement in the decision-making process for ensuring sustainable and responsive governance. It demonstrated opportunities and challenges and showcased Slovakian experience with participatory budgeting.
  - 2) Case study 2 presented **Austria’s Climate Council** - Climate Citizen Assembly, its outcomes and key takeaways from the initiative; it underscored the importance of fostering a more participatory and transparent political environment.
  - 3) Case Study 3 “**Participatory Governance in Past and Present**” provided insights into the past and present of participatory governance in Slovakia, its establishment and functioning.
- The conference was further divided into three breakout sessions, moderated by experts, to facilitate focused discussions, engage participants and explore opportunities for collaboration in three areas: “Foresight, Policy Making and Participation”, “Measuring Quantity and Quality: How to implement the Participation Index” and “Participatory Governance: Necessary Preconditions and framing”.
- Additionally, the discussions emphasized the importance of ongoing efforts to involve citizens in the policy-making process, highlighting the persistent challenges in participatory governance.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the conference stimulates and facilitates international online networks to share best practices, materials and stimulate debate on future-oriented environmental governance, with very positive feedback received.

In total, 6 case studies have been shared specifically: 3 providing examples of application of foresight in policy making, and 3 focusing on participatory governance. The case studies are collected and summed up in a pre-conference document available on the project web page and FOSTER EUROPE’s dedicated news (links below) and shared via email with attendees.


As mentioned above, breakout rooms fostered opportunities for collaboration and replication. Indeed, participants had the chance to directly dialogue with keynote speakers and panels' experts, deepening the conference's topics and case studies for potential capitalization and contacts exchange. Moreover, conference attendees received conference's ppts, materials, recording etc. as a support for potential follow ups initiatives.

A [questionnaire](#) to be engaged in the project community has been shared with participants to receive project cost-free learning materials (eg. toolkits) and participate in other open online events promoted by the project.

Based on the Slido Survey, 23 countries are counted of which: 20 EU countries and 3 non-EU countries. Considering CERV eligibility rules, 20 EU eligible countries are reported in this document.


As per Zoom report and registration form, in total 173 participants attended the conference. Thus, considering CERV eligibility rules, 152 EU participants are reported in this document.

#### Useful links:

Conference PPT:  [Committed to the Future\\_AGENDA 12.03.pptx](#)

Conference poster:  [banner\\_Committed to the future -WP4.jpg](#)

Conference agenda: [Committed to the future towards resilient communities](#)

Pre conference document:  [Pre-Conference document Committed to the future towards resilient c...](#)

[FOSTER Project - Alda Europe](#) [Committed to the future towards resilient communities](#)


[Foster Europe for strong European Regions](#)

**Pictures:**  Photos

#### Related files:

Presentations of the speakers:  Presentations

Event news and recording: [LINK](#) [LINK](#)

Poll results Slido:  [slido\\_poll-results \(1\).pdf](#)

#### Communication:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16Wiry5tpj/>,  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14sjs0XAMXW/>, <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AKTUNsJfc/>,  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BemCiuBML/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGh9UsxMJD0/?igsh=dGZuejhnM2YyZmNy>,  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DHBD5kARZaX/?igsh=enVkZHU3eW1rMjNx>,  
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DHTLuPZtrV/?igsh=cZU2cmYzZmcwZHB3>,

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7300451221859926016>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7304787949953388544>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7307348280772890625>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7307713555225538560>

Web page:

<https://www.foster-europe.org/konferenzen/committed-to-the-future-towards-resilient-communities>,  
<https://www.foster-europe.org/journal/foresight-participatory-governance-and-democratic-engagement-in-focus>

[FOSTER Project - Alda Europe](#)

#### HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0		