

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:	2 - Conseil des Communes et des Régions d'Europe (CCRE)
PIC number:	949696252
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP1, T1.2, T1.4
Event name:	Public Conference on climate change effects on local governance
Type:	Conference and Training of trainers
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Brussels, Belgium
Date(s):	9-11 October 2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://ccre-cemr.org/impactgoal-climate/public-conference FOSTER Project - Alda Europe
Participants	
Female:	56
Male:	32
Non-binary:	1
From Austria	1
From Belgium	39
From Bulgaria	2
From Croatia	1
From Czech Republic	1
From Denmark	1
From France	4
From Germany	6

From Greece	5		
From Hungary	2		
From Italy	13		
From Latvia	1		
From Malta	2		
From Portugal	1		
From Romania	2		
From Slovenia	1		
From Spain	4		
From Albania	1		
From North Macedonia	1		
From Norway	1		
From Montenegro	1		
From Serbia	1		
From Ukraine	1		
From United Kingdom	2		
Total number of participants:	89	From total number of countries:	20

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

T1.2 Public conference

The Public Conference on climate change effects on local governance, named “Managing the Future” took place on the 9th of October, in the Flagey conference venue.

The event was organised as an all-day conference, with different types of discussion, debates and presentations.

To ensure the presence of numerous participants, the Conference was promoted on social media, and reached a wide audience. CEMR and ALDA also invited their members and partners organisations, and shared the invitation by emails to their contacts lists.

The Final agenda and Concept note of the Public conference can be found at the end of this document.

The Conference started at 11:00, with a welcoming coffee. The participants were given the time to settle, read the programme and meet with the other participants.

At 11:30, the Opening session started, with introductory words by **Durmish Guri, Director of Projects and Programmes of CEMR**, and **Nataša Vučković, President of ALDA**. They both highlighted the key role of local and regional governments (LRGs) in the strategic foresight planning, and the need to engage the LRGs in the fight against climate change.

Nadia Di Iulio, Project Manager of FOSTER and representing ALDA, presented the FOSTER project in a brief and catchy way, for the audience to have some context about the upcoming discussion and promote the initiative and its upcoming results.

As a keynote speaker, the Conference was proud to announce **Riyong Kim, Head of Programme, Sustainability Transitions at the European Environment Agency**. Ms Kim presented the recent EEA's publication focusing on Sustainability governance under highly uncertain and complex conditions. She also highlighted the strategic policy considerations to take into account when foresight planning.

After the opening session, a panel debate on “Local and regional policy-making for a sustainable future” took place. Moderated by Antonella Valmorbidia, Secretary General of ALDA, this session was the occasion to hear from policy experts and one mayor about their experiences and hear about foresight strategy from different points of view. In this sense, **Henrique Simões, Policy analyst in the Climate Action Research and Tracking Service of the European Parliament Research Service** described the positions and research of the research institute on climate change at EU and local level. **Jānis Vītoliņš, Mayor of Ventspils in Latvia**, showcase some good practices and examples on how to deal with the local consequences of climate changes. **Pierluigi Brombo, Head of Unit at the European Economic and Social Committee**, gave the audience an introduction on strategic foresight and its various dimensions, giving some of the basics about foresight planning. Finally, **Eamonn Noonan, Consultant and former European official**, discussed the participatory dimension of strategic foresight.

After a networking lunch, the discussion has resumed, with the support of FOSTER project's partners. The afternoon concept' focused on experts' talk and peer exchange, presenting key aspects in strategic foresight, from the perspective of different organisations and countries. Moderated by Pedro Bizarro, CEMR Project Lead on Climate, Energy & Urban Development, the Experts' talk was divided around two thematics: Foresight and strategic planning, and Governance, participation and communication.

In the first panel, Flavia Pesca from IRS, Italy, gave practical examples on how to shape the future with participatory foresight. From IASIS, Greece, Evita Agapitou and Ioanna Stogiannari presented crisis intervention methodologies. Krisztina Keresztely and Anita Vicenzi from CRN, Germany, showcased some of their field experiences on capacity building in participatory processes. Through the case of Ayora Valley, Marc Caballero, from NOTUS, Spain, discussed green planning at the local level.

In the second panel, the first intervention was from Elena Simeonova, UBBSLA, Bulgaria, who described the decentralisation challenges in the Black sea region. From FOSTER Europe, Stefan Lütgenau presented Participation Beyond Borders et Participation days taking place in Austria. Mihaela Damian, from AMR, Romania, talked about the implementation of citizens participation in the decision making process at the local level. The last intervention of the day was presented by Manal Snidi, from ALDA, and focused on inclusive communication tips.

After the experts' talk, Nadia Di Iulio thanked the participants, and the Conference was closed.

The day was concluded by a Networking aperitif, and ended at 5:30.

The Public conference gathered almost 100 participants from a wide range of countries, organisations and backgrounds.

The Conference welcomed representatives of several national associations of local and regional governments (Denmark, Latvia or Portugal) as CEMR members, representatives of think tanks and research institutes such as EPD, but also officers from the Brussels municipality, and representatives from the EU institutions (European Parliament, European Commission). This large group of stakeholders that participated were particularly relevant for the project, and some of the contacts will be kept for the upcoming implementation of FOSTER.

Many of the participants stayed for the entire day, to hear all experts, and to take advantage of the networking and discussion time that were planned on the day.

T.1.4 Training of Trainers (ToT)

On the following days, 10-11 October, the Training of Trainers took place at CEMR headquarter.

The ToT was addressed to partners only, with the scope to:

- build a common understanding and language on foresight and participatory democracy.
- build and/or improve partners' capacities and knowledge around the two main project pillars (participatory democracy and strategic foresight)
- set the basis for the local cascade training (WP3) and the local path (WP6-8-10-12)

The ToT lasted 1 day and a half (total of 8h) and was structured in 4 modules (see ToT agenda below)

- 1. Participatory democracy
- 2. Foresight and scenario planning
- 3. Inclusive communication
- 4. Gender and anti discrimination policy

The training was conducted by ALDA and IRS as partner experts respectively on Module 1, 3, 4 and by IRS on Module 2.

The first training day (10 October) was dedicated to Module 1 and Module 2.

ALDA opened the morning session training partners on the Module 1 - participatory democracy (3h).

This module aimed to provide partners with an introduction about participatory democracy, environmental citizenship and stakeholder engagement outlining principles, phases as well as examples of participatory methods and techniques. Indeed, the session was structured in 4 topics: Principles and levels of participation; Environmental citizenship introduction; How to involve local stakeholders - following a method developed by CoE; Techniques and methods.

Each topic was articulated in a theoretical part (ppt) and an exercise, for a total of 4 presentations and 4 exercises. This helped to keep partners' concentration on each discussed topic and to stimulate the brainstorming among them, fostering knowledge exchange and inspirations for local project implementation.

The afternoon session (3h) was dedicated to Module 2 - Foresight and scenario planning, conducted by the IRS. This session aimed to equip participants with a thorough understanding of foresight as a strategic tool for future planning.

The session highlighted the significance of participatory foresight processes showcasing a range of methods and techniques that can be used to implement foresight activities in the partners' organisations. The topics presented were the follow:

- Foresight definitions and historical evolution
- Foresight different approaches
- Participatory foresight process: methods and techniques
- Examples of methods and techniques

Both theoretical and interactive approaches were adopted by the trainers, in order to engage participants and encourage moments of exchange and debate.

The second training day (2h) was conducted by ALDA who introduced the Module 3 and 4.

Module 3 (1h) focused on inclusive communication definition and meaning, practical suggestions and recommendations for messaging in general, and specifically for social media communication.

Module 4 (1h) presented the Gender and Anti discrimination policy implemented by ALDA, as an example to evaluate and ensure gender balance, inclusivity and accessibility when implementing project actions at international and local levels.

Finally, after the above-mentioned sessions, 1h was dedicated to Q&A to clarify partners' doubts, share feedback and evaluate the ToT, as well as to review the steps for the local training.

On 11 October, partners took the occasion to meet in presence and hold a SC meeting. This meeting was an opportunity to review the project workflow, clarify some tasks, discuss and plan the next steps.

Conclusion

The overall event was an opportunity for the participants, and for the project's partners, to hear from other experts in the field of strategic foresight, from theoretical and practical point of views, with different layers and levels of understanding.

In this sense, this meeting is a good starting point for the implementation of FOSTER, and gave the consortium the basis and the incentive to keep the foresight strategy going. Moreover, it was the occasion for all the partners to meet for the first time. This meeting helped with the building of a common understanding around the initiative, and made the partners get a sense of consortium and partnership around FOSTER.


In total, it gathered 94 participants coming from 25 different countries (EU and not EU). Considering CERV eligibility conditions, 89 eligible participants from 20 EU eligible countries are reported in this document.

After each event, the EU survey was submitted and collected. The overall assessment of both events is positive, with an average score of 4.60 for the conference and 4.57 for the ToT.

Useful links:

Conference PPT:  Master Presentation - General.pptx

Conference poster and agenda:  _FOSTER poster + agenda (1).pdf

Conference concept note:  Concept Note - Foster Conference 9th October.pdf

ToT agenda:  ToT - Agenda (1).pdf

FOSTER Facebook page: [\(3\) Facebook](#)

Communication: [LNK](#) [FB](#), [LNK](#), [TW](#), [TW](#)- [FB](#), [LNK](#), [TW](#), [Web news](#)

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

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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:	WP2, D2.1
Event name:	International round table discussion “Wasser, Klimawandel und die Region Fertő-Neusiedler See” (“Water, Climate Change and the Fertő-Neusiedler See Region”)
Type:	Round table
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Austria, Neusiedl am See
Date(s):	20-21 November 2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.foster-europe.org/konferenzen/wasser-klimawandel-und-die-region-ferto-neusiedler-see FOSTER Project - Alda Europe
Participants	
Female:	16
Male:	36
Non-binary:	N.A.
From country 1 Austria:	34
From country 2 Hungary:	6
From country 3 Slovakia:	4
From country 4 Belgium:	1


From country 5 Italy	3		
From country 6 Spain	1		
From country 7 Romania	1		
From country 8 Greece	1		
From country 9 Germany	1		
Total number of participants:	52	From total number of countries:	9
Description <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The aim of the WP2 was to introduce and brainstorm on the necessity to have a forward looking, participative, and transparent approach for future oriented solutions to broader social and economic challenges on a regional but trans-border level. Based on a local case study, the issue in question is the water management in the RegionFertö-Neusiedler See, a Austro-Hungarian border region with very special climatic and aquatic characteristics.</p> <p>The WP2 event was composed of four elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a detailed seminar on the specifics of the region with regard to water management, the National Park and the Lake, including dimensions of economy (tourism), nature, biodiversity and participation (embedding the National park in the socio-economic landscape of the region). 2) This was followed by an expert seminar on water management in the region with a wide range of stakeholders from civil society, local administration, science, international water protection and management, agriculture, tourism and youth. The seminar was open to the public. 3) The seminar was followed by a public- round table on water management, climate change and the region. The part convened a wide range of expert stakeholders in addition to the seminar with sports clubs (sailing, rowing) and water cooperatives. 4) The next day 16 pupils from the local Gymnasium exercised a role play where the youngsters slipped into the role of different interest groups (Government, National Park, Tourism, Agriculture, local residents) and tried to define their key interests as well as possible solutions for a compromise. The role play was very well accepted and combined elements of learning on the local water situation with elements of civic education and participation of youth. The project partners joined the groups in order to discuss and advise them in their opinion building an negotiations process. <p>While the parts 1) and 4) were held in English, the parts 2) and 3) were held in German, in order to reach out to the ordinary local citizens and offered simultaneous translation for the international guests.</p> <p>The feedback both, from the seminar and the public-round table (more than 50 participants) was very positive. Water management and its adaptation to the expected climate change effects is a long standing issue for all stakeholders on both sides of the border. Plans to install a large water supply from the Danube to the region brings in additional stakeholders (international Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Basin, Vienna) and the federal state of Lower Austria.</p> <p>Besides intense debate among the stakeholders it was agreed that the project's approach to the issue is timely and of high need, as the climate change is already affecting the region hard. The approach to have an open, transparent, public debate including all interested stakeholders in a period of 24 months and beyond was explicitly welcomed by various stakeholders.</p> <p>At project and consortium level, through the proposed case study, this event offered significant food for thought on how to identify possible points of contact between different stakeholders and enable dialogue, fostering a multistakeholder approach to long-term local governance of climate change related phenomena.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>In total the event gathered 69 participants from 9 different EU countries.</p>			


Considering that 16 over 69 participants were students between 16-17 years old, they are not eligible for the project reporting according to the EU commission regulation. Thus, 52 participants from 9 EU countries are reported in this document.

Useful links:

Conference PPT:  Wasser, Klimawandel und die Region Fertő-Neusiedler See.pdf

Conference poster and agenda:  A1 plakat - WP2 - 20-21. november 2024 Neusiedl (2).pdf

 Podiumsdiskussion Neusiedl am See 20112024 - Programm.pdf

 WP2 Infopack - Neusiedl am See - updated.docx (1).pdf

Communication: [LNK FB](#), [LNK FB](#), [INSTA LNK](#), [INSTA LNK](#), [INSTA LNK](#), [WEB NEWS LNK](#)

Media appearances: [BVZ](#), [Kleine Zeitung](#), [ORF](#), [PULS24](#), [Vorarlberg Online](#), [Salzburger Nachrichten](#), [Tiroler Tageszeitung](#), [MSN](#), [Die Nachrichten](#)

Picture:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uJY7IGs8TYsmt2l8XChW5fctFEEgrP3K?usp=drive_link

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

D3.1 Event reports

Title	D3.1 Event report: local training events
Submitted by	Nadia Di Iulio, ALDA
Contact email	nadia@aldaintranet.org
Submission date	March 2025 (V1) \ Aprile 2025 (V2)
Languages available	English
Website	FOSTER Project - Alda Europe

Acknowledgement

This document is produced within the project FOSTER - Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience, funded by the CERV Programme of the European Union (Grant Agreement n. 101147867).

Disclaimer

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PROJECT	
Participant:	ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy
PIC number:	963194384
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP3, T 3.2
Event name:	Local cascade training
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Belgium, Italy, Austria, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain
Date(s):	February - March 2025
Website(s) (if any):	FOSTER Project - Alda Europe
Participants	
Female:	146
Male:	115
Non-binary:	2
Not said	1
Italy	52
Germany	26
Bulgaria	35
Greece	25
Austria	36
Belgium	31

Romania	34	
Spain	25	
Total number of participants:	264	From total number of countries: 8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Executive summary

Within **WP3 - Capacity-building: cascade local training events**, FOSTER project partners were asked to organize a local training (T3.1, T3.2) based on the knowledge acquired in the international Training of Trainers (WP1) and targeting at least 25 participants among internal staff and external stakeholders (at least the 30% of the total number of participants).

The scope of the local training was not limited to transfer the knowledge and methods acquired, but also to:

- Present the project and participatory path locally and start engaging local stakeholders
- Identify those actors that will act as multiplier along the participatory process
- Build a common understanding around the project and process topics
- Set the basis for next local participatory path steps

Training session plans were elaborated by each partner, based on the ToT programme, and tailored according to the local audience and needs. Each training session plan provides an overview of the training programme such as: calendar, modules and agenda, list of participants and communication strategy.

Alda, as lead partner and task leader, oversaw the whole implementation of the WP and related tasks, supporting partners in the planning phase and designing the training sessions plan, as well as in the implementation and reporting stages. In addition, ALDA organized a local training itself.

This document collects all local training held by partners and reported in the EDS. Each EDS contains information on the training programme exploring the following topics: foresight planning, participatory democracy, inclusion and accessibility and gender mainstreaming. Moreover, information regarding the composition of the target group, outcomes and outreach are included.

Results and conclusion

In total 9 local trainings have been organized, 1 per partner, in **8 European countries**: 2 in Italy and 1 in Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Spain, Belgium. Specifically:

- 2 in Italy by IRS e ALDA
- 1 in Germany by CRN
- 1 in Austria by FOSTER EU
- 1 in Romania by AMR
- 1 in Bulgaria by UBBSLA
- 1 in Belgium by CEMR
- 1 in Greece by IASIS
- 1 Spain by NOTUS

The event targeted a different range of stakeholders, **from representatives of local authorities, civil society organizations to private sectors and academia**. In total, **264 participants** have been reached throughout the 9 training events.

Useful links

Sessions plans: [All_Session plans - Google Drive](#)

Communication: reported in each following EDS

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PROJECT	
Participant:	ALDA
PIC number:	963194384
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER - Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP3, T3.2		
Event name:	Gestire il futuro verso comunità resilienti - Shaping the future towards resilient communities		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	Italy, Thiene (Vicenza)		
Date(s):	11 February 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	FOSTER Project - Alda Europe		
Participants			
Female:	22		
Male:	4		
Non-binary:	\		
From country 1 [Italy]:	26		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
<p>On 11 February 2025 the training session "Shaping the Future for More Resilient Communities" took place as an event within WP3, Task 3.2. The aim was to deepen understanding of strategic foresight, a methodology that helps anticipate future scenarios and develop innovative policies for more sustainable and resilient communities.</p> <p>Opening session: Following the institutional greetings from Pierluigi Brombo (European Economic and Social Committee) and the project presentation by Nadia Di Iulio (ALDA, FOSTER project coordinator), the event delved into an in-depth discussion led by Brombo on the role of foresight in European policymaking. He emphasised that foresight is not a prediction but a discipline that allows us to explore and shape the future, leveraging collective intelligence to anticipate developments and better prepare for changes. He also highlighted the importance of participatory foresight, which enables the early detection of weak signals and integrates diverse perspectives into decision-making processes.</p> <p>Training session:</p>			

Trainer Nicoletta Boldrini, an expert in Futures & Foresight, introduced participants to key methodologies in the field, stressing the difference between forecasting and foresight: the former relies on predictions and data, while the latter explores various possible scenarios to inform strategic decision-making. She also presented the VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity) framework and the BANI (Brittle, Anxious, Non-linear, Incomprehensible) model to illustrate today's uncertainty and how foresight can help navigate it. Participants then engaged in an immersive workshop on the Futurising Process, testing practical tools to analyse emerging trends and construct future scenarios. These exercises provided opportunities to address various local development topics and identify weak signals of ongoing transformations. It was emphasised that the future emerges in the present, often at the micro level, and that having a flexible and adaptable strategy is crucial.

Following, Nadia Di Iulio (ALDA) introduced some examples of participatory techniques that can be used when investigating future scenarios. For example: open space technology, moving debate and focus groups.

Inclusion and gender mainstreaming in policy making were the focus of the final intervention by Camilla Vedovato (ALDA, Coordinator of the Gender, Inclusion & Human rights Hub), who stressed the importance of ensuring an equitable and accessible approach for all. The session also explored how to integrate in participatory process and in the policy making process, with examples and best practices, as well as the need for positive and inclusive communication, fostering community-wide engagement in strategic decision-making and making foresight a truly democratic tool.

Conclusion:

The event concluded with a networking aperitif, providing participants with an opportunity to share experiences and build new connections.


26 participants attended the event in total, of which: 17 from ALDA (project designers and project managers) and 9 from external organizations (CSO, local authorities representatives, SMEs). In this regard, the results satisfied the conditions according to which the 30% participants are external stakeholders. Participants actively contributed during the whole training, with questions and comments, and especially during the experiential laboratory.

In general, the feedback was positive.

Communication: [Web page](#) [IG](#) [FB](#) [FB](#) [LNK](#) [FB](#) [LNK](#)

Useful link:

Agenda:  FOSTER agenda - alda wp3 (1).pdf

Poster:  FOSTER poster.pdf

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1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).

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PROJECT	
Participant:	n.3 - Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale SCARL - IRS
PIC number:	996850668
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience - FOSTER

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	101147867		
Event name:	Local cascade trainings		
Type:	training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Italy, Bologna		
Date(s):	21st January, 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.instagram.com/foster.project/ https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566952730105		
Participants			
Female:	16		
Male:	10		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Italy]:	26		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
<p>As part of Work Package 3 of the FOSTER project, the Bologna “Local Cascade Training Event” was held on January 21, 2025, at Salus Space, a multifunctional space resulting of urban regeneration now used for a variety of social activities.</p> <p>The event involved representatives from various sectors: local government officers, social cooperatives, third-sector associations and community representatives from Salus Space. In total, 26 participants attended the local training, distributed in: 23% from IRS and 77% external stakeholders.</p> <p>The training included four modules:</p>			

- o participatory democracy: focused on fostering environmental citizenship and reflective capacity among stakeholders using participatory methods;
- o gender equality and anti-discrimination: addressing awareness and commitment to gender-inclusive approaches within environmental projects;
- o inclusive communication: enhancing stakeholder abilities to use inclusive communication techniques effectively;
- o foresight and scenario planning: providing tools for participatory foresight methodologies tailored to local contexts.

Each module employed a blend of theoretical presentations and interactive exercises to actively engage participants. Trainers drew on previous experiences realised in the local context of Bologna to provide practical tools and strategies.

The event also served as an opportunity to present to the involved stakeholders the FOSTER project through the following framework:

- o general information: overview of the project's scope and mission;
- o partners: introduction of the organizations involved;
- o context: explanation of the environmental and social challenges the project addresses;
- o general objectives: the overarching goals of fostering participatory democracy and environmental resilience;
- o specific objectives: detailed aims for each work package, with emphasis on stakeholder engagement;
- o work plan: a step-by-step outline of activities planned across the project's duration;
- o deliverables: key outputs expected from the project;
- o pillars: the foundational principles guiding the project.

Moving from this framework, the discussion also included the participants' reflection on their experiences with civic engagement initiatives in waste management, green infrastructure, and co-designing policies. Environmental citizenship was indeed emphasised as a proactive and sustainability-oriented behaviour, grounded in responsibility and active participation. Foresight was presented as a powerful framework for anticipating and planning for future challenges.

The event also introduced strategic foresight as a method to explore long-term scenarios and participatory foresight as a means to integrate diverse perspectives into actionable plans.

During the event, group discussions were organised to explore themes such as environmental citizenship and foresight. These discussions were enriched by the sharing of experiences from stakeholders about local initiatives in Bologna.

Discussions on environmental citizenship highlighted connections with past initiatives like the "climate assembly" and the need for climate shelters, alongside collaboration pacts promoting circular economy practices, waste management and resource conservation. Participants emphasized participatory processes in urban horticulture and emergency preparedness, addressing the role of both political and technical actors within shared governance frameworks.

On foresight practices, examples included methodologies from wide urban projects like "Missione Clima" and "Bologna Verde," which featured also urban planning studies. Citizen science initiatives, such as "Talea," were explored to develop climate shelters, with attention to tools like civic mapping and foresight techniques for green infrastructure and urban regeneration.

A special focus was given to the role of Salus Space, which serves as the central hub for all activities related to Bologna. Stakeholders were informed that future events in Bologna will be hosted at this innovative location, underlining its importance as a community resource and collaborative venue.

Key themes from Salus Space discussions included waste management, energy efficiency, and community-based sustainable practices. Activities focused on recycling education, reducing energy consumption, and designing shared green spaces, integrating disadvantaged groups through social enterprises and horticultural projects.

Additional topics included the role of citizen science in environmental monitoring, simplified foresight methodologies for broader community engagement and water management strategies like a proposed "river contract" for the Savena River.

Besides a preliminary identification of local actors for future collaborations, the training further highlighted the opportunities the FOSTER project offers to stakeholders, such as capacity building, enhanced collaboration and direct involvement in shaping solutions for environmental challenges. It was highlighted that, by participating, stakeholders can gain tools, knowledge and international networks to advance participatory and inclusive approaches within their respective organizations and communities.

Useful links:

Presentation: [FOSTER IRS – Local Cascade Training Presentation](#)

Agenda: [FOSTER IRS – Local Cascade Training Plan](#)

Communication: [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#)

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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:	WP3		
Event name:	Local Cascade Training - Foresight strategy, Governance and Gender issues: FOSTER Training for Local and Regional actors - <i>Neue Wege im Wassermanagement: Landwirtschaft - Kommunen – BürgerInnen</i>		
Type:	Training/ Seminar		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Neusiedl am See, Austria		
Date(s):	06.02.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.foster-europe.org/konferenzen/neue-wege-im-wassermanagement-landwirtschaft-kommunen-buergerinnen		
Participants			
Female:	10		
Male:	24		
Non-binary:	1		
No data:	1		
From country 1 Austria:	35		
From country 2 Hungary:	1		
Total number of participants:	36	From total number of countries:	2
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			

On February 6, 2025, approximately 40 experts, stakeholders, business representatives, citizens, and scientists gathered as part of the EU-funded FOSTER project to discuss sustainable concepts for water use and the participation of all affected parties in the region. The workshop focused on dissemination of knowledge about fostering participatory democracy and environmental citizenship.

In total, 35 participants attended the local training, distributed in: 10% from Foster Europe Foundation and 90% external stakeholders (such as municipalities representatives, civil society organizations workers and academia)

The workshop sought to introduce the key objectives and steps of the FOSTER project, with a strong emphasis on participatory democracy within different political and cultural contexts. A crucial goal was to explore best practices in participatory approaches and environmental strategies, offering inspiration and guidance for future initiatives. Additionally, stakeholders were encouraged to enhance their understanding of foresight methodologies and their history, forms of methodology and application, as well as practical applications in Austria and the EU. The workshop also aimed to improve participants' communication skills, particularly in an inclusive and intercultural setting, while highlighting gender equality and anti-discrimination issues in the context of climate change and environmental challenges.

One of the primary topics discussed was water resource management and climate adaptation. Participants examined innovations and future requirements in agriculture, particularly in sustainable water use. The discussion underscored the crucial role of municipalities and citizens in water conservation and responsible management, emphasizing that climate change's anticipated effects would require shifts in attitudes and the adoption of innovative solutions. Early adaptation measures, such as changes in viticulture, were cited as examples of progress already underway in the region.

Another major theme was the importance of participatory approaches and stakeholder engagement. The workshop highlighted the benefits of bringing together all relevant parties to collaboratively develop compromises and strategies for a sustainable living environment.


Methodology: The workshop used a combination of theoretical presentations and practical case studies to ensure a comprehensive learning experience. Foresight strategies were introduced and their potential and limitations were analyzed in the context of regional planning. A joint discussion session built on the results of previous events and encouraged stakeholders to develop new ideas for long-term cooperation.

Conclusion and Next Steps: All participants welcomed the innovative approach of the FOSTER project in bringing together various stakeholders to develop joint strategies for regional sustainability. The workshop successfully facilitated knowledge exchange and capacity building among stakeholders. The discussions and outcomes of this session will serve as a foundation for future initiatives aimed at enhancing participatory democracy and environmental governance in the region.

The next steps will include continued development of resilient strategies for water management in the Fertő region and the strengthening of cross-border cooperation between stakeholders in Hungary and Austria. Further application of foresight methodologies will help shape long-term sustainable policies, while ongoing efforts will focus on fostering inclusive communication and stakeholder engagement in climate-related decision-making processes.

Useful links:

Foresight strategy & participatory democracy PPT:  WP3 foresight strategy NEW .pdf

Conference promotion graphic:  Save the Date-Social Media Post.jpg

Communication: [FB EVENT LINK](#), [INSTA LINK](#), [LINKEDIN LINK](#), [WEBSITE ARTICLE](#)

Picture:  Photos

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

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:	2 - Conseil des Communes et des Régions d'Europe (CCRE)
PIC number:	949696252
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP3		
Event name:	Local Cascade Training - Foresight strategy, Governance and Gender issues: FOSTER Training for Local and Regional actors		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	In-situ		
Location:	Belgium, Brussels		
Date(s):	23rd January 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://ccre-cemr.org/calendar https://ccre-cemr.org/foster		
Participants			
Female:	20		
Male:	11		
Non-binary:	0		
From Belgium:	24		
From France:	4		
From Italy:	2		
From Germany:	1		
Total number of participants:	31	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities			

The Local cascade training in Belgium, named “Foresight strategy, Governance and Gender issues: FOSTER Training for Local and Regional actors” took place on the 23rd of January, in CEMR Conference Center in the European quarter of Brussels.

The training took place over one day, with various presentations and activities.

To ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders, CEMR team shared and promoted the event with several channels: Tweets, Emails to our contact lists, Mentions in the Newsletters, and Event on LinkedIn for instance.

The Agenda, Presentations and some communications examples can be found at the end of this document.

The Training started with a welcoming coffee at 9:00, offering time for participants to settle and introduce themselves.

At 9:30, the training started with an introduction of **Elisa Decourcelle, CEMR Project Officer on Climate and Energy**, who presented the agenda of the day, and the project FOSTER, for the participants to understand the context, and promote the initiative and its benefits.

To introduce the day, **Léa Hetz, CEMR Project Officer on Communications and Events** and **Meritxell Parramon Vila, CEMR Head of Communications**, introduced the training with some knowledge on inclusive communications, the key elements to keep in mind when producing inclusive communications, and some guidelines.

The second module of the morning was presented by **Carol Thomas, CEMR Senior Advisor on Governance & Institutional Relations**. Her presentation focused on how to boost vivid engagement, the different levels of participation and key examples at the local level.

After the coffee Break, **Lise Jerlin, CEMR Support Officer on Impact Communities**, presented the key findings of the [Women in Politics](#) CEMR report, highlighting the still low number of women participating in local and regional politics, and the barriers they are confronted with.

To end the morning, **Pedro Bizarro, Project Lead Climate, Energy & Urban Development** and **Elisa Decourcelle** gave an introduction on what is foresight, what is foresight strategy, and mentioned examples of tools

The lunch break was the opportunity for the participants and presenters to discuss the presentations, and get feedback on their topic of interests.

From 14:00, and to continue on the topic of strategic foresight, **Elisa Decourcelle** and **Elena Fazio, CEMR Project Officer on Climate and Energy**, ran two sessions of the Joint Research Center of the European Commission (JRC) tool, the [Scenario Exploration System](#), an exploration tool that uses engagement techniques from the entertainment world to engage participants in the full richness of the systemic collective reflection created when building scenarios.

The sessions focused on the topic of [Greening the city](#), and explored the scenarios related to “City of Today”, and “City of Tomorrow”. These explorations tools helped the participants to understand the concept of foresight strategy, and the notion of scenario buildings to anticipate on future shocks and trends

Conclusion

The training was an opportunity for FOSTER and for CEMR to gather interested stakeholders, around the topics of inclusive communications, participatory democracy and gender discrimination, and to introduce the notion of foresight strategy.

The modules and presentations all used interactive tools or exercises to engage with the audience, and make a collective thinking.

The training gathered 31 participants, mainly from associations of local and regional governments based in Brussels (Kuntaliitto, Deutscher Städtetag), representatives of European organisations (AEIDL, AEIAR) or of regional offices (Friulia Venezia Giulia, or Marche Regions).

In terms of distribution of participants, 58% came from CEMR, and 42% were external stakeholders.

Useful links:

Full Presentations: [FOSTER CEMR Local Training - Presentations.pdf](#)

Concept note and Agenda: [FOSTER CEMR Local training - Concept note and agenda.pdf](#)

Photos: [Photos](#)

Communication: [LinkedIn Event](#), [LinkedIn post](#), [LinkedIn post to recap](#), [Tweet](#), [Tweet](#), [Article](#)

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

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:	The Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)
PIC number:	912728873
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP3
Event name:	Local Cascade Training - Foresight strategy, Governance and Gender issues: FOSTER Training for Local and Regional actors - Participatory governance, foresight strategy, gender issues, and good communication. FOSTER training for local actors
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Romania, Bucharest
Date(s):	4th February 2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://amr.ro/2025/02/05/participatory-governance-foresight-strategy-gender-issues-and-good-communication-foster-training-for-local-actors/ https://www.facebook.com/asociatiamunicipiilorinromania/posts/pfbid0HPe3nCKZbGUXLGxX8Toqm9xZAZ3n8PQGp4TfaxdMD5uhdyTQh-egvGKCQDkXQ8KYdl https://www.instagram.com/p/DFrwFMnIAu9/?img_index=1
Participants	
Female:	18
Male:	16
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 Romania:	34
Total number of participants:	34
From total number of countries:	1
Description	
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.	

The **Local Cascade Training** was organized by the **Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)** to strengthen public participation, future scenario planning, gender equality, and inclusive communication within local governance. The event brought together representatives from municipal administrations, academia, and civil society organizations to enhance their knowledge and practical skills in these key areas.

Key Modules & Objectives

1. **Opening Session (09:15)**
 - *Future-oriented solutions towards environmental resilience – The FOSTER project*
 - Led by **Georgiana Mihăilă**, Public Administration Expert, AMR / PhD. Student, Teaching Associate, SNSPA Bucharest
2. **Module I – Participatory Democracy (09:30 - 12:30)**
 - Led by **Valeriu Antonovici**, PhD, Teaching Associate, SNSPA Bucharest.
3. **Lunch Break (12:30 - 13:00)**
4. **Module II – Foresight and Scenario Planning (13:00 - 16:00)**
 - Led by **Georgiana Mihăilă**, Public Administration Expert, AMR / PhD. Student, Teaching Associate, SNSPA Bucharest
5. **Coffee Break (16:00 - 16:15)**
6. **Module III – Gender and Anti-Discrimination (16:15 - 17:15)**
 - Led by **Georgiana Mihăilă**, Public Administration Expert, AMR / PhD. Student, Teaching Associate, SNSPA Bucharest
7. **Coffee Break (17:15 - 17:30)**
8. **Module IV – Inclusive Communication (17:30 - 18:30)**
 - Led by **Georgiana Mihăilă**, Public Administration Expert, AMR.

Participants

The training engaged professionals from various sectors, including:

- Representatives from **Bucharest's City Hall and district administrations**.
- Academics from **Romanian universities**.
- Experts from **civil society organizations** like ECOTIC ong.

Communication & Dissemination

To maximize the impact, the event was promoted through:

- Invitation emails to targeted stakeholders
- Social media posts - post-event

Conclusion

The training successfully provided participants with practical methodologies and tools to enhance participatory governance, strategic foresight, gender equality, and inclusive communication. The event fostered collaboration between public administration, academia, and civil society, promoting more effective and transparent decision-making at the local level.

In total, 34 participants attended the local training. In terms of distribution of participants, 20,59% came from AMR, 79,41% were external stakeholders (such as municipalities representatives, civil society organizations workers and university representatives)

HISTORY OF CHANGES				
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE		
1.0	13.02.2025	AMR_	FOSTER EDS	event description event-description-sheet_cerv-rem-civ-netw_en

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:	NOTUS
PIC number:	941165587
Project name and acronym:	Future Oriented Solution for Environmental Resilience - FOSTER

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP3-1		
Event name:	Local Cascade Training - Spain		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Soneja, Alto Palancia County, Valencian Autonomous Region, Spain		
Date(s):	10/03/2025		
Website(s) (if any):	Notus :: Applied Social Research – FOSTER Fortering of Capacities and Citizen Participation to Improve Local Climate Change Adaptation Policies		
Participants			
Female:	13		
Male:	12		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 [Spain]:	25		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
<p>The training was delivered by NOTUS and based in the Training of Trainers (WP1) activity content in order to capacitate local agents in Alto Palancia for the design and implementation of foresight strategies using participatory democracy approach.</p> <p><u>Content and results</u></p>			

The agenda of the training activity included the following topics:

Module 0. Presentation of the project objectives. Climate change and environmental resilience in Alto Palancia. Delivered by Marc Caballero – NOTUS.

Module 1 - Participatory democracy – Delivered by Marc Caballero

The objective of the first module was to set up the bases for the establishment of a dialog which will lead to the design of the participatory approach of the project. With this aim, a first part of the module focused in the presentation of basic concepts (to build up a common language) and the different approaches (including levels of participation). This was followed by a group discussion on the previous experiences in which participants have taken part and the lessons learnt in them. A second part of the module tackled methodologies, tools and techniques.

Module 2 - Foresight and scenario planning – Delivered by Marc Caballero

Main objectives of this module were:

- Introduce participants to the concepts and tools of foresight and scenario planning.
- To engage participants in future scenario building processes.
- To spark a common reflection of foresight in the county of Alto Palancia.

The content included : What is foresight? What for in territorial development?, Key Foresight Methods and tools, Scenario Building Exercise, Reflection and Group Discussion. Implementation in Alto Palancia

Module 3 - Gender and anti discrimination – Delivered by Maria Caprile

The objective was to present the participants with the basic concepts of gender equality and non discrimination in the framework of public policies and participatory processes.

Module 4 - Inclusive communication – Delivered by Maria Caprile

Introduction to Inclusive Communication, Exercise: elements for a communication strategy

Along the training and the group works, participants stressed the importance of taking into account previous participatory processes set up in the territory (some of them in progress yet), the engagement of non-institutional stakeholders and the adaptation of the methodologies and objectives to the specific characteristics of the territory, including its rural nature and its demographic situation.

Moreover, the initiative has to be aligned with the rest of Mancomunidad's policies in order to maximize impact.

Last, it is important to engage expert profiles in order to support discussions in the field of climate change due to the lack of expertise in the territory.

Venue and participants

The training was held in the village of Soneja, in the headquarters of Mancomunidad del Alto Palancia (Alto Palancia County Council) on the 10th of March, from 9am to 2pm.

It was attended by 25 people, 13 women and 12 men. Participants were mainly elected representatives of the municipalities (mayors and counselors) and County Council, Local development agents, representatives of local civil society organizations, agricultural cooperatives, individual farmers, Local Action Groups (LEADER), teachers in the local high school (agricultural branch) and Regional Government officers.

Only one person (apart from the speakers) belongs to NOTUS (4% of the total number of attendants).

The activity was disseminated through direct mails to stakeholders, both public and private.

Picture:  Pics

Communication:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/notus-asr_foster-activity-7305514457978277901-NukQ?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABbgO7oBWYQPNWTKS0vTxEBC-vQUEu47Ns

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

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.

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PROJECT	
Participant:	Comparative Research Network
PIC number:	949534359
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP3
Event name:	Local Cascade Training - Foresight strategy, Governance and Gender issues: FOSTER Training for Local and Regional actors – <i>Von Unendlich zu Acht – Partizipative Ideen für das Parkviertel</i>
Type:	Training/ Seminar
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Berlin, Germany
Date(s):	28.2. & 1.3.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://crnonline.de/project/foster/
Participants	
Female:	8
Male:	17
Non-binary:	1
No data:	0
From country 1 Germany:	17
From country 2 France:	3
From country 3 Poland :	3
From country 4 Italy:	1
From country 5 Bulgaria:	1

From country 6 Ukraine:	1		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	6

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The workshop was organised during two half days on the 28th of February and 1st of March 2025 in the Zukunftshaus Wedding in Berlin.

26 participants attended the workshop over two days, 4 of whom were members of CRN and 22 stakeholders, including district administration workers, members of local NGOs, and interested citizens.

The workshop's aim was to present the FOSTER foresight methodology, create scenarios and ideas on where and how the district could be made more climate resilient through the foresight methodology, and collect ideas for places and actions where concrete interventions could be launched within 8 weeks.

The first day included a session on the FOSTER methodology, participatory action research, and walks in the neighbourhood to discuss ideas and imagine a different future with the cultural probes approach.

The second day started with collective brainstorming and scenario building. The groups concentrated on one concrete idea: to make an intervention on the Manga-Bell-Platz in the Parkviertel of Wedding. Three concepts were created, and an overall idea of how the square should look in the future was developed. The group decided to meet again during the needs assessment workshop with an extended circle to start working on the intervention practically.


Methodology: The workshop used a combination of theoretical presentations and practical activities to ensure a comprehensive learning experience. Foresight strategies were introduced, and through participatory walks and cultural probes, concrete places were found that could benefit from intervention and participatory planning. The mixed groups of CSOs, administrative workers, and citizens led to concrete discussions and scenarios, which will be used in the FOSTER process to implement concrete actions and create actual change and interventions.

Conclusion and Next Steps:

All participants welcomed the innovative approach of the FOSTER project in bringing together various stakeholders to develop joint interventions. The workshop successfully facilitated knowledge exchange, networking and capacity building among stakeholders. The results are three concrete scenarios for interventions in the Parkviertel in Berlin, which are now considered by the Stadtteilkoordination and the mobile Stadtteilarbeit to be implemented. The participants formed a core group, which is currently planning and implementing one of the scenarios on the Manga-Bell-Platz in Berlin-Wedding.

The next steps will include a more extensive needs assessment, the creation of a wider network of CSOs, administration, and citizens to create a green learning space on the square, and an action day within the next eight weeks.

Useful links:

Picture:  Photos

Communication: <https://crnonline.de/event/von-%e2%88%9e-zu-8/>

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

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.

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PROJECT	
Participant:	IASIS NGO
PIC number:	947058822
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP3		
Event name:	Local Cascade Training - Foresight strategy, Governance and Gender issues: FOSTER Training for Local and Regional actors, Participatory governance, foresight strategy, gender issues, and good communication. FOSTER training for local actors		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Athens, Greece		
Date(s):	30.01.2025		
	https://www.iasismed.eu/foster-project-local-cascade-training-participatory-governance-foresight-strategy-gender-issues-and-inclusive-communication/?lang=en https://www.iasismed.eu/foster-project-local-cascade-training-participatory-governance-foresight-strategy-gender-issues-and-inclusive-communication/		
Participants			
Female:	18		
Male:	7		
Non-binary:	/		
From country 1 Greece:	24		
From country 2 Spain:	1		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	2
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The training was organized by IASIS NGO and was designed to enhance participatory governance, strategic foresight, gender equality, and inclusive communication within public administration and local decision-making. The goal was to equip participants with practical methodologies, stakeholder engagement tools, and collaborative strategies to foster more effective, transparent, and inclusive governance.

Key Modules & Objectives

Opening Session (09:15)

Future-Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience – The FOSTER Project

- Led by *Ioanna Stogiannari, IASIS*

Module I – Participatory Democracy (09:30 - 12:30)

- Led by *Ioanna Stogiannari, IASIS*
- Focused on enhancing engagement strategies for inclusive governance.

Lunch Break (12:30 - 13:00)

Module II – Foresight and Scenario Planning (13:00 - 16:00)

- Led by *Ioanna Stogiannari, IASIS*
- Explored techniques for strategic foresight and long-term planning in policy-making.

Coffee Break (16:00 - 16:15)

Module III – Gender and Anti-Discrimination (16:15 - 17:15)

- Led by *Ioanna Stogiannari, IASIS*
- Addressed key principles of gender equality and anti-discrimination policies.

Coffee Break (17:15 - 17:30)

Module IV – Inclusive Communication (17:30 - 18:30)

- Led by *Ioanna Stogiannari, IASIS*
- Covered best practices for transparent and inclusive public communication.

Closing Remarks (18:30)

The training brought together a diverse group of professionals (30% external stakeholders, 70% from IASIS), including local government officials from Athens, university students, as well as civil society representatives dedicated to participatory governance and community engagement. The IASIS Local Cascade Training successfully equipped participants with practical methodologies and tools to foster participatory governance, strategic foresight, gender equality, and inclusive communication. The event facilitated cross-sectoral collaboration and strengthened the capacity of local actors to implement effective, citizen-driven policies in Greece.

Picture:  Pictures

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	12.03.2022	Initial version (new MFF).

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	No 4 - Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA)
PIC number:	969558457
Project name and acronym:	Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Sustainability - FOSTER

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP3		
Event name:	Local Cascade Training – Participatory democracy, Foresight and scenario planning, Inclusive communication		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	In-situ		
Location:	Varna, Bulgaria		
Date(s):	22.,02.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	www.ubbsla.org		
Participants			
Female:	21		
Male:	14		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1:	Bulgaria		
Total number of participants:	35	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The first training of the Local Cascade Training was focused on introducing the participants with the overall project concept, its main ideas, the methodology of implementation, the foreseen activities, events, workshops, etc. and the expected results at the end.</p> <p>The topics presented during the training were the following: participatory democracy, the foresight strategy development, the gender issues in realization of local projects & initiatives; the inclusive communication. The sessions aimed to increase the represented participants' capacities, skills and abilities to define existing local problems and intervene through actions, to improve the collaboration between the different interested parties, to enhance their involvement in the co-creating of ideas and tools for their resolution. Through the Inclusive Communication part and presentation of some</p>			

examples on case studies, the project also aimed to improve the participants' communication skills, to enable them to more competently react and respond to local issues.

The training was held during the two-day civil forum on participatory democracy, which was co-organized by the Public Environmental Center for Sustainable Development, For the Earth Association and UBBSLA. Over 35 participants attended the event, out of which 6% from UBBSLA and 93% stakeholders: representing civil society organizations, business enterprises and support organizations, cluster unions, municipalities and local residents..

Methodology


The training was organized in sessions including the theoretical part followed by interactive discussions during which the participants could share and present experience and views on practices of local importance. Case studies which have significantly influenced the local state of the art were presented as well. Among them related with: environmental impact of the separate waste collection in the local factory in Devnya municipality; the stage of implementation of the National Plan for development and sustainability at local and regional level; the level of implementation of local environmental projects in Varna municipality and the small neighboring municipalities and the impact on the local society; the interaction between the youth organizations and Varna municipality to commonly work on ecological problems.

Conclusion

The first training enabled the participants to understand the values and importance of the participatory actions they should undertake on resolution of local problems in order to achieve vivid results. It has provided a platform for interactive communication and discussions on existing topics and issues at national level with particular focus on the regions of Varna and Dobrich. The event has also testified the need of undertaking such inclusive actions on existing issues based on common efforts of the civil society, stakeholders and the local/regional authorities.

Useful links:

 **FOSTER agenda_UBBSLA.pdf**

 FOSTER- project presentation - BG.pdf

<https://www.ubbsla.org/%d0%b5-bulletin/>

<https://www.ubbsla.org/foster-training/>

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

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.)



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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):	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 https://www.alda-europe.eu/foster-project/
Participants	
Female:	Registered: 112 / Participated: n/a ¹
Male:	Registered: 68 / Participated: n/a ²
Non-binary:	Registered: 3 / Participated: n/a ³
N/A or prefer not to say:	Registered: 53 / Participated: n/a

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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/14sjsXAMXW/>, <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		

D6.2 Event reports

Title	D6.2 Event reports: local needs assessment
Submitted by	IASIS, ALDA
Contact email	nadia@aldaintranet.org
Submission date	June 2025
Languages available	English
Website	FOSTER Project - Alda Europe

Acknowledgement

This document is produced within the project FOSTER - Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience, funded by the CERV Programme of the European Union (Grant Agreement n. 101147867).

Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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:	IASIS NGO
PIC number:	947058822
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP6, T6.2		
Event name:	Participatory local pathways: needs assessment (in-situ)		
Type:	Workshop		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	GREECE, SPAIN, BULGARIA, ITALY, AUSTRIA, GERMANY, ROMANIA		
Date(s):	March - June 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	FOSTER Project - Alda Europe		
Participants			
Female:	105		
Male:	68		
Non-Binary	2		
Prefer not to say	6		
From country 1 [Spain]:	25		
From country 2 [Austria]:	26		
From country 3 [Germany]:	16		
From country 4 [Italy]:	28		
From country 5 [Romania]:	26		
From country 6 [Bulgaria]:	26		
From country 7 [Greece]:	22		

From Country 8 [Cyprus]	1		
From country 9 [Sweden]	1		
From country 10 [France]	4		
From country 11 [Poland]	1		
From country 12 [Ukraine]	2		
From country 13 [Denmark]	1		
From country 14 [Slovakia]	1		
From country 15 [Czech Republic]	1		
Total number of participants:	181	From total number of countries:	15

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Executive summary

Within WP6 - "Participatory Local Pathways: Needs Assessment.", FOSTER project partners were asked to organize a local workshop (T6.2) with the scope to identify local environmental needs and challenges as consequences of climate change, as well as key policy concerns and priorities in their respective regions, with a focus on environmental protection, sustainable urban planning, and health services.

IASIS and ALDA prepared a guideline as part of T6.1, a comprehensive framework for organizing and conducting participatory needs assessments as part of WP6. The guideline was intended to assist local implementing partners in engaging diverse stakeholders to identify key policy concerns and priorities in their respective regions, with a focus on environmental protection, sustainable urban planning, and health services.

A workshop was organized by each partner, and tailored according to the local audience and needs. In each event, an overview of the scope and methodology was provided, along with an introduction of the main environmental challenges at the local level with reference to climate change. Using different methodologies, environmental needs and policy concerns among participants, setting the basis of the next workshop on scenario building (WP8)

IASIS, as WP leader, with the support of ALDA, oversaw the whole implementation of the WP and related tasks, supporting partners in the planning phase and designing the training sessions plan, as well as in the implementation and reporting stages.

This document collects all local workshops held by partners and reported in the EDS. Each EDS contains information on the methodology/ies applied, needs and challenges collected and general outcome. Moreover, information regarding the composition of the target group, outcomes and outreach are included.

Results and conclusion

In total **7 local trainings** have been organized, specifically:

- 1 in Italy by IRS
- 1 in Germany by CRN
- 1 in Austria by FOSTER EU
- 1 in Romania by AMR
- 1 in Bulgaria by UBBSLA
- 1 in Greece by IASIS
- 1 Spain by NOTUS

The event targeted a different range of stakeholders, from representatives of local authorities, civil society organizations, students, community managers and general citizens. In total, **181 EU participants** have been reached throughout the event, and coming from **15 EU countries**. Such results satisfy the CERV parameters of 176-200 participants and 7-8 countries reached, as foreseen by WP6.


Different environmental challenges were depicted through the workshop, from sustainable urban planning, pollution, urban heat island, waste management, greener areas; to flood risk, nature protection and conservation, social vulnerability etc.

Different methodologies were implemented by partners, ranging among focus groups, experts presentations, placemaking, public exhibitions, participatory mapping etc.

The results of the workshops and needs collected are widely commented in each partner's EDS below.

Useful links

[Session plan - ALL - Google Drive](#)

 FOSTER - Guideline for needs assessment.rev May 2025.pdf

Communication: reported in each following EDS

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

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:	IASIS NGO
PIC number:	947058822
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP6		
Event name:	Local Needs Assessment Workshop – IASIS NGO, Athens Greece		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Athens, Greece		
Date(s):	13.06.2025		
	IASIS POST : https://www.iasismed.eu/foster-wp6-local-needs-assessment-workshop-in-athens/ FACEBOOK POST https://www.facebook.com/iasis.ngo/posts/pfbid0pnuDhtoRXchV3Gtu5xZENsi1z1wYVfqkXkBdJMhVQKZzxfnTDB286JxHMvZHeidf!		
Participants			
Female:	18		
Male:	6		
Non-binary:	/		
From country 1 Greece:	22		
From country 2 Cyprus :	1		
From country 5 Sweden	1		
Total number of participants:	24	From total number of countries:	3

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The WP6 Local Needs Assessment Workshop, organized by IASIS NGO in Athens on 13 June 2025, aimed to engage local stakeholders in identifying and prioritizing environmental and climate-related challenges affecting urban communities. The event brought together **31 participants** from 5 countries (Greece, Cyprus, USA, UK, and Sweden). Due to CERV rules regarding the eligible countries, in this document we report 24 EU participants from 3 EU countries. Out of these 24 participants, 7 (29,16%) were from IASIS and 16 (70,84%) were external stakeholders.

The participants represented a wide range of categories, including: external stakeholders, such as municipal representatives, civil society organization staff, and community leaders.

Workshop Methodology

- **Duration:** 3 hours
- **Structure:**
 - Welcome & ice-breaker
 - Participatory urban risk mapping
 - World Café-style discussion groups
 - Prioritisation voting
 - Plenary wrap-up

Key Activities

- **Ice-breaker discussion:**
 - Prompt: *“What environmental problem affects your everyday life?”*
 - Common answers: excessive heat, lack of shade, poor air quality, localised flooding.
- **Participatory Mapping:**
 - Printed maps used to identify local vulnerabilities.
 - Key findings:
 - Hotspots in **Patissia, Kolonos, Omonia** due to lack of greenery.
 - Frequent **flooding** in low-lying, paved zones.
 - Poor walkability and **inadequate public shade** in public areas.
- **World Café Discussions:**
 - **Table 1** – Nature-based solutions:
 - Pocket parks
 - Urban gardening on municipal land
 - Shaded bus stops
 - **Table 2** – Policy/infrastructure ideas:
 - Green roof subsidies
 - Tree-planting incentives

- Public cooling stations
- Stormwater management upgrades
- **Prioritisation Exercise:**
 - Participants voted for most urgent proposals.
 - Top priorities:
 - Pocket parks and shaded public spaces
 - Green infrastructure in heat-prone neighborhoods
 - Accessible climate shelters for vulnerable populations

Key Needs Identified

- Mitigation of **urban heat islands** in densely populated districts.
- Expansion of **green space and tree coverage**, especially near schools and transport stops.
- More **inclusive, small-scale interventions** with local ownership.
- Greater **access to climate-safe public facilities** (e.g. libraries as heat shelters).
- **Simplification of local civic engagement..**
- Stronger **link between environmental policy and social justice.**

Conclusion & Next Steps

The workshop offered a meaningful opportunity to gather diverse perspectives on how climate change is impacting everyday life in Athens, with particular focus on environmental justice, public health, and urban space. Among the various challenges discussed, the urban heat island effect emerged as a central and cross-cutting issue, closely linked to the lack of green infrastructure, social vulnerability, and uneven access to climate-safe environments. Due to its relevance and the strong consensus it generated among participants, this theme will serve as the focal point for the next phase of the FOSTER project. It will guide the participatory scenario-building workshop, where stakeholders will collaboratively explore future pathways for enhancing urban resilience and inclusivity in their neighborhoods.

Communication:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16ih1Zv88w/>

Picture: [pictures](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	22.06.2025	Initial version (new MFF).

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:	The Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)
PIC number:	912728873
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP6		
Event name:	Need assessment workshop - Romania		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Romania, Bucharest		
Date(s):	15th April 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://amr.ro/2025/04/15/needs-in-local-public-policies-in-accordance-with-the-impact-of-climate-change-foster-training-for-local-actors/ https://www.facebook.com/100064617854644/posts/1100823225414929/?_rdc		
Participants			
Female:	18		
Male:	8		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 Romania:	26		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
<p>The training session titled “Needs in Local Public Policies in Accordance with the Impact of Climate Change” was organized by the Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR) as part of the project “Future Oriented Solution Towards Environmental Resilience – the FOSTER project.” This event was</p>			

part of Work Package 6 (WP6): *Participatory Local Pathways: Needs Assessment*, and aimed to support local actors in identifying, prioritizing, and addressing climate-related challenges within public policy frameworks.

The training was specifically designed for professionals from municipal administrations and civil society organizations, focusing on understanding real community needs, strategic climate adaptation, and integrating green resilience measures into local development strategies.

Key Modules & Objectives

1. Opening Session (10:30 – 10:40)

- Welcome remarks and introduction to the training context were delivered by:
 - **Diana Gheorghe-Vrinceanu**, Director of Projects, AMR
 - **Georgiana Mihăilă**, Public Administration Expert, AMR / PhD Student / Teaching Associate, SNSPA

2. Module I – Current Context and Challenges (10:40 – 11:30)

- The local impact of climate change
- Community needs in the face of environmental transformations
- Case studies and best practices from Romania and the EU

3. Module II – Local Public Policies and Adaptation (11:30 – 12:15)

- Identifying and prioritizing local needs
- Key resilience elements in local strategic planning
- Funding sources for sustainable and green measures

This module was delivered by **Alexandru Moldoveanu**, Attorney at *Moldoveanu and Associates Law Firm*.

4. Conclusion and Next Steps (12:15 – 12:30)

- Summary of key learning points
- Interactive Q&A session

All participants received certificates of participation at the end of the event. A networking lunch was also provided.

Key Outcomes of the Needs Assessment

The training session provided valuable insights into the local challenges and priorities related to climate change adaptation and sustainable local public policies in Romania. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and practical exercises, participants identified a set of key needs and issues that will guide the next phases of the FOSTER project.

Main needs identified:

- Strengthening institutional capacity for strategic climate adaptation planning at the local level.
- Integrating nature-based solutions and green infrastructure into local development strategies.
- Improving inter-municipal cooperation and knowledge exchange on climate resilience measures.
- Enhancing community engagement and awareness of climate risks and adaptation options.
- Identifying and securing funding sources for sustainable projects and green investments.
- Developing local plans to address specific vulnerabilities, such as urban flooding, heat waves, and air pollution.

Stakeholder-specific needs:

- Local authorities (municipalities): Clear guidance on incorporating climate adaptation into public policy frameworks and urban planning regulations, as well as support for developing climate-resilient strategies at the local level.

- Civil society organization (Romanian Landscape Architects Association - ASOP): Opportunities to actively engage in the decision-making process and collaborate with local authorities to co-create practical solutions for climate resilience.
- Insights derived from community needs: There is a need for better access to information and educational initiatives that raise awareness about climate risks and the role individuals can play in enhancing local resilience.
- Insights derived from expert perspectives: Municipalities require better access to localized data and platforms that facilitate communication between research entities and local policymakers to ensure effective climate adaptation measures.

Challenges emerged during the assessment:

- Limited financial resources for implementing complex climate adaptation measures.
- Lack of updated, localised climate and environmental data to support evidence-based policy.
- Fragmented collaboration among municipalities and stakeholders.
- Insufficient public awareness of climate-related risks and responsibilities.

Conclusion and next steps:

The identified needs and challenges will directly inform the upcoming participatory scenario-building activities within the FOSTER project. AMR will continue to facilitate dialogue among local authorities, civil society, and expert communities to co-design practical, context-specific solutions for building climate resilience in Romanian municipalities.

Participants

The training brought together **26 participants**, including **18 women** and **8 men**, representing various sectors of local governance and civil society. Institutions represented included:

- Bucharest Municipality
- Sector 6 City Hall (Bucharest)
- City Halls of Buzău, Alexandria, and Deva
- A representative of the Romanian civil society: *Romanian Landscape Architects Association (ASOP)*

Approximately 31% were AMR staff, and 69% were external stakeholders actively contributing to the needs assessment discussion.

One of the participants from AMR was the trainer, Alexandru Moldoveanu, Attorney at Moldoveanu and Associates Law Firm, an expert in public policy, who delivered the session on local public policies and climate adaptation.

Communication & Dissemination

To ensure visibility and engagement, the event was promoted through:

- Direct invitation emails to selected stakeholders
- Follow-up communication and post-event updates shared on AMR's social media platforms

Conclusion

The training successfully enhanced the capacity of local actors to understand and address climate-related needs through effective, inclusive, and forward-thinking public policy design. It fostered collaboration between public authorities and civil society, promoting a shared vision for climate-resilient and sustainable local governance.

In total, 26 participants attended the local training. In terms of distribution of participants, 30,77% came from AMR, 69,23% were external stakeholders (such as municipalities representatives and civil society organizations workers)

Useful links

- Communication: [Facebook post](#) | [Website AMR](#)
- Photos: [Website AMR](#) and [Project Workspace](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	05.06.2025	AMR_FOSTER WP6
2.0	18.06.2025	AMR_WP6_EDS

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:	Comparative Research Network
PIC number:	949534359
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP6
Event name:	Local Needs Assessment Training
Type:	Training/ Seminar
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Berlin, Germany
Date(s):	14.3.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://machmalplatz.org
Participants	
Female:	16
Male:	8
Non-binary:	2
No data:	0
From country 1 Germany:	15
From country 2 France:	4
From country 3 Poland :	1
From country 4 Italy:	3
From country 5 Spain:	1
From country 6 Ukraine:	1

From country 7 Denmark:	1		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	7

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The event for **WP6: Participatory local pathways: needs assessment** in Berlin was a comprehensive community engagement process conducted within an intensive **8-week** process at Manga-Bell-Platz. The strategy was to actively involve a wide and diverse cross-section of the local community, ensuring the project was built on a representative foundation of their needs and visions.

The participation of the local community was facilitated through several key activities:

- **Foundational Vision Workshop:** The process was initiated with an in situ workshop that brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including local residents, members of neighborhood associations, and administration.
- **Capturing the Needs of Specific Demographics:** The process was designed to be inclusive. For example, the need for more seating and shade, as confirmed by the questionnaires, was a theme specifically articulated by older residents who faced challenges during hot weather.
- **Quantitative Needs Analysis via mental maps:** To systematically gather data, **150 maps** were distributed to every household directly facing the square. A total of **54 maps were returned**, representing a significant response rate of 36%. The analysis of this feedback, which was visualized in a word cloud cluster, highlighted several key themes, with the most prominent needs being for more **greenery** (Grün), **benches** (Bänke), **plants** (Pflanzen), and **shade** (Schatten).
- **In-Depth Engagement with the Möwensee School:** The local school was a central strategic partner in the needs assessment, serving two critical functions:
 - **Deep Participation and Visioning:** An assembly with **50 student representatives** was organized. Crucially, the task was then taken back to **each individual class council** (Klassenräten), allowing every class in the school to develop and draw its own detailed vision for the square.
 - **Gate Opener to the Community:** The school acted as a vital "gate opener" to engage with families who are often not reached by or do not typically participate in formal participatory processes, thereby ensuring a more inclusive and representative outcome.
- **Public Exhibition of Ideas on the Square:**
 - The needs assessment culminated in an "exhibition" on the Manga-Bell-Platz itself, where the visions from both the residents' mental maps and the students' class projects were presented to the wider public.
 - Children and their parents were actively involved in presenting these ideas, for instance by drawing a "collective collage" with chalk on the ground, making the community's wishes tangible and visible to all. To make the collected needs tangible, a creative workshop was held directly on the Manga-Bell-Platz, building "seed bombs" as a symbolic first act of greening the space.
 - This public event was also a key point of dialogue with city officials. The **Climate Protection Officer** (Klimaschutzbeauftragte), the **Neighborhood Coordinator** (Stadteilkoordinatorin), and representatives from the **Green Space and Road Office** (Grünflächen- und Straßenamt) of the District Berlin-Mitte were present. These officials had been involved as part of the working group from an early stage, helping to collect ideas and providing essential expertise regarding permissions and feasibility. The collected needs are available on the website

<https://machmalplatz.org>. The identified ideas and needs directly contribute to the scenario/prototype workshop of WP8.

Attendance:

The workshop itself was attended by 26 participants.

The needs assessment reached 150 households, 460 students and their families

The public presentation on the square was attended by 200 local residents

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

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:	n.3 - Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale SCARL - IRS
PIC number:	996850668
Project name and acronym:	Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience - FOSTER

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP6, T6.2		
Event name:	Sfide Locali ai Cambiamenti Climatici: Poniamo le Basi per un Futuro Sostenibile - Local Challenges to Climate Change: Laying the Foundations for a Sustainable Future		
Type:	Awareness-raising		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	Italy, Bologna (BO)		
Date(s):	10th May, 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.alda-europe.eu/foster-project/		
Participants			
Female:	14		
Male:	11		
Non-binary:	\		
From country 1 Italy:	25		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			

As part of the FOSTER project, IRS – Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale held the “Participatory local pathways: needs assessment” event on 10 May, 2025, at Salus Space, Bologna. The event aimed to explore key local challenges related to climate change, assess community needs, and identify shared priorities to inform future actions and policies. In particular, it was focused on the theme of sustainable urban planning, one of the three main policy areas identified by the project. The session was structured as a facilitated focus group, engaging a diverse mix of participants to share lived experiences, critical observations, and ideas for action on climate resilience at the local level. The event involved 25 participants, including both institutional and community stakeholders. Around 20% of attendees were affiliated with IRS, while 80% were external participants, such as representatives from the local government, local associations, community members connected to the Salus Space area and local citizens. Some of the participants had previously engaged in the training event of the FOSTER project, ensuring continuity and a shared understanding of the project’s goals. The facilitators were Flavia Pesce, Elena Ferrari, and Siro Ciarimboli, from IRS.

Structure and activities of the focus group

The focus group followed a participatory and dialogic structure, including the following main phases:

- Welcome and introduction

The session opened with a short presentation of the FOSTER project and the aims of the workshop. A brief icebreaker activity encouraged participants to associate a word or image with environmental sustainability in their own neighbourhoods, using the Slido platform.

- Framing the issue

A short slideshow introduced key climate challenges facing Bologna - such as raising temperature, hydrogeological disruption and air quality - and their connections to urban planning. Existing local climate and urban plans were also mentioned to provide institutional context.

- Discussion on urban climate challenges

Participants, working in a plenary format, reflected on direct experiences and perceptions of local vulnerabilities. The discussion was guided by prompts related to:

- o everyday exposure to climate issues;
- o the responsiveness of urban policies;
- o participation in decision-making processes;
- o social inclusion and the impacts on vulnerable groups such as elderly people, migrants, and persons with disabilities.

- Mapping of needs and priorities

The main issues raised during the discussion were collected and visually mapped using large posters. Participants then identified the most urgent challenges through a group voting exercise and reflected on the types of support (institutional, community-based, etc.) that are currently lacking.

- Collective reflection, wrap and next steps

Groups shared their key findings in plenary. The facilitators grouped emerging themes and encouraged reflection on common patterns and missing voices. The session concluded with a recap of the main insights, an explanation of how the results would be used in the FOSTER project, and a final open question via Slido: “How do you imagine your neighbourhood in 10–15 years?”, introducing the topic of scenario building.

Key findings emerged

The discussion revealed a rich set of perspectives and concerns regarding climate-related urban challenges in Bologna.

The key issue identified was land consumption, recognised by participants as a cross-cutting priority linked to many climate challenges, including urban heat islands, loss of biodiversity, and increasing vulnerability and loss of green spaces.

Some participants shared experiences of community mobilisation to protect green areas – such as in the case of Caserma Mazzoni – highlighting the need for stronger dialogue between residents and the municipal administration.

Another recurring theme was the fragmentation of citizen participation, with expressing disappointment over excessive bureaucracy, particularly for informal groups, which often limits grassroots environmental initiatives.

Participants also stressed the importance of reclaiming civic and environmental education in schools and rebuilding a shared sense of environmental responsibility, especially among the younger generations.

Several interventions highlighted the value of citizen science as a tool for both raising awareness and democratising access to scientific data. Examples included low-cost sensors to monitor air and water quality in the Savena river, potentially linked to sustainable tourism and urban planning efforts.

Some participants underlined the importance of enabling local communities, including young people, not only to collect environmental data but also to witness its tangible impact on public decisions.

Social equity and vulnerability were also at the heart of the discussion. The need to identify and promote climate shelters for vulnerable groups – such as the elderly and unhoused individuals – was raised, with libraries and community spaces mentioned as already serving this function during extreme

weather. However, concerns emerged about avoiding the stigmatisation or segregation of these populations.

Additional topics that emerged included the potential of urban agriculture and local markets to foster sustainability and community ties and the role of cultural activities and international awareness days (e.g. World Water Day) as entry points for environmental education and artistic engagement.

Conclusions

The focus group provided a valuable opportunity to gather diverse perspectives on the local challenges posed by climate change in Bologna, particularly in relation to urban planning. Among the various issues discussed, land consumption emerged as a particularly significant and cross-cutting concern, strongly connected to climate vulnerability, loss of green spaces, and community well-being. Given its relevance and the depth of discussion it generated, this theme will serve as the focal point for the next phase of the FOSTER project. Specifically, it will guide the participatory scenario building workshop, where stakeholders will collaboratively imagine and explore future pathways related to the consequences of the land use in their local territory.

Useful links

- Agenda: [IRS - Local Needs Assessment Agenda - Bologna.pdf](#)
- Presentation: [IRS - Local needs assessment presentation.pdf](#)

- Communication: [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook 1](#) | [Facebook 2](#) | [Facebook 3](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Salus Space website](#) | [Poster](#) | [Social media flyer](#)
- Photos: [Pictures](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	22.06.2025	Initial version (new MFF).

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:	NOTUS
PIC number:	941165587
Project name and acronym:	Future Oriented Solution for Environmental Resilience - FOSTER

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP6
Event name:	Need assessment workshop - Spain
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Barracas, Alto Palancia County, Valencian Autonomous Region, Spain
Date(s):	06/05/2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://x.com/NOTUSasr/status/1921648798641643982 https://www.linkedin.com/posts/notus-asr_avanza-el-proyecto-foster-en-la-comarca-activity-7327410480266792960-4jbQ/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAguaLABSPdysdTQRXjEiRySJZJhsAHFibw https://www.linkedin.com/posts/personal-t%C3%A9cnico-pacto-empleo-y-desarrollo-local-alto-palancia-ba3494314_mancomunidadaltopalancia-cambioclimaertico-activity-7326589522094252033-l9ec?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAguaLABSPdysdTQRXjEiRySJZJhsAHFibw
Participants	
Female:	9
Male:	15
Non-binary:	
From country 1]:	Spain
From country 2]:	
From country 3]:	

...			
Total number of participants:	24	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Venue and participants

The training was held in the village of Barracas, on the 6th of May, from 9:30am to 1pm.

It was attended by 24 people, 9 women and 15 men. Participants were mainly representatives of local civil society organizations but included as well elected representatives of the municipalities (mayors and counselors) and the County Council, Local development agents, agricultural cooperatives, individual farmers, employers, Local Action Groups (LEADER), teachers in the local high school (agricultural branch) and Regional University.

The activity was disseminated through direct mails to stakeholders, both public and private.

Implementation

The workshop was the first in the FOSTER local path in Alto Palancia and had the objective of identifying the needs and challenges perceived by local agents to adapt to climate change. Following the discussion within the project local Animation Group, the workshop was divided into 3 sessions.

1. Understanding Local Climate Challenges in the territory. The experts' view

This first session provided an expert point of view about 3 of the main environmental challenges affected by climate change in the Spanish Mediterranean area with the objective of establishing a well-informed base and nourishing the afterwards participation: agriculture and economic activity, water and forest and natural spaces management. The speakers were :

- Victor Martínez Gómez, Professor of Economy and Social Science – Technical University of Valencia (UPV).
- José Segarra, President of the Low Carbon Economy and member of the Climate Change Advisory Board of the EC.
- Virginia Espinosa, Forest Engineer and Entrepreneur

2. Identifying Local Climate Challenges. Work in groups

The objective of the session was to get the participants' input on the main needs and challenges faced by the territory due to climate change. With this aim, participants are divided into interdisciplinary and intersectoral groups. Each group was supported by an animator and they worked in identifying the main challenges and localizing them in a map of the region. Afterwards, participants worked on characterization of the challenges using a fact sheet template.

3. Compiling ideas, consensus building and prioritization. Plenary session.

The objective was to build a consensus on priority challenges and their main characteristics. Each group selected a member who presented the work carried out in it. The different maps were shared, analyzing coincidences and differences and trying to build a common map of challenges and needs.


Participants selected the priority challenges and needed voting and using stickers. Once priority challenges and needs had been selected, the characterizations were shared and a consensus was built on them.

Results

After the poll, the following were identified as the main needs and challenges:

- Loose of the traditional culture of Water
- Loose of the traditional diversity in the use of land
- Forest wildfires
- Impact on crops and
- Soil degradation

Useful link:

- Pictures:  Pictures

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

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 - Foster Europe
PIC number:	936899430
Project name and acronym:	FOSTER: Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP6, T6.2		
Event name:	Bewahrung der Schöpfung		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Austria, Neusiedl am See		
Date(s):	03/06/2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.foster-europe.org/konferenzen/bewahrung-der-schoepfung		
Participants			
Female:	11		
Male:	13		
Non-binary:	-		
Prefer not to say	6		
From Austria	26		
From Germany	1		
From Slovakia	1		
From the Czech Republic	1		
From Ukraine	1		
Total number of participants:	30	From the total number of countries:	5

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Needs Assessment FOSTER WP 6

The Stakeholder Needs Assessment was carried out as a longer process to include voices that might have been unable to join the workshop held on June 3rd at Seestrasse 30, Neusiedl am See.

The workshop convened the relevant and in previous meetings present stakeholders from the regional government, local authorities, the National Park, private individuals (youth), tourism and agriculture representatives, media to experts from academia, wastewater and water supply management. With stakeholders who were not able to attend the meeting in person, Foster Europe had an exchange on main needs beforehand.

The event is distinguished by its successful facilitation of intergenerational dialogue — a format rarely seen at similar gatherings. Participants spanned a wide age range, creating a dynamic and rich exchange of ideas that reflected the diverse perspectives of both older and younger generations. The dialogues were solution-oriented, emphasizing mutual understanding between generations.

The workshop was followed by a public round table with three representatives from the roman catholic and the Lutheran church in Burgenland. Both churches see themselves and are regarded as stakeholders due to their role in community building and since they are larger landowners in the area.

A notable aspect of the event was its inclusive and representative attendance. It successfully brought together residents who are directly affected by the themes discussed, providing grounded and lived perspectives. Alongside them were youth participants, who contributed fresh insights and future-focused concerns, enriching the dialogue with their vision and energy. The event also welcomed visitors who use the area for leisure but are often excluded from such conversations — ensuring that a wider range of experiences and viewpoints were acknowledged and included.

This cross-sectional representation added depth and authenticity to the discussions.

The event received [local media coverage](#) the following day, highlighting its community relevance.

The workshop and public roundtable convened more than 60 (30) people and entered a longer debate lasting until 9 pm.

Needs Assessment according to the needs expressed by participating stakeholders (listing not hierarchical)

1. General

Here are the general and basic needs listed that are agreed by and have to be observed by all stakeholders

- a) Nature Based Solutions
- b) In line with European Regulations, international regulations (formal UNESCO and informal ICUN) and Austrian law
- c) preservation of the lake and its biospheres
- d) preservation of habitats, like 160 km² of the reed belt, about 40 periodically dry saline lakes, sand habitats, dry, and wet grassland
- e) preservation the cultural landscape and its biodiversity
- f) preservation and development of good livelihood in the region for citizens and as tourist destination
- g) safeguarding water supply for the natural habitats (lake Neusiedl, saline lakes, irrigation, drinking water, industry)
- h) There is a joint need for resilient water management, that must be based on joint efforts and responsibilities from the government to the single inhabitant.

- i) An additional water supply to the region is necessary. WWF expert had a dissenting view against a water donation to the Lake Neusiedl.
- j) There is a need for or continuous scientific research into the relevant topics and the ongoing collection of relevant data (irrigation water consumptions, groundwater data, climate data, biodiversity data, limnologic data, etc.)

2. EU

As embedded in the EU and its regulations the process as well as the results has to observe the following as agreed by all stakeholders

- i) practical, affordable and popular solution to achieve the goals

3. Austrian Federal Government and neighboring federal state Lower Austria

Process as well as the results have to be coordinated and agreed upon by the Federal Government and the federal state Lower Austria. This is especially the case for a planned water donation from the Danube River, via Lower Austria to the lake and the groundwater basin of the Fertö region.

The Land will need support from land owners (including churches) to make the technical solutions necessary possible. There is a clear need for a joint and coordinated process supported by the widest possible range of stakeholders as the entire necessary investment will certainly be in the range of a three-digit million Euro amount and will last for at least a decade.

There is an emphasis on joint need and the joint effort and responsibilities and implementation in an unagitated manner.

4. Government Burgenland (federal state)

The government of Burgenland aims to pursue an open, transparent lawful process and avoid any irritation of citizens and/or stakeholders. This might need more time than some stakeholders may expect

5. Local Communities

Local communities need a long-term secure water supply, as well as long-term secure flood protection against groundwater and rainwater. They need to adapt local water and wastewater management with financial support for the envisioned investments.

Local communities need to adapt their land use (soil sealing) and have an intensified action for a biodiversity (gardens), greening (planting trees) and adaptation of building plans and regulations to avoid artificial head zones.

6. Regional Associations (Water supply, Wastewater management)

Need for political and financial support to implement the necessary infrastructure renovations and investment

7. Tourism

Local communities need a long-term secure water supply, as well as long-term secure flood protection against groundwater and rainwater. (see local communities). They need to adapt their water use concepts and strategy to the new situation.

There is a strong need in positive coverage of the debate and an unagitated manner of debate and reporting (see Land Burgenland)

8. Agriculture

Irrigation is a constant and growing need. Support in adaptation of irrigation techniques (one-drop-at-a-time) and adaptation of crops and agriculture techniques.

9. Independent associations (Sport, Culture etc.) Austria

Need to be included, informed and part of an open transparent process (see general).

Need to preserve both nature and culture, including the cultural landscape (wine production etc.)

10. Independent associations (Sport, Culture etc.) Hungary

Need to be included, informed and part of an open transparent process (see general and Austrian associations).

Need to preserve both nature, culture including the cultural landscape (wine production etc.) see general and Austrian associations

A need to approach the issue in question with a transnational perspective, taking the transnational character of the Lake Neusiedl-Fertő Region into account.

11. National Park

Next to the needs in point 1.a-e., the National Park is in need of more and widened the ability to raise public education, and awareness raising for the implications related to climate change.

12. UNESCO World Heritage

Technical solutions and land use (high buildings) should be in line with the UNESCO regulations to preserve the special nature-culture-habitat composition of the region.

13. Citizens

The needs from citizens/inhabitants have been voiced by single participants and are not based on a representative survey or opinion poll

1. Protection from Water scarcity
2. Protection from flooding
3. Maintaining the quality of the region
4. Maintaining nature, cultural landscape and UNESCO Heritage

Useful links

- Communication: [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook 1](#) | [Facebook 2](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Foster Europe website](#) | [Invitation](#)
- Photos: [Website](#)
- [Local media report](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	June 2025	Initial version (new MFF).

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:	No 4 - Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA)
PIC number:	969558457
Project name and acronym:	Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Sustainability - FOSTER

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP6		
Event name:	Participatory Local pathways – Needs Assessment		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	In-situ		
Location:	Varna, Bulgaria		
Date(s):	28.05.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	www.ubbsla.org		
Participants			
Female:	19		
Male:	7		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 :	Bulgaria		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The second training, part of the participatory local pathways was directed to the local needs assessment related of the current situation in Primorski district in Varna municipality at the same time discussing on the effectiveness of the urban planning for development. The scope of the training was to empower the participants with an information and capacities at the same time to debate on key challenges related to construction activities in the selected region. The training sessions also aimed to trigger the active participation of the participants and their contribution to the needs assessment and identification of streamlines for development of the region.</p> <p>The topics of the sessions followed the foresight strategy development concept through participatory democracy and inclusive communication. The content was directed towards introduction of the</p>			

participants with the urban green infrastructure developments in one specific region in Varna and getting their feedback and views on improvements and future developments. A significant asset was to search for views by the represented locals and collect their opinion and ideas on how to turn the local infrastructure into qualitative, environmentally-free and socially oriented place. The training sessions also aimed to increase the social interaction and discussions in the process of definition of needs and co-creation of ideas for transformations.

The training followed by a round table discussion, co-organized by the Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations in Varna, during which various showcases targeting green and environmentally free activities of the communities from Varna and around Europe have been demonstrated. In total 26 participants representing civil society organizations, local development agencies, business enterprises, municipalities and cluster unions took part in.

Methodology

The training was organized in sessions including presentations on the project concept and the set objectives, followed by an introduction to the sustainable urban planning in general and presentation of concrete activities in the specific region Primorski in Varna municipality. Among them were initiatives for creation of sustainable energy communities, collaboration activities between the business, the authorities and the citizens in utilization of alternative energy sources in daily practices, etc.

Results from the needs assessment and challenges faced by the participants:

Needs for improvements (with specific focus on FOSTER project):

- ☐ Development of more comfortable livelihood for citizens and tourists in the city
- ☐ Collaborative involvement of citizens in the local environmental policy implementation – through information campaigns, peer to peer meetings, etc.
- ☐ Need for improving the green infrastructure: construction of more parking places: installation of street lighting with solar panels to be used as energy resource: solar benches, solar shelters, playgrounds with green shelters, reforestation campaigns
- ☐ Organization of meetings between the citizens and the local authority to discuss current problems, with the active contribution of local organizations, community centers, citizens oriented organizations
- ☐ Need of establishment of common data base where the residents can access and share data on ecological issues in the municipality

Needs for improvements (complementing the project concept):

- ☐ Initiation of information campaigns by the local authority (example: distribution of info sheets for the benefits from separate collecting of waste through the household managers)
- ☐ More use of local TV and radio broadcasting for informing the citizens about future improvements
- ☐ Need of financial support to realize the necessary infrastructure improvements – through international, national and local sources. The local financing instruments can include eco-vouchers, fee preferences, etc.
- ☐ Need of more signposting for tourists and guests to move freely in the public spaces

Challenges:

- ☐ The regulatory framework shall be improved with concrete incentives for people registering eco-friendly activities
- ☐ More efficient management of parking facilities by construction of new parking slots to correspond to the increasing number of private cars
- ☐ Improving the public transport with integration of more regular lines to this part of the city as alternative to the use of private cars
- ☐ Engaging residents in eco- campaigns; cleaning; collecting to recycling is a practice but there are people still not feel motivated
- ☐ People (especially elders) don't use digital media frequently so the direct contact should be predominant
- ☐ Increase the sense of identity and belonging to the neighbourhood
- ☐ Increasing mutual trust between the residents and the local administration through participative inclusion

Conclusion

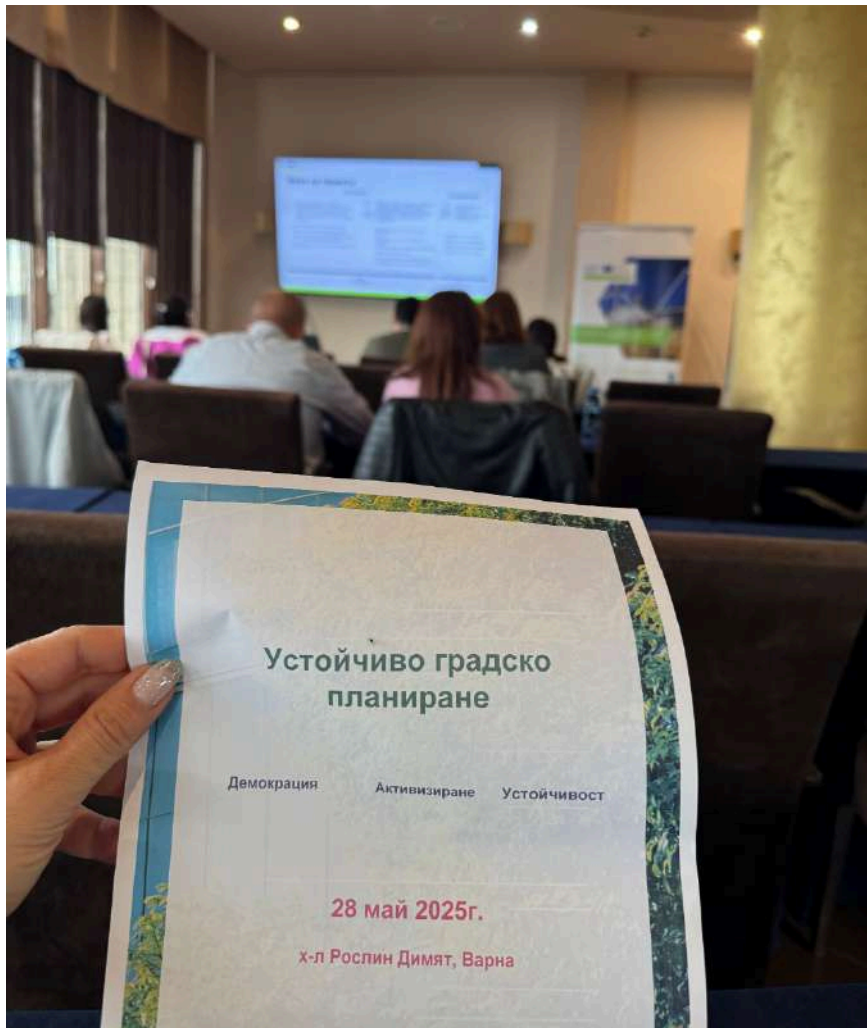
The outcomes of the workshop should enable the participants to understand the collaborative methods used for identification of a problem and generating ideas for its resolution. A significant asset was that the meeting enabled the interactive discussions so that people can be united around a same topic. The represented participants got acquainted with the concept of the urban planning in a specific

spatial territory, better understood the state of the art, knew each other, learnt how to be involved, how to state views, and how to forecast future activities.

The gender balance of the participants was observed during the proceedings of the event.

Useful links:

Session plan: [Session plan - ALL - Google Drive](#)







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:	n.3 - Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale SCARL - IRS
PIC number:	996850668
Project name and acronym:	Future Oriented Solutions Towards Environmental Resilience - FOSTER

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP7, T7.2
Event name:	International pilot: participatory scenario building event
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Italy, Bologna (BO)
Date(s):	13th-14th May, 2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.alda-europe.eu/foster-project/
Participants	
Female:	25
Male:	5
Non-binary:	\
From country 1 [Italy]:	18
From country 2 [Germany]:	3
From country 3 [Albania]:	1
From country 4 [Belgium]:	1
From country 5 [Bulgaria]:	1
From country 6 [France]:	1
From country 7 [Greece]:	1
From country 8 [Hungary]:	1

From country 9 [Romania]:	1		
From country 10 [Slovakia]:	1		
From country 11 [Spain]:	1		
Total number of participants:	30	From total number of countries:	11
Description			
<p>The “<i>International Pilot : Participatory Scenario Building Event</i>” took place in Bologna (Italy) on May 13–14, 2025, as part of WP7 (T7.2) of the FOSTER project. Organised and facilitated by IRS - Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale members (Flavia Pesce, Elena Ferrari, Siro Ciarimboli), the event brought together 30 participants from 11 different countries (Italy, Germany, Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain), including project partners and local citizens. Among the attendees, 25 identified as female and 5 as male.</p> <p>The workshop was hosted at Salus Space, a multifunctional facility born out of a collaborative urban regeneration initiative. The venue provided an inspiring context for exploring long-term visions of urban and environmental futures, in line with the FOSTER project's aims. Salus Space has been, and will continue to be, the venue for all FOSTER events related to the local pathways in Bologna, reinforcing its role as a symbolic and practical hub for community-based climate reflection and action.</p> <p>The event was designed as both a training opportunity and a demonstration pilot to build the capacity of partners in participatory foresight and scenario building, in preparation for local workshops implementation (WP8). It combined theoretical grounding, collaborative exercises, and peer exchange with a specific focus on land consumption and climate-related challenges. This focus was chosen based on the priorities expressed by the local community during the previous needs assessment event (WP6) and the case of Bologna was used as a reference for the simulation, since foresight exercises tend to be more effective when grounded in a territorial context, such as one's own city, neighborhood or community.</p> <p>Day 1</p> <p>The first day began with a short introduction aimed primarily at participants from outside the consortium. This session provided an overview of the FOSTER project, its structure, and the overall work plan, helping external participants understand the broader framework of the initiative and the purpose of the event within it.</p> <p>The workshop then continued with two distinct warm-up activities designed to stimulate reflection on personal attitudes and collective imaginaries about the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the Polak Game, participants placed themselves on a grid based on their feelings about the climate future and their perceived ability to influence it. The exercise encouraged discussion on perspectives and emotional orientations towards climate action. This activity revealed a prevailing sense of pessimism among participants regarding the climate future, although many still felt they had the capacity to make a positive difference; • the subsequent Headlines from the Future exercise engaged participants, using Slido, in imagining newspaper headlines from the year 2035, reflecting possible developments in their communities in relation to climate change. Submissions were shared and discussed collectively, revealing a range of hopes, concerns, and critical issues. In particular, most of the headlines reflected catastrophic or provocative scenarios: examples included “The submerged city”, “No more seasons, just a lot of heat”. <p>After the warm-up activities, brief theoretical inputs were offered on key concepts of strategic foresight and scenario-building to introduce the methodology that would guide the practical exercises. Then, to contextualise the scenario-building activities, IRS presented an overview of Bologna's local context, including demographic info (such as ageing and migration), the city's strong tradition of civic engagement and associational life, recent climate-related challenges (e.g. increasing temperatures, air quality, flooding), and the city's institutional responses to them. This framing helped international participants better understand the issues at stake and anchor the foresight work in a specific territorial reality.</p> <p>Participants then took part in a Futures Wheel exercise centred on the driver “High levels of land consumption in Bologna”. Divided into five groups reflecting the STEEP dimensions (Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political), they explored both immediate and ripple effects of</p>			

this phenomenon. The discussion highlighted how first-order impacts, though initially tied to a specific domain, often led to broader second-order consequences cutting across multiple spheres. The resulting diagram offered a structured and comprehensive view of these complex interrelations, laying the groundwork for the scenario-building phase that followed.

In the afternoon, participants engaged in a scenario-building exercise based on the widely used **2x2 matrix** methodology. The activity was structured as a step-by-step process, facilitated through clear instructions and prompt questions. It began with a brainstorming phase, during which each group explored the core features and possible dynamics of one quadrant of the matrix, each representing a distinct combination of two key uncertainties, identified by facilitators before to the workshop:

- the level of institutional support and governance capacity;
- the degree of community engagement.

Participants were encouraged to draw inspiration from the insights and reflections that had emerged during the Future Wheel exercise earlier in the day. In particular, the theme of environmental challenges - and specifically land consumption - provided a common backdrop for imagining plausible futures for the city of Bologna in 2035. Following the initial brainstorming, each group developed a written narrative scenario, describing how life, institutions, and urban environments might evolve under the conditions defined by their quadrant. In particular:

- Scenario A imagined a city with strong institutions but weak civic involvement, where top-down innovations fail to meet citizens' needs, leading to social fragmentation, gentrification, and limited trust in public policies.
- Scenario B described a positive future of high institutional support and active community participation, where anticipatory governance enables inclusive growth, improved public services, and environmental regeneration.
- Scenario C depicted a deteriorating Bologna marked by weak governance and civic disengagement, with rising inequality, depopulation, institutional corruption, and urban decay.
- Scenario D envisioned a grassroots-led city compensating for fragile institutions, where active civil society drives change, albeit with tensions over resources, uneven access to innovation, and limited policy influence.

The process culminated in a plenary session where each group presented and discussed its scenario, opening space for collective reflection and comparison across the four imagined futures.

Day 2


The second day was dedicated to the project partners and began with a collective **recap of the previous day's activities**. This moment served to consolidate the shared experience of the workshop and to gather direct feedback from participants. Partners reflected on the methodology, shared their impressions, and offered suggestions for improvement based on their observations and needs. In parallel, IRS presented a **preliminary draft of the scenario-building toolkit** (T7.3). The presentation included the proposed table of contents, offering a first look at the structure and key components of the toolkit, which is meant to support partners in replicating scenario-building workshops within their local pathways (WP8). The discussion allowed partners to voice specific needs and expectations concerning the toolkit's content, format, and level of guidance, in order to assure its relevance and usability in diverse local contexts.


Following this exchange, the morning continued with a **coordination meeting** among project partners, facilitated by Nadia Di Iulio from ALDA. The session focused on upcoming steps in the project timeline, with particular attention the organisation of local pathways and the next international events.

Conclusions

The International pilot event, held in Bologna, contributed to the simulation of participatory scenario-building practices within the FOSTER project. Participants engaged in a series of structured activities aimed at exploring long-term urban and environmental futures, with a focus on land consumption and climate-related challenges. The event also served as a space for testing methodologies and exchanging perspectives among partners and external participants. Inputs collected during the sessions will inform the refinement of the scenario-building toolkit and support the preparation of upcoming local pathways (WP8).

Useful links:

Infopack and agenda:  [IRS - International Pilot infopack - Bologna.pdf](#)

Presentation:  [IRS - International Pilot presentation - Bologna.pdf](#)

Photos:  [Pictures](#)

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