



EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

WP3 - EVENT NUMBER [3]

(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:	[1] - [ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LA DÉMOCRATIE LOCALE] [ALDA]
PIC number:	[101192844]
Project name and acronym:	[Aquatik-EU: Valorisation of aquatic heritages in Europe] — [AQUATIK-EU]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	Event number [3] - WP3, T3.2
Event name:	[International training for LAs and CSOs on participatory governance (ToT) - in situ]
Type:	[Training of Trainers]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[ITALY], [Villa Fabris Thine (VI)]
Date(s):	[10-11 September 2025]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.alda-europe.eu/aquatik/
Participants	
Female:	15
Male:	4
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [ITALY]:	12
From country 2 [PORTUGAL]:	2
From country 3 [BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA]:	5





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Total number of participants:	19	From total number of countries:	3																																																				
Description																																																							
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>																																																							
<p>Introduction and Agenda</p> <p>In the framework of the AQUATIK-EU project, funded by the CERV programme (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) of the European Union (EACEA), the Training of Trainers was organised by the Lead Partner, ALDA, and took place on 10-11 September 2025 in Villa Fabris, Thiene (Vicenza, Italy). The venue, Villa Fabris, is a space currently managed by the Italian branch of ALDA and has historical and socio-cultural importance also connected to past water management challenges in the area.</p> <p>The training was designed according to the overall project objective: to promote inland water heritage (rivers, springs, canals, wells, other freshwater ecosystems in remote or inland areas) and to strengthen people's awareness and capacity about the conservation status of these ecosystems and their cultural, touristic, environmental and socio-economic relevance.</p> <p>The aim of the training was to provide project partners with tools and methodologies to foster active citizen participation through participatory governance and to equip project partners with competencies they could apply in the subsequent local activities of the project. In this way, the training contributed to improve expertise and tools for preserving and managing water heritages through participatory governance and to improve dialogue opportunities between local authorities, sector-specific stakeholders, civil society and citizens on water preservation and valorisation.</p> <p>The two-day programme included both theoretical and practical sessions, with interactive workshops and developed following this agenda:</p>																																																							
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">DAY 1 - Wednesday September 10 2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th></th> <th>Activity</th> <th>Type</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9.30-9.45</td> <td>15'</td> <td>Partners arrival and registration</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.45-10.15</td> <td>30'</td> <td>Warm up Activity</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.15-11.00</td> <td>45'</td> <td>ToT on Participatory Democracy Introduction. Training 1: Level 1 (Information) + Stakeholder Analysis and Framework</td> <td>ToT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.00-11.30</td> <td>30'</td> <td><i>Coffee Break</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.30-13.00</td> <td>90'</td> <td>Training 2: Level 2 (Consultation) + World Café methodology</td> <td>ToT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13.00-14.30</td> <td>90'</td> <td><i>Lunch</i></td> <td><i>Villa Fabris</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>14.30-16.30</td> <td>120'</td> <td>Training 3: Level 3 (Dialogue) and Level 4 (Partnership) + Open space technology methodology</td> <td>ToT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16.30-16.50</td> <td>20'</td> <td><i>Break</i></td> <td>ToT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16.50-17.20</td> <td>30'</td> <td>Activity's Debriefing</td> <td>ToT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17.20-17.30</td> <td>10'</td> <td>Conclusion of the training</td> <td>ToT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19.30</td> <td></td> <td><i>Dinner (covered by ALDA)</i></td> <td><i>Osteria del Conte</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				DAY 1 - Wednesday September 10 2025				Time		Activity	Type	9.30-9.45	15'	Partners arrival and registration		9.45-10.15	30'	Warm up Activity		10.15-11.00	45'	ToT on Participatory Democracy Introduction. Training 1: Level 1 (Information) + Stakeholder Analysis and Framework	ToT	11.00-11.30	30'	<i>Coffee Break</i>		11.30-13.00	90'	Training 2: Level 2 (Consultation) + World Café methodology	ToT	13.00-14.30	90'	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Villa Fabris</i>	14.30-16.30	120'	Training 3: Level 3 (Dialogue) and Level 4 (Partnership) + Open space technology methodology	ToT	16.30-16.50	20'	<i>Break</i>	ToT	16.50-17.20	30'	Activity's Debriefing	ToT	17.20-17.30	10'	Conclusion of the training	ToT	19.30		<i>Dinner (covered by ALDA)</i>	<i>Osteria del Conte</i>
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DAY 2 - Thursday September 11 2025			
Time		Title	Type
09.30-09.45	15'	Opening of the day	In presence
09.45-10.30	45'	AQUATIK-EU project general overview and deliverables' status	Partner Meeting
10.30-11.00	30'	Toolkit presentation + Q&A	Partner Meeting
11.00-11.30	30'	Coffee break	
11.30-12.45	75'	WP4 overview + Group activity (Action plan for the WP4 events)	Partner Meeting
12.45-13.00	15'	Report to the plenary	Partner Meeting
13.00-14.30	90'	Lunch	Villa Fabris
14.30-15.00	30'	WP5 Overview (FONS Mallorqui)	Partner Meeting
15.00-15.30	30'	Next Steps	Partner Meeting
15.30-16.00	15'	Q&A + Conclusions + Evaluation	Partner Meeting

Description of the Activities

The activities developed over two days. The first day was dedicated to the Training of Trainers where participants explored participatory approaches and methodologies useful to engage with local communities, both in theory and in practice through interactive workshops. The second day focused on the partner meeting to analyse the current state of activities and related deliverables, and to then concentrate on the next steps, particularly the upcoming WP4 with the implementation of local initiatives focused on participatory methods and active citizen engagement. The details are described below.

Day 1 - 10 September, 2025

The first day opened with an activity where participants shared an event or memory related to water heritage and what it meant to them. This served to open the discussion and allow new participants to get to know each other.

Then we moved into the core of the training, starting with an introduction to participatory democracy in contrast with representative democracy. This was followed by the presentation of the four levels of participation: information, consultation, dialogue, and partnership; together with the nine principles of democratic participation, as outlined in the *Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process* issued by the Council of Europe. After the theoretical introduction, the training was divided into three main blocks, with the aim of combining theory and practice.

- The first part went deeper into the **Level 1 - Information** with a discussion on the methods public authorities and civil society organisations can use to inform citizens and ensure that all groups and communities are reached. Attention was given to the key rules that should be considered when shaping a communication message. An important tool was presented in this context: the *Stakeholder Analysis*, which helps map actors in a given topic and identify missing information needed for an effective problem-solving approach.

- The second part was dedicated to **Level 2 - Consultation**, the initiative where public authorities ask CSOs for their opinion on a specific policy topic or development. We explored the different methods that can make consultation more effective in communities. Participants then applied the method through a *World Café*: divided into groups, they rotated among three tables and discussed for 10 minutes on the following themes: identity and value, challenges and problems, and participation and governance. The facilitators at each table later presented the results in plenary.

- The third part focused on **Level 3 and 4 - Dialogue and Partnership**, presenting these levels of participation and discussing with participants which methods they already use and which ones prove most effective. The practical activity introduced was the *Open Space methodology*, which allows participants to shape both the structure and content of the discussion, directly addressing the issues





they find most relevant. Participants were given a guiding question and were encouraged to form subgroups to propose solutions.

After the debriefing and conclusion of the training activities, participants joined together for a networking dinner.

Day 2 - 11 September, 2025

The second day was dedicated to the partner meeting. It started with the presentation of the *Toolkit on Participatory Governance*, produced by ALDA drawing on its long experience with participatory methodology and specifically for Task 3.1. The toolkit will be translated by partners into the languages of the four implementing countries (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and used by implementing organisations to organise and deliver their own training in the local language.

This was followed by a general overview of the project and the status of deliverables. The focus then shifted to **WP4 - Cascade local training for LAs and CSOs on participatory governance**, aimed at strengthening participatory governance competencies and methods of local CSOs and local authorities in Italy, Spain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Portugal. A group activity was held in which participants drafted an action plan for the WP4 local events.

The meeting concluded with an overview of the next WPs and upcoming events, followed by Q&A, final conclusions, and an evaluation survey.

Conclusions and results

The two-day programme combined capacity building and project coordination. Participants deepened their knowledge of participatory governance methods, practiced interactive tools they can apply in their local activities, and jointly defined the next steps for project implementation. The event also created stronger collaboration among partners, setting the ground for the implementation of the upcoming local initiatives and the valorisation of inland water heritage.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	30.09.2025	Initial version (new MFF).

