

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	5 th
Event name:	The importance of 2024 EU Elections
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Pászto, Hungary
Date(s):	23 rd -26 th April 2025
Participants	
Female:	39
Male:	31
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Austria]:	0
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	2
From country 3 [Croatia]:	0
From country 4 [Cyprus]:	1
From country 5 [Estonia]:	1
From country 6 [France]:	3
From country 7 [Greece]:	1
From country 8 [Hungary]:	40
From country 9 [Ireland]:	2
From country 10 [Italy]:	4
From country 11 [Latvia]:	1
From country 12 [Lithuania]:	2

From country 13 [Malta]:	1		
From country 14 [Portugal]:	2		
From country 15 [Poland]:	2		
From country 16 [Romania]:	2		
From country 17 [Slovakia]:	1		
From country 18 [Spain]:	5		
Total number of participants:	70	From total number of countries:	18

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The fifth event of the project “YOUth and Democracy: Empowering EUrope’s Next Generation” took place in Pásztó, Hungary, from April 23 to 26, 2025. This vibrant gathering brought together 70 local and international participants representing 18 different European countries, including youth workers, policy-makers, civic-association leaders and educators—all united by the mission to bolster youth engagement of the 2024 European Elections.

This was the program of activities:

Sunday, April 23, 2025

Participants arrived at Budapest International Airport. That evening, a welcome dinner offered the first chance for informal networking and introductions, setting a collegial tone that carried throughout the event.

Monday, April 24, 2025 –

08:00 AM: Buffet breakfast at Hotel

10:15 AM: Arrival at Tittel Pál Dormitory. The morning opened with a warm welcome from Mr. Jenő Dombos, Director of the school, and a reply by Ms. Noelia Baleato Toja, Vice-Mayor of Santa Comba. Both underscored the project’s goals: promoting democratic values and youth participation at the local level

10:40 AM: Workshop “What Topics Are Important for Young Voters?” led by high-school students. Their survey revealed that climate action, youth employment, and affordable housing top electoral concerns; they also proposed integrating financial literacy and AI ethics into curricula, and explored measures like age quotas in political bodies and structured EU internships to open doors for first-time candidates

11:00 AM: Coffee break accompanied by a musical performance.

11:30 AM: Meeting at the Mayor’s Office with Mr. Attila Farkas, Mayor of Pásztó, featuring an exchange of gifts and a group photo.

01:00 PM: Traditional Hungarian lunch in Pásztó.

02:30–04:15 PM: Cultural discovery around the Nógrád region, including a stroll through the Garden of Ruins at Oskolamester’s House, a milling demonstration at Szalay Mill, and a visit to a local exhibition—all showcasing rural crafts, heritage and entrepreneurial spirit

08:00 PM: Dinner at a nearby restaurant, with participants reflecting on the day’s insights.

Tuesday, April 25, 2025 –

09:30 AM: Departure from the hotel.

10:00 AM: Guided tour of the Hungarian Parliament building, providing context on EU institutions and national democracy.

10:30 AM: Conference with the National Youth Council of Hungary, led by Ms. Anna Kovács. She detailed how the Council empowers young people through debate simulations, mentorship schemes, regional forums and digital platforms—tools that blend formal learning with practical engagement to influence policy on youth employment, housing and emancipation

11:00 AM: Group photo on the Parliament steps.

12:30 PM: Lunch, sampling traditional Hungarian dishes.

07:30 PM: Presentation of the next and final meeting in Medulin, Croatia (May 28–31, 2025).

07:45 PM: Evaluation session, where participants shared feedback on logistics, content and cultural activities.

08:00 PM: Farewell dinner, celebrating new friendships and reaffirming commitment to youth-driven democracy.

Key Conclusions and Next Steps

Participants agreed that making democracy more inclusive and accessible to young people requires lowering both legal barriers (such as voting age) and practical ones (through comprehensive civic education), establishing and strengthening local Youth Councils to give young citizens a direct voice in policymaking, and deploying digital engagement tools—like participatory budgeting apps, interactive online platforms, and youth ambassador programmes—to bridge the gap between institutions and the digitally native generation; they also emphasised the value of intercultural exchange via cross-border dialogues and service-learning projects to foster a shared European identity while addressing community-specific needs. Participants committed to maintaining the networks forged in Hungary and actively disseminating the event's outcomes through social-media campaigns, local forums, and school workshops, ensuring that these insights and best practices will feed into the final project meeting in Medulin and shape future EU initiatives so that Europe's next generation remains at the heart of its democratic future.

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