EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Freguesia de Buarcos
PIC number:	867997323
Project name and acronym:	EcoActive: Citizens for a Sustainable Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4th
Event name:	Sustainable Tourism and the Green Economy
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	*[*in-situ*]*
Location:	Treviso, Italy
Date(s):	27-30th September, 2026
Website(s):	https://cephi.weebly.com/project-network-of-towns.html https://cephieducation-collab.github.io/CERV/
Participants	
Female:	24
Male:	34
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	1
From country 2 [Croatia]:	1
From country 3 [Cyprus]:	1
From country 4 [Finland]:	2
From country 5 [France]:	1
From country 6 [Italy]:	30
From country 7 [Hungary]:	4
From country 8 [Latvia]:	1
From country 9 [Malta]:	2
From country 10 [Poland]:	2

From country 11 [Portugal]:	6		
From country 12 [Romania]	2		
From country 13 [Slovakia]:	3		
From country 14 [Spain]:	2		
Total number of participants:	58	From total number of countries:	14

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The fourth transnational meeting of *EcoActive Citizens for a Sustainable Europe* took place in the Italian province of Treviso from 27 to 30 September 2026. Hosted by CEPHI Italia, the four-day, in-person workshop brought together 58 participants from 14 European countries under the theme *Sustainable Tourism and the Green Economy*. The meeting formed part of the CERV Networks of Towns project promoted by the Junta de Freguesia de Buarcos, Portugal.

Building on the previous meetings in Portugal, Spain and Martinique, the workshop examined how tourism can support local livelihoods while protecting the places people travel to see. Silea and Venice offered two perspectives on this question. In Silea, participants discussed how a smaller municipality can develop tourism around its landscape and the people who live there. In Venice, they explored how a city that attracts visitors from around the world also functions as a home for its residents.

Day 1 – Sunday, 27 September. Participants arrived in Italy, checked into their hotels and met for introductions and a welcome dinner. Giancarlo Vettori, Director of CEPHI Italia, welcomed the delegations to the Veneto region. The evening gave local and international participants time to get to know one another before the working sessions began.

Day 2 – Monday, 28 September. The formal programme opened at Silea Town Hall, where Mayor Angela Trevisin welcomed the international delegations. Rosa Batista, President of the Junta de Freguesia de Buarcos, responded on behalf of the project partnership. Following an introduction to the participating countries and the CERV project, seven delegations presented examples of sustainable tourism from their communities.

Portugal described nature-based tourism involving local communities, while Cyprus focused on the design and maintenance of hotel gardens. Croatia presented the biological swimming pool in Pregrada, where natural processes treat the water used for recreation. Malta explored ways for visitors to discover places beyond the main tourist attractions. Finland discussed community-led coastal resilience, Poland shared its experience of cycling tourism, and Bulgaria showed how Suhindol's wine heritage connects visitors with local producers. Together, the examples gave participants concrete ways to discuss who benefits from tourism and how destinations use resources such as land and water.

Giulia Lauro, Silea's Councillor for Tourism, then spoke about environmentally sustainable tourism in Silea and the province of Treviso. An open discussion gave the delegations an opportunity to relate her account to the practices presented that morning. In the afternoon, teachers from the Istituto Polo Tecnico di Venezia "Marco Polo" guided participants through less-visited areas of Venice. Visits to schools, cultural centres and neighbourhood associations brought residents' experiences into the discussion.

Day 3 – Tuesday, 29 September. A second round of presentations explored how communities can develop tourism around distinctive features of their territory. The French delegation from Martinique discussed responsible tourism and low-carbon travel. Romania used the Vidraru Dam to examine the relationship between renewable energy, tourism and the surrounding landscape. Hungary presented the Cserhát Nature Park Greenway, and Slovakia described work along the Ipeľ River to connect tourism with greener forms of transport.

Latvia's presentation on the Leiceiši Creative House linked rural tourism with meadow restoration and environmental learning. Spain presented stargazing tourism in Galicia's Atlantic Islands National Park, where the quality of the visitor experience depends on protecting the darkness of the night sky. Karolina Piegat, a researcher at CEPHI Italia, completed the exchange with the Italian contribution on sustainable tourism in Veneto. The discussion that followed brought all 14 partner countries' experiences together around a practical question: how can local authorities welcome visitors while safeguarding natural and cultural heritage?

The afternoon concluded with an evaluation and a briefing on the two remaining project meetings in Malta and Hungary. They also identified a practical lesson for future meetings: accommodating

delegations across three hotels required additional coordination at morning meeting points. A farewell dinner and the presentation of certificates of participation closed the working programme.

Day 4 – Wednesday, 30 September. After breakfast, participants checked out and the delegations departed.

The Treviso meeting gave the partnership specific examples to draw on in future local discussions, from involving wine producers in rural tourism to protecting dark skies and planning routes that visitors can use by bicycle or public transport. The meetings with local authorities added a civic dimension to those examples. They connected decisions about how people travel, where they spend money and which places they visit with the interests of the communities that host them.

A further outcome was a clearer understanding of how residents can contribute to decisions about tourism. Participants heard how elected representatives approach tourism planning. Drawing on both experiences, partners could take three questions back to their municipalities when considering a tourism initiative: Who in the community benefits? Which environmental resource does the activity depend on? How can residents help shape the way it is managed? These questions connected the workshop directly to the project's wider aim of involving citizens in local environmental decisions.

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