

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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 *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: [P](#) Master Presentation - General.pptx

Conference poster and agenda: [P](#) _FOSTER poster + agenda (1).pdf

Conference concept note: [P](#) Concept Note - Foster Conference 9th October.pdf

ToT agenda: [P](#) 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).