

## 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	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	“GREENUP: European youth reflecting about the green future of Europe” -- GREENUP
<b>Participant:</b>	DRUSTVO ZA RAZVIJANJE PROSTOVOLJNEGA DELA NOVO MESTO (DRPNM)
<b>PIC number:</b>	946969873

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	2
<b>Event name:</b>	EU AND ENVIRONMENT: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
<b>Type:</b>	<p>Open debate with experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the topic “EU history, from cooperation to a strong Union: main objectives, challenges and current situation: Covid 19 and EU Green Deal”.</li> <li>- Workshop: Workshop about EU policies and programmes about environmental protection.</li> <li>- Creative LAB: Reflection about EU principles, objectives and their impact in the local level.</li> </ul>
<b>In situ/online:</b>	<i>In situ - online</i>
<b>Location:</b>	Novo Mesto, Slovenia
<b>Date(s):</b>	16/01/2023 - 19/01/2023
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://greenup-cerv.eu/news/">https://greenup-cerv.eu/news/</a>
Participants	
Female:	43

Male:	37		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Slovenia]:	66		
From country 2 [Spain]	6		
From country 3 [Hungary]:	2		
From country 4 [Bulgaria]	3		
From country 5 [Italy]	1		
From country 6 [Lithuania]	2		
Total number of participants:	80	From total number of countries:	6
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			

Project GreenUP held an international meeting in Novo mesto Slovenia between 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The meeting was hosted by the project partner from Slovenia DRPDNM, also known as the Association for Developing voluntary work Novo mesto.

The working title for the event was EU AND ENVIRONMENT in the past, present and future.

The first thing on the agenda was a visit to the Municipality of Novo mesto, where an expert from the municipality spoke about the Sustainable Urban-Development Strategy for Novo mesto and other strategies that the city is implementing to be more green and sustainable and to be in line with the EU goals set in the European green deal.

In the recent years, the city is trying to implement greener transport options and promote cycling to work. The city has a bike-renting system in place, and is also cooperating with bigger employers in the city, to promote this option among their employees. In a few cases they were very successful.

However, since the reality is, that many people who come to work in Novo mesto, are from surrounding rural areas, most of them still use a car for transport. The city now has a car-sharing option with electric cars that people can rent, which is also gaining popularity.

Next, we visited GRM Novo mesto – The Centre for biotechnology and tourism, which is the home to the school of agriculture and biotechnology in Novo mesto. The school has many programmes from high school, vocational secondary school and vocational college on the tertiary level. The lecturer at the school presented how agriculture and

environmentalism connected in the past and present. The most interesting however was the debate we had, where we discussed the lifestyle trends of people in Slovenia, and how they are more and more environmentally conscious. Slovenia has always been somewhat rural, and in present day, the trend is that people are trying to be even more self-sufficient, especially when it comes to food production. People like to grow vegetables and fruit in their own gardens, and many even raise chickens for eggs and meat. In general, people in Slovenia like to get their food products from the direct source – for example: from local farmers.

Since most people live in rural areas in houses with gardens and, in some cases, even chickens, this is also a good solution to get rid of the food waste – which they can either compost and use as a fertiliser in their garden, or feed to the chickens.

Good environmental practices in Slovenia do not come only from the agricultural sector. Entrepreneurship and technology sector is also striving to be more environmentally friendly. In the afternoon we visited the development centre Novo mesto, which is a home to the Business Incubator Podbreznik. The business incubator is mentoring new entrepreneurs, as well as teaching entrepreneurship with trainings for different target groups, they also include local schools in many projects. Especially among young people environmental and sustainable startups are very popular, which shows that young people are aware of climate change and environmental problems and are looking for ideas on how to improve their lives and change our society for the better. Also very memorable was a startup, where a young entrepreneur in Novo mesto is looking for a way to recycle and reuse old batteries – which led to the discussion on how to recycle and reuse car batteries. Although there are no final solutions for the later issue, it was interesting to see, that they are looking for solutions, starting from small (normal) batteries.

After finishing the visits for the first day, we also had a walking a tour of Novo mesto. It was snowing heavily during this time, but Novo mesto appeared very charming under a blanket of snow.

The second day of our event in Novo mesto started with a visit to CEKR – a zero waste shop in the centre of Novo mesto. The shop-keeper showed us many products that we can use to replace everyday products, which are largely made of plastic and other non-recyclable materials. We saw bamboo toothbrushes, washable cotton cleaning pads and female hygiene products, as well as a loofah – a cleaning sponge that is made from a loofah pumpkin and is completely recyclable, we can simply throw it to the compost after we no longer need it. In the shop we learned that people can buy many products with their own packaging, from cleaning products to food.

But also, the most important thing when we talk about zero waste strategy is, that we should buy things that do not need to be replaced that often. For zero waste shops this means, that customers are not returning that often, and shops often need outside funding to stay open.

The rest of the day was filled with non-formal learning activities and debates, and we filmed several videos to share awareness about the project.

We learned about the history of environmental protection and some important laws that were put in place globally to protect the environment.

In the debate that followed we discussed popular topics related to environmental protection, from electric cars and public transport, to European Green Deal, veganism and food consumption, energy, technology, our personal habit, and how the environmental activism of individuals can have an important role for establishing environmental-protection laws.

At the end, we tried to summarise our findings in promotional videos to be shared during the project.

The project “GREENUP: European youth reflecting about the green future of Europe” is founded by the CERV programme of the European Union.

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