

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	
Participant:	1 - Asociatia Polylogos (Polylogos)
PIC number:	895397980
Project name and acronym:	Actions Supporting the Participation of Youth through Relevant Education in Europe — ASPYRE Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	6		
Event name:	Active Youth Forum - Romania		
Type:	Training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Romania, Cluj-Napoca		
Date(s):	11 September 2025 17 September 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://polylogos.eu/event/aspyre-europe-active-youth-forum-in-cluj-napoca/		
Participants			
Female:	81		
Male:	59		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [Romania]:	142		
From country 2:			
From country 3]:			
...			
Total number of participants:	142	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Summary of the event			

The **Active Youth Forum (AYF) Romania** was held in **September 2025** at the *Pavilionul Tinerilor – Centrul de Cultură Urbană* in Cluj-Napoca. The Forum aimed to **train and mentor young people to engage meaningfully in democratic decision-making processes** (Objective 3).

The event focused on:

- Bringing together youth from **diverse backgrounds** (urban and rural, gender-diverse, and youth with disabilities).
- Creating space for **dialogue with local decision-makers**.
- Presentations and discussions to strengthen young people's **understanding of Romania's political system** and their role within it.
- Hands-on workshops from the **ASPYRE EUROPE Toolkit (D3.1)**, including **problem mapping and problem analysis**.
- Establishing **Youth Advocacy Groups (YAGs)** as a direct outcome of bottom-up problem-mapping exercises.

Two Forum sessions were held:

- **Thursday, 11 September 2025**
- **Wednesday, 17 September 2025**

Thanks to **Polylogos' strategic partnership with the Cluj County School Inspectorate (Inspectoratul Școlar Județean Cluj)**, the Forum brought together youth from **six high schools**. Collaboration with the **Cluj City Council, City Hall, and the Urban Cultural Center** ensured strong local institutional support, including the provision of the Pavilionul Tinerilor venue.

The involvement of teachers who had previously participated in the **Co-Creation Workshops (WP3)** helped motivate students to join the Forum with enthusiasm and curiosity. As a result, participants entered the Forum **ready to learn, engage, and co-create solutions**, making the event a catalyst for active youth involvement in civic life.

Participants per target group

- Youth (16-24): 129
- Teachers, educators and youth workers: 8
- Decision-makers: 4
- Others / the general public: 1

Additionally, and not counted here, there was also a small group of participants (general public) who did not register at the event, including from non-EU countries.

Overview of activities

Activity 1: 11th of September 2025

- Most of the youth who participated at the first full-day event were students from Liceul Teoretic Nicolae Bălcescu in Cluj-Napoca. A few participants were unaffiliated.
- Activities included:
 - Special address from and dialogue with the Head School Inspector in Cluj region
 - Presentation and interactive discussion about Romania's political system, and the role of young citizens in it
 - Workshop activity - "Bargaining Values" - experiential learning to understand the power of values, the practical challenges involved in negotiations and compromise, and the importance of finding allies
 - Discussion and examples on "the problem under the problem"
 - Workshop activity - problem identification and affinity mapping - a bottom-up process to identify social issues relevant to the participants

- Forming Youth Advocacy groups based on problems identified, small group work and presentations
- Feedback and Evaluation, including the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Citizens
- Planning next steps in small group work and preparing for the Civic Cafes (WPs 9 and 12)

Activity 2: 17th of September 2025

- Youth participated from
 - Liceul Teoretic Nicolae Bălcescu
 - Liceul Teoretic "Avram Iancu"
 - Colegiul Național "George Cosbuc"
 - Liceul Tehnologic Special pentru Deficienti de Auz Cluj-Napoca
 - Liceul de informatica "Tiberiu Popoviciu"
 - Colegiul Național "Emil Racovita"
 - Consiliul Județean al Elevilor Cluj

A few participants were unaffiliated.

- Activities included
 - Special address from
 - The President of the Cluj Student Council on youth advocacy
 - Member of Cluj City Council, on her own experience as young female politician
 - Representative of the Cluj School Inspectorate, on the value of youth participation in decision-making
 - Workshop activity - "Bargaining Values"
 - Presentation on Romania's political system, and the role of young citizens in it
 - Special address from Member of Cluj City Council about practical opportunities for participation in meetings and public consultations with decision-makers in Cluj
 - Discussion and examples on "the problem under the problem"
 - Workshop activity - problem identification and affinity mapping - a bottom-up process to identify social issues relevant to the participants
 - Forming Youth Advocacy groups based on problems identified, small group work and presentations
 - Feedback and Evaluation, including the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Citizens
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Communication and Dissemination

9 Sep 2025 - Social media

- Instagram: [Link](#).
 - Views (*the number of times post was played or displayed*): 731
 - Accounts reached: 265
 - Likes: 15
- Facebook: [Link](#).
 - Reach (*the number of people who saw the content at least once*): 114
 - Reactions, comments and shares: 4

11 Sep 2025 - Social media

- Facebook: [Link](#).
 - Insights unavailable - shared from Pavilionul Tinerilor (local partner). 18 reactions.

16 Sep 2025 - Social media

- Instagram: [Link](#).
 - Views (*the number of times post was played or displayed*): 3577

- Accounts reached: 1155
- Likes: 58
- Facebook: [Link](#).
 - Reach (*the number of people who saw the content at least once*): 262
 - Impressions (*the number of times the content was viewed on a screen*): 640
 - Reactions, comments and shares: 40

The youth who participated at the event are committed to continue working in their small groups, and mobilise support from their causes among family members, peers and the wider community. This multiplication effect will ensure that the project will continue reaching a larger group of people, beyond those directly reached during this event.

Gender sensitivity and non-discrimination

The event embodied a strong commitment to **gender sensitivity, inclusivity, and non-discrimination**, ensuring that all participants could take part meaningfully and safely. Of the youth engaged, **57% identified as female** and **two participants identified as non-binary or other**. All decision-makers who addressed the Forum were women, offering participants visible role models in political life - an important statement given the ongoing overrepresentation of men in Romanian politics (IPU Parline, 2025).

All communication materials leading up to the event - such as invitations and registration forms - were written in **gender-sensitive language**, carefully avoiding stereotypes and ensuring respect for diverse gender identities.

To ensure inclusivity, **targeted invitations** were extended to the *Liceul Tehnologic Special pentru Deficienți de Auz*. Interpreters were present, discussions were adapted, and youth with hearing impairments were fully included. The **venue setup** also addressed accessibility and dietary needs: for example, a young woman with celiac disease voiced her appreciation for the availability of a gluten-free lunch, highlighting how often people with allergies or intolerances face barriers to safe food access at public events.

Importantly, the Forum succeeded in creating a **safe space** where participants felt free to share personal experiences. One gender-transitioning youth openly spoke about the challenges he faces in public life, receiving recognition, respect, and applause from his peers. This moment of solidarity even inspired the formation of an advocacy group focused on bodily autonomy and gender identity.

Across the event, **deliberate efforts were made to level the playing field**: regardless of gender, ability, or socio-economic background, all participants were given equal opportunities to speak, collaborate, and influence. This approach reinforced the project's commitment to inclusion and demonstrated, in practice, that diversity is a strength and that every voice counts in shaping democratic society.

Outcomes and Impact

The **Active Youth Forum (AYF) Romania** directly advanced the project's objectives, producing immediate learning outcomes while laying the groundwork for long-term civic engagement and youth-led advocacy.

1. Meaningful Engagement of Youth, Educators, and Decision-Makers

The Forum brought together **129 youth (ages 16–19)**, **8 teachers and youth workers**, **4 decision-makers**, and **1 member of the public**. Participants represented diverse backgrounds, including youth with hearing impairments and gender-diverse students, ensuring inclusive dialogue and collaboration across schools and social groups. Schools represented included:

- Liceul Teoretic Nicolae Bălcescu
- Liceul Teoretic "Avram Iancu"

- Colegiul Național "George Cosbuc"
- Liceul Tehnologic Special pentru Deficienti de Auz Cluj-Napoca
- Liceul de informatica "Tiberiu Popoviciu"
- Colegiul Național "Emil Racovita"
- UBB University, Cluj-Napoca

2. Training in Civic Skills and Democratic Participation

Through a combination of **experience-sharing from decision-makers**, informative presentations, interactive discussions, and experiential workshops, youth gained a practical understanding of:

- their democratic rights and responsibilities,
- avenues of influence and modes of participation,
- how to build alliances and navigate power dynamics,
- the realities of decision-making, including compromise,
- identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing social issues,
- adopting a **solutions-oriented, critical thinking mindset**.

3. Formation of Youth Advocacy Groups

The AYF catalyzed the formation of **12 youth advocacy groups**, each tackling a specific issue of local or national relevance.

11 September groups:

1. *School of Tomorrow* – improving the high school learning environment
2. *SPICE* – media and digital literacy to combat misinformation and propaganda
3. *A Healthier Romania* – addressing disparities between public and private healthcare
4. *Two Wheels, One City* – improving bike safety and reducing traffic congestion
5. *Article 6* – defending bodily autonomy for women, transgender, and nonbinary people
6. *Project BOBOCEL* – widening access to international exchange opportunities

17 September groups:

7. Expanding safe youth spaces (libraries, study, and social areas)
8. Professional orientation, mentorship, and counseling in schools
9. Combating discrimination against youth with hearing impairments
10. *Left-Behind Neighborhoods* – promoting equitable urban development across Cluj
11. Expanding public transport during peak hours
12. Modernizing the curriculum, with greater inclusion of women authors and perspectives

Some groups may be merged for greater impact, while others may be pursued at later stages, ensuring every participant can continue working on an issue they are passionate about.

4. Commitment to Ongoing Engagement

Most of the participants expressed a strong desire to continue their advocacy journeys, with next steps planned through upcoming Civic Cafés.

Survey Feedback – Key Findings

Two surveys were conducted after each event:

- EU Survey on Justice, Rights, and Values
- Anonymous Feedback Survey

The anonymous feedback survey revealed the following:

- **Understanding the political system:** 80.9% learned "much" or "very much."
- **Understanding their civic role:** 94.1% learned "much" or "very much."

- **Ways to get involved in civic life/politics:** 91.2% learned “much” or “very much.”
- **Future involvement:** 80.9% stated they are “likely” or “very likely” to increase their civic engagement after the ASPYRE project.

Participant Voices

The open feedback highlights a sense of empowerment and responsibility:

- *“I learned that I can start an initiative from the ground up that can actually change something.”*
- *“I’ve come to realize that even if my role in society seemed small and insignificant — when I thought I couldn’t change anything — now I know that I matter, my opinion matters, my actions matter. Change begins today, with the right questions and the right steps.”*
- *“I want to change the way my society sees the role of women. I want everyone to understand that women are much more than what culture or tradition dictates. I will create spaces for conversation and support groups where women can be heard, where their opinions, dreams, and ideas for change can be validated and put into practice.”*

Alignment with Project Objectives

In line with the Grant Agreement (DoA, Part B, Chapters 1 and 3), the Active Youth Forum in Romania contributed to:

- **Objective 3: To train and mentor youth with the capacity to meaningfully engage in democratic decision-making processes.**
- **Indicators:**
 - 1.1 Number of youth (16-24) engaged in ASPYRE Europe activities (reach: 129/ target: 400)
 - 1.3 Number of decision-maker (at local-, national- and EU-levels) engaged in dialogue with youth (reach: 4 / target: 12)
 - 1.5 Number of youth advocacy groups established (reach: 12 / target: 4)
 - 2.1 Youth’s self-reported likelihood to increase their involvement in political or civic life (reach: 80.9% / target: 80%)
 - 2.2: Increased civic awareness of target groups 1 and 2 (reach: 94.1% / target: 80%)

Conclusion

The **Active Youth Forum Romania 2025** achieved its immediate objectives and fostered a commitment to youth-led civic participation. By equipping participants with knowledge, skills, and confidence, the Forum demonstrated that when young people are given the tools and space to lead, they can identify meaningful issues, propose concrete solutions, and mobilize others in their communities. The establishment of 12 Youth Advocacy Groups, the overwhelmingly positive feedback, and the strong desire for continued involvement through Civic Cafés underscore the potential long-term impact of the project. Beyond numbers, the Forum fostered a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and responsibility, showing that diversity is a strength and that every voice matters in shaping democracy.

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