

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	2 - Asociatia Polylogos (Polylogos)
PIC number:	895397980
Project name and acronym:	Elephant Talk — Elephant Talk

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	7		
Event name:	International Data Presentation Event in the EU Parliament		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	Belgium, Brussels		
Date(s):	14th October 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://polylogos.eu/from-data-to-dialogue-young-europeans-address-online-gender-based-body-shaming-in-brussels/		
Participants			
Female:	18		
Male:	10		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Italy]:	5		
From country 2 [Romania]:	9		
From country 3 [Greece]:	4		
From country 4 [Portugal]:	4		
From country 5 [France]:	4		
From country 6 [Belgium]:	2		
Total number of participants:	28	From total number of countries:	6
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			

The *International Data Presentation Event* held at the European Parliament marked the culmination of a strategic outreach and dialogue process between the *Elephant Talk* consortium and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). This process, led by Polylogos with the support of Maghweb as project coordinator, was carried out over a full year - from October 2024 to October 2025 - and involved direct engagement with MEPs from each partner country.

The event brought together young participants from Italy, Portugal, Greece, and Romania - who played a central and visible role - alongside youth workers from the consortium, five MEPs and their assistants/advisors, and local civil society representatives from Belgium. In total, there were 30 counted participants at the event, and two participants from non-EU countries (Iraq and Algeria), who were present, were not included in the reported numbers above.

Programme Overview

Monday, 13 October

Participants arrived from the partner countries and met for an informal welcome dinner. The evening served as an opportunity for initial social interaction and informal networking before the formal programme began.

Tuesday, 14 October

- **09.00-11.00** Common breakfast and strategy meeting: A relaxed setting for participants to connect and prepare for the day's agenda.
- **11.00-12.00**: Arrival and accreditation at the European Parliament.
- **12.00-14.00**: Youth preparatory session: Icebreakers, dialogue, and final preparations.
- **14.00-15.00**: Informal lunch break.
- **15.00-17.00: International Data Presentation Event**
 - **15.00-15.45**: Presentation of methodology, key findings, data visualisation, and policy recommendations.
 - **15.45-16.30**: Q&A, dialogue, and feedback from MEPs and policy advisors.
 - **16.30-16.45**: Closing remarks, conclusions, and next steps.
 - **16.45-17.00**: Informal coffee and networking.
- **18.00**: Team dinner and debrief.

Highlights

A key moment of the event was the youth-led presentation of country-specific findings from the transnational *Elephant Talk* survey. Each delegation not only presented the data, but contextualised it with personal reflections, critical questions, and lived experiences. Their active participation was central to the event's impact and atmosphere.

Secondly, the presence of five MEPs and their teams allowed for a rare and valuable exchange between young people and policymakers. The openness and active engagement of MEPs during the Q&A demonstrated a genuine interest in the issues raised and helped to validate the experiences shared by the youth participants.

Thirdly, holding the event inside the European Parliament gave symbolic and practical weight to the topic of online gender-based hate and body shaming as a structural and pan-European phenomenon. The use of clear visualisations and real data helped convey the seriousness of the issue in a way that resonated with both institutional and civil society stakeholders.

Finally, the inclusion of NGO representatives from Brussels and participants from outside the EU (Iraq and Algeria) contributed additional perspectives to the event, reinforcing the idea that online gender-based hate is a global and structural issue, not limited to any one national context.

Reflections and Evaluation

Following the event, the consortium team held a comprehensive debrief, which generated the following key reflections:

1. Youth empowerment as the key impact

There was unanimous agreement that the most significant outcome of the event was the empowerment of young participants. The event offered a rare and meaningful platform for youth to voice their concerns directly to EU decision-makers in a formal institutional setting.

Being heard and taken seriously at this level was a powerful experience of democratic engagement.

2. Recognizing the limits of policy impact

Despite constructive engagement from several MEPs - particularly those from relevant committees such as CULT and FEMM - there was a shared understanding that the event's direct policy impact may remain limited. This is largely due to the complexity of EU institutions and decision-making structure and the limited influence of individual MEPs in driving legislative change independently, even when they are highly motivated and aligned with the project's goals.

3. Value of youth exchange and peer learning

Another key takeaway was the value of meaningful transnational youth exchange. While time constraints limited the depth of intercultural and intergroup interaction, it was clear that more structured opportunities for youth dialogue would have strengthened the overall experience. Greater space for connection would have fostered a stronger sense of shared identity and mutual understanding, particularly around the pan-European and structured nature of online gender-based hate and body shaming.

As one team member remarked: *"One of the most valuable results was the active participation of the young people and the space created for them to express their experiences, indeed I would have given more space for them to interact, but we had very little time and it's definitely something we could do differently next time."*

Recommendations and Follow-Up

For future editions or follow-up projects, the consortium identified several areas for improvement and sustained impact:

- Capitalising on collected data by refining research tools (survey adaptation, broader outreach, qualitative data collection) and integrating insights into educational and advocacy materials.
- Strategic partnerships with local stakeholders, especially those working directly with youth or on digital rights and safety, could amplify the findings and ensure ongoing relevance.
- Targeted engagement with selected MEPs and decision-makers at other levels - particularly those with influence in relevant committees - may support more effective long-term policy impact and continued dialogue between civil society and decision-making institutions.

The *Elephant Talk* data presentation in Brussels successfully elevated the voices of young Europeans in a meaningful institutional space, sparking dialogue between youth, policymakers, and civil society on the systemic challenges of online gender-based hate speech and body shaming. While policy influence may take more time and effort to unfold, the immediate empowerment of youth and the visibility of their findings mark a powerful step forward in addressing these issues at both national and EU levels.

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