

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:	3 - Udruzenje NIT - za izgradnju ljudi i zajednica (NIT)
PIC number:	881004150
Project name and acronym:	Actions Supporting the Participation of Youth through Relevant Education in Europe — ASPYRE Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	5		
Event name:	Co-Creation Workshop in BiH		
Type:	Workshop / Training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	BiH, Sarajevo		
Date(s):	4-9 December 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.instagram.com/p/DDXrmX9t4Ec/?img_index=1		
Participants			
Female:	29		
Male:	27		
Non-binary:			
From country 1 [name]:	BiH		
From country 2 [name]:			
From country 3 [name]:			
...			
Total number of participants:	56	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Summary of the event			
The first event of ASPYRE EUROPE in BiH was organised for the purpose of Building awareness among professors, educators, and youth workers about the ASPYRE EUROPE project, the developing toolkit to empower youth civic engagement, and ways that they can be involved in the project over the project life cycle and beyond.			

- Fostering collaboration between Udruženje NIT, Youth for Peace, and professors, educators, and youth workers from Sarajevo and around BiH related to the ASPYRE EUROPE project as a whole and specifically related to best practices to empower and equip youth for civic engagement.
- Obtaining feedback from professors, educators, and youth workers from Sarajevo and around BiH about the developing ASPYRE EUROPE toolkit, its interactive learning methodology, and the workshop themes and specific design

A series of **Co-Creation Workshops in BiH** were organized from **4th to 9th of December**, giving professors, educators, and youth workers from Sarajevo and around BiH the opportunity to attend a meeting or two that best suited their busy schedules. The meetings were held in different parts of Sarajevo and at different times of the day in order to make attendance easier for professors and youth workers so that they could learn about the project, share their knowledge and experience working with youth, and offer constructive feedback about the workshop toolkit design, methodology, and thematic flow.

Participants from WP5 target group

- Teachers, educators and youth workers: 56

Participants from other ASPYRE EUROPE target group

- Youth (16-24): 6
- Decision-makers: 0
- Others / the general public: 0

Overview of activities

The same activities were held at each of the meetings, with a slight shift in focus on specific experiential learning workshops in the ASPYRE EUROPE toolkit based on the insights that emerged from the professors, educators, and youth workers.

Meetings:

- 4 December 2024, 18-20h
- 6 December 2024, 17:30-21h
- 7 December 2024, 11-14h
- 9 December 2024, 15-18h

Schedule:

- 15 minutes – Introduction of ASPYRE EUROPE project partners (Udruženje NIT and Youth for Peace) and professors, educators, and youth workers in attendance
- 15 minutes – ASPYRE EUROPE project description
- 15 minutes – Overview of Experiential Learning toolkit pedagogy and methodology
- 15 minutes – Overview of Experiential Learning Workshops in the toolkit, their themes, flow, and design
- 1-2 hours - Interactive conversations to generate critical reflection and feedback about the overall pedagogy and workshop flow, themes, and design for the purpose of making the ASPYRE EUROPE project more effective in terms of equipping and empowering youth for civic engagement

Communication and Dissemination

Online communication

10 December 2024 - Social media:

- Instagram: [Link](#)
 - Accounts Reached: 272
 - Impressions: 315
- Facebook: [Link](#)
 - Reach (*the number of people who saw the content at least once*): Unknown
 - Reactions, comments and shares: 12

Media coverage:

Udruženje Nit and Youth for Peace did not seek to obtain any media coverage at this time, because these initial meetings were to seek feedback and expertise as part of the work to develop the project toolkit. Issues of civic engagement and advocacy are also politically sensitive and can drive potential allies away because of the political dynamics that exist in BiH. As a project team, and now in contact with numerous professors from Sarajevo and around BiH, we will explore the best ways to share about this project that will not unintentionally drive youth away from the project.

Gender sensitivity and non-discrimination

The event demonstrated a strong commitment to gender sensitivity and inclusivity, with more than 50% of participants identifying as female. Although no participants identified as non-binary in the registration forms, all communication leading up to the event employed gender-sensitive language, intentionally avoiding biases and stereotypes. This ensured that the language used was inclusive, respectful, and mindful of diverse gender identities.

Throughout the event, concerted efforts were made to ensure that all participants, regardless of gender, ability, or background, were given equal opportunities to contribute to and engage in the discussions. This approach reinforced the project's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is valued and everyone can participate meaningfully.

Outcomes and Impact

This first event in BiH as part of the ASPYRE EUROPE project already contributed to the achievement of the project's key objectives, laying the foundation for long-term impact. The event generated the following key outcomes:

1. **Engagement of teachers, youth workers, and educators**

The project successfully brought together 56 professors, educators, and youth workers from different schools, contexts and backgrounds, introducing them to the project, learning from their professional feedback about the pedagogy and design of the experiential learning workshop toolkit, and inviting them to participate in upcoming events, such as the Active Youth Forum in BiH (WP8). This early engagement provides a strong foundation for educators to become active advocates of youth civic participation, empowering them to mentor young people throughout the project's duration.

2. **Youth engagement and mobilization**

Just a total of 6 young participants participated as part of these Co-Creation Workshops, because they were not the target group. However, we received a tremendous amount of constructive feedback from the youth who were engaged, both because they themselves do youth work and because they identify with the motivations for and barriers to youth civic engagement. If anything, their feedback was perhaps the most valuable in the ongoing development of the toolkit. At the same time, they were some of the most excited about the project, and because of their work coordinating student activities with local organizations and at local universities, the few youth who were engaged in these Co-Creation Workshops further extend our network of youth whom we will invite for future participation in ASPYRE EUROPE, in the Active Youth Forum in BiH (WP8) and beyond.

The youth expressed their hopes for ASPYRE EUROPE, particularly their enthusiasm to build more effective skills and strategic thinking related to civic engagement. Their impression is that youth are motivated and ready to engage politically, especially at the local level, and perhaps at higher levels when they see some initial success. The challenge that they see is that youth do not know where to begin, and they expressed that this project, especially given its participatory "experiential learning" pedagogy is well-designed to meet this need to equip and empower youth for meaningful civic engagement. Alongside the professors, educators, and youth workers, these youth participants are committed to promoting the project within their schools and communities, enhancing its reach among the target audiences. The multiplier effect generated by these motivated youth will be instrumental in mobilising participants for the upcoming Active Youth Forum (WP8) in BiH, establishing a strong foundation for further engagement.

3. **Knowledge sharing and exchange with professors, educators, and youth workers**

This series of meetings with professors, educators, and youth workers laid a strong foundation for continued fruitful collaboration over the next two years of project implementation. Professors, educators, and youth workers left with a significant and positive understanding of the project, and they also had significant space to provide insight into gaps

that may exist in the workshop themes and pedagogical flow. Importantly, the conversation sought to be attentive to both informational content and emotional dynamics related to youth motivation for civic engagement. If youth are equipped with the best skills, but they do not feel confidence about their capacity to make an impact, they will disengage. These Co-Creations Workshops were especially sensitive to this dynamic, and because professors, educators, and youth workers are often working with youth, they were able to provide specific insights into the learning themes and emotional dynamics that this project must be sensitive to in order to succeed. We are bringing these insights back to the ASPYRE EUROPE project consortium in order to dialogue about insights gained from the Romanian (WP3) and Italian (WP4) Co-Creation Workshops and how best to design the overall project toolkit of experiential learning workshops.

4. Preliminary communication and dissemination

The project's implementation in BiH has begun with a purposefully slow rollout related to online communication. Political and civic engagement can quickly be perceived as threatening the political status quo, ultimately generating greater opposition from certain political actors. This has been an intentional area of discussion both among Udruženje NIT and Youth For Peace team members, as well as with professors, educators, and youth workers. We plan to build greater online visibility, but part of the strategy requires specific consideration of the ways that “civic engagement” and especially “advocacy” has been and is perceived as both ineffectual and creating political hostility and opposition. In order to empower youth, the project team and youth themselves must remain attentive to these power dynamics, so we remain sensitive to the fact that wider communication must serve the overall project goals and not become an obstacle to them. On the other hand and to put the situation more positively, this project is quickly gaining traction through various informal networks, with professors, educators, youth workers, and youth themselves discussing the possibilities and hopes that ASPYRE EUROPE can meaningfully equip and empower youth for civic engagement, while helping them remain sensitive to political opposition that does not want to see the youth voice empowered.

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