

Newsletter #2

The two days workshop of the project EU.COOL gives the opportunity to young people from Belgium, Italy, Romania and Greece to meet up in Athens on 17- 18 April 2018 and discuss about the European Union. Through interactive workshops, discussion panels and passionate exchange of experience on euroscepticism and the sense of European identity the participants learned and considered on what really means to leave and work in Europe.



The first day, participants shared their opinions and exchanged views about youth unemployment, educational and training issues, quality of products and ideas on how European Union may come closer to young citizens.

In parallel, participants had the opportunity to become creative and take part in an artistic workshop entitled “EU time”. The workshop theme was European Union, EU Values and institutions and it was organized by KLIMAX Plus a Social Cooperative in which KLIMAKA NGO is a key member. As a result, five wooden recycled wall-clocks were constructed as a creative means to think about Europe.



The second day, the findings of the EU.COOL project survey on European citizenship in Greece presented. The survey conducted in all participating countries at the same period (November 2017 – January 2018). Among the key findings was that as the results of the analysis demonstrate almost half of the respondents (53,7%) believes that European Union policies do not contribute to the reduction of unemployment in the European member states. By contrast, almost two out of three respondents (64,2%) stated that the EU promotes access to training and education for European citizens (Q2). With regard to the impact of EU policy on the quality of the products they daily consume, the majority of the respondents (69,9%) answered that EU policy influences the quality of the products. The majority of the respondents did not consider themselves well-informed about the actions of the EU. Regarding social benefits and access to healthcare across the EU 73,5% of the respondents said that we do not have the same access and social benefits (73,5%), 11% opined that we do (11%) while 15,4% answered that they did not know.



Citizens of the world as a first choice (best fit of how they feel) was selected by the majority of the respondents, citizens of Greece as best fit came second, European citizens third, while citizens of their region as best fit came fourth.



Based on the finding that, the majority of respondents considered themselves as citizens of the world, the participants played an interactive game. They picked among four different coloured papers the one which best fit their sense of citizenship and they put it on the map of Europe.



Then, Mr. Tommaso Grimaldi, the Project Manager of project presented the findings of the survey in Belgium and he announced the next two transnational meetings in Bucharest and Bologna, while he said that the final results will be announced at the final conference of the project in 2019.



Finally, Ms Olga Theodorikakou coordinated the final session of the workshop where the views and ideas of the first day grouped into thematic areas and the participants voted on them.

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