

Citizens Acting and Learning for Local Democracy in Europe

The role of CEE Citizens Network in the project

The Citizens Network will provide the leadership and management of the overall project. The Network currently has 21 member organizations from 9 eligible countries who are committed to be a part of this project. We will be joined by the European Community Development Network (formerly CEBSD) where up to seven member organizations will participate. The Citizens Network will prepare the general format of the event, lead the opening and closing meetings with partners, prepare printed materials for all participants and ensure that the financial matters are accounted for.

The interest in CPW is growing and the potential impact is quite significant. Over the previous five years we have managed to conduct the event on a nearly volunteer basis. But if we are to meet the expanding interest, it will require some core staff support, better documentation and internet usage and material distribution. These tasks will be taken on by Citizens Network.

The role of ECDN in the project

The role of ECDN will be as an active member of this project. They will participate in all three phases including a representative of the expert committee which will guide the study. They will attend the Citizen Participation University. They will also be active in CPW where they will help “open the door” towards the expansion of Citizens Participation Week ideas in the Western member countries as well take part in the preparatory meeting and evaluation meeting.

The project will be a concrete and important part of the development in the cooperation between ECDN and CEE CN.

Short about the project

This project proposes to expand and disseminate practical knowledge about local citizen participation in Central and Eastern Europe not least in comparison with Western Europe. Guided by civil society experts and activists, a mapping of local community participation will be conducted across post-communist countries as well as a few selected Western European countries. The mapping’s results will be publicized in print and online, and they will inform civic action in two areas:

- they will help to design innovative and effective forms of citizen involvement in local democracy
- they will be used for training and capacity building of citizens and community works in post-communist and Western countries

Central to the capacity building within this project will be a “Citizen Participation University” (CPU) in the summer of 2011; a four day event for up to 50 participants from the Citizens Network and the Combined European Bureau for Social Development. The education offered through lectures, workshops and exercises will be based on the results of the action mapping exercise. The University will focus on better informing participants about the current situation of local democracy and it will serve to jointly prepare training material for citizens and community workers. In so doing the University aims to:

- provide comprehensive and up-to-date information on local democracy and citizen participation as a critical area of democratic consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe and provide comparison with Western Europe
- create new tools for civil society public outreach, capacity-building and advocacy efforts to strengthen local democracy

The final activity will be Citizen Participation Week (CPW) which is held the last week of September. This event will be conducted in all participating countries and will involve over 30000 citizens across Europe. The event will allow member organizations to test ideas from the University, transferred to individual local contexts.

Why the project

After two decades of political reform in Central and Eastern Europe, post-communist states have made varying degrees of progress towards democracy. Almost all countries of the region feature the main institutions of democracy, such as parliamentary and presidential structures, elections and political parties, and courts. Many of them, especially the new member countries of the EU, have seen a considerable development of civil society and an empowerment of regional and local structures of government. Yet almost all countries of the region continue to suffer from considerable democratic deficits, as social practices and a culture of democracy remain weak.

This is particularly visible at the local level where citizen participation, community organizing and civic engagement with public affairs are very underdeveloped. This is significant because it is on the local level that citizens are most directly affected by political decision-making, and because it is in local communities that citizens have most space for direct and continuous democratic engagement with public affairs. The local level is also an important laboratory for new forms of citizen participation and democracy, as numerous examples, innovations and good practices demonstrate also in Central and Eastern Europe.

Western Europe is also suffering from a democratic deficit but for quite different reasons and different symptoms. We wish to identify the similarities and differences.

A better understanding of the scope, nature, motivations and conditions of citizen participation is needed. For this reason this project aims to develop a practical understanding of the scale and characteristics of citizen and community participation across Europe. This knowledge is to serve as a means for further training and support for citizens and civil society efforts as well as capacity building and advocacy to improve conditions for local democracy.

Aims and objectives

This project is part of a broader and long-term effort to strengthen local democracy and citizen participation through the creation of new knowledge, its application in civil society training and capacity-building with citizens, policymakers and other stakeholders on local, regional, national and international levels. A short term focus will be on the implementation of the recently approved document by the Council of Europe – The Code of Good Practice of Civil Participation in Local Decision Making.

The focus of the Citizens Network has been in building a “bottom up” capacity where citizens both get the experience and training to allow them to more effectively enter the public arena and to help citizens to fight for the space to be included and respected. Our partner CEBSD, shares these goals. Together we work to empower citizens to be able to:

- harness local creativity, energy and inspiration to improve the quality of life in their communities;
- utilize development practices that foster social justice and environmental sustainability;
- partner with local and national institutions on equal footing.

This project will conduct an action oriented study that will provide a practical analysis of local citizen participation in Central and Eastern Europe as well as Western Europe will be conducted that assesses the scale and characteristics of local citizen participation, identifies obstacles and opportunities, collects examples of good local practice, and provides recommendations for training and capacity-building and citizen action.

This will be joined with a summer 2011 Citizen Participation University for up to 50 participants across all of Europe to provide an initial training on the results of the study and to begin preparation of further training materials and a strategy for implementation of the Code. The final activity will be Citizen Participation Week where member organizations will prepare actions informed by the University.

Impact and sustainability

The short term target groups are the member organizations of both the Citizens Network and ECDN. These organizations are some of the most talented and active in the field of citizen participation and community development across the majority of European countries. One of the great strengths of these two combined groups is that they span both Western and Central and Eastern European countries. The Citizens Network currently has 21 member organizations from 9 EU eligible countries including Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Romania. Our partner ECDN has members from 7 EU countries including Spain, UK, Sweden, Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland plus Norway.

All member organizations work directly with large numbers of citizens at the local level in a variety of ways and either directly or indirectly with local governments. A number of the organizations work at the national level with governments. All members offer training to citizens and in some cases to local elected officials and governments.

Member organizations will be active in both phases of the project. Research will be carried out on all countries and field research in a few. All will be invited to attend and asked to contribute to the Citizen Participation University. All have promised to be active in Citizen Participation Week. They will also have access to all reports, blogspots, wiki sites, films and any other materials that are produced.

All members of the two partner organizations will be active and involved in the project. An “expert committee” will be established to help guide the project and representatives of both networks will designate representatives to serve on this committee. Each member will all assist in helping to provide data about conditions related to citizen participation in their countries. A few will be more extensively involved in actual field research later in the action study. All members will be informed about the results of the study.

In the second phase of the project, all members will be invited to attend the Citizen Participation University. This will provide them first hand information about the results of the study and all members will assist in the preparation of further training materials and other documents to emerge from the University. As part of the University, a web site, separate wiki site and blogspot will be developed and all members will be invited to participate and share their experience and thoughts as well.

All members of the Citizens Network will be active in Citizen Participation Week. It is now a requirement to be a member. All members are also invited to be active during the week and several have already started making plans to do so. It is anticipated that more than 30,000 citizens will be involved in some way during the week.

The long term target group is citizens of Europe. The goal of this activity is to provide the social and civic competencies that they can adapt to the changing society. Society has changed considerably in both Western and post-communist countries. Citizens from post-communist part are struggling. Many citizens, and often their communities, feel paralyzed by the unforeseen consequences of the economic and social transformation that has taken place over the past 20 years. They feel disconnected from power structures and decision making. Too often they see little hope for themselves. The conditions in Western Europe are quite different and require a different kind of intervention.

This is why it is critical to begin with the action study where there will be knowledge development followed by the capacity building activity of the Citizen Participation University. During the third phase of the project citizens will have a more direct chance to participate as Citizen Participation Week will foster learning opportunities based on participation in local community activities.

One overriding orientation of this project is to support the implementation of the Council of Europe's newly approved Code of Good Practice in Civil Participation in Decision Making. In so doing the project will strengthen cooperation between citizens, NGO's, civil society and decision-makers at the local, regional, national and European levels.

Variety of means will be used to reach the broader citizen population. The project is designed to begin this immediately with the third phase – Citizen Participation Week in which we anticipate engaging at least 30,000 citizens. The project will also include several tools which will also assist in reaching the broader citizen audience including a web site, blogspot and wiki page. It will be critical that some of these materials be translated in local languages in order to reach the broader audience.

Almost immediately following the Citizen Participation University, our Hungarian member will conduct their Summer University in which approximately 200 people will attend. The results of the Citizen Participation University will be shared with them as well.

It is the intent of the project that this have a long term dimension built in. One of the main goals of conducting the action study is to prepare a document that assesses the scale and characteristics of local participation, identifies obstacles and opportunities, collects examples of good local practice, and provides recommendations for citizen action, training and capacity-building and advocacy. There is a strong commitment to continue this work long after the project concludes. We will also continue expanding the connections with this work including work with groups like the Council of Europe to build the interest and involvement in Citizen Participation Week and work with them on European Local Democracy Week.

This project is fundamental to the on-going work of the two partner organizations. The three stages of the project were designed to first provide knowledge development; namely relevant and up-dated assessment of the situation related to active citizenship and participation. This will be used to provide tools to help improve conditions and provide improved adult education. This new knowledge will be converted into capacity building at the Citizen Participation University. Finally practical experience of this new knowledge and capacity are built in through the Citizen Participation Week.

Part of the intent of carrying out the action study is to create a base line that can be periodically updated to better assess what changes might be occurring and allow for improvements in the training and capacity building efforts that will continuously follow. The Citizen Participation University will become an annual event of the two partner organizations and will support the sustainability of the work undertaken in this project.

Citizen Participation Week has already become an established event with a five year history. The challenge is to support the growing interest in joining this event. The Citizens Network in continuously working to broaden the impact of the event.

Even more importantly, the results of the project will inform and influence the daily work of all the member organizations so the impact will continue to be experienced on a local and even national level.

Action specific information

The project is designed with the vision that people increasingly regard themselves as capable members of their community who, based on self-reflection, enter into dialogue with each other to both identify their needs and determine ways to address those needs through their own energies. Through this process they will realize they are not alone, they have much in common, and they have valuable resources. Instead of expecting and demanding help from outside, they will discover their capacity for positive change in all aspects of their lives. As a result they will begin to regard themselves as active citizens of their community who are both capable and willing to contribute to community initiatives and who regularly want to participate in deliberative processes to identify options and arrive at decisions about the future of their community.

Those NGO's helping to build this capacity need to better understand the current realities and find the best examples of how to provide these experiences to citizens. The issue of better engaging citizens in public life has been largely ignored in post-communist countries. Active citizenship has been a source of concern in Western Europe as well, for largely different reasons. It is critical that we better understand the current situation and work at developing new tools and strategies for addressing this. This is the reason for starting with an action study to better inform ourselves and then move to capacity building and then action with citizens.

Adults best learn about citizenship and participation through action and experience. This does not happen on its own. For if it did, there would not be a concern for a "democratic deficit" across Europe. This project brings together two different networks of organizations who have some of the broadest experience in this field and who are interested to work together and support each other in better learning how to better ensure that citizens are more effectively engaged.

Project implementation

Relevance:

The project is of considerable relevance to achieving LLP Priority 1 of Key competences; specifically helping learners to develop competences such as social, civic, cultural and intercultural competences in order to adapt to changing society. Society is indeed changing rapidly and those being left behind are citizens; particularly minority, emigrants and most from post-communist countries. Very limited attention has been paid to this subject and much more is needed. But it is critical that the effort start with knowledge development in the form of a practical analysis of local citizen participation in both Western and post-communist Europe. The study will identify obstacles and opportunities, collect examples of good local practice and provide recommendations for citizen action, capacity building and advocacy. The project is also relevant when considering LLP Priority 5 in promoting adult learning for marginalized and disadvantaged citizens and migrants. In particular, developing alternative learning approaches to integrate marginalized and disadvantaged citizens into society as well as fostering learning opportunities based on participation in local community activities. The

member organizations from 16 countries represented in the two networks are some of the most talented and dedicated NGOs who are dedicated to addressing these very issues. The design of the project approaches these tasks in a systematic manner by moving from knowledge development to capacity building and finally to exploiting this knowledge in a practical manner when thousands of citizens will participate in activities to practices and reflects on being active citizens.

Quality of the Work Programme

The work plan has been prepared based on the experience of talented practitioners who have recognized the need to prepare more effective tools to help move people to become more active citizens. The work has been going on for years but without establishing any effective base line or more deeply understanding and documenting what is actually occurring across Europe related to active citizenship and citizen participation. It is also important to capture some of the important efforts that are going on but not well reported and documented.

Conducting an action study was not the end result. The intent was to be able to utilize this information and effectively apply it to the work. The work plan was designed so that the study itself is designed to carry out the assessment but with good examples, tools and recommendations as a part of this. This is followed by capacity building in the form of a new event, the Citizen Participation University where the Citizens Network, with its partner ECDN will come together on an annual basis to more thoroughly and professionally understand and increase our ability to respond to the changes in society.

Equally if not more important is to move all this to action. This is where the real learning will take place. Citizen Participation Week provides the opportunity to actually implement and try out what is recommended in the action study and discussed at the Citizen Participation University. Thousands of citizens will have the chance to become more active and directly experience participation.

Innovative Character

The project is innovative in its movement from research to capacity-building and finally to action. It is designed to bring together the best of all three aspects and which will significantly enhance the learning and impact. The action study will provide a serious and much needed analysis of the conditions and provide a basis for the development of tools to address the current situation. It will be based on a combination of desk research and hands on field work. This will bring a more realistic perspective to the product.

Citizen Participation University is a new activity building on an annual training event hosted by the Citizens Network which now will add more depth and professionalism to the activity. It is designed to bring a larger group together as well as a broader mix of experience by including post-communist and Western Europe countries.

Possibly most important however is actually moving to action where the learning will really take hold. CP Week was launched over five years ago to help pro-actively promote citizen participation. There were always very limited resources to support the week but the growing interest requires more administrative support. It will touch thousands of citizens and create the environment to encourage even more to continue to join in the event.

The combination all the three approaches provides an innovative and effective approach that meets a significant need in Europe.

Quality of the Consortium

Another significant strength of this project is the quality of the consortium. This is most noticeable in the balance of Western and post-communist countries present. Both partners discovered each other approximately three years ago. Each recognized the value in extending

its operation to embrace the new Europe. ECDN has been a primarily Western European organization and the Citizens Network intentionally focused on post-communist countries. A common member, the Hungarian Association for Community Development helped to bring the two groups together and we have increasingly discovered the value of working together and the richness that our sharing has provided to our work. There is agreement for the time being that we will remain separate entities but work closely together and enhance each others work.

While the member organizations share a common value related to citizen participation, there are also many differences between us all. We have found that these differences have helped to enhance our work and have been able to learn a great deal from each other. There is a good balance of gender and age that also enhances the relationship.

European Added Value

Simply the joint membership of the two partners provides for an enhanced Europe. Together we connect 16 of the eligible countries for this project. This unites more than half of the member states.

In addition, the Citizens Network was admitted to the Council of Europe's Conference of International NGO's at the beginning of 2009. One of the primary tasks where the Network took considerable interest and was able to contribute was in the preparation of the Code of Good Practice of Civil Society in Local Decision Making. The Citizens Network was actively involved in the consultation sessions that were held in the preparation of the final document. Members of the Citizens Network agree that the new Code is of considerable value to their work and have agreed to assist in helping to implement it in the CEE region. Meanwhile the Council of Europe agreed that implementation of the Code was a very high priority over the coming two years.

Implementation of the Code overlaps directly in many ways with this project including the documentation of good examples. There is agreement that the promise to help with the implementation of the Code overlaps directly and will help inform this project.

Minimally the documented good examples will be added to the data base that is part of the implementation of the Code. We will share the results of the action study with the Council of Europe and invite them to attend the Citizen Participation University. We are optimistic that they will publicly support Citizen Participation Week and this has the potential to greatly enhance the impact of Citizen Participation Week and the results of the other two aspects of the project.

The Cost-Benefit Ratio

The cost of the project is quite minimal when considering the range of 16 countries participating and the number of overall participants which numbers over 30,000 during Citizen Participation Week. Three significantly different work packages will be delivered under this project and the costs have been kept to a minimum. There will be considerable value returned for the investment.

Impact

This project responds to a lack of systematic, encompassing and practical knowledge about local democracy and citizen participation in the countries of Western, Central and Eastern Europe. It proposes to

- generate comprehensive and up-to-date information on local democracy and citizen participation as a critical area of democratic consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe and provide analysis and comparison with Western Europe;
- conduct a capacity-building event for up to 50 people

- create new tools for civil society public outreach, capacity-building and advocacy efforts to strengthen local democracy;
- provide the basis for continuous monitoring of developments in local democracy.
- Carry out actions that will involve over 30,000 people in some form of citizen participation across Europe

In so doing, this project addresses a key arena of democratic development of post-communist societies and Western Europe. After all, the consolidation of new democracies occurs through citizen participation in the local context and on a day-to-day basis. Rather than assessing democracy through central institutions, as most available assessments of democratic developments in the region, this project focuses on its social underpinnings and local workings. The project is based on demand from CEECN and ECDN member organizations, receives their substantial input, involves them at various stages and will ultimately benefit them.

Quality of the Valorisation Plan (Dissemination and Exploitation of Results)

The design of the project includes considerable emphasis on dissemination of the results. The initial results from the study will be explored during Citizen Participation University when 50 people will come together to examine the study and also participate in the preparation of materials to multiply the training and action components.

One of the most extensive methods of disseminating results will be through Citizen Participation Week when information will be made available to thousands of people during a single weeklong event.

The results of the mapping will be presented primarily in a variety of forms. The main findings will be published as an English-language book. The contents of this print publication, along with additional resources, will also be available electronically through a dedicated web portal. These findings and resources will be put to the use of the CEECN and ECDN networks, whose members will further present the mapping and its findings in their respective communities. At the same time, presentations before regional and international audiences are foreseen.

The results of both the Citizen Participation University and Citizen Participation Week will be promoted through a variety of internet based tools including web site, blogs, wikis which will be updated regularly through the project. A short film will also be produced which will be available to be used to promote the activities accomplished under the project.

One additional task of the task force on local democracy that will be formed will be to help suggest ideas for a further dissemination plan.

Workplan in workpackages

Workpackage 1:

Citizen participation action study

Description of workpackage

In the first stage, this project foresees the design and implementation of a mapping-style research project. Guided by a taskforce of senior civil society experts and activists, a practical analysis of local citizen participation in Central and Eastern Europe will be conducted that assesses the scale and characteristics of local citizen participation in post-communist countries, identifies obstacles and opportunities, collects examples of good local practice, and provides recommendations for citizen action, training and capacity-building, and advocacy.

The taskforce on local democracy will be formed and meet at the beginning of the project to devise the framework and methodology of the mapping. The task force will consist of eight senior civil society experts, including scholars, civic activists, representatives of local communities, members of CEECN, and CEBSD.

Using the framework and guidelines provided by the task force, a research team will conduct the mapping along several stages. Desk research gathers background information, consults statistical data and library resources, and identifies local sources of information. Network research will invite CEECN and ECDN members to provide on-the-ground perspectives, experiences and examples of good practice, primarily through a questionnaire and online tools to facilitate data collection from inside the CEECN. The findings of desk and network will be corroborated by field research, conducted during six field visits to selected locations across the region and including consultative meetings held with civil society, activists, public officials and researchers to further corroborate results of desk and field research.

Deliverables – outputs / products / results

1. Action study - Written report with recommendations

The main findings will be published as an English-language book. These findings and resources will be put to the use of the CEECN and ECDN networks, whose members will further present the mapping and its findings in their respective communities.

2. Action study - web site - Electronic report with recommendations

The contents of this print publication, along with additional resources, will also be available electronically through a dedicated web portal.

Role and tasks in the workpackage

CEE CN:

Oversee the overall project. The Citizens Network will recruit and form the "taskforce on local democracy". Hire the subcontractor and assist in the work of conducting all the research. A draft of the initial report will be made by June in order to prepare the final plans for the Citizen Participation University and will be finalized by the beginning of September

Explanation of workpackage expenditures

The preparation of the action study is the major starting point for the entire project. Specific skills in conducting desk as well as field research will be required. It was determined that it was critical to the success of the study that it include field research in order to see real situations that could be considered and not rely only on statistical and narrative reports. The action study will inform the remainder of the project. The other significant cost will be the costs for the initial meeting of the expert committee that will meet in Berlin to help guide the overall project. There are limited staff costs for the Citizens Network to ensure that all is managed and accounted for.

Workpackage 2:

Citizen Participation University

Description of workpackage

The Citizen Participation University will be held the first week of July with lectures and workshops. We are expecting 50 participants to attend including 35 from EU countries and the remaining 15 from other CEE CN countries not part of the EU. The event will begin with

a meeting of the Task force on local democracy to review the draft report prepared by the research team.

The following four days will have a thematic focus that will lead the morning and afternoon lectures, as well as the following workshops.

There will be 3-4 workshops two times each day, the participants will be asked to choose and contribute one of them each time.

At the end of the working days, the conclusions will be reached together in plenary sessions. The organizers will collect the conclusions, as well as the important points for the evaluation and good ideas for future planning.

In the evenings and spare time music groups will arrive, the participants can watch movies, burn fires, cook together etc.

Deliverables – outputs / products / results

3. Citizen participation university - capacity building event

Description

The second work package is the Citizen Participation University that will bring together 50 people from across Europe that will focus on the capacity building of members of both CEE CN and CEBSD. The overall theme will be focused on the results of the action study and initial recommendations. Participants will also help to consider good practices and preparation of materials to better prepare people to become more active citizens. Plans will be formulated for Citizen Participation Week.

4. Citizen Participation web site - web activities to support the University

Description

A variety of web based deliverables will be produced including a web site, wiki as well as blog that will be available a month before the University and will be kept active throughout the university and following the event as well. Daily entries will be made on the blog and regular postings will be made on wiki. All documents related to both the action study and the university will be available on the web site.

5. Citizen Participation University film - brief film

Description

A brief 2 minute film will be prepared about the Citizen Participation University that will serve as a PR material for the action study and the future implementation of the capacity building suggestions and recommendations that will follow.

Role and tasks in the workpackage

CEE CN:

The Citizens Network will take the lead to prepare the Citizen Participation University, web related activities and film result from the event held at the Civil College in Hungary. This will require preparation of the agenda, lectures and workshops as well as the logistics for members of the task force on local democracy and the remaining 42 participants to arrive and actively participate.

CEBSD:

ECDN will assist the Citizens Network in the preparations for the event. They will contact their member organizations to promote attendance and help in the preparation of the agenda, lectures and workshops. They will also contribute to the web related items and the film.

Explanation of workpackage expenditures

This work package will require support for 35 people to attend the Citizen Participation University. The event will be held at the Civil College in Hungary. The first day of the five will be a meeting of the 8 member expert committee followed by a four day session for up to 50 people from across Europe. The item includes travel and subsistence costs for all the 35 EU participants. The facility is very reasonably priced. There will be a need to cover additional costs for materials and other printed and electronic items for participants.

Workpackage 3: Citizen Participation Week

Description of workpackage:

Citizen Participation Week was launched over five years ago by the Citizens Network as an activity whose aim was to publicly promote the active involvement of citizens across Central and Eastern Europe. It provides a real “bottom up” activity in the region. The event has become the primary activity of the Network. There is now a condition for membership in the Network that members will be active during that week. We have managed to conduct the event on a nearly entirely volunteer basis. Member organizations have attempted to raise funding in their countries for local events.

There has been a growing interest from Western European countries to be a part of CP Week. This has been good news but created new challenges to provide support to make it work. The Citizens Network, in partnership with our partner CEBSD, will conduct CP Week which will focus on the implementing ideas and suggestions resulting from the action study and the Citizen Participation Week. Hundreds of local activities will be carried out involving more than 30,000 people. This will require increased coordination and support to allow the event to spread to additional locations and reach more people in more countries.

Deliverables – outputs / products / results

6. Citizen Participation Week - week long event involving more than 30,000 citizen

Description

Citizen Participation Week will be the large public event that will reach thousands of people across Europe and will serve to disseminate the learning from the first two stages of the project. The intent is to continue to broaden the number of events and participants in order to increase the impact of the event.

7. Citizen Participation Week web site - web related activities to CPW

Description

Similar to items in the university, there will also be a web site, blog and wiki to support CP Week itself. This will be a critical item to support all those interested in joining the event. Basic materials in multiple languages will be available on this site and suggestions about how organizations and individuals can be active during the week. It will then actively promote activities carried out during the week.

Role and tasks in the workpackage

CEE CN:

Overall responsibility for planning and carrying out Citizen Participation Week. Considerable work will be required to support other interested organizations. New symbols and multiple

language promotional materials will be required. It will be essential to coordinate activities with the results of the action study and the learning from the Citizen Participation University.

ECDN:

ECDN will help promote active participation among their members and contribute to the web site as well. Numerous activities will be carried out involving hundreds of citizens in their member countries.

Explanation of workpackage expenditures

This item is one of the critical tasks and will provide the major public exploitation of the whole project. It is anticipated that more than 30,000 citizens will be active during this week. The costs include staff to help in the preparation of the event and significant amount of materials, posters and costs for local activities including items such as rental of space and refreshments

Workpackage 4:

Monitoring and evaluation

Deliverables – outputs / products / results

8. Monitoring and evaluation report - Written Report

Description

Throughout the project cycle, CEECN ensures monitoring and conducts periodical evaluations of individual project stages. Monitoring includes regular project briefs after working meetings, field trips, completion of the mapping, and citizen actions, training and advocacy events. The final evaluation will involve all relevant stakeholders and result in a concise but in-depth presentation of the achievements of the project in relation to its objectives and aspects, which could be improved in future.

Role and tasks in the workpackage

CEE CN:

Selecting someone to conduct the monitoring and evaluation and supporting their efforts throughout the project.

ECDN:

This task will be shared with ECDN.

Explanation of workpackage expenditures

A reasonable cost for carrying out the monitoring and evaluation task was included to ensure that a quality report will be prepared.

Workpackage 5:

Testing the product

Description of workpackage

There will be two phases of product development. The first will take place following the draft action report. Members of the task force on local democracy will review the document and

offer comments and suggestions when they meet a day prior to the Citizen Participation University. Participants of the University will also have the opportunity to offer their comments and suggestions.

The second phase will be following the Citizen Participation Week when an assessment will be carried out of the actual local results of actions taken and how they relate to the recommendations and initial products proposed in the study and modified in the Citizen Participation University. This will be the place where the more theoretical part will be actually tried in practice and a critical time to consider what worked and what did not.

Deliverables – outputs / products / results

9. Testing the product - Written report

Description

This will be the testing aspect of the overall project in which the three different activities; action study, dissemination - Citizen Participation University and exploitation - Citizen Participation Week will be reviewed to see what was learned and experienced. A written report will then be added to the project which will make concluding comments on the project.

Role and tasks in the workpackage

CEE CN:

Ensure that the development phase is carried out and documented in a final report to add to the project. This will then be distributed to all members of both partners.

ECDN:

To support the developmental phase and make contributions to the documented learning.

Explanation of workpackage expenditures

This item required limited but critical costs to ensure that a quality development task is carried out.