

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Civil Society Solidarity Movement II - CISOMO II
Participant:	INSTITOYTO KOINONIKIS KAINOTOMIAS KAI SYNOXIS
PIC number:	928680717

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number :	11		
Event name:	Citizens United Collaborative Living Lab for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Resilience		
Type:	Workshop		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Thessaloniki, Greece		
Date(s):	26.04. 2026 - 28.04.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cisomo.eu/thematic-events		
Participants			
Female:	33		
Male:	20		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [Greece]:	30		
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	3		
From country 3 [Poland]:	7		
From country 4 [Slovenia]:	3		
From country 5 [Sweden]:	3		
From country 6 [Denmark]:	3		
From country 7 [Germany]:	2		
From country 8 [Romania]:	4		
Total number of participants:	55	From total number of countries:	8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The 11th event of the CISOMO II project took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, under the framework of the Citizens United Collaborative Living Lab for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Resilience. The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including citizens of all ages, policymakers, civil society representatives, migrants and refugees, youth groups, volunteers, and media actors, creating a vibrant and inclusive environment for dialogue and collaboration.

Designed as a participatory living lab, the event focused on strengthening active citizenship, fostering social inclusion, and enhancing community resilience across European contexts. It provided a dynamic space where participants could exchange experiences, share knowledge, and co-develop ideas addressing common social challenges related to integration, democratic participation, and community well-being.

Throughout the programme, emphasis was placed on empowering individuals with practical skills and knowledge to engage more actively in their communities, while also encouraging cooperation between different stakeholders. The event promoted a bottom-up approach, highlighting the importance of citizen-driven initiatives and grassroots participation in shaping inclusive and resilient societies.

A central theme running throughout the event was solidarity, which was placed at the core of discussions and exchanges. Participants reflected on how solidarity can be translated into practical actions within communities, especially in times of social and economic uncertainty. An academic expert delivered a keynote speech highlighting the evolving role of solidarity networks in Europe, emphasizing their importance in fostering inclusion, supporting vulnerable groups, and strengthening democratic values. The intervention sparked meaningful dialogue among participants, reinforcing the idea that solidarity is not only a value but also a necessary practice for resilient societies.

Particular attention was given to the role of mutual support, especially in the context of ongoing social, economic, and migratory challenges. Participants explored ways to strengthen community networks, improve access to resources, and promote a sense of belonging among diverse population groups. The Living Lab format enabled real-time interaction and co-creation, allowing participants to collectively reflect on local realities and identify adaptable solutions.

In parallel, the event contributed to the development of a broader European perspective on solidarity, participation, and resilience, supporting the creation of a shared framework for future action. By bringing together multiple voices and experiences, the initiative reinforced the importance of collaboration, inclusivity, and civic engagement as key drivers for sustainable community development across the European Union.

The event concluded with an exchange of insights and reflections, strengthening connections among participants and laying the groundwork for continued cooperation and knowledge sharing beyond the project activities.

Living Lab's Agenda

Date: 27 April 2026

Venue: 1st Floor, 51 Proxenou Koromila Str., 54623, Thessaloniki, Greece

10:00 – 10:30

Welcome & Registration

Participant registration

10:30 – 11:00

Opening Session & Event Introduction

- Introduction to the Citizens United Living Lab concept
- Explanation of the 3 Pillars: Integration & Empowerment, Civic Engagement & Advocacy, Solidarity & Resilience

11:00 – 12:00

Thematic Session 1: Understanding Solidarity in Local

Communities

- What solidarity means across European contexts
- Migration realities & social inclusion challenges
- Barriers to participation

12:00 – 12:30

Coffee Break

12:30 – 13:30

Thematic Session 2: Navigating Inclusion in Everyday Life

- Exploration of how inclusion and exclusion are experienced in daily interactions, services, and community life
- Focus on real situations, not just opinions: Access to opportunities (education, work, services), Social belonging and identity, Participation in community decision-making

13:30 – 15:30

Lunch Break

15:30 – 16:00

Living Lab Workshop 1: Mapping Community Challenges

(Pillar 1: Integration & Empowerment)

- Group work
- Identification of: Local barriers, Needs, Opportunities

16:00 – 17:00

Facilitated Dialogue: Building Empathy & Shared Understanding

- Intercultural dialogue exercises
- Stereotype reflection
- Perspective-taking

17:00 – 17:30

Inspirational Talk: “Empowerment Through Inclusion: From Access to Action”

- How inclusive access to education, employment, and digital tools directly increases civic participation
- The role of digital inclusion in enabling: access to information, use of public services, participation in democratic processes

19:30

Social Dinner

Date: 28 April 2026

10:00-12:00

Living Lab Workshop 2: Civic Engagement & Advocacy Lab**(Pillar 2: Civic Engagement & Advocacy)**

- Identify key community priorities
- Develop: Advocacy messages, Civic demands

12:00-12:30

Evaluation and Closing Ceremony

12:30-14:00

Lunch

Departure of participants**Conclusions**

In conclusion, the event demonstrated the added value of participatory, citizen-driven approaches in fostering inclusive dialogue and collective problem-solving. Discussions highlighted that solidarity-based practices, when combined with active civic engagement and cross-sector collaboration, can significantly enhance community resilience and social cohesion. Participants emphasized the need for sustained support structures, capacity-building initiatives, and accessible platforms that enable continuous participation beyond project activities. Overall, the outcomes underline that empowering citizens and strengthening grassroots networks are key factors in promoting adaptable, inclusive, and resilient communities across the European Union.

Dissemination Activities

For dissemination purposes, the 11th CISOMO II event in Thessaloniki was actively promoted through a range of communication channels to ensure strong visibility and outreach. A dedicated event banner was designed and displayed, reinforcing the identity of the Citizens United Collaborative Living Lab and increasing recognition among participants and stakeholders. The project coordinator, Fifty-Fifty, together with partners, shared targeted posts on their official social media accounts, including Facebook and Instagram, presenting highlights, key messages, and moments from the event.

<https://www.facebook.com/100064552277992/posts/1431473752347687/?app=fbl>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DXpBW95DOZA/?igsh=MXQ0MHlyZG93N2ZjeQ==>

Additionally, the event was featured on the organization's official website, where content and visual material were made available to a wider audience. These dissemination actions contributed to amplifying the reach of the event, strengthening public awareness, and supporting the broader communication goals of the CISOMO II project at both national and European levels.

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