

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 :	12		
Event name:	Closing Citizens' Festival: Uniting Citizens on Solidarity for Engagement, Participation and strong European Identity		
Type:	Workshop		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Thessaloniki, Greece		
Date(s):	16.05. 2026 - 17.05.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cisomo.eu/thematic-events		
Participants			
Female:	144		
Male:	35		
Non-binary:	5		
From country 1 [Greece]:	139		
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	7		
From country 3 [Poland]:	12		
From country 4 [Slovenia]:	7		
From country 5 [Sweden]:	5		
From country 6 [Denmark]:	2		
From country 7 [Germany]:	5		
From country 8 [Romania]:	7		
Total number of participants:	184	From total number of countries:	8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The 12th event of the CISOMO II project took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, under the framework of the Closing Citizens' Festival: *"Uniting Citizens on Solidarity for Engagement, Participation and Strong European Identity."* The event was organised by the Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute – Fifty-Fifty and marked the concluding stage of the project's journey, bringing together citizens, migrants and refugees, youth representatives, civil society organisations, volunteers, local authorities, academics, and grassroots actors in a collaborative and inclusive environment.

Designed as an interactive citizens' festival and participatory living lab, the event focused on strengthening European identity through solidarity, civic engagement, and democratic participation. Participants had the opportunity to reflect on the achievements and outcomes of the CISOMO II project while exchanging experiences and perspectives on the future of social cohesion, inclusion, and active citizenship across Europe. The initiative created a dynamic space for dialogue, cooperation, and mutual learning among stakeholders from different social and cultural backgrounds.

Throughout the programme, particular emphasis was placed on the importance of solidarity as a shared European value and as a practical mechanism for strengthening resilient communities. Through keynote speeches, storytelling sessions, panel discussions, and interactive exchanges, participants explored how solidarity can foster inclusion, encourage democratic participation, and support vulnerable populations in times of social and economic uncertainty. The event promoted a bottom-up approach, highlighting the role of citizens and local communities in shaping inclusive societies and sustainable civic initiatives.

A central theme running throughout the event was the concept of European identity and its connection to solidarity and participation. During the keynote speech *"European Identity in Action: Solidarity as Our Common Language,"* participants reflected on shared European values, inclusion, and intercultural understanding. Discussions emphasized that solidarity represents not only a moral principle but also a practical foundation for democratic coexistence, social cohesion, and community resilience within the European Union.

Special attention was also given to the evolving nature of civic engagement in the digital era. Experts and participants explored both the opportunities and risks associated with digital participation, including social media activism, misinformation challenges, and the role of digital tools in democratic engagement. These discussions encouraged participants to critically reflect on how technology can strengthen participation while safeguarding democratic values and social trust.

The event further highlighted the importance of personal experiences and grassroots voices through the session *"My Europe, My Story,"* where migrants, volunteers, and citizens shared real-life experiences related to solidarity, inclusion, and belonging. This participatory exchange created an emotional and reflective atmosphere, reinforcing empathy, intercultural dialogue, and mutual understanding among participants. In parallel, panel discussions on solidarity in action addressed topics such as refugee support, crisis response, and community resilience, showcasing examples of local initiatives with broader European significance.

In addition, the Closing Citizens' Festival contributed to the consolidation of the broader objectives of the CISOMO II initiative, namely fostering solidarity networks, civic engagement, and community resilience across Europe through thematic living labs and collaborative approaches. The event reinforced the project's commitment to promoting European fundamental values, democratic participation, and inclusive dialogue among citizens and communities.

The event concluded with a collective reflection on the lessons learned from CISOMO II and the future of European solidarity initiatives. Participants exchanged insights, strengthened transnational connections, and explored opportunities for continued cooperation beyond the project's duration. The closing ceremony highlighted the importance of maintaining active citizen participation, cross-sector collaboration, and solidarity-driven actions as key pillars for a stronger, more inclusive, and resilient Europe.

Living Lab's Agenda

Date: 16 April 2026

Venue: 4th Floor, 51 Proxenou Koromila Str., 54623, Thessaloniki, Greece

10:00 – 10:30

Welcome & Registration

Participant registration

10:30 – 11:00

Opening Session & Event Introduction

Delivered by: Fifty-Fifty Project Officers

Welcome by the Project Coordination Team, Presentation of
CISOMO II journey & achievements

11:00 – 12:00

CISOMO II Exhibition & Living Labs Showcase

- Presentation of project results
- Demonstration of tools, methodologies, and outputs
- Interactive displays

12:00 – 12:30

Coffee Break

12:30 – 13:00

Keynote Speech: “European Identity in Action: Solidarity as Our Common Language”

Focus:

- Identity
- Inclusion
- Shared European values

13:00 – 13:30

Keynote Speech: “Civic Engagement in the Digital Era: Opportunities and Risks”

Focus:

- Social media activism
- Misinformation challenges
- Digital participation tools

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:00

Citizen Storytelling Session: “My Europe, My Story”

- Migrants, volunteers, and citizens share real-life experiences
- Moderated emotional storytelling circle

15:00 – 16:00

Panel Discussion: “Solidarity in Action: From Local Impact to European Change”

Panelists: Local Authorities & CSO Representatives and Grassroots Activists

Focus:

- Refugee support
- Crisis response
- Community resilience
- Perspective-taking

19:30

Social Dinner

Date: 17 May 2026

10:00-11:00

Discussion: “Building a Strong European Identity: Challenges & Opportunities”

- Civil society representatives
- Migration experts
- Youth leaders
- Interactive Q&A

11:00-11:30

What we learned from CISOMO II: Insights for Future European Solidarity Actions

11:30 – 12:30

Evaluation and Closing Ceremony

12:30-14:00

Lunch

Departure of participants

Conclusions

In conclusion, the 12th CISOMO II event marked an important moment of reflection on the project’s long journey of promoting solidarity, civic participation, and inclusion across Europe. Bringing together citizens, migrants, youth representatives, civil society actors, and local stakeholders once again demonstrated the value of dialogue, cooperation, and shared European values in addressing common social challenges.

The event highlighted how inclusive and participatory approaches can strengthen community bonds, encourage mutual understanding, and create spaces where every voice can contribute to shaping more resilient societies. As the CISOMO II journey comes to a close, the festival reinforced the importance of continuing to support grassroots initiatives, active citizenship, and solidarity-driven actions that foster a more connected, inclusive, and democratic European community.

Dissemination Activities

For dissemination purposes, the 12th CISOMO II event in Thessaloniki was actively promoted through a variety of communication and visibility actions aimed at ensuring broad outreach and engagement. A dedicated visual identity and event banner were designed and displayed throughout the festival, reinforcing the recognition of the CISOMO II project and its core values of solidarity, participation, and inclusion.

The project coordinator, Fifty-Fifty, together with project partners, shared targeted posts and promotional material through their official social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram, highlighting key

moments, discussions, and outcomes of the event. Dissemination activities also focused on presenting the achievements of the CISOMO II journey, encouraging interaction among participants, and raising awareness about the importance of active citizenship, European solidarity, and community resilience. Through these combined efforts, the event achieved strong visibility and further strengthened the project's outreach among local communities and wider European audiences.

<https://www.facebook.com/FiftyFifty.gr/posts/cisomo-ii-thessaloniki-greecethe-closing-citizens-festival-on-the-16th-of-may-un/1453000836861645/>

https://www.instagram.com/p/DYosNuQjJb1/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

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).