

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Civil Society Solidarity Movement II – CISOMO II
Participant:	GMINA ANDRESPOL
PIC number:	885806426

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number :	10		
Event name:	Solidarity Nexus Living Lab for Generating Resilient and Inclusive Communities		
Type:	meeting		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Andrespol, Poland		
Date(s):	March 22-25, 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cisomo.eu/thematic-events		
Participants			
Female:	36		
Male:	23		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Greece]:	10		
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	4		
From country 3 [Poland]:	29		
From country 4 [Slovenia]:	5		
From country 5 [Sweden]:	2		
From country 6 [Denmark]:	2		
From country 7 [Ukraine]:	2		
From country 8 [Romania]:	5		
Total number of participants:	59	From total number of countries:	8
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The international event “Solidarity Nexus Living Lab for Generating Resilient and Inclusive Communities” was organised in the Municipality of Andrespol, Poland, between 22 and 25 March 2026, within the framework of the Civil Society Solidarity Movement II project, implemented under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme. The meeting brought together representatives of partner organisations from several European countries, including Greece, Bulgaria, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Romania and Slovenia, together with Polish local authorities, schools, non-governmental organisations, experts, teachers and students. The event was designed as a practical, multi-stakeholder learning and cooperation activity focused on solidarity, social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, civic participation and the development of resilient local communities.

The event was hosted by the Andrespol Commune, a local government unit located in the Łódzkie Region, near the city of Łódź. Andrespol forms part of the Łódź Metropolitan Area and has an active profile in education, community development, regional cooperation and international partnerships. The commune's involvement was particularly relevant because the programme combined local government experience, school-based activities, civil society participation and international exchange. The event was not limited to formal presentations; it was structured as a living lab, meaning that participants were expected to observe local practices, exchange experiences, test ideas, discuss solutions and co-create practical approaches to strengthening solidarity networks.

Overall purpose and thematic focus

The main purpose of the event was to create a space for dialogue and cooperation between local communities and international partners in order to strengthen solidarity, inclusion and mutual support. The activities focused on the practical question of how residents, social organisations, schools and local authorities can work together to build support networks that are resilient, inclusive and capable of responding to social challenges. A strong emphasis was placed on the use of digital tools, including the idea of a digital platform that could facilitate cooperation, communication and the exchange of good practices between stakeholders.

The event addressed several interconnected themes: solidarity between residents and institutions, social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, acceptance of diversity, youth engagement, well-being, digital resilience and cooperation between local government and civil society. The programme also paid attention to the educational dimension of integration and community building, especially through direct work with pupils and students in local schools.

Day 1 – Sunday, 22 March 2026: Arrival and informal integration

The first day was dedicated to the arrival of participants according to their individual travel schedules. International guests were accommodated at Azymut Hotel & Restaurant in Andrespol, which served as the main accommodation venue. The hotel offered practical facilities for an international group, including rooms for participants, restaurant services, Wi-Fi access, parking and accessibility features.

In the evening, participants took part in an informal dinner at the hotel restaurant. This first gathering had an important networking function. Although not designed as a formal session, it allowed participants to meet one another, establish initial contacts and prepare for the intensive programme planned for the following days. Such informal moments are often underestimated in project management, yet they are essential for building trust. In European cooperation, the first coffee and the first dinner often do more for partnership chemistry than ten official emails written in impeccable bureaucratic English.

Day 2 – Monday, 23 March 2026: School-based dialogue, round table, student activities and local engagement

The second day began with activities at LO Wiśniowa Góra, where participants engaged with students and teachers. From 9:00 to 12:00, the programme included lectures and classes with students, followed by lunch in the school cafeteria between 12:00 and 13:00. This school-based format was important because it placed young people at the centre of the discussion on solidarity and community resilience.

The morning session was divided into two main modules.

The first module was a Round Table Discussion involving representatives from Greece, Bulgaria and Denmark, together with Polish experts. The central theme of the debate was: “Facilitate the creation of related support networks between residents, social organisations and local authorities to promote solidarity and mutual support in the form of Digital Platform.” The discussion focused on how local actors can cooperate more effectively and how digital tools may support solidarity-based action. Participants exchanged experiences from their respective countries and reflected on the institutional, social and technological conditions necessary to create functional networks of mutual support.

The debate addressed the relationship between residents, NGOs and public authorities. Participants discussed the role of local governments as coordinators and facilitators, the importance of civil society organisations as intermediaries between institutions and communities, and the need to involve residents not merely as beneficiaries but as active co-creators of local solutions. The digital platform was

discussed not as an isolated technical product, but as a practical instrument for communication, resource mapping, exchange of needs, mobilisation of volunteers and visibility of local initiatives. In this sense, the debate moved from general declarations of solidarity to concrete mechanisms of coordination.

The second module consisted of student-led working tasks. These activities were centred on the exchange of experiences between Ukrainian and Polish pupils. Students were not treated as passive listeners; instead, they actively contributed to the working process by sharing personal insights and discussing challenges and successes related to integration and mutual support within the school community. The international partners were involved in these activities, which created a direct bridge between local youth experience and wider European perspectives. This format helped to translate abstract concepts such as inclusion, diversity and resilience into concrete human stories and everyday educational practice.

In the afternoon, between 13:00 and 16:25, the programme continued with rotating activities. Due to the capacity of the school's modern virtual shooting range, participants were divided into two groups. Group 1 included participants from Greece, Bulgaria, Denmark and Sweden, while Group 2 included participants from Germany, Romania and Slovenia.

One part of the afternoon was dedicated to a visit to the virtual shooting range at the high school. This activity gave participants an opportunity to observe a modern educational and training facility operating in a safe and controlled environment. The shooting range was not merely a technical attraction; it also created an opportunity to discuss safety education, responsible use of technology and the role of schools in developing discipline, concentration and civic responsibility.

At the same time, the other group participated in guest English classes with local students. These classes focused on "Inspiring participants to develop and implement initiatives that promote social cohesion and well-being." Each country representative was invited to prepare a short presentation introducing their country, region, community, organisation and practical experiences in implementing initiatives that support social cohesion and well-being. This activity encouraged comparative learning and gave students direct access to examples of civic and social initiatives from different European contexts.

The afternoon programme continued with sightseeing in Andrespol between 16:30 and 18:00. This local visit helped international participants understand the territorial and community context of the host municipality. Andrespol was presented not simply as a logistical venue, but as a living local environment in which education, local government, community engagement and international cooperation intersect. The visit also allowed participants to observe the scale and character of a Polish suburban municipality located within the wider functional area of Łódź.

The day concluded with a gala dinner at Zebra Restaurant at 18:30. The dinner served both ceremonial and networking purposes. It strengthened relations between the partner organisations and the host community and provided space for informal continuation of the day's discussions.

Day 3 – Tuesday, 24 March 2026: Living Lab school visits, official meeting and study visits in Łódź

The third day was the most diverse and institutionally rich part of the programme. It combined school visits, an official meeting at the commune office and study visits to important cultural and historical institutions in Łódź.

The morning began with meetings in two primary schools. From 8:55 to 9:40, one group visited the Primary School in Justynów, while from 10:05 to 10:50, another session took place at the Primary School in Bedoń. These meetings were designed as living lab activities with children and school communities. Project partners presented the achievements of the project and discussed the value of cooperation, solidarity and intercultural understanding.

The thematic focus of the school visits included promoting intercultural dialogue and acceptance of diversity in Andrespol and building resilience in the digital age. Participants addressed the importance of openness, mutual respect and conscious use of technology. The sessions also contributed to collecting information for a broader database of local resources. This aspect is important because it linked educational activities with practical project outputs: the living lab was not only a place for discussion, but also a mechanism for identifying resources, needs and possible forms of cooperation.

The programme divided country presentations between schools. Representatives from Greece, Bulgaria, Denmark and Sweden presented at the Primary School in Bedoń, while representatives from Germany, Romania and Slovenia presented at the Primary School in Justynów. Since the sessions involved children and were conducted with consecutive translation into Polish, speakers were asked to prepare concise, dynamic and accessible presentations. This requirement was methodologically sound: when speaking to children through translation, one cannot hide behind long institutional vocabulary. The message must be clear, concrete and human.

After the school visits, participants attended an official meeting at the Andrespol Commune Office from 11:00 to 12:00. The meeting involved the Mayor, directors of local schools and municipal institutions, as

well as representatives of non-governmental organisations. This was a key governance-oriented part of the event. The discussion focused on strategic cooperation between local authorities, educational institutions and civil society within the CISOMO II framework. Participants examined how local project implementation can be strengthened through multi-sectoral partnerships and how support networks can be developed in practice.

The official meeting also provided an opportunity to debate the institutional foundations of community solidarity. Local authorities presented the role of the commune in supporting education, social initiatives and international cooperation. School directors and NGO representatives contributed perspectives from everyday practice. The debate highlighted that resilient communities do not emerge spontaneously; they require coordination, trust, leadership, resources and communication channels. The meeting therefore connected the civic and educational aspects of the project with the formal responsibilities of local governance.

After lunch, the programme moved to Łódź, where participants visited two major cultural institutions.

The first visit, from 14:00 to 15:00, was to the Marek Edelman Dialogue Center, located in the symbolic Survivors' Park. This institution is dedicated to the multicultural heritage of Łódź, including Polish, Jewish, German and Russian traditions. The visit was directly relevant to the project's themes of dialogue, inclusion and social memory. Participants explored how historical experience can inform contemporary efforts to build solidarity and intercultural understanding. The Dialogue Center provided a powerful setting for reflection on coexistence, diversity, social responsibility and the consequences of exclusion.

The visit also connected to the idea of Solidarity Network Prototyping. Participants considered how innovative models of solidarity networks can be developed, tested and adapted to local conditions. The institution's mission and location helped participants understand that solidarity is not only a project slogan; it is rooted in memory, civic responsibility and the difficult lessons of European history.

From 15:00 to 17:00, participants visited the Museum of the City of Łódź, located in the Izrael Poznański Palace. The museum is one of the most important heritage sites in Łódź and represents the city's transformation from a small settlement into a major textile metropolis. This visit broadened the event's perspective by linking social resilience with urban history, economic transformation and cultural identity.

The museum visit allowed participants to reflect on transformation, adaptation and resilience in a historical urban context. Łódź is a city shaped by industrialisation, migration, entrepreneurship, multicultural coexistence and social change. In the context of the project, the visit introduced the idea of Resilience Metrics and Assessment, understood as a way to monitor progress, identify challenges and improve strategies over time. The historical development of Łódź provided a concrete example of how communities and cities evolve under pressure and how social and economic transformation can create both opportunities and tensions.

The day concluded with dinner at Zebra Restaurant at 20:00. This final evening meeting provided space for summary conversations, partner networking and reflection on the lessons learned during the event.

Day 4 – Wednesday, 25 March 2026: Departure

The final day was dedicated to the departure of participants according to their individual travel arrangements. Although no formal sessions were planned, the day marked the closure of an intensive programme combining education, local governance, cultural learning, international exchange and practical community engagement.

Visited places and their significance

The event included several important locations, each contributing to the overall learning process.

LO Wiśniowa Góra served as the main educational venue for the second day. It hosted lectures, student-led working tasks, guest English classes and the virtual shooting range experience. The school was a practical environment for dialogue between international partners and local youth.

Primary School in Justynów and Primary School in Bedoń provided direct access to younger pupils and local educational communities. The visits strengthened the project's focus on intercultural dialogue, diversity, digital resilience and youth awareness.

The Andrespol Commune Office was the institutional centre of the event. The meeting held there connected the project with local governance and enabled direct discussion with decision-makers, school directors and NGO representatives.

The Marek Edelman Dialogue Center in Łódź added a historical, cultural and ethical dimension to the programme. It helped participants reflect on multicultural heritage, dialogue and the foundations of solidarity.

The Museum of the City of Łódź provided a broader perspective on urban transformation, industrial history and resilience. Its setting in the Izrael Poznański Palace symbolised the economic and social complexity of Łódź's development.

Finally, Azymut Hotel & Restaurant and Zebra Restaurant supported the logistical and social side of the event by providing accommodation, meals and informal networking spaces.

Main debates and learning outcomes

The event included several explicit and implicit debates. The most important formal debate was the round table on creating support networks between residents, social organisations and local authorities through a digital platform. This discussion raised questions about the division of responsibilities between public institutions and civil society, the role of digital tools in solidarity-building, and the practical conditions necessary to sustain cooperation after the end of a project.

A second major debate concerned the role of schools in building inclusive and resilient communities. Through meetings with students and children, the event showed that schools are not only educational institutions but also civic spaces where integration, mutual respect and social awareness are shaped.

A third debate concerned the relationship between local identity and European cooperation. Andrespol and Łódź were presented as local contexts with their own histories and institutional capacities, but also as places connected to broader European challenges: social cohesion, diversity, digital transformation and community resilience.

The activities generated several important outcomes. Participants strengthened international cooperation, exchanged practical examples of solidarity initiatives, engaged with local students and children, discussed the potential of digital support platforms, and explored local governance mechanisms in Andrespol. The study visits in Łódź helped place the project themes within a wider historical and cultural framework.

Overall, the event successfully combined formal institutional dialogue, school-based learning, youth participation, cultural visits and informal networking. Its value lay precisely in this combination. It did not reduce solidarity to a conference slogan, but treated it as something that must be practised in classrooms, commune offices, community organisations, public debates and shared local spaces.

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