

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).*

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Ed.U.Co. – Educational Urban Community: A European Environmental Network for Youth Empowerment and Community-Building
Participant:	ANAPTYXIAKI ETAIREIA DIMOU TRIKKAION ANAPTYXIAKI ANONYMI ETAIREIA OTA (Greece)
PIC number:	991940043

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	3
Event name:	“CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND OPEN SPACES FOR A GREENER FUTURE”
Type:	Multi-day conference including workshops, debate, and community engagement activities
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>
Location:	Trikala, Greece
Date(s):	1 - 4 October 2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.e-trikala.gr/news/3-sinantisi-educo-trikala https://gisemi.gr/educu-trikala https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M1XtKMHCMWGi8ZQW/hcf4czCHY6tHMOi/view?usp=drive_link
Participants	
Female:	27
Male:	24

Non-binary:	0	
From Italy:	3	
From Romania:	3	
From Greece:	29	
From Hungary	3	
From Slovenia	2	
From Spain	3	
From Cyprus	3	
From Latvia	3	
From Slovenia	2	
Total number of participants:	51	From total number of countries: 8
Description		
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>		
<p>“Connecting Communities and Open Spaces for a Greener Future” Trikala, Greece – 2nd and 3rd October 2024</p> <p>The third meeting of the Ed.U.Co (Educational Urban Community: A European Environmental Network for Youth Empowerment and Community-Building) project was held in Trikala, Greece, with the theme “Connecting Communities and Open Spaces for a Greener Future.” This event brought together representatives from eight European cities: Finestrat (Spain), Trikala (Greece), Kočevje (Slovenia), Braşov (Romania), Kekava (Latvia), Újbuda (Hungary), and Athineou (Cyprus).</p> <p>The Ed.U.Co project unites these cities to share experiences and approaches related to civic engagement, equality, rights, and values. The goal is to empower youth, promote community-building, and develop sustainable, environmentally conscious solutions for urban spaces. Through collaboration, the project fosters a European network aimed at addressing environmental challenges and enhancing urban resilience through open spaces.</p> <p>Day 1 – Wednesday, 2nd October 2024</p> <p>The first day of the meeting provided participants with an understanding of Trikala’s ongoing sustainability projects and engaged them in collaborative activities focused on youth empowerment and environmental education.</p> <p>Morning Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Point and Walk to Mill of Matsopoulos 		

Participants gathered at the hotel for an introductory **morning walk to the Mill of Matsopoulos**, a historically significant location in Trikala, known for its heritage and connection to the town's cultural identity. This provided a scenic and informative start to the day, offering participants a view of the municipality's commitment to preserving green and public spaces.

- **Opening Remarks by Thanassis Michalakis**

The event officially began with a welcome speech from **Thanassis Michalakis**, Senior Press Officer for the Municipality of Trikala. He introduced the goals of the event, emphasizing the importance of fostering stronger connections between cities through shared experiences and the promotion of sustainability in urban spaces. The address also highlighted Trikala's role as a leader in smart city development and environmental projects.

- **Presentation of the Municipality Control Room**

Thanassis Michalakis also presented the **Municipality Control Room**, a key facility where all **electronic municipal services** are unified and monitored efficiently. This control room enables real-time management of services like urban planning, traffic control, and municipal operations, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of Trikala's urban systems. It represents a crucial part of the city's approach to becoming a smart city by integrating technology into daily governance.

- **Conference on Open Spaces for a Greener Future**

Participants then attended a conference with experts focusing on the crucial role of open spaces in shaping sustainable urban environments. The discussion covered best practices for creating and managing green areas within cities, as well as their positive impact on biodiversity, public health, and community engagement. Participants were encouraged to reflect on how these approaches could be adapted and implemented in their respective cities.

Afternoon Session

- **Presentations on Trikala's Sustainability Projects**

The event continued with insightful presentations on **Trikala's environmental initiatives**, which have made the city a model for sustainability in Greece.

- **Konstantina Zachari** presented the **Trikala - Net Zero Cities** initiative,

which aims to achieve carbon neutrality by reducing emissions and implementing energy-efficient technologies.

- **George Gorgogetas**, Engineer at e-trikala S.A., discussed **The Smart City**

of Trikala, an ambitious project incorporating digital technology into city infrastructure to improve urban life and sustainability.

- **Christina Karaberi** gave an overview of the **Cities Go Climate Neutral**

Project, emphasizing Trikala's participation in international efforts to reduce the climate impact of urban centers.

- **Site Visit to the Mill of Matsopoulos Park**

The participants then visited the **Mill of Matsopoulos Park**, guided by **Giannis Plakias**, the administrator of the Matsopoulos Museum. This site visit showcased how the park, a historical landmark, is being revitalized to serve as both a cultural hub and a green space for the community. Discussions centered around the sustainable management of the park and its role in promoting environmental education.

- **Creative LAB - Community Mapping**

In the afternoon, youth participants engaged in the **Creative LAB session**, where they worked in groups to **map their towns**, identifying open spaces suitable for environmental education and community engagement. The youth were encouraged to think creatively about how these spaces could be used to foster environmental awareness and inspire collective action for sustainability.

Evening Session

- **Dinner at Palia Istoría**

The day concluded with a **group dinner at Palia Istoría**, a local restaurant. This provided a relaxed setting for informal conversations and reflections on the activities of the day. Participants exchanged ideas about the challenges and opportunities for implementing

sustainability projects in their cities and discussed ways to enhance cross-border cooperation in the future.

Day 2 – Thursday, 3rd October 2024

The second day focused on exploring the cultural and environmental development of Trikala, as well as continuing discussions on urban sustainability, open spaces, and youth engagement.

Morning Session

- **Site Visit to Tsitsanis Museum Cultural Center**

The morning began with a visit to the **Tsitsanis Museum Cultural Center**, where **Stelios Karagiorgos**, the Artistic Director of the Tsitsanis Museum, provided a tour. The museum offers a deep dive into the music and culture of Trikala, showcasing the legacy of renowned Greek musician Vassilis Tsitsanis. The site also promotes cultural education and community involvement, making it an ideal model for how cultural and environmental initiatives can be integrated.

- **Walkaround at the Litheos River and Open Debate**

Participants then joined a **walkaround at the Litheos River**, a key environmental project in Trikala aimed at revitalizing the river and improving public access.

During the walk, an **Open Debate** was held, where participants discussed the role of **open spaces, urban design, ecology, sustainability, history, and cultural diversity** in shaping a green future. The debate emphasized how interconnected these elements are in fostering a holistic approach to urban development and community well-being. Participants shared their insights on how their cities could improve public spaces to promote sustainability and inclusion.

- **River Development Presentation**

The discussion was followed by a presentation from **Nelly Dermani**, Architect at the Municipality of Trikala, on the **River Development** project. She explained the efforts underway to restore the Litheos River, creating an ecological corridor that supports biodiversity while providing the public with accessible green spaces. The project aims to integrate natural features into the urban landscape, offering a space for relaxation, education, and community activities.

Afternoon Session

- **Coordination Session**

The final formal session of the event focused on **administrative issues, next steps, and the project website**. This session was crucial for organizing the ongoing work within the Ed.U.Co project and ensuring that all participating cities remain aligned in their goals and approaches. Participants discussed progress in their respective municipalities, reviewed the development of the project website, and planned for future activities to ensure the project's success.

Evening Session

- **Dinner at Taverna To Chani**

The meeting concluded with a **farewell dinner at Taverna To Chani**, where participants had the opportunity to reflect on the two days of collaboration, share personal insights, and solidify partnerships for future cooperation.

Conclusion

The third meeting of the Ed.U.Co project was a resounding success, effectively meeting its goals of promoting youth empowerment, environmental education, and community-building. Through a combination of expert-led presentations, hands-on activities, site visits, and open debates, the event fostered valuable exchanges of knowledge and ideas among representatives from eight European cities. The activities offered a practical approach to

addressing sustainability challenges and building connections between cities, empowering youth to become active participants in shaping greener, more inclusive urban environments.

As the project progresses, the connections formed during this meeting will serve as a foundation for future collaboration, ensuring that the goals of the Ed.U.Co project are carried forward into tangible actions for creating sustainable and resilient communities across Europe.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01/11/2024	Initial version (new MFF).