

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:	VOLUNTEU
Participant:	INDUSTRY DISRUPTORS GAME CHANGERS (ID-GC)
PIC number:	941903369

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	5
Event name:	<i>“VOLUNTEERING CITIZENS AS RESPONSE TO SOCIAL COVID19 CRISIS”</i>
Type:	workshop, conference
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Heraklion, Crete, Greece
Date(s):	May 3-6, 2023
Website(s) (if any):	http://industrydisruptors.org/index.php/volunteu-meeting-herakleion-greece
Participants	
Female:	39
Male:	16
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Greece]:	42
From country 2 [Italy]:	2
From country 3 [Portugal]:	2
From country 4 [Spain]:	2
From country 5 [Cyprus]:	2
From country 6 [Romania]:	2
From country 7 [Croatia]:	2

From country 8 [The Netherlands]	1		
Total number of participants:	55	From total number of countries:	8
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The VolontEU event in Greece brought together participants in Crete to address the social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people.</p> <p>In the scope of the project, the aim is to kindle motivation within young people, namely ages 25-35 and 35-45, urging them to step forward and embrace the realm of volunteerism. In doing so, we seek to ignite their inner drive to make a meaningful impact on the collective well-being, towards a brighter, more compassionate world.</p> <p>The meeting included introductions, networking, and discussions on supporting affected youth. Volunteering opportunities were explored, and ideas were presented on how society, government, schools, and institutions can provide assistance. Best practices from local volunteering organizations were shared for inspiration and collaboration. Namely, the local organization "ATAXTOI", was featured and in an opportunity to present their own work and philosophy and share best practices.</p> <p>The event concluded with an open debate, evaluation report, and a cultural city tour of Heraklion.</p> <p>May 3d, 2023</p> <p>Participants arrival in Crete</p> <p>May 4th, 2023</p> <p>The meeting officially commenced at Heraklion, with the gathering of participants. Following the registration, the agenda and activities for the meeting were presented emphasizing the importance of addressing the social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people.</p> <p>During the round table, each partner organization had the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide insights into their work. This session facilitated networking and enhanced understanding among the participants.</p> <p>The conference focused on the social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on youngsters.</p> <p>Following a quick break, a creative lab session was conducted to brainstorm and explore ways to support and assist young people who have been affected by the pandemic. The participants engaged in discussions, sharing ideas, and developing strategies to mitigate the adverse effects on youngsters.</p> <p>Coordination issues were discussed by the Lead Partner, ensuring effective communication and alignment among all participants.</p> <p>The local volunteer group ATAXTOI was featured, offering inspiration from their work and best practices. A.T.A.X.T.O.I. (People of Solidarity Without Walls and Economic Self-interest) is a voluntary organization born from the idea of Simakis Sarantis and the support of friends in December 2011. It is a voluntary, non-governmental, nonprofit organization whose main goal is to promote the idea of volunteering in four thematic pillars: Environment (Plastic Cap Recycling, Environmental Care Actions), Children (Renovation and improvement of children's room conditions), Offering (offering tangible help wherever it is needed), Meeting Needs (No child without school supplies, stoves for the warm home project). The funding of the actions is mainly based on donations from individuals and businesses, as well as revenue from entertainment events. The group now has over 75 members, 35 of whom are active members. https://ataxtoi.gr/</p> <p>Later, a lunch break was scheduled, allowing everyone to enjoy a meal together and further network.</p> <p>After lunch, participants had free time to explore the city of Heraklion. The day concluded with a gathering at the meeting room, where local volunteering organizations presented their work, sharing their best practices and success stories. This session served as an inspiration for the participants and encouraged further collaboration.</p>			

May 5th, 2023

An open debate took place, providing an opportunity for partners to discuss the social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people. The focus was on how volunteering can play a significant role in addressing and eliminating these consequences.

The workshop aimed to identify volunteering opportunities that could mitigate these challenges. Ideas, strategies, and initiatives were discussed, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the role volunteering can play in empowering youth. The team was separated in groups that after a brainstorming, presented their ideas on how the society, the government, the schools and the institutions can provide help and support to young people affected by the consequences of the pandemic and what measures and actions they can take.

During the workshop, an evaluation report was presented, summarizing the outcomes of the meeting and providing valuable insights for future activities. The event not only provided a platform for networking and knowledge sharing but also generated concrete ideas and strategies for supporting young people. It empowered participants to take action and collaborate effectively, ultimately aiming to make a positive impact on the target group of young people facing challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Networking and Collaboration: Participants had the opportunity to network and establish connections with various organizations and individuals involved in volunteering and youth support.
- Empowerment through Volunteering: The emphasis on volunteering as a powerful tool to address the social consequences of the pandemic highlights how young people can actively participate in their communities and make a positive impact.
- Cultural Experience: Cultural exchange foster and deeper understanding of the local heritage. This cultural experience broadens participants' horizons and encourages them to consider diverse perspectives in their support efforts.
- Reinforced Commitment: Overall, the event reinforces the commitment of participants and organizations to proactively support young people. It highlights the importance of volunteering as a means to address the social consequences of the pandemic and encourages continued dedication to this cause.

Following the closure of the meeting the afternoon provided free time for participants to explore the city of Heraklion and had a cultural city tour, giving participants an opportunity to immerse themselves in the local heritage and experience the vibrant culture of Heraklion.

Overall, the event reinforced the importance of proactive efforts in supporting young people and highlighted volunteering as a powerful tool for addressing the social consequences of the pandemic and emphasized the significant role of volunteering in providing support and assistance.

May 6th, 2023

Departure of participants

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	07.07.2023	Second version