

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Freguesia de Buarcos
PIC number:	867997323
Project name and acronym:	EcoActive: Citizens for a Sustainable Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1st
Event name:	Coastal sustainability: the sea, the land and the community
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Buarcos, Portugal
Date(s):	February 25 – 28th, 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.jf-buarcos.pt/
Participants	
Female:	21
Male:	41
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 Bulgaria:	1
From country 2 Croatia:	2
From country 3 Cyprus:	1
From country 4 Finland:	1
From country 5 France:	2
From country 6 Hungary:	1
From country 7 Italy:	1
From country 8 Latvia:	1
From country 9 Malta:	1
From country 10 Poland:	1
From country 11 Portugal:	43

From country 12 Romania:	1		
From country 13 Slovakia:	4		
From country 14 Spain:	2		
Total number of participants:	62	From total number of countries:	14

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The first transnational meeting of the project *EcoActive Citizens for a Sustainable Europe* took place in Buarcos (Figueira da Foz, Portugal) from 25 to 28 February 2026, bringing together 62 local and international participants from 14 European countries.

As the kick-off event of the project, it played a fundamental role in establishing a common vision among partners, strengthening trust and cooperation within the consortium, and setting the methodological, thematic and organisational foundations for the implementation of the project over the following months.

The meeting focused on coastal sustainability, addressing the interdependence between marine ecosystems, land management, and community engagement, and highlighting the role of citizens and local authorities in advancing sustainable and climate-conscious practices in line with European priorities.

The event was designed as a comprehensive and balanced programme combining institutional engagement, knowledge transfer, participatory methodologies and intercultural exchange. It ensured that participants were not only passive recipients of information, but active contributors to discussions, learning processes and the co-creation of knowledge.

The diversity of profiles involved including local authorities, civil society representatives, environmental experts, educators, and active citizens, enriched the debates and guaranteed a multidisciplinary perspective throughout all activities.

Day 1: was dedicated to the reception of participants arriving from different European countries. Transfers were organised from Porto Airport to Buarcos, followed by accommodation and a welcome dinner. This first informal moment played a key role in creating a positive and collaborative atmosphere, allowing participants to establish initial contacts, exchange expectations and begin building interpersonal relationships that would facilitate cooperation during the following days.

Day 2: It began with an institutional welcome involving local authorities, reinforcing the political dimension of the project and its connection to local governance structures. Participants then presented their organisations and countries, creating a structured space for mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue, and allowing each partner to contextualise their work and expectations within the project.

The day also included thematic workshops and conferences focused on sustainable fishing practices and coastal sustainability, providing participants with evidence-based knowledge and practical insights into marine resource management. These sessions were complemented by study visits to key local sites such as the Port of Figueira da Foz and the Salt Museum, where participants could observe concrete examples of how environmental sustainability is addressed at local level.

Day 3: was centred on knowledge exchange, participatory learning and collective reflection. Participants attended a conference on blue literacy for sustainable development, which emphasised the importance of education, awareness and citizen engagement in promoting sustainable behaviours and environmental responsibility. A key component of the day was the exchange of good practices, where each partner presented initiatives from their country related to circular economy, sustainable resource management or environmental protection.

Participants also contributed to the creation of shared knowledge outputs, reinforcing the long-term impact of the project beyond the event itself. In addition, the programme included the symbolic brotherhood ceremony, a highly significant moment in which all partners formalised their commitment to cooperation, collaboration and shared European values.

Cultural activities were also organised, providing opportunities for informal interaction, strengthening group cohesion and promoting intercultural understanding. The day concluded with evaluation and coordination sessions, where participants reflected on the outcomes of the meeting, identified strengths and areas for improvement, and contributed to the planning of future project activities.

Day 4: was dedicated to final coordination tasks, informal exchanges among partners, and the departure of participants. This closing phase ensured a smooth transition towards the next stages of the project and allowed participants to consolidate contacts and commitments established during the meeting.

Overall, the event successfully combined institutional dialogue, expert knowledge, practical learning and citizen participation, creating a dynamic and inclusive environment for transnational exchange. It contributed to raising awareness on key environmental challenges, strengthening European identity and shared values, and empowering participants to act as multipliers within their communities.

By fostering cooperation between local authorities, civil society and citizens, the meeting reinforced the role of local actors in addressing global environmental challenges and contributed to building a more sustainable, inclusive and engaged Europe.

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