

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	
Participant:	EducPro
PIC number:	886736074
Project name and acronym:	ZA4NED – Generation Z & Alpha in the Driver's Seat for Youth Participation and European Democracy

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	3
Event name:	THE DIGITAL PUBLIC SQUARE: SOCIAL MEDIA, DISINFORMATION & POLITICAL DIALOGUE
Type:	Workshop, conference with experts and civil society representatives, visits
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Portugal, Braga
Date(s):	28.09 -01.10.2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://educpro.eu/11_news_event3_z4ned/
Participants	
Female:	17
Male:	22
Non-binary:	-
From country 1: Portugal	26
From country 2: Croatia	2
From country 3: Spain	3
From country 4: Estonia	2
From country 5: Slovenia	2
From country 6: Hungary	2

Total number of participants:	39	From total number of countries:	6
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Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

EducPro hosted the ZA4NED international event in Braga, Portugal, from 28 September to 1 October 2026, within Work Package 3, “The Digital Public Square: Social Media, Disinformation & Political Dialogue.” The event brought together representatives from Spain, Hungary, Estonia, Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia and combined non-formal learning, expert input, exchanges with civil society, activities with local students and intercultural learning.

Day 1 – 28 September was dedicated to the arrival and welcoming of participants in Braga. Participants checked in at the accommodation and the day concluded with a welcome dinner, creating the first opportunity for networking and informal exchange among the international group.

Day 2 – 29 September focused on social media, disinformation, political dialogue and the role of civil society. The programme began with “Welcome & Portuguese Context”, during which EducPro introduced the Portuguese context regarding social media, disinformation and political dialogue, providing a basis for the discussions that followed.

This was followed by an Open Space with Civil Society Representatives, focusing on the role of organised civil society in strengthening democratic participation, representing young people’s interests and promoting dialogue between citizens, institutions and decision-makers. The invited guests were Fernando Vieira, President of FNAJ – National Federation of Youth Associations; Bruna Sismeiro, President of ESN Minho – Erasmus Student Network Minho; and Diogo Carvalho, Treasurer of FAJUB – Federation of Youth Associations of Braga District.

Participants then took part in “Crisis in the Digital Public Square”, an interactive scenario-based activity in which they explored how municipalities and civil society organisations can respond to online disinformation, protect public trust and promote constructive political dialogue. Working collaboratively, participants developed practical approaches to transparent communication, cooperation and responsible engagement in the digital public sphere.

In the afternoon, the group moved to the Braga Youth Center, where the workshop “Bridging Generations, Countries & Digital Realities” brought together international participants and students from Braga. Through mixed-group discussions, they exchanged perspectives on social media, disinformation, trust and political participation and developed ideas for more inclusive and youth-friendly digital dialogue. The day also included a presentation of the Braga Youth Center, done by the director of the Youth Center, Pedro Soares.

Day 3 – 30 September was centred on expert input and reflection. The session “Expert Insights: Navigating the Digital Public Square” explored current challenges related to social media, disinformation, political dialogue and civic participation, with a particular focus on how institutions and civil society can strengthen informed, respectful and democratic public debate.

The invited experts were Vítor de Sousa, teacher and researcher at UTAD and CECS, with a PhD in Communication Sciences from the University of Minho, whose work focuses on media literacy, journalism, identity, cultural studies and intercultural communication; and Margarida da Silva Carvalho, a graduate in Communication Sciences and Master’s student in Journalism, undertaking an internship at Correio do Minho, with interests in media literacy, disinformation and youth participation.

The programme also included a visit to the Bom Jesus Sanctuary and Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, followed by a Peddy Paper in Braga city centre, during which participants explored local heritage through teamwork, clues and interactive challenges. The event concluded with a final dinner and certificate ceremony.

Day 4 – 1 October was dedicated to participants’ departure after breakfast, closing the international activity in Braga.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE

1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).