

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:	[101081558] - [CEE BANKWATCH NETWORK] ([Bankwatch])
PIC number:	893274553
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens' Observatory For Green Deal Financing] – [Citizens4EGDFunding]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	15
Event name:	Citizen forum - activist and citizens' gathering on the transformative Green Deal Financing
Type:	forum
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Collevecchio, Italy Paris, France Montopoli, Italy
Date(s):	24-29 September 2023, 6-8 November 2023, 17 December 2023
Website(s) (if any):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens' Observatory Forum and its outcomes (Article on the project landing page): https://bankwatch.org/event/citizens-observatory-forum • Citizens' Observatory Forum - Report from the event (copy is also attached) • Manifesto on the future of EU public finances: https://bankwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023_11_23_Manifesto-on-the-future-of-EU-public-finances.pdf (copy is also attached) • Section dedicated to the manifesto on the project landing page: https://bankwatch.org/citizens-observatory?fbclid=IwAR2Jt1wrD327RT6gdHVItDznXWwg--IX8S6NdSyWXLRS_F8TLerBh2pYxM#manifesto • Demands for transformative public investments (internal report) (copy is also attached)
Participants	
Female:	32

Male:	18		
Non-binary:	0		
Didn't provide information on gender:	10		
From country 1 [Belgium]:	5		
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	3		
From country 3 [Croatia]:	4		
From country 4 [Czech Republic]:	4		
From country 5 [Estonia]:	2		
From country 6 [France]:	2		
From country 7 [Germany]:	2		
From country 8 [Hungary]:	2		
From country 9 [Italy]:	23		
From country 10 [Latvia]:	2		
From country 11 [Netherlands]:	3		
From country 12 [Poland]:	3		
From country 13 [Romania]:	1		
From country 14 [Slovakia]:	2		
From country 15 [Spain]:	1		
From country 16 [Sweden]:	1		
Total number of participants:	60	From total number of countries:	16

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The Citizens' Observatory Forum was a meeting on the transformative Green Deal Financing that took place on 24-29 September 2023 in Colvecchio, Italy. Participants discussed and jointly worked on the manifesto for the next European Parliament and European Commission's elections. The manifesto represents the common vision of our coalition for the future of the EU public finance and its role in the just transformation of the EU economy and addressing public needs. The event gathered a total of 38 participants - activists, campaigners from environmental organisations and citizens (25 female, 13 male) - from 12 EU countries.

A discussion on trends and challenges in the EU and international financial institutions' funding was initiated during the Kick-off event of the project in January 2023. The face-to-face Citizens' Forum was an opportunity to further develop our vision, key demands and priorities for the next 5 years in relation to climate change, biodiversity, social needs, corporate power and the global south. Smaller-groups-work on the manifesto enabled participants to reflect more in depth on the presented issues as well as possible solutions and asks in the 5 different areas. Forward looking solutions on transformative EU public finance that will lead to environmentally and socially just economies and societies were further developed in the plenary. To finalise the document and collect valuable input from other relevant

actors, it has been shared with a wider NGO community, internal and external partners. Their comments and feedback have been reflected on and incorporated in the final text of the document. As not all partners (e.g. representatives from Urgewald, BothEnds, CAN Europe) that were involved in the discussions on the international public funds which started during the January Kick-off event could join the Forum in September in Italy, a separate follow-up outreach event took place in Paris, France in the beginning of November (6-8/11) to discuss the manifesto with them and to collect their input and comments as well (there were 11 participants - 1 female, 10 did not provide the information on gender - from 4 EU countries present).

The Citizens' Observatory Forum was also good opportunity for participants to learn about the different country specific issues related to the energy transformation in recovery and cohesion funds and biodiversity financing, as well as plan further steps for cooperation.

As part of the Forum a dedicated media training focusing on social as well as traditional media gave the participants a chance to improve their media skills. They were enabled to strengthen their capacities to communicate their work effectively and strategically. Participants enhanced their skills in public speaking and camera presence, storytelling and identifying topics and thus learned how to make their work more appealing, and lastly in messaging and target audience identification.

Project partners present at the Forum also discussed further plans for the last 6 months of the project and exchanged best practice examples related to organisation, implementation and promotion of their activities, such as virtual tours, online webinars and national events. Discussion on possible ways of future cooperation beyond the duration of the project was initiated and is planned to be further developed and continued during regular online project meetings.

The EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values was sent to the participants of the Forum right after the event. A total of 13 replies was received. Overall, the assessment of the event was high (with average rating above 4.30 for all the quantitative questions). The highest scores amongst the quantitative questions (with the rating ranging between 1-5) were received by the questions on the choice of the topics (with average rating of 4.77) and the content of the event (with average rating of 4.67). The overall assessment of the event was also rated high, similarly to the questions on increased knowledge and increased cooperation - all with the average rating of 4.54. The participants also assessed highly the methodology chosen and questions on increased skills and increased awareness (all three having the average of 4.31). Practical questions regarding the venue (average of 4.58) and length of the event (4.46) rated high as well. Concerning the question of gender equality, all participants gave positive answers, choosing multiple answers to confirm that the organiser took action to promote gender equality and ensure equal opportunities and that gender mainstreaming activities were implemented. Most of the participants (77%) marked that their perception of the topic changed to some extent, and all the participants declared that they would use the newly learnt knowledge in the future in their everyday life/work.

As part of the work package 15 we also organized Community Assembly of the local actors in Montopoli di Sabina, Italy on 17 December 2023. The assembly was aimed to check the validity of the demands in the EP Manifesto with the citizen's needs. The community targeted through the event is an active citizens group that is following the measure for support of the Renewable Energy Communities. 11 participants (6 female, 5 male) from Italy took part in the local event.

Manifesto on the future of EU public finances

The manifesto was finalized and published in the end of November and a dedicated section on the project landing page has been created: https://bankwatch.org/citizens-observatory?fbclid=IwAR2Jt1wrd327RT6gdHVItDznXVWwg--IX8S6NdSyWXLRZS_F8TLerBh2pYxM#manifesto. It contains the English version so far and some of the project partners plan translation into their national languages in the coming weeks.

Ahead of the upcoming European elections in 2024, our manifesto sets out 10 proposals for the European Parliament and the European Commission to formulate a response to tackle climate change, prevent biodiversity loss, and achieve a socio-economic transformation that leaves no one behind, both in Europe and beyond. We propose 10 measures to ensure that public money gets to the places and people who need it most. For this to happen, the EU must meet its obligations to protect the environment and improve the lives of its citizens. The manifesto highlights the crucial role that EU public finances can play in tackling the various crises we face today by prioritising what is not profitable now, but essential in the long term. As citizens learn to adapt to life amidst the climate crisis, pressure is mounting on the next EU policymakers to take ambitious decisions and make the green and social transition a reality.

Regarding the outreach, the manifesto has already been used for our advocacy work and presented to

at least 150 representatives of civil societies and decision makers during several meetings e.g. Presentation to the High Level Group on Future of Cohesion at 10.10.2023, European Greens' civil society consultation on 10.11.2023, the Just Transition Alliance meeting at 15.11.2023 as well as distributed to over 800 contacts on our distribution list thus reaching representatives of political parties, advisors, MEPs and various Brussels-based CSOs. The opening rate has been over 40%.

Demands for Transformative Public Investments (Internal Report)

The discussion of the project's partners during the Citizens Forum in September 2023 in Italy was organized in an internal report with 5 chapters (biodiversity, climate change, social justice, corporate power and global south). Each chapter aims to identify the current problems with the use of the EU funds to deliver EU Green Deal objectives. The proposals identified are the basis for our vision of how EU public finance could become more transformative, therefore we called the document [Demands for Transformative Public Investments](#). This report was shared and consulted with partners in countries covered by the project and updated based on their input. The document is still considered as an internal one as we expect further improvements to be made based on the input from the national level EP elections events (WP2-WP5 and WP17-WP19). It is also intended to be used for our lobby and advocacy endeavours and it will be a basis for further discussion with other relevant groups we cooperate with (Green10, Beyond Fossil Fuel Coalition, Energy Cities etc.). The demands are paying particular attention to the principles of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, social inclusion and intergenerational justice.

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