

## 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] - [EKOLOGICHNO SDRUZHENIE ZA ZEMIATA] ([ZA ZEMIATA])
PIC number:	[986197934]
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens' Observatory For Green Deal Financing] — [Citizens4EGDFunding]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	17
Event name:	EP elections outreach event on Green Deal for activists, citizens and media, Bulgaria
Type:	Workshops, Forum
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Bulgaria - Sofia, Pernik, Vratsa
Date(s):	15.02.2024, 23.02.2024, 11.03.2024, 27.03.2024
Website(s) (if any):	<p><b>Coordination meeting of Bulgarian environmental NGOs regarding the EP elections – 15/02/2024</b></p> <p>Article on the project landing page:  <a href="https://bankwatch.org/event/coordination-meeting-of-bulgarian-environmental-ngos-regarding-the-ep-elections">https://bankwatch.org/event/coordination-meeting-of-bulgarian-environmental-ngos-regarding-the-ep-elections</a></p> <p><b>Simulation of EP decision making process and awareness raising on EGD goals – 23/02/2024 &amp; 11/03/2024</b></p> <p>Link to Facebook post on EP simulation game in Pernik (23/02/24):  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ZaZemyata/posts/792207806273476">https://www.facebook.com/ZaZemyata/posts/792207806273476</a></p> <p>Link to Facebook post on EP simulation game in Vratsa (11/03/24):  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ZaZemyata/posts/802782778549312">https://www.facebook.com/ZaZemyata/posts/802782778549312</a></p> <p>Article on the project landing page:  <a href="https://bankwatch.org/event/simulation-of-ep-decision-making-process-and-awareness-raising-on-egd-goals-23-february-2024-pernik-11-march-2024-vratsa">https://bankwatch.org/event/simulation-of-ep-decision-making-process-and-awareness-raising-on-egd-goals-23-february-2024-pernik-11-march-2024-vratsa</a></p> <p><b>Forum: Green horizons – why European elections are important for Bulgaria – 27/03/2024</b></p> <p>Information on Za Zemiata's webpage:  <a href="https://www.zazemiata.org/forum-zeleni-horizonti/">https://www.zazemiata.org/forum-zeleni-horizonti/</a></p> <p>Article on the project landing page: <a href="https://bankwatch.org/event/forum-green-horizons-why-european-elections-are-important-for-bulgaria">https://bankwatch.org/event/forum-green-horizons-why-european-elections-are-important-for-bulgaria</a></p> <p><b>Election compass</b> on Za Zemiata's webpage:</p>

	<a href="https://www.zazemiata.org/european-elections-2024/">https://www.zazemiata.org/european-elections-2024/</a>		
	Bulgarian translation of the <b>manifesto</b> on the future of EU public finances: <a href="https://bankwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024_01_Manifesto-on-the-future-of-EU-public-finances_Bulgarian.pdf">https://bankwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024_01_Manifesto-on-the-future-of-EU-public-finances_Bulgarian.pdf</a>		
<b>Participants</b>			
Female:	42		
Male:	35		
Did not provide information on gender:	12		
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	89		
Total number of participants:	89	From total number of countries:	1
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>As part of the work package 17, Environmental Association Za Zemiata – Friends of the Earth Bulgaria produced an elections compass with EP elections manifesto taking into account the national context and organised several national events including a coordination meeting among Bulgarian environmental NGOs, series of workshops on EP decision making process (in the form of a role play game for the youth) and as the final event, a forum with political parties' representatives. Next follows detailed description of each:</p> <p><b>Coordination meeting of Bulgarian environmental NGOs regarding the EP elections – 15 February 2024 – Sofia, Bulgaria</b></p> <p>With the approaching EP elections, aim of the first meeting of this work package was to align messages and activities around the approaching EP elections within the environmental NGO network in Bulgaria.</p> <p>The meeting started presenting the initiative Citizens' Observatory on Green Deal Financing. Then, there was a presentation on EP elections results projections and the role of civil society in shaping the outcomes. The <a href="#">manifesto on European public funds</a> developed together with the Citizens' Observatory Coalition and the one <a href="#">adapted</a> to the Bulgarian national context were also presented and the process of building them was discussed. A SWOT analysis was done on the potential outcomes of the elections. Representatives of environmental NGOs in Bulgaria shared their priorities and planned activities around the EP elections.</p> <p>The group worked on building and synchronizing main messages and demands for the future EP members. Shared priorities were: the connection – biodiversity, people, nature, resource efficiency and circular economy, EU legislation implemented on national level and efficient and transparent use of Euro funds. Some of the planned activities around the elections were debates, conference, exposure of good and bad projects financed by EU funds.</p> <p>After the meeting, some of the participants joined a working group on gathering questions relevant to EP candidates in the context of the green transition and public funds disbursement. One of the organisations present at the event, became Za Zemiata's partner supporting the organisation of the upcoming <b>Forum 'Green Horizons – why European elections are important for Bulgaria' (27/03/2024)</b> and joined the event as a communication partner. Contacts were shared among participants to collaborate on future events.</p> <p>The event was attended by 10 people from Bulgaria - 4 female, 4 male, and 2 did not provide information on their gender.</p> <p>Presentation available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>			

### **Simulation of EP decision making process and awareness raising on EGD goals – 23 February 2024, Pernik & 11 March 2024, Vratsa**

Two workshops for youngsters organised in cooperation with the Youth Centre Pernik - a coal dependent region and the Youth Centre Vratsa with the aim to promote active citizens participation, mobilize first time voters during the European elections and raise awareness of the EGD goals.

The events started with an introduction to the topic of EU structures and the Citizens' Observatory on Green Deal Financing project. The activity itself was a role play game where players took a seat at the European Parliament randomly allocated to an EU country and political group. They debated in political groups and commissions on a new proposal for food labelling based on its environmental footprint. Participants went through the process of decision making and could improve their understanding of the role of EU institutions and thematically how EU citizens can be better informed about their food choice through EU laws.

After the simulation, the participants shared that they improved their knowledge in how European institutions work, are more cautious of the daily choices they make and their environmental footprint and have also improved their soft skills in public speaking, negotiating and decision-making. There was also a multiplier effect as several (6) youth workers got acquainted with the game and can use it in their work and facilitate it from now on.

Both events were attended by 40 young people, all coming from Bulgaria (23 female and 17 male). Participants were first time voters.

### **Forum 'Green Horizons – why European elections are important for Bulgaria' – 27 March 2024, Sofia, Bulgaria**

As the final event, Za Zemiata organized a forum emphasizing the importance of voting in European Parliament elections with representatives from various political parties. There were 9 panellists from 5 political parties, some of them Members of the National Assembly, present. The forum started with findings from the [Beyond Profit](#) and [No Recovery without citizens](#) reports which were both produced in the framework of the [Citizens' Observatory on Green Deal Financing](#) project. The forum aimed to provide insights into each party's vision regarding priorities, challenges, necessary steps, and allocation of resources within the next mandate of the European institutions.

Key topics included Bulgaria's challenges in green transformation, compliance with the European legislation, and efficient utilization of the European funds. The questions that the panellists addressed were:

- Bulgaria has a high percentage of energy-poor households and extremely low levels of building renovation. What would you propose as actions to solve these problems and where would you direct the EU funds if you become part of the new European Parliament?
- Bulgaria ranks first in the EU for waste per capita and last in the EU for resource productivity. Where should European public money be directed to help move from a linear to a circular economy?
- A significant proportion of Bulgarians suffer from problems related to polluted air in their settlements and some settlements regularly top the charts for the most toxic air in Europe. In your opinion, what measures are needed at European level and in what direction should public funds be directed to tackle this problem?
- European funds provide opportunities for green transformation, but for example halfway through the operational period of the Recovery and Resilience plan, only 3% of the green pillar is implemented. How would you guarantee the effective and transparent use of the European public funds for green transition purposes?
- What is your vision for the implementation of European legislation in Bulgaria, e.g. - delay of renewable energy directive and definition of energy poverty, the lack of control on the directive on reducing the impact of certain plastic products? Do you think this poor implementation could compromise the European funds targeted to tackle the climate crisis?
- The overall financial co-benefits for Bulgaria of an ambitious energy transition are estimated at €7.6 billion or 9.2% of GDP for 2022 (with significant health benefits), which is the second highest in the EU-27 after Slovakia. In the context of the debate on the benefits of the Green Deal, how would you defend timely climate action?

The discussions revealed that there is a need for investments not only in technical solutions, but also in improving the human resource capacity in the administration to ensure effective public funds

management and reforms implementation. Also, what was emphasised was that the public has not been actively engaged in the decision-making process and good practices from central Europe were shared. Questions from the public were related to the support of the EU Nature restoration law, renewables outside the Natura 2000 areas, reaching EU targets on waste management and how the panellists would communicate the energy transition in their campaigns, especially in a debate with Eurosceptics. The panellists highlighted the economic, climate and health benefits of following the ambitious climate and energy transition plans.

The event was attended by 39 participants (15 female, 14 male and 10 did not provide information on their gender) coming from media, industry, civil sector, and local administration. The panel was composed of 3 female and 5 male members.

Presentation from the forum is available [here](#).

Unfortunately, there were no replies received to the EU Survey for any of the activities of this work package.

**Election compass**

As part of the work package, an [election compass](#) was created and published on Za Zemiata`s webpage – it focuses on the importance to vote in the upcoming European elections considering the forecasts indicating a significant turnover in Parliament members. What is being highlighted in it is that the European Green Deal goals are at stake and making an informed vote is essential to support sustainable policies. The information for the upcoming elections and our demands for the next European parliament members and the disbursement of European funds were used for social media posts to bring our messages to wider public. The election compass was also added to the [special section dedicated to EU elections](#) on the project landing page.

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