

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:	Municipality of Valongo
PIC number:	913903640
Project name and acronym:	Cities 4 YOUth - Next Generation (C4YOU - NEXT GEN)

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP8
Event name:	CITIES 4 YOUTH EVENTS IN PORTUGAL
Type:	International mobility, hosting of a youth event and multicultural youth festival
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Valongo
Date(s):	June to September 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.cm-valongo.pt/diretorio-de-servicos/areas-de-intervencao/juventude/projetos/cities4youth https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18269181004259463/ https://www.instagram.com/p/Ddom-X7sFwn/ https://www.instagram.com/p/DbTUROEsyNf/ https://www.instagram.com/p/DZnR0JRDuXP/?img_index=1 https://www.instagram.com/p/DZCo7DtHTTN/?img_index=1 https://www.instagram.com/p/DZFH-ChDZLn/ https://www.instagram.com/p/DZHozdXDUVw/ https://www.instagram.com/p/DZKOrgSi0kb/ https://www.instagram.com/p/DZPYZNXdok/?img_index=1 https://www.instagram.com/p/DZU-07HD_WF/
Participants	
Female:	134
Male:	137
Non-binary:	0

From city 1 [Starachowice]:	5		
From city 2 [Kielce]:	6		
From city 3 [Alzira]:	5		
From city 4 [Faenza]:	5		
From city 5 [Valongo]:	298		
From city 6 [Pissouri]:	5		
Total number of participants:	324	From total number of countries:	5

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

From 8 to 12 June 2026, the Cities4YOUth mobility and youth festival took place in Valongo, Portugal, bringing together young people from Starachowice and Kielce (Poland), Alzira (Spain), Faenza (Italy), Valongo (Portugal) and Pissouri (Cyprus). The five-day programme combined intercultural exchange, non-formal education, youth participation and civic engagement, creating a space in which participants could learn from each other, discover local approaches to youth policy and develop their communication, teamwork and critical-thinking skills.

During the mobility, participants had the opportunity to learn more about youth participation mechanisms operating in Valongo. They met with representatives of the Municipal Youth Council and with young people involved in Youth Participatory Budgeting projects. These meetings enabled participants to better understand how young people can influence local decision-making processes, develop their own ideas and initiatives, and cooperate with municipalities in shaping policies and activities addressed to younger residents. Participants exchanged experiences from their own cities and discussed similarities and differences between youth participation models in the six partner countries.

An important part of the programme was dedicated to creative and participatory methods of non-formal education. Participants created their own fanzines as a way of expressing opinions, ideas and perspectives on topics relevant to young people. The activity encouraged creativity, self-expression and cooperation while providing an accessible format for discussing social and civic issues. Throughout the programme, participants also took part in icebreakers, energizers and team-building activities designed to strengthen integration within the international group, facilitate intercultural communication and encourage active participation.

The programme also included thematic workshops focused on issues relevant to young people and local communities. One of the main educational activities was preparation for an Oxford-style debate on the motion: "This House believes technology reduces the need to live in bigger cities." Participants worked in teams to analyse the topic, search for arguments, prepare their positions and anticipate counterarguments. During the debate, they presented different perspectives and responded to the arguments of other teams. The activity helped participants strengthen public-speaking, critical-thinking and argumentation skills, while also encouraging reflection on technology, quality of life, local development and the opportunities available to young people in smaller cities.

Participants also explored local youth initiatives, organisations and associations operating in Valongo. Through meetings and informal activities, they learned how local organisations engage young people, what opportunities for participation and volunteering are available and how youth-led activities can contribute to community development. Direct interaction with local young people created further opportunities for intercultural learning, exchange of experiences and networking between participants and the host community.

On 11 June, the international participants joined the Cities4YOUth Youth Festival in Valongo, which constituted one of the central elements of the mobility. The festival was designed as an open and participatory event bringing together young people, youth organisations, associations, youth workers and members of the local community. It provided participants with an opportunity not only to take part in educational activities, but also to present themselves as an international group and interact directly with young people from Valongo.

The festival programme included a wide range of simultaneous workshops addressing different interests and areas of youth development. Activities focused, among others, on upcycling and environmental responsibility, traditional games, creative expression, mental health and wellbeing, factual politics and European Union decision-making processes, media literacy, human rights, solidarity and environmental

awareness explored through art and contact with nature. The diversity of workshops allowed young people to choose activities corresponding to their interests while discovering new topics and methods of participation.

Participants could also visit the youth organisations and associations fair organised as part of the festival. Local organisations presented their activities, projects and opportunities available to young people, including volunteering, participation in local initiatives and different forms of civic and community engagement. The fair created an informal environment in which young people could speak directly with representatives of organisations, ask questions, take part in participatory activities and discover possible ways of becoming more active in their communities.

The Cities4YOUth Youth Festival therefore became an important space for dialogue between participants from the six partner cities, local young people, organisations and the wider community. It enabled participants to exchange experiences from different European contexts, build new connections and reflect on the role young people can play in shaping their cities. At the same time, the combination of workshops, discussions, creative activities and informal interaction helped make themes such as democratic participation, European values, sustainability and social engagement more accessible and relevant to young people.

The impact of the Cities4YOUth activities in Valongo continued after the international mobility. In July and August 2026, C4U participants from Valongo developed and implemented their own local youth initiatives as a direct follow-up to the Cities4YOUth event. With the support of municipal youth workers, young people were responsible for transforming the ideas, interests and motivation generated during the mobility into practical activities addressed to their local community.

The initiatives focused particularly on environmental protection and raising awareness of the climate crisis. Activities included outdoor actions aimed at cleaning natural areas and public spaces, as well as awareness-raising campaigns encouraging environmentally responsible behaviour. One of the actions involved distributing pocket ashtrays as a practical tool for reducing cigarette waste in public and natural areas and as a starting point for conversations about individual responsibility for the local environment.

The follow-up activities were organised by and for young people, giving participants the opportunity to experience the full process of developing a local initiative: identifying an issue, planning an activity, cooperating with other young people and youth workers, implementing the action and engaging members of the local community. In this way, the Cities4YOUth experience went beyond the international meeting itself and supported participants in applying newly developed skills and knowledge in their own local context.

Overall, the activities implemented in Valongo combined European mobility, intercultural learning, non-formal education, youth participation and practical community action. They provided young people with opportunities to strengthen their competences, exchange experiences with peers from other European cities, discover different mechanisms of youth participation and test their own ability to contribute to local change. The follow-up initiatives further demonstrated how an international youth event can inspire concrete local actions and encourage young people to become more active participants in their communities.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	28.02.2025	Initial version (new MFF).