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	
Project name and acronym:	Empowering youth Participation for Inclusive and plural Communities — EPIC_IDEA
Participant:	EGYUTT AZ INTERKULTURALIS AKCIOERT ALAPITVANY (UNITED)
PIC number:	910380794

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D16.1 (WP16)		
Event name:	Transnational youth Summit in Hungary		
Type:	Event		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Budapest, Hungary		
Date(s):	17-21, November, 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://icei.it/en/progetti/epic_idea/		
Participants			
Female:	16		
Male:	11		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Hungary]:	5		
From country 2 [Italy]:	8		
From country 3 [Spain]:	7		
From country 4 [Portugal]:	8		
Total number of participants:	28	From total number of countries:	4
Description *Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*			

General Information

The EPIC Youth Summit took place in **Budapest, Hungary, from 17 to 21 November 2025**, bringing together 28 participants between young people, experts and youth workers involved in the project activities from the four partner countries (Italy, Spain, Hungary and Portugal). The Summit was organised in a semi-remote area of Budapest, which created an ideal environment for intensive group work, strong group cohesion, and meaningful intercultural exchange, while still allowing participants to explore the city and its social and political context.

The Summit represented a key transnational moment of the project, aimed at consolidating learning outcomes from local activities and transforming them into collective action, advocacy, and communication initiatives at European level.

Objectives of the Youth Summit

The overall objective of the Youth Summit was to empower young people as active citizens and agents of change, strengthening their competences and motivation to contribute to a more cohesive, inclusive, and democratic European Union.

More specifically, the Summit aimed to:

- Strengthen participants' ability to identify social issues and define realistic advocacy goals based on community needs.
- Develop communication and storytelling skills for campaigning and civic mobilisation.
- Support the creation of alliances and networks among young people across countries.
- Facilitate the co-design of the project's communication campaign
- Foster a strong sense of European belonging, solidarity, and shared responsibility.

Key Thematic Areas

Throughout the Summit, activities focused on the following interconnected themes:

- Identifying issues, needs, and goals at local and European level
- Developing effective communication and campaigning strategies
- Building alliances and coalitions
- Translating learning into concrete collective and individual action

Methodological Approach

The Youth Summit was based on non-formal education and participatory learning methodologies, ensuring high engagement and ownership by participants. The methods included:

- Icebreakers and team-building activities
- Cooperative and small-group work
- Visual and embodied learning
- Storytelling and creative expression
- Plenary discussions and collective reflection
- Digital tools for evaluation and feedback

This approach ensured an inclusive learning environment that valued diversity, self-expression, peer learning, and intercultural dialogue.

Programme Overview and Activities

17/11/2025: Arrivals

18/11/2025 Day 1 – Building the Group and Setting the Foundation

The opening day focused on welcoming participants, building trust, and creating a shared understanding of the project and the Summit's objectives.

The initial sessions introduced participants to the **EPIC_IDEA project**, the structure of the Youth Summit, and its expected outcomes. Through interactive presentations and individual reflection exercises, participants shared their hopes, fears, expectations, and potential contributions, helping facilitators tailor the process to the group's needs.

Group-strengthening activities played a central role on the first day. Trust-building exercises encouraged participants to rely on one another, communicate non-verbally, and reflect on vulnerability, leadership, and mutual support. These activities were followed by a **Networking Marke**t, where national groups presented their work, experiences, and local realities in creative and interactive ways. This fostered early networking, peer learning, and a sense of shared purpose across countries.

By the end of the day, participants had developed strong interpersonal connections, a safe group atmosphere, and a clear understanding of the Summit's goals.

Session outilines

1. ***Welcome & Get to Know Each Other***

The opening session was dedicated to welcoming participants and creating a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment. The activity started with an official welcome and a brief introduction to the event, followed by the presentation of the organising team and facilitators. To encourage early interaction, participants were invited to take part in a short check-in moment, sharing their name and one word describing how they felt at the beginning of the programme.

An overview of the agenda for the upcoming days was then presented, including objectives, planned activities, logistical information, and basic group agreements. Time was allocated for questions and clarifications in order to ensure a shared understanding and active participation from the outset.

To foster mutual acquaintance and group cohesion, several **ice-breaking** activities were implemented. "Human Bingo" encouraged movement and informal conversation through a playful exchange based on personal experiences and interests. This was followed by "Discover Your Group", a small-group activity in which participants collaboratively answered simple challenges, strengthening cooperation and group awareness. Finally, "Symbol of My Name" invited participants to associate their name with a gesture or symbol, supporting memorisation, creativity, and collective engagement.

The session concluded with a short collective reflection on what participants had discovered about the group, reinforcing the value of diversity and connection, and with practical information regarding the transition to the next session.

2. *Getting Started*

This session aimed to introduce the **EPIC_IDEA project**, presenting its overall structure and clarifying how the Youth Camp fits within the wider project framework. The flow of the programme was explained to provide participants with a clear understanding of the learning journey and methodologies used.

To encourage dialogue and exchange, a *table talk* activity inspired by the "world café" methodology was organised. The space was divided into several thematic "islands", each hosting a guiding question. Participants moved freely between tables, engaging in short discussions with different people at each round. A time-keeping signal ensured dynamic rotation and exposure to multiple perspectives.

After five to six rounds, a plenary moment was held to collect insights related to key questions on anti-rumours, activism, and participants' motivation for joining the EPIC_IDEA project.

The session concluded with a reflective activity focused on **hopes, fears, and contributions**. Participants individually wrote these elements on sticky notes, which were then clustered and discussed in plenary, allowing both participants and facilitators to gain a shared overview of expectations and needs.

3. *TEAM UP! – Team Building Activities*

The team-building session aimed to stimulate critical thinking, peer exchange, and cooperation. Through the activity "Where Do You Stand?", participants physically positioned themselves in response to statements related to rumours, discrimination, youth participation, and perceptions of the future. This method encouraged self-reflection, the expression of diverse viewpoints, and open dialogue.

The second activity, "Danger of Words", engaged participants in mixed groups in exploring key concepts such as rumours, activism, human rights, discrimination, and youth work. Each group interpreted their assigned concept using a creative and artistic medium (e.g. short video, theatre performance, song, podcast, or comics), promoting non-formal learning, creativity, and deeper conceptual understanding.

4. Where Are We? – Building Trust

This session focused on trust-building and strengthening group dynamics through experiential learning. Participants took part in a series of progressive trust exercises, starting with paired activities involving minimal physical contact, followed by guidance using only voice, and concluding with the "trust bubbles" exercise carried out in small groups.

All activities were voluntary and designed to respect individual boundaries. A final debriefing allowed participants to reflect on their feelings and experiences, reinforcing awareness, empathy, and mutual respect within the group.

6. Networking Market

The final session prepared national teams for the evening Networking Market. After a short introduction, each group practiced one-minute elevator pitches, adapting their communication to different audiences and prompts.

Teams then worked on designing their booth by selecting key elements such as visual impact, interactive components, success stories, calls to action, and a fun factor. If needed, preparation continued before dinner, ensuring all teams were adequately supported in presenting their work and activities in an engaging and accessible way.

19/11/2025 Day 2 – Campaigning and Storytelling

The second day introduced participants to the concept and practice of **campaigning**. Through guided reflection and group discussion, participants explored what campaigning means, its essential elements, and how it can be used as a tool for civic engagement and social change.

Using participatory methods, participants developed a shared definition of campaigning, which was then compared with established models and successful examples, including youth-led European movements. This session helped align participants' perspectives with the project's objectives and the consortium's expertise.

Building on this foundation, a dedicated session focused on storytelling for campaigning, highlighting how narratives, emotions, and personal experiences can be transformed into powerful messages capable of mobilising others. Participants explored tools and techniques for creating engaging and inclusive stories, strengthening their communication skills and confidence.

These sessions provided participants with inspiration, concrete tools, and a shared language for the campaigning work developed on the following day.

The afternoon was dedicated to an informal cultural activity consisting of **visit to Budapest**. This moment offered participants the opportunity to discover the local context, strengthen interpersonal relationships, and continue informal networking in a relaxed setting, contributing to group cohesion and intercultural learning.

Session outlines

1. Campaigning for Us

This session focused on building a shared understanding of the concept of campaigning, using the **1–2–4–All** participatory workshop methodology to actively involve all participants.

The activity started with an **individual reflection phase**, during which participants were invited to write down their personal definition of campaigning. Guiding questions supported this reflection, such as recalling a campaign they were familiar with and identifying its main objectives, as well as reflecting on the key elements that make a campaign effective.

In the second phase, participants worked in **pairs**, sharing their individual definitions and discussing similarities and differences in order to formulate a joint definition. This was followed by a **small-group phase**, in which two pairs came together to compare their ideas and agree on a common group definition.

Finally, during the **collective sharing phase**, all groups presented their outcomes in plenary. The various contributions were synthesised into a shared definition of campaigning, which was then compared with official definitions and theoretical frameworks.

The session concluded with a **Q&A moment** and a short slide presentation introducing the basic principles of campaigning, complemented by examples of successful campaigns, including initiatives developed by project partners.

20/11/2025 Day 3 – From Issues to Action: Campaign Planning

The third day was dedicated to **planning concrete campaigning actions**. Starting from issues identified during local project activities, participants worked collectively to prioritise shared challenges and define realistic and impactful objectives.

Through individual and group work, participants:

- Identified the changes they wished to see regarding selected issues
- Defined target audiences and key messages
- Explored methods and channels for influencing decision-makers and communities
- Designed preliminary action plans, including expected outcomes and indicators of success

Participants worked in different group configurations to encourage cross-country collaboration and the exchange of perspectives. Plenary moments allowed ideas to be shared, compared, and merged, leading to the identification of doable, collective campaign actions relevant to all partner contexts.

The day concluded with a reflective discussion, ensuring that participants felt ownership of the action plan, understood their roles, and were aware of next steps.

Session outlines

1*. How to Prepare for the Action*

This session aimed to guide participants through a structured yet participatory process to design a collective action addressing the key issues emerging from the local groups involved in the project. The facilitator began by recalling that the action would be developed within an international community working towards shared objectives, while remaining rooted in local realities.

Participants were presented with an overview of the most recurring issues identified by the local groups and an explanation of why campaigning represents a core component of the project's strategy. This introduction helped to frame the action as a response to concrete needs while strengthening a sense of shared responsibility across countries.

Brainstorming

An open brainstorming phase followed, during which participants contributed ideas and reflections, combining inputs from local work with their own perspectives and suggestions. The group worked towards compiling a

concrete and shared list of issues. When necessary, a voting process was introduced to prioritise a maximum of three to four key issues, ensuring focus and feasibility.

Working in Groups

Participants then divided into smaller groups according to the number of selected issues. Each group was assigned (or randomly allocated) one issue and given 30 minutes to discuss the following guiding question: *What change do we hope to see regarding this problem?*

Groups were encouraged to formulate clear, concrete, and realistic answers, focusing on actions that were measurable, visible, and achievable within the scope of the project.

Sharing in Plenary

Each group presented its proposed change in plenary. Facilitators documented the main characteristics of each proposal, supporting comparison and synthesis. At the end of the presentations, participants collectively reflected on feasibility and impact, selecting the most realistic and inclusive action to be implemented with the involvement of all project participants.

Introduction to Campaign Planning

Following this decision-making phase, the facilitator introduced the basic structure for planning a campaign action through a simple flow-chart model. Existing campaign frameworks were shared for inspiration, including examples from the *No Hate Speech Movement*, to support participants in translating ideas into structured action plans.

Working Groups – Campaign Design

Participants were then reorganised into new working groups and invited to further develop campaign ideas starting from the selected problem. Depending on group experience and facilitation style, groups explored the campaign in varying levels of depth. Each group was asked to outline and prepare a short three-minute presentation addressing the following elements (adaptable to context):

- **Target audience** (e.g. local residents, young people, policy-makers)
- **Desired change** (e.g. an event organised, an initiative launched, a policy shift)
- **Indicators of change** (e.g. public statements, signatures collected, agreements reached)
- **Influence strategies** (e.g. videos, social media content, articles, interviews)

Sharing and Debriefing

Groups shared their campaign proposals in plenary, with facilitators collecting and systematising the contributions. Overlapping ideas were welcomed, as they allowed for future merging and collaboration.

A structured debriefing followed, guiding participants to reflect on:

- their feelings about the proposed action plan,
- whether everyone felt they had a meaningful role,
- potential risks or considerations before implementation,
- and how success would be recognised and measured.

The session concluded by agreeing on commitments and next steps, including follow-up meetings or timeline definition, when not foreseen in subsequent sessions.

2. *Looking Forward*

The “Looking Forward” session served as both the symbolic and practical closure of the Youth Summit. Designed as a highly participatory and creative workshop, it supported participants in transforming reflection into long-term commitment.

Through visual facilitation and collaborative mapping, participants collectively reconstructed their learning journey, articulated personal and collective commitments, and visualised how ideas and actions connect across countries. The creation of the **"Human Blueprint of Change"** mural symbolised interdependence, shared responsibility, and collective transformation.

Participants also engaged in reflective writing by sending messages to their future selves, reinforcing accountability and motivation beyond the event. The session concluded with a celebration of achievements, mutual recognition, and renewed energy for continued engagement within the EPIC_IDEA process.

- **Introduction – "Let's Be Honest"**

To foster an open, dynamic, and participant-owned atmosphere, the session began with upbeat background music and a welcoming introduction framing the space as co-created, informal, and energising. Participants were encouraged to express themselves freely, using humour, movement, and improvisation to create a relaxed yet intentional environment.

- **The Head – What We've Learned**

Participants collectively recalled key lessons and insights from the Summit by contributing short reflections on post-it notes, placed around the "head" of a large human-shaped mural. Selected highlights were read aloud, reinforcing shared learning and building a collective memory of the experience.

- **The Heart – What Drives Us**

Participants identified one or two personal commitments inspired by the Summit and placed them in the "heart" section of the mural. These commitments reflected concrete actions participants intended to pursue in their local contexts. Selected examples were shared, celebrating authenticity and motivation.

- **The Nerves – Linking Our Energy**

Participants explored how individual commitments interconnected by visually linking related ideas on the mural using coloured markers. This activity highlighted collaboration, mutual inspiration, and the transnational dimension of youth engagement.

- **4. The Hands – How We Help Each Other**

Small groups formed around shared interests or complementary goals. Participants discussed how to support one another remotely, how to stay connected, and what concrete contributions each could offer. These agreements were summarised and added to the mural, reinforcing accountability and teamwork.

- **The Feet – What Keeps Us Moving**

Participants reflected on sustainability by identifying both the resources they need and the assets they already possess. Contributions were added to two columns ("What We Need" and "What We Offer"), encouraging awareness of balance, reciprocity, and long-term momentum.

- **7. Future Me – The Memory Chip**

Participants used *futureme.org* to write an email to their future selves, scheduled for delivery on **15 May 2026**. They were encouraged to reflect on promises made, sources of motivation, and concrete action plans, as well as personal well-being strategies to sustain engagement over time.

- **8. The Blueprint Is Alive**

The session closed with a collective reflection on key outcomes, celebrating creativity, resilience, and commitment. The "Human Blueprint" mural was highlighted as a living symbol of shared transformation. The activity ended with applause, music, and an optional group photo.

3. *ICEI – Next Steps and Upcoming Milestones*

The final moment outlined upcoming milestones, follow-up activities, and the role of ICEI and partners in supporting participants during the next phases of the project.

4.*Evaluation and Reflection*

The final session focused on evaluation, reflection, and closure. Using the digital tool Mentimeter, participants anonymously assessed:

- Their emotional experience
- Overall satisfaction and logistics
- Learning outcomes related to identifying issues, communication skills, and alliance-building
- The expected impact and future application of what they learned

The evaluation combined quantitative and qualitative feedback, providing valuable data for project reporting while reinforcing participants' sense of ownership and contribution.

The Summit concluded with a collective closing session designed to celebrate the shared journey, consolidate learning, and formally bring the experience to an end. This final moment combined reflection, appreciation, and celebration, reinforcing group cohesion and a sense of collective achievement.

The session opened with a short energiser entitled **"Shake Off & Connect"**, aimed at boosting energy levels and strengthening group connection. Through upbeat music and simple movement-based activities such as a "Follow the Leader" dance or a "Wave of Gratitude", participants were encouraged to re-engage physically and emotionally. As part of the activity, participants expressed gratitude by saying "thank you" in their own languages, creating a symbolic multilingual wave that highlighted diversity and mutual appreciation.

This was followed by a **comprehensive evaluation using Mentimeter**, designed to gather structured feedback on the overall experience. The evaluation addressed key dimensions such as emotional engagement, organisational aspects, learning outcomes, perceived impact, and future applicability of the competencies acquired. The evaluation was organised into five thematic blocks, ensuring both qualitative and quantitative insights into participants' experiences.

Participants were then invited to watch a short **surprise video**, a two- to three-minute compilation capturing key moments from the week. The screening, supported by appropriate sound and lighting, offered a reflective and emotional recap of the shared experience, strengthening a sense of belonging and closure.

The Summit officially concluded with a **closing speech and farewell** delivered by the organisers. In a concise two- to three-minute address, the organisers expressed gratitude to participants, facilitators, and partner organisations, acknowledged the collective effort invested throughout the week, and encouraged participants to carry forward the learning, connections, and motivation developed during the Summit into their future actions and local contexts.

Evaluation's Results

Overall feedback, from the Mentimeter, shows a very high level of satisfaction, with participants rating the summit extremely positively (average score: 4.5/5). Key strengths identified include the quality of facilitation and trainers, the inclusive group atmosphere, engaging learning activities, and well-organised logistics. Participants particularly valued the sense of community, the diversity of the group, and the positive interpersonal dynamics, which were frequently mentioned as elements that could not have been improved. Areas for improvement mainly concerned logistical and organisational aspects, such as the desire for more free time, a longer duration of the summit, improved accommodation location, and more varied food options, especially for vegetarians. Some participants also suggested lighter evening activities and additional opportunities to explore the city. As an outcome of the summit, participants reported increased motivation to remain active in their communities, address issues such as online hate, civic participation, and critical thinking, and to further develop youth-led projects and local initiatives.
Overall, the summit successfully achieved its objectives by fostering learning, engagement, and empowerment among young people.

21/11/2025: Departures

Overall Outcomes and Impact

By the end of the Youth Summit:

- Participants **strengthened their civic, communication, and advocacy competences**, particularly in relation to campaigning, storytelling, and active participation.
- A **shared campaign action plan** was collaboratively developed, contributing directly to the achievement of **the objectives of the Youth Summit** and ensuring coherence between local, national, and transnational project activities.
- **Strong transnational networks and peer-support structures** were established, fostering long-term cooperation, mutual learning, and solidarity among participants from different countries.
- Participants reported **increased confidence, motivation, and a strengthened sense of belonging** to a wider European youth community engaged in democratic participation and social change.
- The Summit resulted in **concrete commitments and follow-up actions** to be implemented at **local, national, and European levels**, ensuring sustainability and continued impact beyond the event.

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