


D.T4.2.2

Feedback reports on Co-Creation workshops

Bulgaria



BRAIT, BSMEPA
09 / 2022

Project Information

Project Title: GoDanuBio - 'Participative Ecosystems for fostering the revitalization of rural-urban cooperation through governing Danube Circular Bioeconomy'

Project code: DTP3-471-4.1

Lead partner: BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH

Start of the project: 01/07/2020

Duration: 30 months

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/godanubio>

Deliverable Information

Author/-s: *BRAIT, BSMEPA*

Deliverable no.: D.T4.2.2.

Submission date: 13/09/2022

Dissemination level: Public

Version	Date	Content	Elaborated by	Reviewed by
0.1	22/03/2022	Template for feedback reports on Co-Creation workshops	Biz-up	BIOPRO

Table of content

1. General information about the co-creation workshop	4
2. Objective of the workshop	4
3. Methods used within the workshop	5
4. Lessons learned for next upcoming workshops	6
5. Initial situation of your region	5
6. What do the citizens expect from the process of participation governance?	6
7. Outcome of the co-creation workshops.....	6
8. Innovation potential for your region.....	6
9. Strengths and weaknesses of the process of participation governance.....	7
10. Do you plan to use the process of participative governance also in future?.....	8
11. Identified opportunities for rural development in your region	8
12. Annexes	9

Disclaimer:

The information and perspectives set out in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. Neither the European Commission institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use that may be made of the information contained therein.

1. General information about the co-creation workshop

Date of the workshop	5/09/22
Topic of the workshop	Fostering urban-rural interactions with stakeholders
Format of the workshop	Online
Region/Adress	Bulgaria
Project partner(s) involved	BRAIT, BSMEPA
Guiding question/theme of the workshop	Urban-rural interactions
Number of participants	16
Type of participants (Target groups) ¹ and name of institutions	Local and regional authorities, sectoral agency, NGOs, Higher education and research, SME, public service provider, general public, education/training center and school
Cooperation with experts (i.e. speakers, external moderators, politician...)	External moderator from the National Youth Forum

2. Objective of the workshop

The objective of the co-creation workshop was to implement activities aiming to improve the interactions between the rural and the urban regions in Bulgaria through the tools of circular bioeconomy. The intended output was to develop project ideas through which the current situation can be improved. The event's focus was on rural-urban cooperation, and how the local circular bioeconomy can be strengthened. To achieve this, both local and regional public authority representatives were involved, in addition to SMEs, NGOs and the general public. Representatives of educational institutions were also involved.

¹ Please group the target groups according to the ones listed in page 42 of the Application Form

3. Initial situation of your region

The relationship between rural and urban areas as the result of a combination of complementarity and the functional division of labor, is often viewed as a source of "conflict" in the use of resources.

The elements of conflict have been identified in four specific areas:

- the level and efficiency of the prices of the relevant products;
- the different market valuation of their land resources;
- the erosion of agricultural land, during its exploitation for the expansion of the city;
- the imposition of external factors, such as negative ones from the side of the urban areas.

This leads to a lack of public intervention, excessive use of these resources far from optimal from the point of view of well-being as a social complex. The problem then becomes how to move from a state of "conflict" of the city over the rural territory, to a state of cooperation and "symbiosis", as it spreads with the new role of the village, to preserve as a reserve its increasingly scarce land resources and production with ecological value, a role involving certain positive externalities in the direction of the city.

4. Methods used within the workshop

The methods used were: presentation of case studies, a moderated discussion and World Café. The idea of using case studies from other similar regions was used as an inspiration for participants so that they could come up with their own project ideas.

Secondly, a moderated discussion followed, which involved all the participants in the workshop, under the guidance of the moderator.

Lastly, the participants were split into groups and given the task of identifying solutions to the previously discussed issues.

We would recommend using this structure in order to facilitate a fruitful discussion and active participation among all attendees.

5. Lessons learned for next upcoming workshops

The methods used for a moderated discussion and World Café were extremely helpful in implementing a dynamic and engaging environment for sharing ideas.

6. What did the local or/and regional administration and the citizens expect from the process of participative governance?

The local administration related to us that they were expecting dynamic discussions and an active dialogue between them and the citizens. The general public was also hoping for the chance to share their ideas with representatives of the local and regional government. We firmly believe this aim was fulfilled, as both parties were able to take active part in the workshop.

7. Outcome of the co-creation workshops

Outcome:	Name:	Stakeholder involved:	Expected duration:	Field of action (bioeconomy in general /rural development/urban rural cooperation)
Project idea	N/A	SMEs	Long-term	Rural development

The project idea is dedicated to wood chip processing.

The practical problem the team is working on is ideas for rural development. In Bulgarian rural areas the wood supply is sufficiently high, thus the participants brainstormed ideas how they can create a sustainable project related to the wood-processing industry.

As a result, they came up with an idea for a public-private partnership that would produce energy from processed wood chips in a sustainable way.

The next step is for the participants to seek financing from European funds.

8. Innovation potential for your region

Despite the efforts made in recent years by the Bulgarian government to improve the

legislative framework and to promote innovation and eco-innovation, Bulgaria still lags behind in these areas.

The administrative procedures for launching patents are still slow and clumsy. The legislation in the field could be further improved to encourage more investment in the sector. Economic, financial, administrative and socio-cultural barriers slow the advancement of eco-innovation in the country.

Important barriers include limited investment and funding opportunities, high energy prices and inefficient energy infrastructure. Nonetheless, several significant drivers were also identified; the most significant were: a rise in awareness from business, citizens and government on the benefits of green products and technologies, high skilled human resource and knowledge capital and Bulgaria's leading regional position in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

Despite the growing demand for environmentally-friendly products and services, stakeholders remain reluctant to invest in these areas. To meet the objectives of promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, waste management and green transport, local stakeholders are taking advantage of funding options set up by the National, European funded Programmes and initiatives.

9. Strengths and weaknesses of the process of participative governance

The workshop definitely strengthened the capabilities of the local and regional administration in terms of knowledge on participative governance and urban-rural cooperation. The only weakness identified in the process was the willingness of the general public to participate and find the added value in such activities. Bulgaria doesn't have a great track record in participative governance and the concept is still relatively new. For this reason, more events like these must be organized in order to raise awareness and increase participation rates.

10. Do you plan to use the process of participative governance also in future?

We plan to involve the general public in the following workshops, which will be dedicated to different issues. We hope this format and methods will motivate also the policy makers to use participative governance and to be willing to take into account the ideas generated by the general public.

11. Identified opportunities for rural development in your region

The opportunity which was identified is related to the wood industry in Bulgaria.

The aim is to create a long-term sustainable business model for strengthening the competitiveness of wood processing sector.

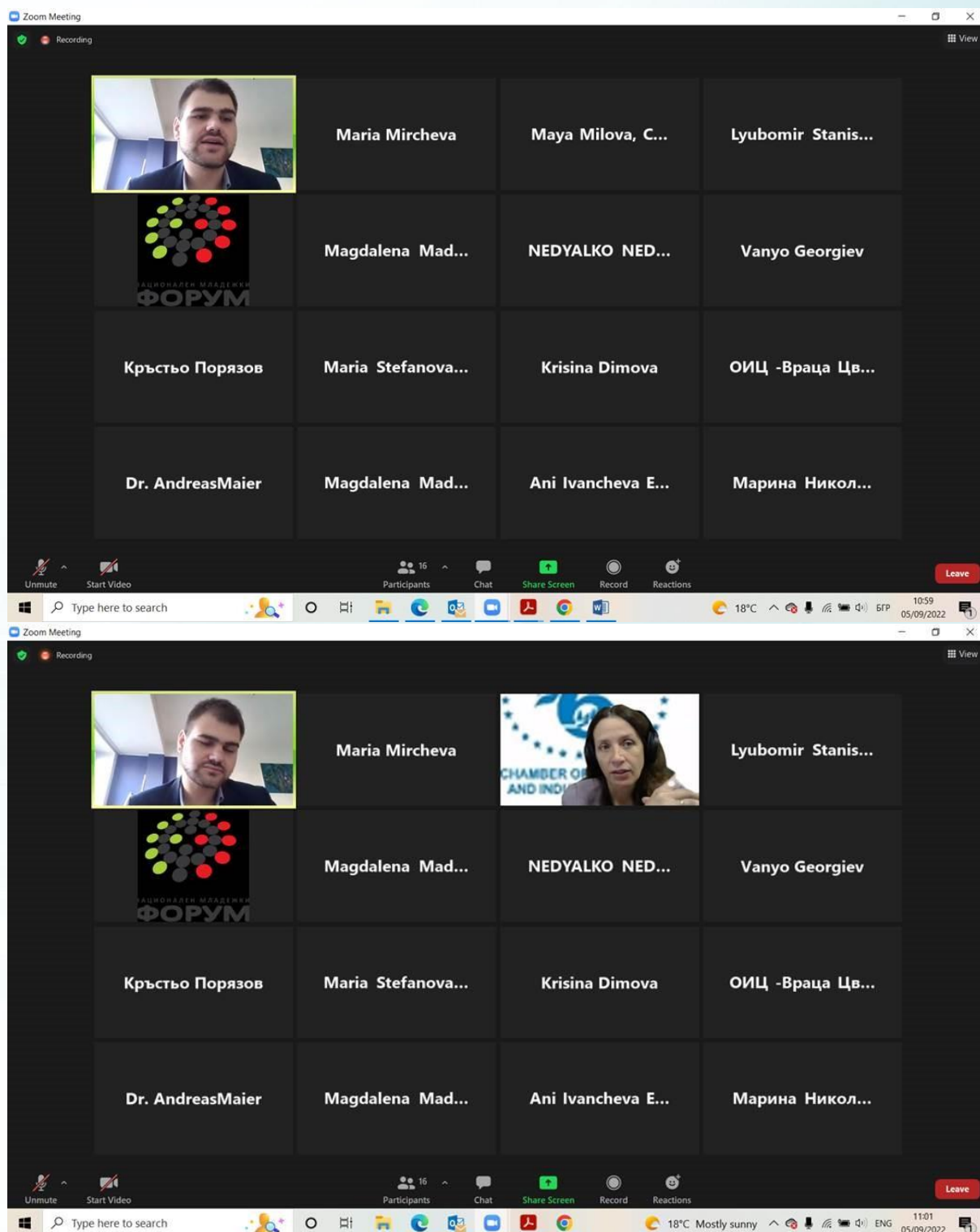
Annexes

Agenda of the co-creation workshop, invitation of the workshop



Invitation
Workshop.pdf

Pictures of the workshop



Record your workshops or take interviews in / after the workshops with your participants

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BhxC1WTqTa4T3hCE3K8xCf1ozYx91ExB?usp=sharing>