

22 October 2025

Press release

European Online Meeting 3- "Active Community"

Sharing Good practices: cultural activities as a driver for democracy, volunteering and citizens' participation

Details about the meeting

- Dates of the meeting: 22 October 2025
- Where was held: Online
- Host organization: AJITER (Portugal) and Musninkai Rural Community (Lithuania)
- Whom attended: All the 6 partner countries, gathering in total 127 attendees
- Aim of the meeting: To engage experts in a structured exchange of best practices on cultural activities as a means to strengthen citizens' participation and enhance the educational process of civic action.
- The agenda (short description) and the speakers/facilitators of the meeting

The online event opened with a joint introductory session bringing together all invited experts, project partners, and participants. The hosting coordinators (Mr. Evangelista and Ms. Iulia) guided the opening by welcoming participants and presenting the overall objectives of the NOTSKIP project. During this session, the project background was explained, with a focus on the main goals of NOTSKIP, the best practices collected throughout the project, and an overview of the training curriculum developed to support democratic participation, social inclusion, and active citizenship. This introduction set a common framework and ensured that all participants shared a clear understanding of the project's scope and methodology.

Following the introduction, the host representatives, Živilė J. Turkmen and Décio Santos, formally welcomed the participants. In their opening remarks, they highlighted the importance of international cooperation, intercultural dialogue, and the role of local communities in strengthening democratic values. They also emphasized the significance of the event as a space for exchange between practitioners, experts, and community representatives from different countries.

One of the central thematic sessions focused on "Local Traditions and Democracy." Hélio Ávila presented the case of Carnaval as a local tradition, explaining how cultural festivities rooted in community participation can serve as informal spaces for democratic expression, inclusion, and collective decision-making. Rita Santos complemented this perspective by presenting the international event Folk Azores, illustrating how large-scale cultural initiatives can connect local traditions with global audiences while promoting intercultural dialogue, civic engagement, and democratic values beyond national borders.

Another key session addressed volunteering as a tool for active citizenship, based on the experience of the Sirvintos Youth Center. Youth worker Jelena Masiukė introduced the local context and explained how structured volunteering activities empower young people, develop their civic competences, and encourage long-term engagement in community life. This presentation was enriched by the testimonies of three international volunteers—Akin, Giorgia, and Huseyin—who shared their personal experiences, motivations, and learning outcomes. They reflected on how volunteering supported their understanding of democracy, solidarity, and participation at the local level.

- Links to: official website, official facebook page

NOT SKIP website:

<https://cervprojects.wixsite.com/notskipproject/international-events-1>

FB pages:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid08fHKdbAvNhwc3j5gDgs4U1KQMh6pKQ3ZXVe2aUJo6Av3gRGVNgUVZT4uN5cqAC1vl&id=61566968076518

<https://www.facebook.com/musninkaikb/posts/pfbid0gxTJvz2RcMnSPVa6ZE9So5a48kcuQn4PMoWzce5wcn8isMMWzBjJfYq2tD4gXJnFl>

<https://www.facebook.com/musninkaikb/posts/pfbid0UrtUMoy7vfJ9mjLUWFvcXs5hanFgo775TipmS3JEhrpLsH3xAfoCv7raLNVFUp7I>

<https://www.facebook.com/musninkaikb/posts/pfbid08HmWeu8RL258uGdZghV6Lu5A56wBwyC37Uubbzsk8CZauuKd8LKBCdcrF3ju1U3I>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/814772274340156>

https://www.facebook.com/events/814772274340156/?active_tab=discussion

<https://www.facebook.com/ajiter.pt/posts/pfbid0CZ25tWD5KDNUtHgVq4EyiA5H9GVUBafeEcBaKPPrQYNHtcGPX1KBj7KMX17PqL9DI>

IG pages:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DPOzD8eEzRr/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

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