


EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)

PROJECT	
Participant:	[5] - [AROA FOUNDATION]
PIC number:	[919939562]
Project name and acronym:	[TransEuropa Assemblies] — [TEA Project]

EVENT DESCRIPTION		
Event number:		[4]
Event name:		Transnational European Assembly on advancing towards a gender justice in the European Union
Type:		Transnational Assembly
In situ/online:		<i>In situ</i>
Location:		Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain)
Date(s):		22/06/2023
Website(s) (if any):		
Participants		
Female:		35
Male:		17
Non-binary:		1
From country 1 [Spain]:		44

From country 2 [France]:		3	
From country 3 [Romania]:		2	
From country 4 [Portugal]:		4	
Total number of participants:		53	From total number of countries: 4

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

1. **Introduction and general recap of the event's goals and purpose + description of the audience profile**
2. **Methodology for the selection of participants**
3. **Final recommendations collected during the assembly**
4. **Next steps**

On the 22nd of June 2023, we held the European Transnational Assembly on advancing towards Gender Justice in the European Union, in Barcelona at the National Catalan History Museum premises.

The session focused on promoting citizens' reflection on gender justice and the gathering of recommendations to improve the protection of fundamental rights throughout the European Union, as a core goal at a European policy level under the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

The focus of the assembly was to raise the awareness on the importance of bringing citizens' and residents' of the EU realities and experiences to influence the European Union political parties, policies and institutions. In addition, it built awareness of the relevance of citizens' demands and the understanding of the great influence in their daily life of European policies and to facilitate the identification of how the recommendations elaborated from their own voice can have an impact at the level of the European policies developed in the different countries.

Specifically, the Assembly focused initially on four main topics that were selected during the preparatory participatory process, making more specific the initial proposal of main topics (sexual and reproductive rights, education rights, health rights, inclusion and democracy). The following topics were discussed during the European Transnational Assembly in Spain:

- Gender justice in media communication
- Gender justice at the workplace and women's economic empowerment throughout their life
- Gender justice for migrant people and anti-racism
- Gender justice in women's health and sexual and reproductive rights

Moreover, three guiding questions were set to facilitate deliberation around the main topics and were a useful tool to energise and focus the debate:

1. What do you consider to be the most important or essential priority, from a Human rights and Gender equality perspective, to advance gender justice in the European Union?
2. Which concrete recommendations and policies can we propose?
3. From where do you think it is possible to make this progress?
4. What could be the role of citizenship to achieve it?

Main topics were expanded in smaller working groups and brought back to plenary discussion that was co-moderated by a youth (political science student) and by the Aroa Foundation's Director, Nuria Pociello Cayuela. During moderation they also provided their experience from their backgrounds as a 19 year-old student involved in citizens organisations and as a grassroots activist with experience in citizens' democratic

deliberation processes and participation in different platforms such as human rights and democratic platforms.

Also to facilitate deliberations around the main topics and to combat disinformation the event featured input from expert activists, professionals and journalists on what the EU is doing in terms of women's and LGBTI rights. The participating expert' speakers that facilitated the fostering of inspiring inputs during the session were:

- Isabel Muntané: feminist journalist, specialised in gender based violence and media.
- Maimouna Sabaly: human and women's rights activist.
- Emma Gumbert: labour lawyer expert in the economy and work gender approach
- Maite Cayuela: nurse, specialised in integrative health and women's empowerment.

In some points of the discussions the experts supported and promoted the subgroup discussions by providing additional inputs when necessary for the participants to formulate their opinions or they reinforced the relevance of the final remarks and recommendations worked by the participants and presented at the end by some participants with a final wrapping up by the moderators.

The citizens participating in the assembly elaborated 15 concrete proposals of recommendations to advance towards Gender Justice at the EU under the main topics and a new topic that arose during deliberations regarding the role of education to achieve gender justice at the European Union widening the scope up to 5 main topics.

METHODOLOGY FOR THE SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The methodology of selection aimed to ensure a diverse participation of people from groups less likely to participate in European democracy, whilst at the same time building wide awareness, interest and support for the process amongst a wide network of civil society actors.

In a first selection phase NGOs working on the topic and relevant target groups, as for example, the institutional participatory bodies (National Council of Women of Catalonia, LGTBI National Council Older Persons Council of Catalonia), National Youth Council of Catalonia and Citizenship and migration Board), were contacted and invited to propose at least three potential participants for the assembly with different characteristics (gender, age, education level, self-identification with a discriminated group, employment status).

The information received was anonymized to randomly select the participants to the assembly, ensuring at least 60% women, 50% young people, 30% participants coming from a discriminated group, 25% without further education, 20% unemployed or precariously employed.

After a follow-up meeting with European Alternatives' project coordinator we introduced some adjustments in order to improve and widen the participation of other groups with a special focus on ensuring territorial diversity, young people and migrant people representation.

At a later stage another call-for participation in the TEA Assembly was launched through an online application form that was disseminated through participatory institutional bodies, mailing and social networks to open the session to more people willing to participate and contribute that are not linked to the organised civil society movement.

The two main segments were:

- Activists and experts on the advancement of Democratic rights in Gender Justice and Human Rights.
- Citizens and communities that are usually less involved in the law making process of the European Union and belonging to marginalised groups (migrants, older women, LGBTQIA+ communities, young people...).

Finally, the participation to the assembly was of 53 participants of whom 66% were women, 47% young people aged from 19 to 26 years old, 29% from a discriminated group, 17% without further education, 26% unemployed or precariously employed.

STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROMOTION OF GENDER JUSTICE

We recommend:

- a) Gender justice in media communication.
 - i. Promoting the identification and elimination of stereotypes in the representation of women in the media, especially on older women under the next EU Gender Equality Strategy.
 - ii. Ensuring that the media are not manipulated and do not serve pro-power interests and to guarantee compliance with European legislation in this field.

- iii. Eradicating misrepresentation of sexual assault against women in the media, ensuring that the media do not give a voice to perpetrators or blame the victims under the recently approved Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating violence against women and domestic violence and following the Recommendation of the Council of Europe CM/Rec(2019)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on preventing and combating sexism
- b) Workplace and women's economic empowerment during their life-course.
- i. Recognizing the value of women in the economy, the sectoral gap, for instance empowering women in rural areas under the next EU Gender Equality Strategy and the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on work-life balance for parents and care givers.
 - ii. Redistribute European funding equitably to sectors that are not predominantly male-dominated, promoting women entrepreneurship under next EU Gender Equality Strategy and the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures.
 - iii. Expand knowledge through more research to measure and make visible the situation of women in the world of work under the EU Gender Equality Strategy and the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures and the work life balance Directive.
- c) Gender justice for migrant people and anti-racism
- i. Including an anti-racist and intersectional feminist approach into migration policies also too make visible and respond to the reality of sexual violence in migration processes under the commitments of the Pact on Migration and Asylum of the EU and guaranteeing a gender equality unit in the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA).
 - ii. Offer specialised care for the recovery of women victims of sexual aggression in migratory processes and their children under the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating violence against women and domestic violence.
 - iii. Explore member states regulatory recommendations to enhance the common guiding principles for national action plans against racism and racial discrimination are set to achieve the goals of the EU anti-racism action plan 2020–2025.
- d) Gender justice in women's health and sexual and reproductive rights.
- i. Respond to the overburdening of women in situations of gender-based violence, which leads to health problems that are used against them in child custody proceedings under the directive to combat gender based violence and the next EU Gender Equality Strategy and in compliance with the due diligence principle established in the CEDAW.
 - ii. To guarantee compliance with the law on abortion and women's sexual and reproductive rights as a fundamental right and in compliance with the EU Charter of fundamental rights.
 - iii. To provide care for women victims of gender-based violence ensuring an intersectional approach (age, sexual orientation,...) under the directive to combat gender based violence and the next EU Gender Equality Strategy and in compliance with the due diligence principle established in the CEDAW.
- e) Gender Justice in education
- i. Provide a common framework to guarantee human rights and gender justice education at all levels of education and in all member states in compliance with the Istanbul Convention recently ratified by the European Union.
 - ii. Promotion of a more humanistic and less technology-centred education.
 - iii. To promote an education that encourages people to associate and make links between them, especially those who are victims of discrimination (LGTBI+ people, racialised, migrants...).
- f) Democracy rights

- i. We urge to improve participation strategies in the European Union' governance processes introducing democratic deliberation as a critical tool to ensure democracy beyond the formal process of European elections.
- ii. We urge to ensure funding mechanisms that ensure the promotion of grass root level NGO's and Pan European networking

NEXT STEPS

The Declaration will be used as a key document in the initiatives carried on by Aroa Foundation at the European level under the Feminist Europe Platform and its 2024 European elections campaign and other paneuropean actions aiming at reforming the Charter of Fundamental Rights as well as the program of the political parties at the European Elections in 2024.

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