

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:	[52] - [Eumans)
PIC number:	[887839352]
Project name and acronym:	[TransEuropa Assemblies] — [TEA Project]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[7]		
Event name:	[Transnational European Assembly on Social Parenting]		
Type:	[Transnational Assembly]		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Milan, Italy		
Date(s):	19 and 20/10/2023		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	93		
Male:	64		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [Italy]:	97		
From country 2 [Belgium]:	7		
From country 3 [Spain]:	13		
From country 4 [France]:	17		
From country 5 [Germany]:	14		
From country 6 [Romania]:	6		
From country 7 [Poland]:	5		
Total number of participants:	159	From total number of countries:	7
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Why a Citizens' Assembly?

The model on which we based our assembly is the so-called "Citizens' Assemblies". Citizens assemblies are spreading all over the world as the ultimate best practice in deliberative democracy. They encompass a process through which citizens can draw policy recommendations on public issues, such as climate change, social justice, civil rights, etc... Its members, who sit in these temporary decision-making bodies alongside elected institutions at various levels of government, are selected by statistical draw with the aim of forming a representative sample of society. During the working sessions, participants learn in depth about the issues to be addressed, listen to experts and various stakeholders, deliberate collectively and finally formulate recommendations and proposals to be possibly adopted by governments.

Why social parenthood?

Social parenting is the expression standing for all those forms of non-biological parenting, linked with the use of various practices and techniques including: adoption, assisted fertilisation with heterologous technique and surrogacy.

It's a complex subject about which it is important to provide both scientific and legal information, addressing its various aspects. Thanks to the in-depth analysis and reflection of experts, the Citizens' Assembly enabled participants to be informed, debate and deliberate recommendations that will be proposed to Italian and European institutions.

Who organises the Assembly?

The Assembly was organised by EUMANS, a pan-European movement of popular initiative, which has made innovation in democracy the heart of its activities, with the support of Associazione Luca Coscioni, and with the patronage of the University of Milan "Statale".

The association Prossima Democrazia, alongside with the University of Milan, also took part in the project as scientific advisers.

This was organised as a two-day event related to Social parenting. While the first day focused on transmission of knowledge and open discussion, the second day focused on deliberation and collective decision-making.

Random selection of participants

The Citizens' Assembly aims to match the demographic and social profile of the community. For this reason, among the criteria for its composition, often are age, gender, place of residence, ethnicity, social group, etc. The goal is to create an assembly that, on a small scale, can "think, feel, reason and act like the rest of society" (Van Reybrouck). A "small society" or "minipublic", as the scientific literature calls it. The size of the group allowed for a wide variety of points of view to be included.

The sortition process

Registration closed on Saturday 30 September, thus designating the participants of the first day. Through the support of the Sortition Foundation, an audience as

representative as possible from a social and demographic point of view was sorted, building on the following criteria: gender, age class, area of residence, level of education, professional status, belonging to ethnic minorities, degree of prior knowledge of the topic and propensity towards issues that were at the heart of the assembly, on a scale of 1 to 5 varying between very unfavourable to very favourable.

This way, the number of people who took part in the second deliberative day of the Citizens' Assembly was sorted based on the participants from the first day of activities. Randomly sorted participants were contacted by e-mail and telephone during the first days of October.

Based on the questionnaire filled by participants, the social composition of the assembly was the following:

- Gender

93 female

64 male

2 non binary

- Age class

Up to 20 years old: 11

21-30 yo: 29

31-45 yo: 50

46-65 yo: 46

+66 yo: 23

- Ethnic minorities

Believe they belong to the category: 14

Don't believe they belong to the category: 145

- Education

Primary: 0

Secondary: 3

High school: 61

Bachelor: 44

Doctorate: 51

- Professional situation

Employed: 94

Unemployed: 10

Student: 28

Retired: 22

Inactive: 5

- Place of residence

Municipality of Milan: 36

Municipality of the Metropolitan City of Milan: 13

Other Italian regions: 48

EU countries other than Italy: 62

Participants' working groups

On the day dedicated to the deliberation activity on the 20th of October, participants worked in split thematic groups. Each group addressed one of the following topics:

- Assisted reproduction
- Pregnancy for others (surrogacy)
- Regulation of adoptions
- Circulation of filiation status
- European Certificate of Parenthood

Each working group, on the basis of the information of the panels of the previous day, discussed and drew recommendations related to its specific topic with the help of a facilitator.

Experts involvement

In order to guarantee a better and more complete experience, participants received documents that were sent prior to the Assembly sessions. Participants also received videos in which experts or interested parties gave information on the topics and shared their experience on the subject.

Who are the facilitators

Facilitators were volunteers who had experiences in moderating discussions and working groups. Their task was to support participants along the discussion and deliberation process, ensuring that everyone had equal opportunities to express themselves.

Deliberation of recommendations

At the end of the group work, each group produced recommendations that were presented in plenary, discussed, in some cases reformulated and finally voted on.

Voting on the recommendations on a digital platform

The recommendations elaborated by the Assembly were made available through a digital platform to citizens who took part only on the first informative day of the assembly, in order to allow citizens who took part. The individual recommendations, preceded by an introductory and explanatory text, were presented in a clear and concise way, respectful of the form in which they were expressed by the Assembly. After being amended and voted, the final text of the recommendations were drawn up and read.

Transparency of the process

The assembly was streamed, recorded and made available for the future on the Eumans website, so that they will stay as an archive from which civil society organisations, institutions and all citizens will be able to take inspiration. The results are [published on the EUMANS website](#).

The process was open to the public.

Results submission to Institutions

The final recommendations have been drawn up and submitted to the Italian and European institutions. The aim is to identify common bases that, within the limits of the competences of the Member States, can effectively guarantee a minimum protection – common to the various EU countries – of the interests involved, especially with a view to protecting the best interests of minors.

Here is the detail of those adopted recommendations:

1. It is recommended that the staff of social services (social workers, psychologists) be adequately trained, in order to give all possible tools to effectively pursue the best interests of the child, taking into account both the importance, where possible, of maintaining the link with the family of origin, and the need to give children a new home.
2. It is recommended to implement the procedure for obtaining the decree of suitability for adoption, providing for more streamlined times and ways for obtaining it.
3. It is recommended (in implementation of Article 40 of Law 149/2001) that the National Database, currently used by all juvenile courts, be created and made operational, and that the data contained therein can be processed to guide policies for the reception of children in protection systems throughout the national territory.
4. It is recommended, in order to overcome any discrimination, to open adoptions to all forms of family, to single people, de facto couples and same- sex couples and to LGBTQIA+ people, with possible and appropriate amendments to Law 184 of 1983 and Law 76 of 2016.
5. It is recommended to regulate Pregnancy for Others (GPA) in the solidarity form by providing for certain requirements such as, for example, access to single persons, same-sex or different-sex couples; that the pregnant woman has had at least one child and successfully passes a psycho-physical check for fitness and meets a minimum income.
6. The Civic Assembly drawn by lot on social parenthood commits the Municipalities and Regions to encourage moments of in-depth study on the theme of pregnancy for others, in consideration of the need to introduce

- adequate regulations to regulate the path of Pregnancy for Others, in order also to convey to the legislator the need to adequately deal with the issue.
7. It is recommended to amend Art. 5 of Law 40/2004, providing access to medically assisted procreation techniques also for single persons and same-sex couples living together or in a civil union.
 8. The adoption of a Single European Certificate of Parentage is recommended.
 9. It is recommended that local authorities such as Municipalities and Regions promote initiatives of knowledge, study and in-depth study of the evolution of family models, such as a listening observatory.
 10. It is recommended to draw up guidelines, to be proposed to all Italian municipalities, on the transcription of birth certificates of minors.
 11. We recommend that the ECP is provided by the European Union throughout dedicated EU register offices in all member states. The ECP should be initially provided upon application in three ways: in person, by mail, online. The application online should be provided with an easy form. We recommend that in the future the ECP will be automatically provided, for children born in the EU, and included in the European Citizenship to reinforce the right of circulation in the EU.
 12. We recommend the creation of an EU registry of birth collecting national databases collected from national register offices.
 13. We recommend the necessity to provide information in institutions and online about the possibility of getting the ECP and the process needed, and the need of a campaign informing on that.
 14. About children born outside the EU from EU parents, we recommend that, until they are recognized as legal parents in their EU country, they can apply for the ECP in dedicated EU support offices in the national embassies.
 15. We recommend a form of legal support accessible to parents on EU level that allows implication of their rights as parents against national discrimination.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	14/12/2023	