

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:	European University Institute (EUI)
PIC number:	999902385
Project name and acronym:	Democratic Odyssey — ODYSSEY

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	Deliverable D12		
Event name:	Feedback Session		
Type:	Online conference		
In situ/online:	Online		
Location:	Online		
Date(s):	07/05/2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://euroalter.com/democratic-odyssey-online-feedback-session/		
Participants			
Female:	256		
Male:	231		
Non-binary:	20		
From country 1 [Greece]:	27		
From country 2 [Ireland]:	12		
From country 3 [Italy]:	39		
From country 4 [Germany]	295		
From country 5 [Bosnia and Herzegovina]	2		
From country 6 [Malta]	1		
From country 7 [Slovenia]	4		
From Country 8 [Bulgaria]	2		
From country 9 [France]	12		

From country 10 [Cyprus]	3		
From country 11 [Spain]	16		
From country 12 [Romania]	4		
From country 13 [Latvia]	3		
From country 14 [Hungary]	5		
From country 15 [Czech Republic]	3		
From country 16 [Portugal]	5		
From country 17 [Croatia]	4		
From country 18 [Austria]	24		
From country 19 [Slovakia]	4		
From country 20 [Netherlands]	6		
From country 21 [Poland]	9		
From country 22 [Sweden]	9		
From country 23 [Estonia]	2		
From country 24 [Finland]	7		
From country 25 [Belgium]	9		
Total number of participants:	507	From total number of countries:	25

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.



This report provides an overview of the deliverable 12 (D12) on the feedback session.

REPORT ON THE FEEDBACK SESSION

The Democratic Odyssey is a crowdsourced campaign advocating for a “permanent people’s assembly for Europe” by mobilising a wide-ranging and pluralistic group of actors, including academics, practitioners, journalists, institutional representatives

and civil society. Inspired by the tentative efforts of past EU legislatures to institutionalise citizen participation, it seeks to go further.

Where?

As part of this journey, the Democratic Odyssey launched a pilot transnational assembly designed to bring together a representative group of citizens in multilingual, transnational deliberations. This assembly is not a single event but a dynamic, evolving process that unfolds across multiple European cities, starting with Athens and Florence, continuing through online sessions, and culminating in Vienna. The feedback session constituted an intermediary and crucial step in the Assembly process, as it connected the two on-site sessions in Florence (21–23 February 2025) and Vienna (23–25 May 2025), but also bridged the analogic/digital space of the Assembly's closed-door meetings with the broader, digital public debates orbiting around the topic of how to deal with crises more democratically.

When?

The feedback session was held online on May 7th, 2025. It followed the previous online meeting on April 3rd, where assembly members had started to formulate preliminary, draft recommendations building on the Florence output. Unlike the previous closed-door meeting, the May session aimed to reach out to a wider public audience and ensure that the work done by the Assembly so far could connect with the multiple debates that had occurred, inter alia, within the wider public engaging through the digital platform.

What?

Ahead of the session, all registered participants received the draft Citizen Charter and an AI-powered summary document of what the digital platform debates had covered until that moment. The first part of the event welcomed the feedback of MEP Brando Benifei, the European Civic Forum's Secretary General Alexandrina Najmowicz, and Carnegie Europe's senior fellow Richard Youngs, in a session open to all. Their endorsement and contributions paved the way for a wide Q&A with the general public, which was also invited to share written inputs on a version of the most updated draft of the Citizen Charter saved in a separate document.

The second hour was exclusive to assembly members, who worked together in a closed session to finalise the proposals that would be presented in the Citizen Charter in Vienna. Assembly members were divided into sub-groups (i.e. breakout

rooms) where they could focus on specific sub-sections of the Citizen Charter. While the organisers provided facilitation to the various sub-groups, these were encouraged to be as autonomous as possible within the constraints of the golden rules of facilitations that had been practiced until then. This made for a safer and yet more empowering space, where assembly members could feel a stronger sense of process ownership, as well as be incentivised to join the Drafting Committee, a body mandated to translate all the inputs emerging from this session into a final draft, ahead of the Vienna moment.

This online session marked another important step in shaping a collective and participatory vision for democracy through the Democratic Odyssey, as well as a consolidation of the blueprint for how a permanent assembly should intertwine both online and on-site meetings, harnessing the twinned potential that both formats can offer.

Key Feedback and Concrete Outputs

The event produced specific feedback and proposals that will directly shape the next iteration of the recommendations. Different members of the assembly underscored the necessity of connecting local communities, emerging technologies, and public policies to foster inclusive participation mechanisms. They also brought attention to the insufficient support from governments for citizen engagement, highlighting structural limitations that hinder democratic participation. A different participant expressed concerns about the potential risks of concentrating power through the use of artificial intelligence within democratic processes, cautioning that technological tools must not compromise democratic safeguards.

Brando Benifei, Member of the European Parliament, reinforced the importance of building on the legacy of the Conference on the Future of Europe and advocated for concrete mechanisms to institutionalise a permanent citizens' assembly connected to EU institutions. Alexandrina Najmowicz from the European Civic Forum emphasised the critical role of civil society in ensuring direct participation and societal inclusion. Richard Youngs from Carnegie Europe highlighted broader geopolitical risks, such as the implications of a second Trump presidency in the US and the need to reconfigure European cooperation in light of security challenges.

The event concluded with an open invitation for further public feedback, and assembly members will now integrate these contributions as they finalize the

Citizen Charter document, ensuring that the final recommendations are actionable and reflective of the diverse perspectives gathered.

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