EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as a 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:	4 — FUNDATIA PENTRU DESCHIDERE SI REFLEXIE SOCIALA (FUNDATIA DESIRE)
PIC number:	936502215
Project name and acronym:	Democratic Digital Commons — DDC

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP3		
Event name:	De la orașul smart la oraș ca bun public (From smart city to city as a public good)		
Type:	Assembly Cluj		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	Romania, Cluj-Napoca		
Date(s):	06.06.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://euroalter.com/events/ddc-assembly-2-from-smart-city-to-the-city-as-a-public-good/		
Participants			
Female:	25		
Male:	27		
From country 1 [Romania]:	29		
From country 2 [Hungary]:	11		
From country 3 [Slovakia]:	4		
From country 4 [Bulgaria]:	3		
From country 5 [Republica Moldova]:	3		
From country 6 [France]:	1		
From country 7 [Portugal]:	1		
Total number of participants:	52	From total number of countries:	7

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Pre-assembly activities

In a context where technology, digitalization, and artificial intelligence are rapidly transforming how we live and work in urban spaces, our Cluj assembly invited people to stop and ask themselves: How can we make the city a public good, accessible to all? How can marginalised groups access housing & healthcare? How can technology serve this purpose?

To run an assembly tailored to people's concerns, the project team conducted pre-assembly research into the lived experiences of Roma people, both in Cluj and across the EU (with particular attention to target countries of Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Moldova), the policies of the Cluj municipalite surrounding smart cities, and the digitalization of public administrative services. We conducted 9 interviews in Cluj-Napoca with tenants, IT workers, and Roma residents of Pata Rât, and analyzed local, national, and EU documents on smart cities and digitalization.

We made and published a series of visuals from the materials of transcribed interviews and policy analysis, which are a synthesis of information regarding digitalization, smart cities, and AI in EU policies and local practices; housing costs in Cluj; tenants' views on what should be done to make the city more affordable for them, and health implications / access to healthcare. These visuals were published before the assembly on the FB pages of the Desire Foundation, Căși Sociale ACUM! and Vocea Chiriașilor.

Accordingly, we invited individuals to our assembly to share and discuss their experiences of living and working in Cluj-Napoca, which the local public administration proudly defines as a smart city, and transnational comparisons. In order to have the intended groups of the Roma community, tech workers & municipalite workers, we did many outreach activities, including:
- used our own social media to gather people, notably we have a large audience in the Roma community & municipalite workers.
- went physically to Pata Rât where the majority of the residents are Roma.
- reached out to the technical University of Cluj-Napoca & their alumni in the tech field, we also conducted interviews with them.
- Contacted the municipalite to have more understanding on the smart city policies, and invited them to be present at the assembly.
- Conducted a mapping of target organisations (roma-rights & housing rights groups) in Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Moldova and transnationally, to share learnings and relay our event invitations.
55 people from 7 countries registered for the event, including (Roma) residents of Pata Rât and former residents of the area, tenants from Cluj-Napoca, IT specialists, students, artists, municipalite workers, and environmental and housing activists.

In advance, we prepared the assembly's poster, viewable at the bottom of the report.

The event took place on the 6th of June, 2026, at Pavilionul Tineretului Parcul Feroviarilor.

Of the registered participants, 52 people attended.

The program of the assembly in Romanian can be read here, alongside the materials for the presentations prepared by the project team and its special guests, and the materials resulting from the in-situ collective work of the participants – all of which will be used as building blocks of our manifesto to be elaborated until the end of August.

The assembly program

06.06.2026, 11.00-17.00, Pavilionul Tineretului Parcul Feroviarilor, Cluj

11.00-11.15 Arrival, registration, the distribution of activity tools, and socializing.

11.15-12.45 WELCOME AND PRESENTATIONS

- Welcome note by Aliona Sadovici and Enikő Vincze.
- Ana-Maria Alincăi briefly presented the Democratic Digital Commons project on behalf of European Alternatives.
- Roxana Țentea discussed what we have done in Cluj within the project before the assembly and what activities will follow, such as writing, launching, and distributing our Manifesto.

A series of presentations introduced the assembly participants to the issues targeted by our event:

- Ion Fîntînă, our special guest from Transylvania IT Cluster, discussed their projects, among them initiatives of IT companies run in collaboration with the local public administration / municipalite;
- Enikő Vincze talked about the use of digital services by the Cluj-Napoca City Hall and the need to switch to an urban policy of a social smart city; and
- George Iulian Zamfir discussed about smart city policies adopted in Romania and Cluj in the light of European and global trends.

  During the presentations, the public was asked to participate in an exercise: they could choose to express their opinion on two questions related to the presentations via a traditional or digital instrument. The majority used the colored cards to vote: they totally agree (green), totally disagree (red), or partially agree (yellow) with the statement. The two statements were: 1 - Everybody has access to the City Hall's digital services, it is only a matter of will to learn using them (6 persons preferred responding via the google form accessed by the QR cod from the flyer; otherwise, total disagreement was expressed by all the participants); 2 – I feel more safe in the city areas where surveillance cameras are installed (9 digital responses; only 12% of respondents totally disagreed, however the presentation stressed the risk of surveillance cameras regarding individual's rights to privacy and risks of facial recognition).
- Presentations continued with Aliona Sadovici, Paul Lazăr and Maria Stoica, who discussed some of their findings through the interviews they conducted.

Right before lunch, the facilitators, Roxana Țentea and George Iulian Zamfir, presented the activities to be conducted after the break and the methodology of the collaborative work expected from all participants.

12.45 -13.30 LUNCH provided by the organizers to all the participants

13.30-15.30 BREAKOUT GROUPS

The participants split into 7 groups, each with one moderator who ensured that

discussions were conducted properly (everyone had the chance to speak) and took notes. Each group worked around the following questions:

(1) Imagination exercise – What does Cluj look like in 2126, when the city as a commons is accessible for all residents?

In addition, after discussing this question, the group members were asked to participate in a LEGO game to create a construction reflecting their views about the city of the future, a city as a public good and a commons.

(2) In the city as a commons, what does digitalization look like and how does it work in terms of living? ***(with special attention to housing & healthcare).***

(3) In the city as a commons, what does digitalization look like and how does it work in terms of work?

(4) What is missing from today's smart city to be a public good and a commons? – Individual needs, desires, priorities, and collective views.

(5) Elaborate jointly on three demands based on what was discussed in the group, which might be included in the manifesto written after the event.

Photos of notes and LEGO-work can be found here.

15.30-15.45 Coffee break and COLLECTING THE MATERIALS OF THE GROUP WORK

15.45-16.45 REUNITED PARTICIPANTS LISTEN TO EACH OTHER'S DEMANDS

After the small-group activities, the participants reunited to listen to the groups' presentations on their demands.

The demands of the Cluj assembly participants for the city as a public good and a commons included the following in particular regarding housing and work:

- A public urban infrastructure (in public ownership and administered by the users) organically integrated into nature, with public housing, kindergarten, schools, hospitals, green areas, sport facilities, cultural spaces.
- A public and green urban ecosystem supporting the needs and rights of all city dwellers.
- City dwellers should gain and exercise capabilities of self-organization to put pressure on political decision-makers and conduct initiatives for the right to the city, who otherwise will not listen to their demands.
- People's forums should be organized as deliberative spaces or spaces of direct or participatory democracy that complete the decision-making processes of representative democracy, on the major issues regarding the city's infrastructural development and the investment of public money.
- Universal basic income and universal basic access to the internet as a response to the expanding digitalization of labor.
- A climate in which people do not have to fight against each other for resources.
- A context of peace without military drones flying above us.
- Affordable housing for vulnerable social categories.
- Administering surveillance in a way that allows transparent use of data,

which does not harm people's rights to privacy, self-image and protection against facial recognition.

- A city that treats all the urban communities, including the immigrants, equally.
- An infranature that integrates natural and cultivated green spaces.
- Direct democracy practiced in city districts and at working places.
- Solving all the basic needs of everybody.
- Making use of digitalization to reduce the working day to 3-4 hours.
- Protection of people against the improper use of their data.
- More public housing and affordable private housing.
- Green public spaces, not only in parks but integrated into all the streets.
- More and more user-friendly urban furniture.
- Democratization of working places – access to decision-making according to the workers' contribution.
- People affected at their jobs by the introduction of AI should be consulted about such decisions affecting their jobs.
- Besides digitalized services, there is a need for all services also to be provided by human beings.
- People should choose freely how much automation they would like to have in their homes.
- Participatory events should be organized more often, in an inclusive and well-structured manner and in more urban spaces, and should be provided with deliberative power.
- Everybody's contribution to the community should be recognized according to their possibilities, while people should benefit from common goods according to their needs.
- The right to the city, to work and to housing should be dignifying for all people, regardless of concerns of economic productivity, so that life could be sustained with dignity and joy.

The event facilitators formulated a few conclusions but left the final work open to the post-event endeavor of elaborating the assembly's manifesto.

Participants agreed that they will receive an email or a WhatsApp message as soon as the first draft of the manifesto is ready. Everybody who wants to participate will have the opportunity to contribute to the text. After a round of consultation, the project team will elaborate the final version of the manifesto.

16.45-17.00 GOOD BYE AND LEAVING

Assembly-follow-up activity, 12.06.2026

A week after the assembly, our project team made a short video shot on Molnar Piurariu Street, designated by the City Hall of Cluj-Napoca as a smart street. George Zamfir and Enikő Vincze discussed the meanings and manifestations of smart streets, smart cities, and digitized public administrative services. The video is available here.

Future work, July – December 2026 and January – June 2027

In the following months, we continue the project with the following activities:

- an online workshop on Roma rights and digital transition in Europe with the participation of civil society representatives from several countries from Eastern Europe (including Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Moldova),
- elaborating and printing the Manifesto for the right to the city in a digital and smart era (tentative title),
- elaborating an artistic digital work that reflects the ideas formulated in the manifesto,
- distribution of the Manifesto in print and online, including to municipalite & tech workers,
- online dissemination of the artistic digital work,
- participating in the DDC project's common activities,
- contribution to writing the DDC manifesto with input from the Cluj manifesto,
- if needed, translation of materials into English to be published on the project's website.



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