

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	
Project name and acronym:	From the GroundUp: Fostering Rural Youth Participation in the EU Agenda
Participant:	Municipality of Irschen
PIC number:	882471760

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	8
Event name:	Transnational Cooperation of Youth and Public Local Authorities: New Technologies and E-Democracy
Type:	Webinar/ online conference
In situ/online:	online
Location:	online via zoom
Date(s):	15.09.2025, 09:00-12:30 CET
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.sdruzenisplav.cz/projekty-mas/mezinarodni-projekty/from-the-groundup-fostering-rural-youth-participation-in-the-eu-agenda/aktivita/
Participants	
Female:	75
Male:	33
Non-binary:	6
From country 1 [Czech Republic]:	6
From country 2 [Finland]:	6
From country 3 [Austria]:	17
From country 4 [Poland]:	9
From country 5 [Portugal]:	4

From country 6 [Italy]	8		
From country 7 [Bulgaria]	4		
From country 8 [Sweden]:	5		
From country 9 [Germany]	4		
From country 10 [Spain]	8		
From country 11 [Greece]	2		
From country 12 [Slovakia]	3		
From country 13 [Ireland]	11		
From country 14 [Ukraine]	25		
From country 15 [Romania]	1		
From country 16 [Montenegro]	1		
Total number of participants:	114	From total number of countries:	16
Other countries:			
From country 17 [US]	3		
From country 18 [United Kingdom]	2		
From country 19 [Canada]	1		
Description <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Final Online Conference GROUND UP! – Transnational Cooperation of Youth and Public Local Authorities: New Technologies and E-Democracy Date & Time: Monday, 15th September 2025 09:00–12:30 CET Platform: Zoom Language: English Host: Municipality of Irschen (Austria) Framework: CERV Project Ground UP			

Occasion: International Day of Democracy 2025 – “Youth, Democracy and the Digital Green Transition”

Target Groups

The conference addressed:

- Project partners of the CERV Ground UP project,
- Youth (aged 14–25, with rural focus),
- Local actors and municipalities,
- Civil society organizations and educators,
- Policy makers and EU Parliamentarians.

Event Context & Description

The online conference brought together 120 active participants (out of 120 registered via Eventbrite, with over 540 page views) from 14 EU Member States, mainly rural areas.

The event marked the International Day of Democracy 2025 and explored the intersection of youth participation, e-democracy, and the green transition, while showcasing the results of the Ground UP project.

It served as both a dissemination event and a co-creation platform, offering a mix of speeches, presentations, interactive sessions, and breakout discussions.

Goals of the Event

- To highlight the significance of the International Day of Democracy for rural youth and municipalities.
- To disseminate the results of the Ground UP project and explore future perspectives.
- To strengthen youth participation using digital tools and e-democracy innovations.

- To encourage cross-country cooperation and share best practices for civic engagement.
- To connect local challenges with European policy frameworks and funding opportunities.

Agenda Overview

PART I: Welcome & Setting the Stage

- Technical Check-In & Informal Networking
- Moderator Martina María Linzer set the tone with remarks on democracy, equality, and youth empowerment.
- Mayor Manfred Dullnig (Irschen): Speech using the metaphor of herb gardens to describe democracy as a place where diversity thrives with care and support.

PART II: Youth & Democracy in Practice

- Ground UP Project Dissemination – Gosia & Kristina:
 - Key project outcomes, videos, and scaling ideas for rural Europe.
- Keynote Speech: Adam F.C. Fletcher, international expert in youth participation & community engagement (USA/Canada, founder of the Freechild Institute for Youth Engagement):
 - “Youth & E-Democracy: Latest Trends and New Opportunities”
 - Fletcher shared 20+ years of experience, stressing the need to treat youth as partners, not problems, and outlined practical steps for building inclusive e-democracy.
- Breakout Rooms: Transnational youth exchange with guiding questions on future digital skills and municipal support.

PART III: Co-Creation & Future Perspectives

- Panel Discussion: “From Local Challenges to European Change” with youth, educators, and local authorities from Austria, Czechia, Portugal, Romania.
- Wrap-Up: Summary of key results, EU funding opportunities (Erasmus+, AMIF, Interreg), and follow-up actions.

Keynote by Adam F.C. Fletcher

Adam emphasized:

- Diverse youth online participation patterns – from viral activism to structured e-tools.
- The risk of passive consumption online and the need for balanced adult support.
- Four actionable steps for building youth-centered e-democracy:
 1. Listening & validating youth voices
 2. Empowering local community hubs
 3. Strengthening a sovereign and transparent web
 4. Sustaining engagement through legacy and growth

His speech was repeatedly highlighted by participants as the most valuable and inspiring aspect of the event.

Findings & Discussions

- Digital divide & trust in institutions are key barriers to participation.
- Rural municipalities must invest in digital literacy and access.
- Youth agency is strengthened when municipalities co-create, not dictate.
- EU funding programs (Erasmus+, AMIF, Interreg) are critical enablers for scaling projects.

- A balanced mix of local storytelling, digital innovation, and civic education is needed for inclusive democracy.

Participant Feedback

Quantitative Results (Slido Polls)

- Overall quality: 81% rated Excellent, 16% Satisfactory, 3% Needs improvement.
- Organization: 94% Very well organized.
- Impact: 69% reported a significant increase in understanding youth participation and cooperation, 31% a slight increase, 0% no benefit.

Qualitative Results

Most valuable aspects:

- Keynote by Adam Fletcher (“insightful, engaging, inspiring”)
- Exchange of ideas and cooperation between partners
- Project dissemination & multimedia presentations
- Practical insights on youth e-democracy and AMIF opportunities

Main takeaways:

- Young people must be seen as crucial actors in shaping democracy.
- Digital tools empower youth to participate in civic and green transitions.
- Cooperation across Europe strengthens rural democracy and innovation.
- Discussions and shared perspectives are essential tools to solve problems.

Suggestions for improvement:

- Easier ways to meet and connect (live face-to-face preferred)
- More in-depth exploration of rurality and migration from a project-based angle
- Otherwise, participants praised the event as very well organized.

Next Steps

- Disseminate Adam Fletcher’s new e-book “Youth and E-Democracy”.
- Encourage partners to implement youth-adult equity in local initiatives.
- Prepare follow-up sessions under EU programs to co-create digital & green youth projects.

Graphical Evidence

The report includes:

- Survey screenshots (poll results, word clouds).
- Eventbrite dashboard (120 tickets, 541 page views).
- Photos/screenshots from Zoom breakout rooms & panel discussions.



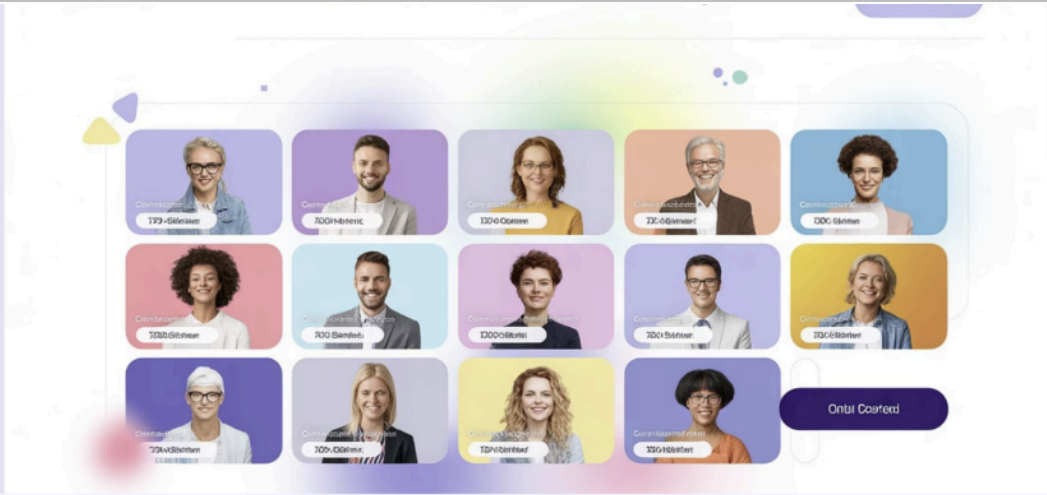
 **GRANDE
FINALE of
Ground UP! **



*Final Online
Conference for
International Day of
Democracy*



Join us for an inspiring celebration of youth participation and e-democracy across Europe!



Event Details

 **Date & Time**
 Monday, 15 September 2025
 09:00–12:30 CET

 **Location**
 Online via Zoom
 Global accessibility

 **Partners**
 14 countries
 European collaboration



Conference Highlights



Inspiring Inputs

Fresh perspectives on youth participation and democratic engagement across Europe.



Interactive Sessions

Hands-on workshops and collaborative activities with international participants.



Keynote Speaker

Adam F.C. Fletcher - Educational theorist who's taught 1,000,000+ people worldwide.

- Website and/or FB page of the event.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556445323406>

Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/groundupproject/>

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	22.09.2025	Initial version (new MFF).