

## 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	
<b>Participant:</b>	3 – Elliniko Idryma Evropaikis kai Exoterikis Politikis (Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy) - ELIAMEP
<b>PIC number:</b>	997802238
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	EUact2- Towards Democratic and Inclusive Europe: EP Elections and Active Citizens Participation and Contribution

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
<b>Event number:</b>	D24		
<b>Event name:</b>	“Rule of Law and Democracy in the EU”		
<b>Type:</b>	Online public event- Greek		
<b>In situ/online:</b>	<i>Online</i>		
<b>Location:</b>	Online		
<b>Date(s):</b>	28 March 2024		
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://www.eliamep.gr/en/event/%ce%ba%cf%81%ce%ac%cf%84%ce%bf%cf%82-%ce%b4%ce%b9%ce%ba%ce%b1%ce%af%ce%bf%cf%85-%ce%ba%ce%b1%ce%b9-%ce%b4%ce%b7%ce%bc%ce%bf%ce%ba%cf%81%ce%b1%cf%84%ce%af%ce%b1-%cf%83%cf%84%ce%b7%ce%bd-%ce%b5%ce%b5/">https://www.eliamep.gr/en/event/%ce%ba%cf%81%ce%ac%cf%84%ce%bf%cf%82-%ce%b4%ce%b9%ce%ba%ce%b1%ce%af%ce%bf%cf%85-%ce%ba%ce%b1%ce%b9-%ce%b4%ce%b7%ce%bc%ce%bf%ce%ba%cf%81%ce%b1%cf%84%ce%af%ce%b1-%cf%83%cf%84%ce%b7%ce%bd-%ce%b5%ce%b5/</a> Project website: <a href="https://www.globsec.org/what-we-do/events/event-summary-rule-law-and-democracy-eu">https://www.globsec.org/what-we-do/events/event-summary-rule-law-and-democracy-eu</a>		
Participants			
	Female:	133	
	Male:	99	
	Non-binary:	N/A	
	From country 1 [Greece]:	231	
	From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	1	
	Total number of participants:	232	From total number of countries: 2
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			

On 28 March 2024 ELIAMEP as part of EUact2 project organized the timely online debate on the topic of rule of law and democracy in the EU. In light of the European Parliament elections, the discussion focused on the challenges, opportunities and advancements on the rule of law and democracy in the EU. The event took place in Greek and it was attended by 232 participants (57% women and 43% men). The session was highly interactive with predominant part used for questions and answers. Questions were placed in zoom chat and Iliana Magra (Journalist, KATHIMERINI) the moderator of the discussion was combining according to similarities.

The two speakers Vasilis Chatzopoulos (Professor, Panteion University and Researcher, ELIAMEP) and Manolis Perakis (Associate Professor, UoA) addressed the current challenges facing the European Union, emphasizing the issues that are frequently criticized and are raised in the public discourse around the EU’s rule of law status. These ranged from the Qatargate scandal to democracy concerns in member states, including wire-tapping scandal in Greece, violations towards migrants across the EU and LGBTIQ rights.

Mr. Hatzopoulos stressed that "the principles and values of democracy and the rule of law are what unite us and keep us together. If the Union cannot live up to that, then yes, it is faltering." However, he emphasized that we should not be overly pessimistic, as people still look to the Union's supranational institutions to have their voices heard. Similarly, Mr. Perakis remarked that the Union's order is based on the rule of law and that the Union's reflexes remain stronger than those of nation-states. He acknowledged, "Yes, we have had one of the biggest scandals casting a significant shadow over the Union, as the very European institutions that have always been a source of pride were 'hit.' However, the institutions acted quickly." Then he concluded, "are we sure that the same would happen if the same scandal happened in a member state?"

Instead of reflecting on the negative outcomes, everyone should contribute to monitoring and participating as much as possible, and as active citizens, we should also highlight ways to improve the institutions. Both speakers outlined that institutions bare a significant amount of the responsibility, but by the end of the day the citizens are the ones who should be always actively engaged through their communities "checking" the institutions, as Mr. Hatzopoulos stated "a vibrant civil society is the heartbeat of a thriving democracy".

Throughout the event, various questions were posed to the speakers, and the interaction in the online event was significant. Citizens were intensely interested in how the EU order works and how EU law takes precedence over national law. The speakers sought to answer questions about the functioning and structure of the Union and emphasized the importance of citizens' participation in elections by nominating representatives who would independently express the principles and values that underpin Europe.

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