

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Freguesia de Buarcos
PIC number:	867997323
Project name and acronym:	<b>EcoActive:</b> Citizens for a Sustainable Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	2 <sup>ND</sup>
Event name:	Circular Economy and Sustainable Resource Management
Type:	Seminar
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Date(s):	March 1-4th, 2026
Website(s):	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/AsociacionXuvenilVrenza/posts/pfbid01AXmV6BKHNRHcFEXdGh5dQgdzbU4J6ECbYoDAWpvPFd4p8CroRDSiuSGDropjHuZl">https://www.facebook.com/AsociacionXuvenilVrenza/posts/pfbid01AXmV6BKHNRHcFEXdGh5dQgdzbU4J6ECbYoDAWpvPFd4p8CroRDSiuSGDropjHuZl</a>
Participants	
Female:	43
Male:	34
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 Bulgaria:	1
From country 2 Croatia:	2
From country 3 Cyprus:	1
From country 4 Finland:	1
From country 5 France:	1
From country 6 Hungary:	2
From country 7 Italy:	1
From country 8 Latvia:	1
From country 9 Malta:	1
From country 10 Poland:	1

From country 11 Portugal:	5		
From country 12 Romania:	1		
From country 13 Slovakia:	4		
From country 14 Spain:	55		
Total number of participants:	77	From total number of countries:	14
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The second transnational meeting of the project EcoActive Citizens for a Sustainable Europe took place in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, from 1 to 4 March 2026, bringing together 77 local and international participants from the project partnership, of whom 55 were local participants and 22 were international participants. The group was composed mainly of women, reflecting the project's commitment to inclusive participation, gender equality and active civic engagement.</p> <p>The meeting was hosted in the framework of the CERV Network of Towns project and focused on the theme "Circular Economy and Sustainable Resource Management", with Santiago de Compostela providing a strong local context for the exchange of good practices, institutional dialogue and practical learning.</p> <p>The meeting focused particularly on circular economy as a practical and transferable model for local sustainability. Discussions addressed how communities, institutions, schools, social initiatives and local authorities can reduce waste, reuse resources, promote responsible consumption and develop more sustainable forms of economic and social organisation. By connecting environmental protection with education, social inclusion and democratic governance, the event showed that circular economy is not only a technical matter, but also a civic process that requires awareness, cooperation and active participation from citizens.</p> <p>The event was designed as a balanced programme combining institutional engagement, expert knowledge, study visits, presentations of good practices, participatory learning and intercultural exchange. Participants were not only recipients of information, but active contributors to the learning process, presenting initiatives from their own countries, comparing approaches and reflecting on how successful experiences could be adapted to different local realities. The diversity of profiles involved — including local participants, international partners, civil society representatives, environmental practitioners, youth workers, educators, students and active citizens — enriched the debates and ensured a multidisciplinary perspective throughout the meeting.</p> <p>Day 1 was dedicated to the arrival of participants in Santiago de Compostela, check-in at the accommodation, a welcome speech and a first common dinner. This initial moment was essential to create a positive and collaborative atmosphere among participants arriving from different countries and local contexts. It allowed the group to establish first contacts, exchange expectations and begin building the interpersonal relationships that would support cooperation during the following working days.</p> <p>Day 2 began with breakfast and departure from the accommodation, followed by a visit to the km0 local grocery market. This activity introduced participants to local consumption patterns and short supply chains, highlighting the importance of proximity, responsible purchasing and sustainable food systems. The programme then continued at Secondary School Lamas de Abade under the topic "Young Women Leading the Circular Economy in Galicia", where participants were welcomed by representatives including Ms. Lara Meneses, General Director for Youth in Galicia, Mr. José Besada, Director of the school, and Ms. Rosa Batista, President of Buarcos.</p> <p>The school-based session gave particular visibility to the role of young people and women in promoting environmental change. The conference by Ms. Sofia Calvete, expert on environmental policies, provided participants with a thematic framework on circular economy, while the presentation of European programmes by students of IES Lamas de Abade created an intergenerational space for learning and exchange. This part of the programme was especially relevant because it linked European cooperation with education and youth participation, showing how schools can become active spaces for sustainability awareness and civic engagement.</p> <p>In the afternoon, participants visited the Parliament of Galicia, where they explored how an autonomous region works in relation to circular economy in Spain. The meeting with the President of the Parliament, Mr. Miguel Anxo Santalices, and the guided visit to the institution helped reinforce the democratic and institutional dimension of the project. This activity allowed participants to understand the role of regional governance in designing and supporting environmental policies, while also connecting the project with</p>			

the broader values of democracy, participation and European citizenship. The day concluded with dissemination activities on social networks and a common dinner at Restaurante Carolo.

Day 3 was centred on technical knowledge, exchange of good practices and direct observation of circular economy initiatives. The working sessions took place at the Palace of San Roque and included conferences on circular economy and waste management by Mr. Diego Toubes, Professor at the University of Vigo and specialist in economy, and Ms. María Vizcaíno, responsible for Arroupa, a recognised best practice in circular economy. These contributions provided participants with both theoretical and practical insights into resource management, reuse systems and the connection between environmental sustainability and social innovation-.

A particularly important part of the day was the study visit to the Arroupa Store, an initiative that links social inclusion with the reuse of clothing. Through this visit, participants could observe how textile waste can be transformed into an opportunity for environmental protection, employment creation and support for people at risk of exclusion. The Arroupa model illustrated in a concrete way how circular economy can generate environmental, social and economic value at the same time, making it one of the most relevant examples presented during the meeting.

The programme also included the presentation of initiatives on circular economy by each participating country. These good practices covered a wide range of approaches, including bio-waste recovery, circular textile management, closed-loop water systems, solar-powered urban infrastructure, agro-waste recovery, community-based reuse models, industrial symbiosis and recycling strategies. This exchange created a shared European knowledge base, allowing partners to compare experiences, identify transferable elements and reflect on how local solutions can inspire broader environmental action across Europe.

In the afternoon, participants enjoyed a guided visit to the old town of Santiago de Compostela, including the Cathedral and its surroundings, with a particular focus on the Saint James Way as an ecological form of tourism. This cultural activity connected sustainability with heritage, mobility and local identity, showing how tourism can be understood through a more responsible and environmentally conscious lens. The day concluded with dissemination activities, an evaluation session, the presentation of the next meeting in Martinique, and a final dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 was dedicated to breakfast, check-out and departure of participants. This closing phase allowed the group to consolidate the contacts, ideas and commitments developed during the previous days, while ensuring a smooth transition towards the next stages of the project. Informal exchanges during the departure day also helped reinforce the human dimension of the network, strengthening cooperation beyond the formal programme.

By connecting local Galician experiences with the perspectives of international partners, the event demonstrated the value of transnational cooperation in addressing environmental challenges. It helped participants understand that sustainability is most effective when it is rooted in local realities, supported by public institutions, enriched by civil society and shared across borders. In this sense, the meeting in Santiago de Compostela made a meaningful contribution to the objectives of EcoActive Citizens for a Sustainable Europe, reinforcing European cooperation, active citizenship and the shared commitment to building a more sustainable, inclusive and engaged Europe.

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